

LADY'S VOYAGE

ROUND

THE WORLD:

A SELECTED TRANSLATION FROM THE GERMAN

OF

IDA PFEIFFER.

BY MRS. PERCY SINNETT.

IN TWO PARTS.

PART II.



LONDON:

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SPOTTISWOODES and SHAW,
New-street-Square.

VII.E.5

JOURNEY FROM DELHI TO BOMBAY.

*ugs.—Departure.—The Cattle Market.—Kind Disposition of the Indians.
—Kottah.—Description of the Town.—The Royal Castle.—Entertain-
ments and Dances.—The Holy Town of Kesho Rae.—Patun.*

order to reach Bombay I had two roads before me; the one by Simla to the promontories of the Himmalaya; the other to renowned rock temples of Adjunta and Elora. I would willingly have chosen the first, and penetrated to Lahore and the Indus; but my friends dissuaded me from it, on the simple ground that the mountains were at this time covered with deep snow, and I should therefore have to delay my journey at least three months. I could not do this, and therefore decided for the other route. In Calcutta I had been strongly advised not to extend my journey further than Delhi. The countries beyond, they said, were not under the English rule, and the population was in a very demoralised condition. Especially they endeavoured to awaken my apprehensions by terrible accounts of the Thugs. These Thugs, as is well known, form a regularly organised society for robbery and murder, which they scarcely regard as at all blameable, and easily expiate by a trifling gift to their priests. They must, however, take the greatest care not to shed the blood of their victims, as that would involve them in disgrace with their companions, and occasion their expulsion. They therefore invariably adopt the method of strangulation. Many travellers have maintained that the Thugs belong to a particular religious sect, and do not commit their crimes either for the sake of robbery or revenge, but with a fanatical idea of performing a meritorious action. I inquired, however, very closely into this point, and the result of my inquiry was, ~~that~~ no distorted view of religion, but mere hatred, or more frequently the love of gain, had been the impelling motive of their actions. These miscreants have acquired extraordinary skill in their dreadful trade, and manifest the utmost endurance and perseverance in watching their opportunities. They will follow a marked victim for months.

In Delhi I found, however, that the danger of being attacked by them was by no means so great as it had been represented to me ; that the number of Thugs had greatly declined, and that, besides, they never ventured on the murder of a European, as the English government would in such a case institute the strictest search after the perpetrators. As to any possible danger, therefore, I felt tolerably calm ; but I had to make up my mind to a good deal of hardship and privation.

The first station on my journey was to Kottah, a distance of 290 English miles, and to reach this there were three methods ; by palanquin, by camels, or waggon or *baili* drawn by oxen. All three are, of course, slow enough. There are no post roads, and no regularly established methods of communication. You must keep the same people and the same animals to the end of the journey, and you cannot go more than about twenty miles a-day. For the palanquin one has to hire eight bearers as well as some for the luggage ; and although each one costs only eight rupees a month, and feeds himself, the expense is considerable, especially as they must be paid for their back journey. Travelling with camels is also expensive, and very inconvenient. I therefore decided for the most modest conveyance, the oxen waggon ; and my friend Dr. Sprenger was so kind as to make all the arrangements for me. He drew up in the Hindostanee language a written contract with the driver, according to which I was to pay him the half of the fare, namely, fifteen rupees, immediately, the other when we should arrive at Kottah, to which he was to bring me in fifteen days. For every day longer that the journey lasted I had the right to subtract three rupees.

For further security, Dr. Sprenger gave me, by way of escort, one of his most trustworthy *cheprasses*,—servants of the English government,—who wear an official red scarf, and a brass plate on the shoulder, on which is engraved the name of the town to which they belong. One or more of these is appointed to every government officer, and they hold a much higher rank than ordinary servants. Besides this, my kind country people furnished me with such ample stores of provisions and warm covering that my waggon could hardly contain them. God grant that I may one day see them again. I could not but part from them with melancholy feelings.

I left Delhi early in the morning on the 30th of January 1848 and the first day we made only eighteen miles, as the heavy

animals required to be accustomed to the pace ; but I found much interesting occupation in seeing again the numerous ruins that lay on both sides of the road, which I had visited a few days before with my friends. This night, and all the following ones, I passed in a *Serai* ; for I had no tent, no palanquin, and bongolos are not to be found on the road. The Serais in the little villages are, unfortunately, not to be compared with those in the larger towns, being merely cells built of clay, scarcely seven feet square, with a narrow entrance of not more than five feet high. To my surprise, however, I found them always swept quite clean, and there was brought to me a sort of low wooden bedstead made with plaited cords, on which I threw my coverings, and which made me a magnificent couch. The cheprass lay down like Napoleon's Mameluke, at the door of my cell, and I had the satisfaction to think he enjoyed a sound sleep, as he heard nothing of a rather brisk engagement which I had with a very large dog that had been attracted by the smell of my well-filled provision basket.

January 31st.—Towards the afternoon we came to the little town of Balamgalam, in which there is an English military station, a mosque, and a quite new Hindoo temple. The night was passed in the little town of Palwal. In that district the peacocks are so numerous and so tame that I used to see every morning dozens of these beautiful creatures on the trees and in the villages, where they come for the food given them by the good-natured inhabitants.

February 1st.—This day's station was the little town of Cossi, and during the last few miles, before reaching it, we had been continually overtaken by natives, who were hurrying busily towards it on account of a cattle market held there. This market presented a picture of the greatest confusion. The animals were standing all about, amidst heaps of hay and straw, the sellers screaming without intermission in praise of their goods, and half persuading, half dragging, purchasers about by force, whilst they, on their parts, bawled no less loudly, so that altogether the uproar was stunning. What most struck me was the appearance of the shoemakers or cobblers ~~who~~, with the simple materials of their trade,—a little table, with thread, leather, and wire, stuck in somewhere among the bundles of hay,—were, in the midst of the tumult, quietly following their occupation of the cure of soles ! On this and on many other occasions it appeared to me that the natives of Hindostan are by no means so idle as they are generally considered,

but, on the contrary, that they are ready to take every favourable opportunity of earning a little money.

As all the Serais at the entrance of the town were overflowing with guests, we had to pass through it to the opposite side; and it was curious to enter beneath the high vaulted stately looking archway that formed the gate into the miserable collection of mud huts, ranged along streets so narrow that the people had to get under their doorways to let my waggon pass. The country round had consisted for a long time of boundless plains, where spots of cultivation alternated with dry burnt-up-looking heaths. The corn stood already a foot high, but was so full of yellow flowers that one could not really tell by looking at it whether the corn or the weeds had been sown. The culture of cotton is, however, very considerable here. The plant does not, indeed, attain the height or size of the Egyptian, but the quality of the cotton is not at all dependent upon the size of the plant, and that produced here is of the finest and whitest kind. On these plains I saw here and there small houses built on artificially raised perpendicular mounds of clay, from six to eight feet in height. There were no steps, but the inhabitants ascend to the platform by ladders, which are drawn up at night. As well as I could make out from the account of my servant, which I only half understood, they were built thus for protection against tigers, which are here very frequently seen.

February 3rd. Baratpoor.—We passed this day over a wide tract of dwarfed crippled-looking trees, which reminded me of nothing so much as of some parts of Ireland; and at the end of the wooded region we came to a place where the ground was rent into chasms and thrown up as if by an earthquake. Some of the people whom we met, too, had so wild an appearance, that I felt half inclined to be afraid of them. They behaved perfectly well to me, however, and morning and evening made me a very hearty salam, carrying their hands from the forehead to the breast. In many more civilised-looking countries I should not have met with the same courtesy.

February 6th.—This morning, as I was about to leave the Serai, three armed men planted themselves before my *baili*, and stopped me, in spite of the vociferations of my people. I understood at length that the matter in dispute was only a few pence which they claimed for having, as they said, watched before my sleeping apartment.

The cheprass, it is to be observed, had an idea that the Serai was haunted, and he had therefore requested from the *Serdar* the favour of an additional watch. Possibly these men may have lain and slept in some corner of the court. Certainly, though I have repeatedly looked out, I had seen nothing of them; but what can one expect for a few pence? I made them happy with the trifle they demanded, whereupon they made a regular military wheel to the right about, and with many salams left me to pursue my way in peace. Had I been at all inclined to fear, I must for some days past have been in constant apprehension, for the appearance of the people was by no means calculated to inspire confidence. They all carried swords, bows, and arrows, strong cudgels covered with iron, iron shields, and even muskets. The very shepherds in the fields were armed to the teeth. Nothing, however, could disturb the tranquillity of my mind. I seemed to feel a perfect conviction that my last hour had not yet struck; yet for all that I must own I was not sorry that we should pass the deep caverns and awful looking ravines, through which this day's journey lay, in bright daylight. From these ravines we entered a deep valley, at the beginning of which, on a solitary hill, stood a fort; four miles further we came to a group of trees, in the midst of which, on a pedestal about five feet high, stood a figure of a horse in stone, and near it was a well made with great blocks of red sandstone, with three steps leading down to the water. Similar and much larger wells and cisterns, shaded by the most magnificent mango and tamarind trees, are frequently found in India, especially in districts where, as here, good springs are wanting. It is a beautiful faith of Hindoos and Mahomedans, that by the erection of such works for the public good they improve their own prospects of future felicity. Near many of the wells is placed a man whose business it is to spare the weary wanderer even the trouble of fetching the water.

Pleasant as it is, on many accounts, to meet with these wells, it is, however, very disagreeable to see the men going down into the water, washing themselves, and pouring it over them, and to consider that this is the water one has to drink. But the necessities of thirst "have no law," and so I went and filled my pitcher with the rest.

February 7th. *Dungerkamalama*, a little village at the foot of a pretty hill. A short distance from the station lay a bit of genuine

Arabian sandy desert, which, however, fortunately, did not extend far. The sandy plains of India are mostly capable of cultivation, for you need only dig a few feet to find water enough to overflow the fields. Even in the midst of this little desert, too, there lay some fields of fine-looking wheat.

This afternoon I thought I should have had to make use of my pistols, in order to settle a quarrel. My driver always required everybody to give way to him, and when this was not done he began to wrangle. To-day we met with half-a-dozen armed drivers, who paid no attention to his screams, whereupon in a great fury he seized his whip, and threatened to lash them with it. Had it come to a fight, we must certainly have had the worst of it, but fortunately our antagonists contented themselves with abuse, and at last gave way. I had before remarked that the Hindoo screams and threatens a great deal, but seldom or never comes to blows. I have lived much among the people, and seen many a quarrel, but never a fight. Indeed, when the quarrel lasted too long, they generally sat down to it. Even the boys do not struggle and fight, either in play or in earnest. Once only I saw two boys engaged in what seemed a serious dispute, and at length one gave the other a box on the ear, but he did it as cautiously as if he had been hitting himself. The one who had received the considerate blow just passed his sleeve over his cheek, and there was an end of the matter. Other boys had been looking on from a distance, but took no part in the quarrel. This mildness of disposition may proceed in part from their vegetable diet, and in part from the precepts of their religion, which are so merciful towards animals; but I cannot help thinking that cowardice has something to do with it. I have been told that it is scarcely possible to induce a Hindoo to enter a dark-room without a light, and if a horse or an ox makes the slightest spring, great and small scream, and fly in all directions. On the other hand, I heard from English officers that the Sepoys are quite brave soldiers. Does, then, the valour come with the coat, or is it from the example of the English? Of the tenderness of the Hindoo towards animals, I saw a pretty instance in a little town I passed through. There was a donkey that either by accident or nature was a perfect cripple, and was dragging itself with great effort along the street, at an extremely slow pace. Some people with laden beasts of burthen were behind him, and stopped by the slowness of his movements, but they

waited in patient resignation, without uttering a syllable of displeasure, much less lifting a hand to urge the poor beast to greater speed. Many of the inhabitants came out of their houses and gave it food, and every passer-by went carefully out of its way.

February 11th.—To-day, the thirteenth from Delhi, I arrived at Kottah, and I had been on the whole journey very well satisfied with my servant and my driver. The owners of the serais had not asked more from me than they would have done from a native, and had shown me all the civilities consistent with the austere precepts of their religion. I had passed the nights indeed in open cells, and even under God's free sky; but, though surrounded by the poorest and lowest of the people, I was never insulted by deed, word, or even look. Never was I robbed of the smallest article; and if I gave a trifle to a child, the parent always endeavoured to acknowledge the gift in some way or other. Oh, if Europeans only knew how easily these unsophisticated people are to be won by kindness and indulgence! But, unfortunately, they try to rule over them by force, and treat them almost always with contempt and harshness.

Kottah is the capital of the kingdom of Rajpootan, and here, as in all the other provinces which the English Government has still left under the rule of the native princes, is an English officer, who bears the title of the Resident, though he might rather be called the king, or the king's governor, for the poor king can do nothing without his consent. These shadows of sovereigns cannot even cross the frontiers of their states without the permission of the Resident. Their most important fortresses have English garrisons, and smaller English military stations are scattered about. For the people this superintendence is in some measure injurious—in some measure useful. The burning of widows, and the cruel punishments formerly practised, such as the being trampled to death by elephants, or dragged along at their tails, are abolished; but, on the other hand, the taxes are become heavier, since the king has to pay, for the right of governing according to the will of the Resident, a considerable tribute, which of course he gets out of the pockets of his people.

Captain Burdon, the Resident of Kottah, was an intimate friend of my kind countryman of Delhi, Dr. Sprenger, who had announced to him beforehand my arrival. Unluckily he was at the time

absent on a journey of inspection to the several military stations; but before his departure he had made every preparation for my reception, and commissioned his physician, Dr. Rolland, to see his commands executed. He had even carried his attention so far as to send forward to the last night station books, newspapers, and servants for my use, though they happened to miss me, from my driver having taken, for the two last days, what he considered a short cut, away from the main road.

I alighted at the beautiful bongolo of the Resident. The house was empty, for Mrs. Burdon and her children had accompanied her husband, as it is very common to do in India, where Europeans require frequent change of air, but the house, the servants, the Sepoys, the Captain's palanquin and carriage,—all stood at my disposal; and, to complete my good fortune, Dr. Rolland was so good as to offer himself as the companion of my excursions.

February 12th.—This morning the king, Ram Singh, who had been informed of my arrival, sent me some large baskets of fruit and sweetmeats, and at the same time, what pleased me still more, his beautifully decorated elephant, as well as an officer on horseback and some soldiers. I was soon seated with Dr. Rolland on the lofty howdah, and moved off pretty quickly towards the town.

Kottah lies on the river Chumbal, in an extensive and partly rocky plain, 1,300 feet above the level of the sea. It is advantageously situated, and surrounded with strong fortifications. The interior of the town is divided, by three gates, into three different districts. The first, which is inhabited by the poorest class of people, looks deplorable enough; the two others, where the merchants and richer people live, look much better, and the principal street, though rugged and stony, is at least broad enough to enable a carriage to pass without inconvenience to the passengers.

The style of building in the houses is quite original. In Benares I had been struck with the smallness of the windows, but here they are so low and narrow that people can hardly put their heads out of them. Many houses have large balconies; others, on the first floor, spacious halls, resting on columns, sometimes taking up the whole front of the house—sometimes divided into two or three apartments, but open to the streets. At the two corners of the large halls are pretty pavilions, at the back of which are doors leading into the interior of the house.

These halls mostly serve for shops and places of business, but they are, at the same time, lounging places for idle people, who sit upon mats and smoke their hookahs, while they amuse themselves by looking on at what is passing in the street. In other houses, again, the front walls were painted in fresco, with terrible giants, tigers, and lions, twice or thrice as large as life, with their tongues hanging out in the most alarming manner, or sometimes with deities, flowers, arabesques, &c., thrown together without taste or meaning, but daubed over with the most frightful colours. The numerous Hindoo temples are a handsome decoration to the town; they stand on high terraces, and are every way more spacious and beautiful than those of Benares, with the exception only of the Visvishas. The royal palace lies at the end of the third quarter, and forms a town within a town, or rather a fortress within a fortress, since it is surrounded not only on the outer side, but also towards the town with enormous walls.

From the city we took our way toward Armornevas, one of the pleasure palaces of the monarch (had the Resident been in Kottah, I should have had the honour of a presentation, but as he was not, etiquette did not allow it). The road was most immoderately bad, and covered with great stones, so that I could not sufficiently admire the skill of our elephant in placing his clumsy feet so as to avoid them, and yet trotting along as briskly as if he were on the finest road.

I expressed to Dr. Rolland my surprise that as his Majesty frequently visited this palace he did not improve the road a little, but he replied that it was a maxim with Indian monarchs never to make any roads, because they say it would, in case of a war, be such a great convenience to the enemy.

The gardens of the palace are so thickly set with orange, lemon, and other trees, that there is not room for the smallest flower-bed or lawn. The few flowers to be found, as in most Indian gardens, were at the entrance. The walks are raised two feet high, as the ground, from the frequent irrigations, is almost always damp and dirty. At this palace the monarch enjoys the diversion of tiger hunting, or rather tiger shooting. Small towers are erected a little way further down the river, to which the tigers are gradually driven up, and then the king and company sit securely within, and fire away valiantly on the wild monsters below.

We afterwards visited some beautiful groves of tamarind and mango trees, beneath whose shade repose the ashes of many royal princes. The evening was closed by all kinds of entertainments. The good doctor wished to make me acquainted with the various performances of the Hindoos, most of which, however, were not new to me. He brought before me a man who had got together a company of monkies which performed divers feats very cleverly; then a snake charmer, who let the largest and most poisonous snake twist round his arms and legs; lastly appeared four elegant dancing girls, dressed in gold and silver muslin, and loaded with ornaments on forehead, throat, bosom, hands, arms, feet, and even toes, besides a large jewel that hung down from their noses. I recollect to have read in books that the performances of these Indian dancers was more graceful than those of Europeans, that their songs were melodious, their pantomime tender and impassioned, &c. I should like much to know whether those who gave this description have ever been in India at all. Not less untrue is, as far as I have seen, the statement of the extreme indelicacy of these dances. Those who say this must have forgotten the Sammaquecca and Refolosa in Valparaiso, or the dances of the women of Otaheiti, or, indeed, those of our own opera ballet dancers with their silk fleshings.

The dress of the women in Rajpootan is very different from that of other parts of India. They wear long, full-coloured petticoats and close boddices, scarcely high enough to cover the bosom. Over this they have a blue or white shawl or veil, in which they envelope the head, face, and shoulders, leaving a piece hanging down in front like an apron. When they have not this veil on, they look a good deal like our own peasant girls. They are, however, like the dancers, usually laden with ornaments of gold or silver, or, if they cannot afford this, of some other metal, or even horn or bone. They have also little bells to their ankles, so that one can hear them coming sixty paces off; their toes are covered with heavy rings, and, what is worse, they have them hanging from the nose to the chin. I could not help pitying the poor creatures when I saw them taking their meals. They must suffer grievously for their finery.

Among the other ornaments I noticed that many of the people wore amulets or images hung round their necks, so that I took them

at first for Catholics, and rejoiced at this evidence of the success of the missionaries; but, alas! when I came nearer, I saw that, instead of a saint or heavenly Madonna, it was the head of an ox, or the long-tongued goddess Kalli, or the light-armed god Shiva, who was grinning at me.

February 13th.—To day Dr. Rolland took me to a little town considered one of the holiest in the country, which lies on the opposite side of the river, about six miles from Kottah. Beautiful stone steps lead down to the sacred water, where many pilgrims come to bathe themselves, and in some elegant kiosks Brahmins were sitting receiving the money of the faithful for the honour of the gods. On one of the steps lay a large turtle sunning himself, and no one seemed to dream of interfering with his comfort.

The temple, which is very large and handsome, though the town is small and wretched-looking, is open on all sides, and of an octagonal form. In the upper part are galleries, destined for women and musicians. The sanctuary stands in the back ground, and before it hang five bells, which are rung whenever a woman enters the temple, as they were when I came in. Thereupon the closed and draperied doors were opened, and a full sight of the interior permitted us: We saw there a small party of gods cut in stone, and a Brahmin engaged in driving with a large flapper the flies from their *spirituel* countenances. The chapels contained red painted images or stones. In the fore court was seated the figure of a saint dressed quite decorously, and even with a cap upon his head. On the opposite side of the river is a hill denominated the Holy Hill, on which stands the figure of an ox coarsely cut in stone. Near this hill Captain Burdon has built himself an elegant house, and here he keeps a fine collection of stuffed birds, which he has brought himself from the Himmalaya.

CONTINUATION OF THE JOURNEY.

Meeting with the Burdon Family.—Women of the Lower Class in India.—Captain Hamilton.—Indor.—Presentation at Court.—Manufacture of Ice.—Industry of Women and Children.—The Rocky Temple at Adjunta.—A Tiger Hunt.—The Rock Temple of Elora.—The Fortress of Dowlutabad.

IN the countries under the rule of the native princes there are neither post-offices nor roads, but in all the towns and villages there are people appointed to show the way to travellers and carry their luggage. Those who travel with a guard or cheprass pay them nothing, others give them a trifle for their services, more or less, according to the distance. On my leaving Kottah the king had had the complaisance to offer me camels for the journey, as well as Sepoys for my escort; and when I arrived at the end of my first stage every one came forward to serve me, as well as, perhaps, to see a European woman,—here a great rarity. They brought me milk, eggs, and wood. My style of living was very simple and frugal; my best meals were of rice boiled in milk, or eggs, but usually I had only rice, with water and salt. A leathern bottle for water, a small pan for cooking, a handful of salt, and some bread and rice, constituted my whole preparation for wants of this kind.

Late in the evening I arrived at Nurankura, a hamlet surrounded by low hills. Here I found some tents belonging to Captain Burdon, and a male and female servant waiting for me. I was excessively fatigued, for the movement of the camel is very disagreeable, and I immediately retired into one of the tents to try and get some sleep; but I was followed by the maid, who began, almost whether I would or not, to knead me all over with great energy, assuring me that it was extremely good for me, and would take away my fatigue; and it was true that, after I had gone through this discipline for a quarter of an hour, I felt greatly refreshed. She then explained to me, half in words half by signs, that the family had expected me to dinner, that a palanquin was in readiness, and that I could sleep in it as well as in a tent. I thought this was very likely, so at eleven o'clock I continued my journey. The country was indeed, I was informed, very much infested by tigers, but since I had several torch-bearers with me—and tigers are sworn enemies of light—I had no reason to fear that my sleep would be disturbed by them. At three o'clock in the morning I was again

deposited in a tent that stood ready for my reception, and furnished with all conveniences, and the next morning I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with the amiable family of Captain Burdon, who leads the most happy domestic life with his wife and seven children, whom the parents instruct almost entirely themselves.

They seem perfectly gay and contented, although they are confined wholly to their own society and that of Dr. Rolland, who is the only European besides themselves in Kottah. Now and then they receive a visit from some officer who is travelling through the country, and I was myself the first European woman whom Mrs. Burdon had seen for four years. I passed the whole day most agreeably in the family circle, and was not a little astonished to find in this wild country all the comforts and conveniences of a well-arranged house. I will take this opportunity of giving some idea of how English officers, civil and military, travel in India.

In the first place, they possess tents so large as to contain three or four rooms, and they carry with them all the proper furniture, including carpets, elegant divans, and all manner of household and kitchen utensils, as well as a great number of servants. After having passed the night comfortably in their beds, they get into convenient palanquins, or on horseback, about three in the morning, and travelling four or five hours alight at their tent, which is again in readiness for them, and take a capital hot breakfast. They never go more than about eight miles in the day, and they have about them all the articles to which they are accustomed, and take all their usual meals. The cooks continue their journey always in the night, and the moment the masters are gone the tents are broken up and carried forward as quickly as possible: there is, of course, no lack of human hands to labour, or of beasts of burden. In the most civilised countries of Europe people do not travel as conveniently and luxuriously as they do in India. Captain Burdon wished to give me the use of his palanquin, and the bearers belonging to it, as far as Indor, my next stopping place; but I really could not help pitying the fatigue of these poor people so much, that I pretended I did not mind travelling on a camel, nay, even preferred it to the palanquin on account of the prospect. At Runcha I had to take up my quarters in the midst of the Bazaar, under an open veranda, whilst half the population of the town gathered round me to watch every look and motion. They had,

at all events, a good opportunity of observing what a European woman looks like when she is angry, for I gave my people a famous scolding, on account of the sleepy pace they had allowed the camels to keep: we had been from early in the morning till late at night upon the march, and had not made more than twenty or twenty-two miles, the pace of an ox waggon.

During the following days we passed over low hills, where the uncultivated land was already burnt up by the sun, and although we were not yet out of February, the thermometer rose during the day to 28 or 30 deg. of Reaumur, and the plantations of poppy, flax, corn, and cotton were flourishing luxuriously. Every where runlets of water were conducted through the fields, and peasants with teams of oxen were occupied in drawing water out of the wells and rivers. I did not see any women engaged in the work, and in general it appeared to me that the lot of the poorer classes of women in India and the East is not so hard as is commonly supposed. All the hard labour is performed by men, and they take part even in the work properly belonging to women; as for instance, in the cities inhabited by Europeans, men do the washing and ironing. On the fields at harvest time you may see women, but they perform only the lightest of the work, and when there are no animals of burden the men carry both the burdens and the children. I never once saw a man ill treat either his wife or child; and I wish from my heart that the poor women in our countries were only half as well treated as in many which are considered in a very rude state. During the journey I was one day witness of a mournful scene, originating in the mistaken notions of religion prevalent among the Hindoos. Not far from the veranda where I had taken shelter for the night,—for there were now no more Serais,—an old man was lying stretched out on the ground without giving any sign of life; the passers by stopped, looked at him for a moment, and then went on their way. No one offered to help him, or asked a question about him. The poor fellow had sunk down in such a state of exhaustion that he could not say to what caste he belonged. At length I took courage, approached him, and lifted up the head cloth which had fallen down partly over his face; but two glazed eyes met mine—the body was stiff and cold—my help had come too late. The next morning the body still lay in the same place. I was told it was left to see whether any relations would take it away; if not, the British Consul would

On reaching Indor, I found, as I approached the town, that Mr. Hamilton, the resident, to whom I had letters, was out taking an airing, and soon after I met his equipage, which was very magnificent; an open landau, with four fine horses, and four servants in Oriental costume running beside it. The gentlemen had scarcely perceived my approach when they stopped, and sent one of their servants towards me. Probably they were curious to know what accident had thrown a solitary European woman into this remote region. My servant, who had the letters for Mr. Hamilton already in his hand, hastened to him, and delivered them. He read them hastily through, and then immediately got out of his carriage, came to me, and gave me a most cordial reception, without taking any offence at my shabby clothing or scanty attendance. He led me himself into the bongolo destined to the reception of strangers, placed several rooms at my service, and did not leave me till he had seen that the servants had punctually fulfilled his orders. He then went away, promising to send for me in an hour to dinner.

The palace of the resident, distant scarcely a hundred yards from the bongolo, is a splendid edifice in the true Italian style; broad steps lead up to halls, which, for space and beautiful proportions, excel any of the kind I had ever seen, and all the internal arrangements correspond with expectations excited by the exterior.

It was Sunday, and I had therefore the pleasure of meeting assembled at Indor the whole European world; videlicet, three families; and my surprise at the magnificence surrounding me, and at the luxurious banquet, was completed by hearing an excellent, well-practised band strike up some of the well-remembered melodies of my father-land. After dinner, Mr. Hamilton presented to me the leader, a Tyrolese of the name of Näher, who in the course of three years had drilled a corps of young natives into this excellent orchestra. He is married, and I went afterwards to see his wife, who was moved even to tears at the sound of her native German language, which she had not heard for fifteen years.

The town of Indor contains about 25,000 inhabitants. The royal palace stands in the midst of it, and forms a quadrangle; the front rises in a pyramidal form six stories high, and the entrance gate, with a tower on each side, is very handsome. The

outside is covered with frescoes, mostly of elephants and horses; the interior is divided into several courts, and on the first floor is a large open hall, which serves as the residence of several holy oxen. Opposite to this hall is the reception room, but to reach the royal apartments you have to go through passages so dark that lights are necessary in the brightest sunny day. This is the case in most of the palaces of Hindostan, and it is said they are made so with a view of concealing their occupants from the enemy, or at least of rendering the access to them difficult.

We found the queen, an aged, childless widow, with her adopted son, Prince *Hury-Rao-Holcar*, a lad of fourteen, with a good-natured expressive face. They were both dressed in white muslin, and the latter had jewels on his turban, his breast, and his arms. All the apartments and passages were crowded with servants, who thrust themselves into the reception-room without the smallest ceremony, in order to look at us a little closer, so that we sat in a perfect mob. Sweetmeats and fruits were brought, rose-water sprinkled over us, and some attar of roses poured upon our handkerchiefs. After a time they brought us some areca nut and betel leaf on a silver cup, which the queen herself presented to us. This is the signal for the termination of the audience, and until it is given one must not go. Before we got up, large garlands of jessamine were hung round our necks, and I had them also placed round my wrist, and when we got home fruits and sweetmeats were sent after us. The queen, who had remained unveiled, though Mr. Hamilton was present, gave orders that we should have the palace shown to us, and we were led round it by the *Mundsch*, or tutor of the young prince; but with the exception of the hall of audience, the rooms are all extremely simple, and with scarcely any furniture but cushions, covered with white muslin, which lie on the ground. When we came out upon the terrace, we found the prince riding out, with a numerous train, mounted, some on horses, some on elephants. The soldiers were well dressed in white trousers and blue caftans, and a sort of murmur, which I was told expressed approbation, arose on the appearance of the prince. His highness can speak broken English, and he put some questions to me implying that he was not ignorant of geography, so that I could compliment the mundsch on the success of his education.

This Mundsche had the complaisance also to show me over the ice manufactory. The ice is usually made in the months of December and January, but even in February the nights, and still more the early morning hours before sunrise, are so cool, that shallow water is easily covered with a coat of thin ice. For this purpose, where the ground is impregnated with saltpetre, flat pits are dug, in which are laid thin flat pans of porous clay filled with water, or, where there is no saltpetre in the ground, the highest terraces of the houses are covered with straw, and the dishes placed upon them. The thin coat of ice thus gained is then broken into pieces, poured over with water, and placed in the ice pits, which are also kept covered with straw.

Besides his attentions to me at Indor, Mr. Hamilton was so good as to provide for my further journey, for which I might again have had the use of the royal camels; but to avoid fatigue I preferred the ox waggon. He made himself the agreement with the driver, arranged my stations for me from here to Auranjabad (230 miles), gave me an excellent servant and a sepoy to accompany me, furnished me with letters, and even asked whether I had money enough, and all that with a manner so kind and friendly, that it was of as much value as the services themselves. Not merely in Indor, but everywhere, I heard the name of this gentleman mentioned with the highest respect.

The road on leaving Indor led through palm groves and a richly cultivated country to a village called Simarola, where I found ready for me a pretty tent, which Mr. Hamilton had sent forward in order to surprise me with one more good night, and I thanked him most fervently in my heart for the attention. From Simarola the country becomes picturesque. A narrow mountain ridge, in many places scarcely broad enough for the road, leads across small valleys at whose sides the most beautiful lightly-wooded mountains are piled up. Among the trees I particularly noticed two species, one with red, the other with yellow flowers, but both strangely wanting in leaves. Ever since leaving Kottah, on account of the increasing stonyness of the road, the camels had been getting scarcer, and they were replaced by trains of oxen. I have met herds, which must have consisted of several thousands, laden with corn, wood, salt, &c. It is inconceivable to me where food for all these animals can be found, for no meadows are to be seen, and, except the plantations, the ground is burnt up or covered

with fine withered grass called jungle grass, which I never saw any animal taste. The activity of the women and children in the villages through which these trains pass is most striking. They furnish themselves with baskets, and follow the trains to an immense distance, collecting the dung of the animals, which they make into flat cakes and dry in the sun for fuel. Late in the evening we entered, amidst thunder and lightning, the village of *Burwai*, where there was said to be an open bongolo, but as we could not find it in the dark I had to content myself with the shelter of a projecting roof.

February 29th.—This day's stage was one of the longest we had, and our road led through dreary wildernesses and jungles. We had been jogging for some time quietly along, when all on a sudden our animals made a stop, and stood as if they were rooted to the ground, trembling at the same time all over. Their fear communicated itself to the men, who began in a tone of horror to scream, "Tiger! tiger!" I ordered them to go on shouting as loud as they could, and also to tear up some jungle grass and set fire to it, in hopes of terrifying any beasts that might be near us, though I saw nothing of them, but I learnt afterwards that scarcely a night passed in which a horse or an ox did not become the prey of a tiger, and only a few days before a poor woman who had lingered late in the jungle was torn to pieces. All the villages were surrounded by high walls of earth or stone, whether from fear of beasts or from any other cause I could not with certainty learn. These fortress-villages extend as far as *Aurunjabad*, a distance of 150 miles.

March 3d.—Adjunta.—Before arriving at this place we passed through a tremendous, but easily defended, mountain pass, closed at the top by an immense fortified gate, which now, however, in time of peace, was left open. The heights on each side were defended by high strong walls. At every step the scenery became more wildly romantic; picturesque masses of rock and mighty walls lay on either side, and valley receded behind valley far into the mountains, while in front the eye ranged freely over a far extending plain.

At *Adjunta* I found the resident, Captain Gill, to whom I had letters from Mr. Hamilton, and after the first salutations I expressed a wish to see the renowned rocky temple of *Adjunta*. I then learned, to my vexation, that I could have reached it by a

much shorter route from my last night's station, Furdapoor, to which it really lay much nearer. What was to be done? The temple I would see; but I had little time to lose, so I resolved at once to go back again, and taking with me a little provision and mounting the best horse in Captain Gill's stud, I was through the mountain pass again in little more than an hour, and on my way to the temple.

The road lies through some wild desolate valleys, whose death-like stillness is disturbed by no song of bird, no sound of life, and which are perfectly well adapted to excite expectation of the wonders here to be beheld. The temples are twenty-seven in number, cut in lofty perpendicular rocks of a semi-circular form. On some of these rocky walls there are two stories of temples, one above another, with paths leading to the top, but so narrow and broken that you scarcely know where to set your foot. Below, you look into tremendous abysses, in which a mountain torrent loses itself, while above, to the height of several hundred feet, rises the face of the smooth perpendicular rock. Most of the temples form quadrangles, into which you enter through verandahs and beautiful portals, which, supported upon columns, seem to bear up the massive pile of rock. I counted in the larger twenty-eight, in the smallest eight columns. At the sides of the temples are little perfectly dark cells, in which, probably, the priests used to live. In the back ground, in a larger chamber, was the sanctuary, and here are gigantic figures in all positions, some measuring above eighteen feet, and reaching nearly the ceiling of the temple, which is four-and-twenty feet high. The walls of the temple and verandahs are full of gods and statues of good and evil spirits. In one of the temples is represented a whole giant war, and all the figures, columns, verandahs, and portals are cut out of the living rock. Their immense numbers and the great beauty of the sculptures and reliefs, on the columns, capitals, friezes, doors, and even on the ceilings of the temples,—the inexhaustible variety in the drawings and patterns,—is truly admirable. It seems as if it were scarcely possible that these masterly and at the same time gigantic works could be executed by human hands. The Brahmins ascribe them to supernatural agency, and maintain that the epoch of their creation cannot be discovered. Besides the sculptures, there are in many places paintings, with colours brighter and fresher than those of many modern works.

The temples of the second kind have an oval form, and majestic lofty portals, which lead immediately into the interior. The largest of these has on each side a colonnade of nineteen columns, the smallest of eight; but in these are no priests' cells and no sanctuary. Instead of the latter, there stands at the end of each temple a high monument of a cupola form, and on one of these is hewn out a statue of Buddha in a standing position. On the walls of the larger temple are gigantic figures cut out of the living rock, beneath which is a sleeping Buddha, twenty-one feet long. After I had spent some hours in climbing and creeping about, and had closely viewed each individual temple, I was led back into one that I had already seen, and behold there stood a little table, most richly furnished with refreshments, and inviting me to a welcome meal. It was Captain Gill who had been so kind as to send after me into this desert all that was required for an elegant tiffin, including a table and chairs. Thus strengthened and refreshed, I found the way home by no means fatiguing.

The house which Captain Gill inhabits in Adjunta is singularly situated. A pleasant garden, with flowers and foliage, surrounds the front, whence you look over a beautiful plain, whilst the back is on the brink of a really terrible precipice, where the head grows giddy at the sight of precipitous crags and awful chasms and abysses.

When Captain Gill understood that I wished to visit the renowned fortress of Dowlutabad, he told me that no one was admitted to it without an order from the commandant of Aurunjabad; but he added, that he would immediately send a messenger thither for one, and he could at the same time bring me a card of admission for Elora. There and back the messenger would have a distance of 140 miles to go, and all this courtesy was shown by Englishmen to me, a German woman, without rank or distinction of any kind.

At four o'clock in the morning the captain favoured me with his company at the coffee table, and half an hour afterwards I was sitting in my baidi pursuing my journey.

March 6.—Early in the morning I mounted my horse, to visit the rocky temple of Elora; but, as it often happens in life, I was reminded of the proverbial saying, "Man proposes and God disposes," and instead of the temple I saw a tiger hunt.

I had scarcely turned my back on the town where I had passed the night, when I saw advancing towards me from the bongolo

several Europeans, sitting upon elephants. We stopped on coming up with each other, and began a conversation, from which it appeared that the gentlemen were out on a tiger hunt, as they had had information of some being in the neighbourhood, and they invited me, if such sport did not terrify me too much, to join them. I was very glad of the invitation, and soon found myself in company with two of the gentlemen and one native, seated in a box about two feet high, which was placed on the back of a very large elephant. The native was to load the guns; and they gave me a large knife to defend myself with in case the tiger should spring up to the edge of the box.

Thus prepared, we set off for the hills, and after the lapse of some hours thought we had come, probably, pretty close to the tiger's den, when suddenly one of our servants exclaimed, "*Back, back!* that is Tiger!" Glaring eyes were seen through the bushes, and at the same moment several shots were fired. The animal was soon pierced by several bullets, and now dashed at us full of fury. He made such tremendous springs that I thought he must infallibly soon reach our box, and choose himself a victim out of our party. This spectacle was terrible enough to me, and my fear was presently increased by the sight of a second tiger. I behaved myself, however, so valiantly that no one of the gentlemen suspected what a coward I was. Shot followed shot. The elephants defended themselves very cleverly with their trunks, and after a hot fight of half an hour's duration we remained victors, and the dead animals were in triumph robbed of their beautiful skins. The gentlemen were so courteous as to offer me one of them, but I declined accepting it, as I could not have delayed my journey long enough to have it dried and put into a proper state.

I got a good deal of praise for my courageous behaviour, and I was told tiger hunting was really extremely dangerous where the elephants were not very well trained. If they were afraid of the tigers, and ran away, one would be very likely to be dashed off by the branches of the trees, or perhaps left hanging upon them, and then would infallibly become the prey of the enraged animal. It was of course too late for my visit to the temples this day, so I had to put it off till the following morning.

The temples of Elora lie on one of the table lands which are so peculiarly Indian. The principal one, that of Kylas, which is the most remarkable, exceeds in size and completeness the best

architectural works of India ; indeed it may well vie with the astonishing works of the ancient Egyptians. It is of a circular form, 120 feet high and 600 feet in circumference. For the execution of this masterpiece, a colossal block has been separated from the living rock by a passage of 100 feet wide and 240 long. The interior consists of a principal hall and some subordinate ones, all filled with sculptures and gigantic statues of gods. Its greatest magnificence, however, appears in the rich sculptures and elaborate arabesques which decorate the towers.

The temple rests on the backs of countless elephants and tigers, which are lying near each other in peaceful attitudes. All, as I have said, are cut out of the solid rock, and it surrounds them on three sides, at the distance of a hundred feet, like a colossal perpendicular wall. Further on, in another rock, is another group of temples similar in many respects, but simpler and less ornamented. Had these rocks consisted of granite or any equally hard stone, these works would have been, not difficult, but impossible.

The fortress of *Dowlatabad* is one of the oldest and strongest in India, and is regarded as the greatest curiosity of its kind, not only in the Deccan, but in all India. It has a most imposing aspect, lying on a rock 600 feet high, which by some convulsion of nature has been rent from the mountains to which it belongs. It is cut perpendicularly to a height of 130 feet, and also 30 feet below the moat by which it is surrounded, and it appears entirely inaccessible. No path leads up to it, and I could not help feeling very curious as to the means by which we were to get in, when a very low iron door in the face of the rock opened, and gave us admittance. This door is only visible in peaceful times, as during war, the moat can be filled to a foot above it, so as entirely to conceal it. Torches were kindled, and we were cautiously conducted through low, narrow, winding passages, cut through the heart of the rock, and leading gradually upwards. Even these passages were closed in many places by massive iron gates. We emerged again into daylight a considerable height above the rocky wall, and thence narrow paths and steps, also protected by strong fortifications, lead to the highest point. At the foot of the hill lie the ruins evidently of a considerable town, though now there is nothing left of it but the three or four lines of fortification which you must pass to reach the existing fortress.

The numerous fortresses and fortified villages found in this part of the country, date, I was told, from the time when Hindostan was parcelled out into many states which were engaged in incessant war with each other. In consequence of these perpetual wars also, there were gradually formed bands of mounted robbers, ten or twelve thousand strong, which laid siege to the smaller towns, and sometimes entirely destroyed the harvests; and they were obliged, in consequence, to make treaties with these hordes—and buy their peace with a yearly tribute.

Since the English have conquered India, peace has been everywhere established; the fortifications are falling to decay and are not repaired, and though the people still go armed, it is more from habit than necessity.

Aurunjabad.—On the 7th of March late in the evening I arrived at Aurunjabad, and Captain Stewart, who lived outside the town, received me in just as friendly a manner as the other residents had done. In the morning I accompanied him and Mrs. Stewart into the city to see the lions, which consisted merely in a monument and a holy well or pond.

Aurunjabad is the capital of Deccan and has 60,000 inhabitants, but it lies partly in ruins. The monument, which is outside the town, is one built 200 years ago by a certain sultan to the memory of his daughter: it is of white marble, in which elegant arabesques and flowers are carved with great skill, and the doors are ornamented with plates of metal, in which also are flowers and ornaments. Near the mosque is a handsome marble hall, and round it a neglected garden.

The present reigning king wished to take away some of the marble in order to employ it for a building in which his own remains are one day to repose, and he endeavoured to obtain permission to do so from the English government. The answer came, that he could do so if he pleased, but that he had better consider, that if he showed so little respect for his ancestors his own monument would probably be treated with no more; and this answer seems to have induced him to renounce his intention. The holy pond (regarded as such by the Mahomedans) is a large basin lined with freestone. It is full of large pike, of which however not one is allowed to be caught, and there is even a guardian appointed, who provides them with food. The pike are therefore so tame and friendly that they will eat bread, turnips,

and so forth out of your hand, and, but that the rainy season kills many of them, the pond would long since have had more fish than water in it. Since the arrival of the English however the guards are no longer so conscientious as they used to be, and many of the fish are "for a consideration" smuggled into the English kitchens.

As I came nearer to Bombay I again met vast herds of laden oxen, and most of the drivers had their families with them. The women were to the last degree ragged and dirty, but overladen at the same time with finery. Worsted tassels were dangling all over their bodies and also their ears; their arms were loaded with bands of metal, bone, and glass beads, and their feet with heavy rings and chains, and, thus burdened or decorated, the ladies sat upon the backs of the oxen, or trotted after them.

March 17.—Since the attack of the negro in Brazil I have not had such a fright as I had to-day. My driver had from the beginning of the journey appeared to me very strange, indeed insane, in his behaviour. Sometimes he was wrangling with his oxen, sometimes caressing them, sometimes he would scream to the passers by, and then he would turn and stare at me for several minutes together. As long however as I had a servant with me, who always kept near the baili, I cared little about him; this morning however, my servant went on without permission to the next station, and I found myself left alone with the mad driver, on a very solitary road. After a time he got down from his seat and walked close behind the waggon. These bailis are covered with straw mats at the sides, but open before and behind, so that I could have seen very well what he was doing, but I would not turn round, in order not to put it into his head that I thought his intentions evil. I only turned my head partly to one side that I might be able to observe a little what he was about. Presently he returned again and pulled to my horror a hatchet, which every driver carries with him, out of the waggon, and taking it with him again went behind me. I now thought he certainly meant mischief, but I could not escape from him, and my best chance was therefore to show no fear. Quite softly, and so as not to be noticed I drew round me my mantle and rolled it together in order at least to protect my head, should he strike at me with the hatchet. For a considerable time I remained in this painful situation, but at last he came back to his place, and resumed

his staring; my torment was not yet over however, for after remaining quiet awhile he got up and repeated the very same manœuvre, and this he did several times. That hour seemed to me an eternity; but in two hours we reached the station, and I found my servant, whom I now took care not again to lose sight of.

The villages through which we passed after this have a very wretched appearance. The houses are merely reed or cane huts, covered with palm leaves, many of them even without front walls. They are mostly inhabited by Mahrattas, a race once very powerful in India, and especially on this side of the Ganges; but in the eighteenth century they were driven out of the peninsula of Hindostan into the mountains which extend from Surat to Goa, and in the nineteenth century they were subjected by the British. One Mahratta chief only, it is said, still maintains his independence; the rest have submitted to receive pensions.

The Mahrattas live only on rice and water, but in opposition to a theory sometimes maintained, they are ferocious as well as artful and cowardly. When they are going into battle they intoxicate themselves with opium, and with smoking wild hemp. They profess the religion of Brahma.

In the afternoon of this day I reached the hamlet of Pannwell, on the river of the same name, and towards evening embarked in a boat upon it, and after going a short distance out to sea landed towards morning in Bombay, having completed the long and difficult journey from Delhi in seven weeks.

For reaching it in safety through so many difficulties, I am especially indebted to the English authorities, who with word and deed came to the assistance of the solitary German woman; their humanity, their cordial kindness will never be forgotten by me. Once more I return them my deepest, warmest thanks.

BOMBAY.

Bombay, the principal place of Western India, lies on a pretty little island, separated from the main land by quite a narrow arm of the sea. It contains 250,000 people; and you may hear in it all the languages of the civilized world. The most beautiful prospect over the island and city, as well as of the neighbouring islands of Salsette, Elephanta, &c., may be obtained from Malabar

Point. The town itself lies on a flat along the sea-shore, but the environs at a short distance consist of low hills covered with beautiful groves of cocoa and date trees. The natives generally seek the shade of large trees for their houses, but the Europeans seek for light and air.

The bustle of the rich inland and European trade, and the handsome shops and warehouses, are to be found in the fortified part of the city, which forms a large quadrangle, and here the streets are handsome, and the great square called the Green magnificent. The Open Town and the Black Town adjoin : in the former the streets are more regular and broad than I have seen in any Indian town ; and here is the Bazar, which is worth visiting on account of the great variety of different nations you meet with in it. Three-fourths of the inhabitants of this quarter indeed are Hindoos, but the other fourth is made up of Persians, Fire-worshippers, Mahrattas, Jews, Arabs, Bedouins, Negroes, descendants of Portuguese, some hundreds of Europeans, and even Chinese and Hottentots. It is, however, long before one can distinguish these different races from their features and costume. Of all these the Fire-worshippers are the richest. These people were driven out of Persia about 1,200 years ago, and they are settled all along the west coast of India. They are extraordinarily active and well informed, industrious as well as benevolent, so that you see among them no poor, far less beggars and all appear prosperous. The finest houses, in which the Europeans live, belong mostly to them, and they drive about in splendid equipages and with numerous trains of servants. One of the richest of them, Jamset-ize-jeejeebhoy, has had a hospital built at his sole cost ; it is a very handsome building in the Gothic style, attended by European physicians, and receives the sick of all religions. He has received the honour of knighthood from the English government, and is certainly the first Hindoo on whom such a distinction was ever conferred.

On my first arrival I went one morning on the Esplanade for the purpose of seeing the whole body of Parsees in Bombay assemble, as I had read in books they did, to greet the first ray of the sun with prostrations and cries of joy. I found, however, only a few scattered singly here and there, and they were quietly reading out of a book and murmuring a prayer in a loud voice. Some even did not make their appearance till nine o'clock. I was

equally mistaken about their mode of burial. I had been told they had the practice of placing their dead on the roofs of the houses that they might be devoured by the birds of prey; but I found they had for this purpose enclosures surrounded by a wall four and twenty feet high; inside this were three biers, for men, women, and children, and on these the bodies are laid and fastened with iron bands. The birds of prey, which are always in great numbers hovering about, then descend upon them, and in a few minutes tear the flesh from the bones; after which the bones are collected and thrown into a pit, also contained within the enclosure; and when this is full a new burial-place is taken. Many of the rich have private enclosures of this kind, over which is placed a covering of iron wire to keep off the birds: this mode of disposing of the dead is called "resigning them to the element of air." No one but a priest may enter or even look into these enclosures; and the priests, or rather the bearers who carry the bodies in, are rendered by that act so unclean that they are separated from all other society, and if another Parsee does but touch one of them accidentally he is obliged immediately to bathe and burn his clothes. The Parsees are no less jealous with respect to their temples: no stranger is allowed so much as a glance into them, so that I of course can give no account of the interior, except what I was told—that they are quite empty and unadorned, and that the sacred fire which burns in them is said to descend from that kindled by the prophet Zoroaster 4,000 years ago. It was carried with them when the Parsees were driven from Persia. During my stay in Bombay a Mr. Manuchjee was so kind as to invite me to his house, that I might see something of the mode of life of the Parsee families. I found their rooms fitted up very much in the European fashion, with chairs, sofas, looking-glasses, &c.; and the dress of the ladies differed very little from that of the rich Hindoo women, except that it was more decorous, as it consisted of silk stuff instead of transparent muslin. The silk stuffs were richly embroidered with gold, and this luxury extended even to children of three years old. Those still younger, and new-born infants, were wrapped in plain silk, but all had gold and silver embroidery on their little caps; and even babies of eight months old had rings and armlets enriched with precious stones

The dress of the men consists of trowsers and shirts of white silk, and long caftans of muslin; the turban is not like that of the Turks, but a kind of pasteboard cap ten or twelve inches high, and covered with some coloured stuff or wax-cloth. Both men and women wear round the body a double string, which they loosen when they are at prayer, and this is the most indispensable of all the articles of their dress. No engagement is binding if this string has not been worn at the time it was made; and the placing it on a child, which is done at the ninth year, forms an epoch in its life.

Before this, girls can go about with their fathers in public, and boys may eat of food prepared by Christians, but after the assumption of this string the girls must remain at home, and the boys eat at their father's table. Religion is concerned also in the form of a Parsee's shirt; it must have five seams and be laid in a particular manner over the breast. Mr. Manuchjee formed in many respects rather an exception to the generality of his countrymen. He has travelled much, has been in Paris, London, and Italy; and he has got into rather ill odour with his countrymen for his partiality to European customs, and his attempts to introduce some reforms, though he did not carry these so far as he would have wished, for fear of giving offence. His eldest daughter has been educated much as young ladies in Europe are; she plays the piano—sews, embroiders, and so forth, and her father would not consent to betroth her as a child, and even expressed a wish that her inclination might agree with his choice. It is however considered very doubtful whether in consequence of these innovations she will ever find a husband at all, especially as she has attained the age of fourteen, and as yet no bridegroom is forthcoming.

When I made my first visit, I found the mother and daughter engaged in needlework, and I was invited to remain to dinner, a favour which an orthodox Parsee would not have shown me. I was not however allowed to dine with the family, but the table was first covered for me only, and they brought me several dishes not greatly different from what I might have had in Europe. The whole family, servants included, and with the single exception of the master of the house, assembled to see me eat with a knife and fork, and after I had thus satisfied my appetite in the presence of the public, the table and every thing I had

used was cleaned as Carefully as if I had had the plague. After this they brought flat loaves or cakes, which were to serve instead of plates, and six or seven little dishes of the same kind as those which they had served to me. The family then washed hands and faces, the father said a short prayer, and all except the youngest child, who was only just six years old, sat down to table, and began to put their right hands into the different dishes; they tore the meat from the mutton and fowl bones, pulled off pieces of the fish, and dipped them into the broth and sauces, and flung the pieces into their mouths so cleverly as not to touch their lips. If they did, they would have to wash again, or to take the dish they were eating of at the time to themselves, and touch no other during the meal. They manage to drink also, by throwing the drink into the wide open mouths without allowing the lip to touch the vessel. This mode of eating is not very agreeable to look at, but it is not really dirty, as the hands are just washed, and do not touch any thing but the food.

Another ceremony which I had an opportunity of witnessing, was the funeral of an old Hindoo woman. From the time when she was known to be near death she was surrounded by a number of women, who set up periodically a dreadful howling and crying. Presently came other groups, and they set up the same noise as soon as they came in sight of the house; they then went in, but the men sat down quietly outside. In the course of a few hours the body was brought out and wrapt in a white linen cloth and laid upon the bier, to be borne by the men to the place of burning. One of the men carried a vessel with charcoal, and a piece of lighted wood, in order to kindle the funeral pile with the domestic fire. The women remained at home, and with the assistance of a hired mourning woman, kept up the above mentioned loud lamentation, striking themselves on the breast, and bowing their heads in time with one another, and with a jerking motion like that of a doll upon wires.

On the following morning the visits were repeated, the men remaining as before outside the house, — but every time a troop of women approached, going to the door and announcing them. The chief mourner then made her appearance to receive them. She threw herself on the ground before them with such violence that I feared she would not be able to get up again, the visitors then struck themselves vehemently with their fists, and carried

their hands to their heads. In the meantime the chief mourner got up again, and then she fell on the neck of one of her visitors after the other, in the most stormy manner, drawing at the same time the cloth that covered her head also over that of her friend, and both howling one against the other. All these movements were made with great rapidity, so that a good dozen of embraces were given in almost no time. It was not till sunset on the second day that a good meal put an end to the ceremony, but during the whole two days, refreshments and toddy were plentifully distributed, so that with the addition of the price of the pile, a funeral becomes an expensive affair: the funeral I had witnessed was that of a poor woman. I once met the funeral of a child where the body was covered with fresh beautiful flowers; and a man carried it in his arms as tenderly as if it slept, and he had feared awakening it.

The Hindoos have no weekly holiday, but only, at certain periods of the year, festivals which last several days. One of these, which I witnessed, was that of the new year, when the chief diversion is sprinkling each other with yellow, red, and brown paint, and smearing the cheeks and forehead with it. The noisy tam-tam and a few fiddles opened the procession, and then came larger and smaller parties laughing and singing from one house to another. Many of the company (amongst which of course there were no respectable women) appeared to have taken to the toddy rather too kindly; in the evening there were in the houses parties of both sexes, where I was told things were not always conducted with the strictest propriety.

Among other sights which I saw in Bombay I should not omit to mention that of a martyr, who had held his hand and arm in the same position for three and twenty years. He had held the arm high up and the hand flat back, so that a flower-pot could stand on it. The flower-pot was taken off after the lapse of the three and twenty years, but the hand and arm could not then be placed in any other position, they were quite withered and had a very unpleasant appearance.

The island of Elephanta lies six or eight leagues distant from Bombay, and M. Wattenbach, the Hamburgh consul, who had before shown me the most kind and hospitable attentions, took me to visit it.

The principal temple resembles the largest one at Adjunta,

only with the difference that it is separated from the living rock at the two sides, though connected with it above, below, and at the back. In the sanctuary stands a gigantic three-headed bust, supposed to represent the Hindoo Trinity, which measures, including the head-dress, about eight feet. On the walls and in the niches there are not only gigantic statues, but whole scenes from the Hindoo mythology, and the female figures I noticed all have the left hip out and the right one in. The temple appears to have been devoted to the god Shiva. •

Near this great temple stands another smaller one, the walls of which are also covered with divinities. Both have suffered much from the Portuguese, who, when they conquered the island, went so far in their religious zeal as to plant cannon for the destruction of these dreadful works of the heathen, a work in which they succeeded better than in his conversion. Several columns are lying in fragments, and almost all are more or less damaged. The ground is covered with ruins; and no one, even of the gods and their attendants, has remained uninjured.

From the façade of the great temple you enjoy a fine prospect over the wide sea, the extensive town, and the pretty hills around it. We passed the whole day there, with the exception of the warmest hours, when we took refuge in the cool shade of the temple, and amused ourselves with reading. Mr. Wattenbach had brought several servants; and chairs, tables, a dinner service, books and newspapers, had been sent forward for our accommodation. Indeed I thought we had quite a superfluity of conveniences and comforts; but an English family whom we met here had, it seemed, found arm-chairs, sofas, and carpets necessary to their rural enjoyment.

Salsetta, also called Tiger Island, is connected with Bombay by a short artificial dam, and the distance from the fort to the village, behind which the temples lie, is about eighteen English miles, which, with relays of horses, we did easily in three hours. The natural beauties of this island far exceed those of Bombay; not rows of hills, but chains of mountains rise here, covered to the summits with wood, from the midst of which sometimes ascend masses of naked rock. The valleys are full of luxuriant corn fields, planted with slender green palms; but the island does not seem very populous, for I saw only a few villages and a single small town, which was inhabited by Mahrattas, just as poor and as dirty

as those of Kundalla. From the village where we left the carriage we had three miles to walk to the temples. The principal one is surrounded by a lofty hall, in which stand two statues of gods twenty-one feet high ; and the second, adjoining it, contains cells for priests, and symbols of divinities, and reliefs. Some are not larger than a small room and without any sculptures ; and in general the temples of Elephanta and Salsetta are far inferior to those of Adjunta and Elora. I was told that those of Salsetta were little visited, on account of the dangers attending such an excursion. The district was full of tigers, and the wild bees swarmed so much about the temples that it was often scarcely possible to enter them ; and further, it was said that the temples were the abodes of robbers. We had, however, the good fortune to escape all these accidents ; and for myself, not being satisfied with one inspection, when my companions were taking their afternoon's nap I took the opportunity to slip away, and have a ramble alone. I climbed from rock to rock till I came to the temple farthest off, and there I was somewhat startled by finding the horns and skin of a goat that had been devoured by a tiger ; but I calculated on the unsocial habits of the beast, which in clear daylight will always rather shun than seek human society, and continued my ramble undisturbed.

We came back, as I have said, in perfect safety ; but two gentlemen, who visited the spot some days after, were not so fortunate. One of them was knocking at an opening he observed in the rock, when out rushed a mighty swarm of wild bees, and stung them both so violently on head, hands, and face that they had great difficulty in making their escape.

The climate of Bombay is healthier than that of Calcutta, and even the heat is, from the constant sea breeze, easier to bear than that of the former city, although Bombay is five degrees further south.

FROM BOMBAY TO BAGDAD.

Departure from Bombay.—Smallpox on board.—Muscat.—Bandr-Abas.—The Persians.—The Straits of Kishma.—Buschir.—Entrance into the Shat al Arab.—Bassora.—Entrance into the Tigris.—Bedouins.—Ctesiphon and Seleucia.—Arrival in Bagdad.

I HAD pretty well made up my mind to make the voyage from Bombay to Bassora in an Arabian boat, when Mr. Wattenbach

brought me the welcome intelligence that a small steamer was about to make a trip thither. It was to sail on the 10th, and I by no means anticipated that it would not really take its departure till the 23d. It was only of 40-horse power, and had but two cabins, one of which had long been engaged by an English gentleman, Mr. Ross. The second was taken by some rich Persians for their wives and children; so that I had to content myself with a place on the deck, with the proviso that I was to dine at the table of the captain, who during the whole voyage overwhelmed me with attentions.

This small vessel, the "Forbes," was excessively overcrowded. The ship's company alone made 45 persons, and there were 124 passengers, mostly Persians, Mahomedans, and Arabs. Mr. Ross and I were the only Europeans. When this throng of people was assembled on the deck, there was not the smallest space left free to get from one part to another, and it was necessary to climb over chests, trunks, and other luggage, besides taking the utmost possible care not to tread on somebody's head or feet.

After taking a critical survey of the ground, I chose what seemed to me the most eligible spot under the circumstances; indeed one that possessed solid advantages. I took up my abode under the captain's dinner table, and rejoiced in my security that no one would tread on my hands, feet, or head.

It is true I was under the necessity at meal times of dragging myself out of my hole, in order to make room for the feet of the company, and I found this rather distressing, for I had left Bombay very unwell, and on the second day I was attacked by fever. I took no medicine, however, (I never carry any with me,) but gave myself up entirely to nature and Providence.

On the third day of our voyage a far more serious evil occurred than the malady that had attacked me. Smallpox broke out in the larger cabin, into which eighteen women and seven children were packed. They had less space than the negroes in slave ships; the air became poisonous in the highest degree; and the poor creatures dared not come upon deck because of the men there. The vapour that arose from the cabin was so pestilential that we were quite in dread lest it should spread through the open holes over the entire ship. It appeared that the disease had already existed among them when the women came on board, but no one could have discovered it, for they were brought late at night, and almost

covered with veils and shawls. It was not till one of the children died that we discovered the danger. The body of the child was wrapped in a white cloth, fastened upon a plank, weighted with some pieces of coal and stone, and then let down into the sea. I know not whether any kindred or loving eye watched this melancholy funeral. I saw no tear flow; but if the poor mother did mourn for her darling, she would not have dared follow it to its watery grave.

Two more deaths took place, and then the pestilence seemed to decline, and fortunately it had not extended beyond the cabin.

On the 30th of April we neared the Arabian coast, and saw some naked mountains. On the following morning the peaks of some fine groups of rocks showed themselves, with some small forts and watch towers, and soon a mighty mountain at the entrance to a bay.

We anchored before the town of Muscat, which lies at the end of the bay. It belongs to an Arabian prince, and is strongly fortified, besides being surrounded by several ranges of rocks, all guarded by towers and forts. The largest amongst them was once a convent of Portuguese monks; but it was attacked in the night by Arabs, and all the inmates murdered.

The houses of the town are of stone with small windows and terraced roofs, and the two palaces are distinguished only by their superior size. Many streets are so narrow that scarcely two persons can pass in them. The heat is very oppressive, as the town lies in a hollow between rocks, and there is not the smallest sprig of verdure to soften the glare of the sunlight, which is consequently most painful to the eyes. Far and wide, no tree, no shrubs, no blade of grass even, refreshes the aching sight, and all who can any way afford it, as soon as they have finished their business, fly to the country houses by the sea side. European residents there are none, for the climate, it is said, is deadly to them.

At the back of the town is a rocky valley, and in that a village, which contains (oh, wonder!) a garden, with six palm trees, a fig, and a pomegranate. The village is larger and more populous than the town, for it counts 6,000 inhabitants, while the latter has but 4,000. It is, however, impossible to imagine the poverty, the dirt, and the foul smells which this village presents. The huts stand almost one upon the other. They are small; only made of cane and

palm leaves, and every kind of filth is thrown before the doors. It really required some resolution to go through this village, and I could not help wondering that pestilential disease should be ever absent from it. Blindness and diseases of the eyes are excessively common.

From this valley we passed into another, containing the great marvel of Muscat, the aforesaid garden, which is maintained only by the most unwearied labour in watering. It contains some flowers and vegetables, besides the trees, and belongs to the prince. My guide appeared very proud of this wonderful garden, and asked whether in my country we had any as beautiful.

I took these walks in the full heat of the sun (41 deg. Reaumur), and when I was besides much weakened by my illness, yet I never felt any ill effect from them, although I have been repeatedly warned that in hot countries this exposure is fatal to Europeans, and brings fever and sun-strokes. But had I listened to all that was said I should not have seen much; so I took it quietly,—went out in rain or sun, just as it happened,—and always saw more than any of my travelling companions.

On the 2d of May we again weighed anchor, and soon came tolerably near to the island of Ormus, the mountains of which were distinguished by an uncommon variety of colour, and some glittered as if they had been covered with snow. They contain a great deal of salt, and many Arabian and Persian vessels come every year to take in cargoes. In the evening we reached the little town of Bandr-Abas, before which we anchored. It lies on low hills of rock and sand, and is separated by a sandy plain from some mountains. Longingly did I look towards the land, for I had a great desire to tread the soil of Persia, but the captain advised me not to think of it. He said the Persians were not so good as the Hindoos, and since in these remote regions the appearance of a European woman was quite an unheard of occurrence, it was not unlikely they would salute me with a shower of stones.

Fortunately there was on board a young man, half English, half Persian, (his father an Englishman, had married an Armenian woman of Teheran,) who understood both languages perfectly, and I begged him to take me ashore, which he willingly did. He took me to the bazaar, and through several streets, and the people

streamed towards us from all quarters, and gazed at me with much curiosity, but did not offer me the slightest insult.

I found the houses in this town small, and the streets narrow, dirty, and mostly with few signs of life; the bazaar only was animated. Here I saw the bakers making their bread in a very rapid fashion in presence of their customers. They kneaded flour and water in wooden dishes to a dough, then parted it into small pieces, and worked it out into a thin strip, which they stuck to the inside of a round clay pipe about eighteen inches in diameter, and perhaps one and twenty in length; this was made hot, and then sunk to half its length in the earth, and burning charcoal placed in it, so that the bread or cake was baked on both sides at once; on one by the hot pipe, and on the other by the fire. I bought half a dozen of these cakes, and, eaten hot, they were very good.

The Persians are easily distinguishable from the Arabs by their appearance. They are taller and stronger built, with a whiter skin, harsher features, and a wild and robber-like aspect. Their dress resembles that of the Mahomedans. Many wear turbans, others conical caps of black Astrachan.

Of this half Persian, Mr. William Hebworth, my companion, I heard an instance of grateful conduct that I cannot omit to mention. When a lad of sixteen he was taken from Persia to Bombay, and there, in the house of a friend of his father's, met with the kindest reception, and through the same influence procured an appointment. One day his protector, who was married and the father of four children, had the misfortune to be killed by a fall from his horse, and thereupon William Hebworth took the really magnanimous resolution of marrying the widow, who was many years his senior, and whose only fortune was four children, in order to repay in some measure the services of his deceased benefactor.

In Bandr-Abas we took a pilot, in order to pass through the Straits of Kishma, and towards noon we set sail. This strait is avoided by sailing ships, and is not without danger for steam boats, for the passage is so narrow between the island of Kishma and the main land that with a contrary wind vessels may easily be thrown on one of the coast.

Captain Litchfield had talked much to me of the beauty of this island of Kishma, and of the luxuriance of the vegetation, and had

spoken of places in the straits which were so narrow that the palm trees on the island and those on the main land touched each other; but some extraordinary convulsion of nature must certainly have taken place since his last voyage, for the lofty slender palms have been changed into miserable dwarf shrubs, and the island nowhere approaches the continent within less than half a league distance. It was curious enough that I afterwards heard Mr. Ross telling the same story, having apparently trusted the captain's account more than the evidence of his own eyes.

In one of the narrowest parts of the strait stands the fine fort of Luft, and this spot fifty years ago was the chief haunt of the Persian pirates, but a regular battle took place between them and the English in which eight hundred of the pirates were killed, and the whole gang destroyed, and since then the strait may be traversed in perfect security.

In the Persian Gulf I noticed many varieties of sea weed, and molluscæ, some of a milk-white, others rose colour with yellow spots, and there were also sea serpents from two to five feet long.

The town of Buschir lies in a plain, but only six miles from mountains five thousand feet high. It is the best harbour in Persia, and has a population of 15,000, but it is a very ugly and dirty place.

The houses stand so close together that it is easy to pass from the terrace roof of one to the other. Many of them are provided with square chimneys fifteen or twenty feet high called "wind catchers," which have apertures at the side, and whose purpose is to send cool air into the apartments below. The men I observed all go armed; even in the house they have knives and daggers, and in the street pistols also. The women and quite little girls have their faces so closely wrapped up that I cannot understand how they can see their way along. It had been my plan to land at this town, visit the ruins of Persepolis, and thence continue my journey by Shiraz, Ispahan, and Teheran; but an important insurrection had broken out, and great bands of robbers were ravaging the district, and committing all kinds of outrages, so that I was compelled to give up my first intention, and go on to Bagdad.

On the 11th of May I had the good fortune to see and enter one of the most renowned rivers in the world, formed by the junction of the Euphrates, the Tigris, and the Kerah, called here the *Shat*

al Arab, or river of the Arabs. We left the mountains behind us with the sea, and now saw only boundless plains covered with date woods, spreading out on both sides. Eighty miles below Bassora we entered the Kauran, in order to land some passengers at the little town of Mohambra, which lies near the mouth of the river, and it required much skill to turn the steamer safely in this narrow space. The whole population of the town ran to the shore, for they had never seen a steamer before, and they watched its adroit manœuvring with eager sympathy. Six years ago this town belonged to the Turks; but it was attacked and taken by the Persians, and five thousand of the inhabitants, nearly the whole population, put to the sword. Of Bassora or Bosrah, you see from the river nothing more than some fortifications and date woods, for the city lies behind these, six miles up the country.

The voyage from Bombay hither had, from the disadvantage of the monsoon, taken us eighteen days, and it was the most wearisome sea journey I had ever had. Constantly upon deck, in a heat which even in the shade of the tent rose to thirty degrees (Reaumur), in a perfect throng of human beings, and being able only once, at Buschir, to change my linen and clothes I longed intensely for the refreshment and purification of a bath. The landing of the Persian women was an amusing scene. Had they been princesses, and beauties of the very first rank, more care could not have been taken to avoid the possibility of the glance of a man's eye, and there was not really among them (for my sex had procured for me the privilege of a peep into their cabin) a single handsome woman. Their husbands placed themselves in two lines stretching from the cabin to the ship's side, and held great cloths stretched out so as to form close moveable walls. Through these the ladies were marched by degrees out of the cabin, and even then they were so closely enveloped in shawls and veils that they had to be led along as if they were blind. As they reached the side they crouched down between the walls till the others arrived, and when all were assembled the still more difficult operation commenced of climbing down the narrow ship ladder into a well-curtained boat. The wall was in motion again; but first one tumbled, then another, and the landing of this part of the cargo was not effected under a full hour.

Bassora is one of the largest towns in Mesopotamia, but it

English agent was an Armenian, a Mr. Barseige, and to him I had a letter; but when, as there is no such thing as an inn, the captain requested him to afford me an asylum for a few days in his house, the courteous gentleman flatly refused, and I had to be again indebted to the kindness of the captain, who invited me to remain in the steamer. By a fortunate chance for me, he found on inquiry that there was at present a German missionary staying in the town, who had an abode consisting of several rooms, one of which, when I had stated my case to him, he had the complaisance to give up to me. I took leave of my good captain with real emotion, and I shall never forget the friendly attention he showed me. He was really a thoroughly good-hearted man, and yet in his ship the Hindoos and Negroes were worse treated than in any other I have been in. Every word addressed to them by the crew was accompanied by kicks and cuffs, and at Mascat three of the unfortunate men deserted. Would that the Christian European excelled the Hindoo and Mussulman as much in kindness and benevolence as he does in learning and science.

Of the ruins of former days, beautiful mosques and so forth, Bassora shows few remains, but there are plenty of modern ruins, dating from 1832, when the plague carried away half the inhabitants. You pass through many streets and squares that consist of nothing but decayed and falling houses, and where twenty years ago men were busily at work there are now ruined walls and heaps of rubbish from which shrubs and palm trees are sprouting out. The situation of the town is very unhealthy, for it is surrounded by a plain intersected on one side with countless ~~ditches~~ half full of mud and filth, and exhaling the most pernicious vapour, and, on the other, covered with date woods that prevent the free circulation of air. The heat is so great that almost every house is provided with a room half under ground, in which the family spend the day. The greater part of the population consists of Arabs; the rest are Persians, Turks, and Armenians; and as there are no Europeans I was advised, if I went out, to envelope myself in a large shawl and veil. The first I agreed to; but to the veil in such heat I could not submit, but marched out with my face uncovered, and even my great shawl I managed so awkwardly that my European clothing peeped out in various places. No one, however, offered me any offence.

I had been but a few days in Bassora when there arrived the English war steamer *Nitocris*, which during nine months of the year takes letters and papers to Bagdad, and the captain has generally the kindness to carry with him any stray European traveller who may have wandered so far as Bassora. This courtesy I also experienced, and he even gave up his cabin to me, without permitting me to offer any kind of payment. Had it not been for this favour the journey to Bagdad would have been most toilsome and difficult for me. The distance is about five hundred English miles, and any boat that I could have hired would have taken forty or fifty days to do it. By land, the distance is not more than three hundred and ninety miles, but the way leads through deserts traversed by hordes of robbers and wandering Bedouins, whose protection must be purchased at a high rate.

On the afternoon of the same day when we left Bassora we reached the Delta, where the Euphrates and Tigris unite their streams to form that to which (not knowing what else to call it, as both rivers are equally large,) they have given the name of *Shat el Arab*. This, according to some learned writers, is the precise spot where Paradise was situated. We entered the Tigris, and for several miles could still rejoice in the aspect of the beautiful date groves which had accompanied us almost without interruption from the sea. The country looked green and blooming on both sides, and fine corn-fields alternated with extensive pastures, sprinkled over with small trees and shrubs; but this fertility extends but a few miles inland; beyond it, and farther from the river, all is dreary desert. In several places we saw great hordes of Bedouins, who had pitched their tents in long lines close to the Tigris. Some of the tents were large and well covered; others, nothing more than a cloth or a few skins spread over two or three stakes, or perhaps a straw mat that scarcely shelters the head from the burning sun. In winter, when the cold often reaches the freezing point, they have no other dwellings, and the mortality is said to be very great among them. These people have quite the aspect of savages. They have no other clothing than some brown cloths; the men very little of that; and the children remain till the twelfth year naked. Their faces are a little tattooed; their hair plaited, and hanging down in four tails; and the women have large rings in their noses, and some other ornaments of shells and glass beads. They are all under the

dominion of the Porte, to which they pay a tribute, but they are really obedient only to their own sheiks, many of whom have forty or fifty thousand tents under their authority. Some of the tribes practise agriculture, and they do not wander about.

Half way between Bassora and Bagdad we come in sight of the lofty mountain chain of Laristan, and with a clear atmosphere summits of ten thousand feet high may be seen. Every step of the ground calls up some historical recollection. The ground is here ;—but what has become of the cities?—what of the mighty and powerful people who dwelt in them? Fallen walls, hillocks of earth, and rubbish, are all that now remain. What were once prosperous and civilized empires are but naked and desolate steppes, trodden only by a few wandering Bedouins.

The agricultural Arabs are of course much exposed to the attacks of their nomadic brethren, and in order to preserve what they can of their harvests they carry it to little fortified places, a number of which exist between Bagdad and Bassora. We stopped near them several times to take in wood, for the well-armed and numerous crew of the steamer prevented any fear of attack. Once I was tempted, in pursuit of a beautiful insect, to venture a little way into the bush, and I was immediately surrounded by a swarm of women and children, who indeed did not offer me the least harm, but, considering their disgustingly dirty appearance, they excited in me no small terror, by pressing closely to me, touching my clothes, and endeavouring to try on my straw bonnet. The children looked dreadfully neglected ; many of them were covered with ulcers ; and old and young had their hands constantly in their hair. At the place where we stopped the people brought sheep and butter for sale. The sheep were large and fine ; had close long wool, and tails fifteen inches long and eight inches broad ; and they cost about *eightpence halfpenny* each.

The crew of our vessel, I noticed, was extremely well fed ; and what pleased me still better was the good treatment experienced by the natives on board, who were placed in all respects on a level with the English sailors, and as they were extremely clean and orderly, I had an opportunity of convincing myself that cuffs and kicks are not, as I had been told, essential to their right management.

In the district we were now passing through, we heard, that lions often come from the mountains, and attacked cattle and sheep, but

rarely human creatures. I had myself the good fortune to see a pair of these stately animals, but at so great a distance that I cannot say whether they excelled in size and beauty those in the menageries of Europe.

MESOPOTAMIA.—BAGDAD AND BÂBYLON.

Bagdad.—Climate, &c.—Festival at the English Resident's.—The Harem of the Pascha of Bagdad.—Excursion to the Ruins of Ctesiphon.—The Persian Prince Il-Hany-Ala-Euly-Mirzâ.—Excursion to the Ruins of Babylon.

THE ancient city of the caliphs rises grandly on the sight from the distance. Its minarets and cupolas, inlaid with coloured tiles, glitter in the sun ; palaces, city gates, and fortifications in endless lines, embrace the shores of the yellow, turbid, Tigris ; and gardens, with dates and other fruit trees, cover the country round for miles ; but as you approach the effect declines. We had scarcely cast anchor before the steamer was surrounded by a crowd of strange little boats, round like baskets, made of palm leaves, and smeared over with asphalte. They are called "*guffer* ;" are about six feet in diameter, three feet deep, and very safe, as they never turn over, and can go into the shallowest places. They are of very ancient invention. The town lies on both sides of the river, and numbers about 60,000 inhabitants ; three fourths Turks ; the remainder, Jews, Persians, Armenians, and about fifty or sixty Europeans.

I had a letter to Mr. Rawlinson, the English resident ; but Mr. Holland, the first officer in the steamer, had kindly invited me to his house, which was rendered especially agreeable to me by the presence of a lady, as he was a married man. I found in Mrs. Holland a very handsome, amiable woman (a native of Bagdad), who, though only twenty-three years of age, was the mother of four children, the eldest of whom was eight years old.

The first thing I had to do before attempting to see the town was to get myself an immense shawl, called an *isar*, and a small fez, with a shawl to wind round it. The sort of mask, made of closely-woven horsehair, with which the women here cover their

a more inconvenient walking dress. The isar is always trailing in the dust, and it requires no little skill to hold it together so as to make it cover the whole body ; and I could not help pitying the poor women when I saw them carrying a child, or perhaps going to wash in the river, with this troublesome dress to manage. They always came back dripping with water.

In order to have a good view of Bagdad, I climbed with some difficulty to the vaulted roof of the Osman-Chan, and from there I looked down on its countless houses, many of them lying in pretty gardens, with thousands on thousands of terraces, and the magnificent river flowing for five English miles through the far-stretching city, and then between groves of palm and fruit trees. The houses are but one story high, built of brick, burnt or unburnt, and having their backs, with perhaps one small grated window, turned towards the streets, which are narrow, and full of dust and dirt. The tradespeople and mechanics, as in all oriental cities, are distributed into particular quarters. There are few mosques, and those not handsome ; but the old bazaar is one of the few memorials of what Bagdad was in its days of grandeur in the ninth century, and shows traces of handsome columns and arabesques ; and the Chan-Osman, on which I was standing, has a beautiful portal and lofty cupolas that remind you of the city of Haroun al Raschid. The materials for nearly all the buildings are said to have been brought from the ruins of Babylon. Some of these ancient bricks which have been used in the fortifications are two feet in diameter, and more like blocks of stone. The fortifications, however, though very extensive, are seen, on a nearer inspection, to be extremely weak, and the guns upon them certainly not in the best condition.

The houses are handsomer inside than might be anticipated from the exterior, though not so splendidly fitted up as in Damascus. It is the custom, on account of the heat of the weather, to pass only the early morning in the common rooms ; towards nine o'clock you take refuge in subterranean chambers, which are like cellars, lying fifteen or twenty feet below ground, and here you remain till evening, when you ascend to the terrace, where people drink tea, gossip, and receive visits till a late hour in the night. The cool breeze is at this time very delightful ; and many maintain that the moonlight nights are much finer than with us, but I can-

terrace, under a mosquito net, but in winter the nights and mornings are so cold that people have fires in their rooms.

The climate is considered healthy, even for Europeans, although there is an unpleasant disease prevalent which our young ladies would feel a horror of, called the date or Aleppo boil. It is a kind of tumour, generally attacking the face, and which, beginning with a spot not larger than a pin's head, spreads to the size of a crown piece, and, even when healed, leaves an ugly scar behind it. Among a hundred faces you scarcely find one without this disfigurement; but those who have but one may be regarded as fortunate, for I saw many with two or three. It is said that it usually makes its appearance at the time when the dates are ripe, and lasts till the same period of the following year. No remedy for it has as yet been discovered, and though inoculation has been tried by the Europeans, it has not been with success.

It would seem that the disease is in some way connected with the Tigris, as it is not found at a few miles distance from the river; but it can hardly be, as has been supposed, occasioned by some fog or vapour rising from the water, for the crew of the English steamer, who remained constantly on the water, escaped it; though it is possible it may arise from the deposit of mud on the banks. One European, whom I knew, was a real martyr to it, having had no fewer than forty of these boils; and I myself, though I rejoiced at the time of my stay in Bagdad in having escaped, as I thought, with only one small one on the hand, was attacked by it most seriously six months after my return to Europe.

On the 24th of May I received an invitation from the English resident, Mr. Rawlinson, to a grand fête in honour of the birthday of the Queen of England. At dinner we had only Europeans, but of the evening party there was a large assembly of the Christian part of the community of Bagdad, Armenians, Greeks, &c. The fête was held on the beautiful terraces of the house, which, as well as the court-yards and gardens, were splendidly illuminated. The blaze of lamps made it as light as day; and there were soft carpets, elastic divans, and refreshments of the finest kind, that might have made us fancy ourselves in Europe, but that the two bands of music were so undoubtedly oriental in the style of their performance as to prevent any such mistake.

Among the women and girls were some strikingly beautiful, and all had such eyes as few young men could gaze into without pay-

ing the penalty. To the effect of these eyes art certainly contributes a great deal, for, besides that their brilliancy and beauty is much heightened by the mode of colouring the eyebrows and eye-lashes, every hair is carefully drawn out that could mar the perfection of their shape, and the place of any that may be wanting is carefully supplied by the pencil. This devout attention to the business of the toilette extends even to women of the lowest class ; but, in one their taste is certainly defective, for it is the fashion to spoil their fine black hair by staining it with henna, which changes it into an ugly brown-red. The dresses were rich ; much in the Turkish fashion, with wide silk trousers, fastened round the ankle, and over these garments embroidered in gold ; girdles, heavy with gold and precious stones ; small turbans wound round with gold chains ; and arms, neck, and breast glittering with jewels.

Charming, however, as was the first sight of these beautiful women in their gorgeous attire, the lifeless stillness of their aspect made them after a time very stupid. No ray of thought or emotion beamed upon those fair faces ; all the spirit and fragrance of life was wanting, for there was no kind of mental culture. A native girl is reckoned quite sufficiently educated if she can just read a few religious books in her mother tongue. She never sees any other. On this grand occasion they did not even gossip, but sat perfectly motionless ; but at a visit I paid to the Pacha's harem some days afterwards there was giggling and chattering enough, —indeed almost more than I could bear.

My visit had been expected, and the women (fifteen in number) were as splendidly dressed as before, and much in the same manner, with the difference that their caftans were made of transparent stuff, and their turbans were adorned with ostrich feathers. The summer-harem, in which I was received, is a pretty, low building, in the most modern European taste, standing in a flower garden, surrounded by an orchard. When I had been there about an hour, a table was spread, and chairs placed all round it. There were excellent dishes of meat, pilaus, pastry, and fruit ; and the first lady, having invited me to take a place, and seated herself, did not wait for the rest, but instantly plunged her hands into the dishes, and selected her favourite morsels. I had to use my fingers too, for no other instrument was offered to me, except towards the end of the meal, when they gave me a gold spoon. When we had done,

the rest of the women seated themselves, as well as some of the chief attendants; and afterwards came the turn of the slaves, amongst whom were some very ugly negresses. In conclusion, strong coffee, in small cups, on stands of gold enriched with jewels, and *nargilehs*, were handed round.

There was no other distinction between the women and the attendants and slaves than in their dress; their behaviour was precisely the same; and they mingled, in the conversation, seated themselves on the divans, smoked, and drank coffee all together. In general the treatment of slaves here is far better than it usually is among Europeans. But if it was pleasing to see this, it was on the other hand very painful to notice the tone of the conversation that goes on in these harems and in the baths. Nothing can exceed the demureness of the women in public, but when they come together in these places they indemnify themselves thoroughly for the restraint. While they were busy with their pipes and coffee, I took the opportunity to take a glance into the neighbouring apartments, and in a few minutes I saw enough to fill me at once with disgust and compassion for these poor creatures, whom idleness and ignorance have degraded almost below the level of humanity. A visit to the women's baths left a no less melancholy impression. There were children of both sexes;—girls, women, and elderly matrons. The poor children! how should they in after life understand what is meant by modesty and purity, when they are accustomed from their infancy to witness such scenes, and listen to such conversation.

Among other lions of Bagdad is the monument of Zobeide, the favourite wife of Haroun al Raschid, but it has none of the beautiful minarets of the Mahometan mausoleums, being merely a moderate-sized tower, rising from a small octangular building, and much resembling those of the Hindoos. It is of brick, and contains three chambers, where other members of the family repose, and the whole has once been covered with coloured tiles and handsome arabesques. All monuments of this kind are regarded as sacred by the Mahometans, and they often come here to perform their devotions.

On my return from this place I made a small circuit to see the ruins of that part of the city that was desolated by the last plague; and a Hungarian gentleman, Mr. Swoboda, gave me a terrible picture of the condition of the city during that time. He and his

family had shut themselves completely up, with one servant, and a store of provisions, and took in nothing but fresh water. The doors and windows were pasted up, and no one was allowed to show himself on the terrace, or in the open air; and to these precautions he attributed their exemption from the scourge, whilst whole families in the neighbourhood were carried off. As soon as the plague abated, the city was exposed to another visitation from the Arabs of the Desert, who plundered the empty houses, and overpowered, without difficulty, the few feeble inhabitants left in many others; Mr. Swoboda agreed to pay a *tribute*, and so escaped further molestation. I was glad to make my escape from these mournful recollections, and this dismal quarter of the town, to the pleasant gardens of Bagdad, though they do not exactly answer to our idea of a garden, for they have neither flower beds, nor walks, nor lawns, nor grass at all, but many canals, and close thickets of fruit trees of all kinds, dates, peaches, apples, apricots, figs, mulberries, &c., surrounded by a brick wall.

I made from Bagdad two excursions, one to the ruins of Ctesiphon, the other to those of Babylon; the first distant eighteen, the second sixty miles from Bagdad. On both occasions Mr. Rawlinson furnished me with good Arab horses, and a trustworthy servant; and my kind and careful hostess, Mrs. Holland, wished to make for me a large store of provisions. But my rule in travelling is to do without all superfluities. Wherever human creatures are to be found, I carry with me no eatables; what they can live on, I can, and if I do not like their food, it must be because I am not really hungry, and the remedy for that is to fast till I like any thing. I carried with me a leathern water bottle, but even this proved to be unnecessary, for we passed canals, and the Tigris itself, several times. The ride to Ctesiphon, if I did not mean to pass the night in the desert, had to be made between sunrise and sunset; for in Bagdad, as in other Turkish cities, the gates are locked when the sun goes down, and the keys carried to the commandant, and they are never opened again till sunrise. When we had gone nine miles, we had to cross the river Dhyalab, in a large boat; on the opposite side, in a sort of hole lined with brick, live some families, who maintain themselves by the ferry, and from them I was so fortunate as to procure some bread and buttermilk, which I found a most welcome refreshment. From this place I could already see the

Of the once mighty city of Ctesiphon, the winter residence of the rulers of Persia, there remains now scarcely any thing but some fragments of the palace of the Shah Chosroes, a colossal arched gateway, a part of the façade, and some side walls ; but all these look so firm and solid, that they may stand there for many centuries yet. The arch of the gate is, I believe, the highest in the world, as it measures ninety feet from the ground, though the wall is not more than sixteen feet high. The façade is covered from top to bottom with small niches, arches and columns, and it has once been overlaid with a fine cement, in which the most beautiful arabesques were wrought. Opposite to these ruins, on the western shore of the Tigris, lie some walls that are all that remains of Seleucia.* On both shores there extend far around low hills, which are found at a small depth to contain ruins and brick rubbish. Scattered about among these on the shore of the Tigris were some tents inhabited by Arabs of the Desert. They looked by no means so wild as those I had before seen, and indeed I could have passed days and nights among them without any fear. By the time I had paid my visit to these dirty acquaintances another and much more agreeable one was awaiting me. A Persian came towards me, and pointing to some handsome tents pitched at no great distance, addressed to me a short speech, which signified, as my interpreter informed me, that a Persian prince was residing in those tents, and politely requested through this, his ambassador, that I would pay him a visit. I accepted the invitation with great pleasure, and met with a most courteous reception from his Highness *Il-Hany-Ala-Ealy-Mirza*, a handsome young man, who moreover, I was informed, could speak French ; but when we came to the trial, his Highness's stock did not extend further than "*Vous parlez Français?*" Fortunately, one of his people knew a little more of English, so that we could get on somehow.

I learned from the interpreter that the prince usually lived in Bagdad, but on account of the oppressive heat had come to reside

* The favourable position of Seleucia, where the Tigris and the Euphrates approach each other so nearly, contributed to make this one of the greatest commercial cities of the ancient world. It is said to have contained 600,000 inhabitants, of whom the most important part were Greeks, living under their own free constitution. It was destroyed in the time of the Roman Emperor Vespasian.

for a short time in the open air. He was sitting on a low divan, and his suite reposed upon carpets around him; but, to my surprise, he had so much knowledge of our manners as to offer me a seat on the divan beside him. Our conversation soon became very lively, and his surprise on my telling him of my travels rose with every word. While we were talking, a *nargileh* of remarkable beauty, sky-blue enamel, richly ornamented with gold, turquoises, and other precious stones, was brought to me, and out of politeness I took a few puffs from it. Coffee and tea were also brought, and after that the prince invited me to dinner. A white cloth was spread upon the ground, and for the rest of the company large flat loaves, which were to serve for plates; but I was honoured with a plate, knife, and fork. The dinner consisted of several pilaus, a large roasted fish, and many dishes of meat, amongst which was a whole lamb with the head on, that had not, I thought, a very inviting appearance. Between the dishes stood cups with sherbet, and sour milk, and in each cup was a large spoon. An attendant cut up the lamb, and laid each person a portion upon his bread plate; they then tore off little bits, plunged them into the pilau, kneaded them into a ball, and shoved them into their mouths. Some ate the fat meat without any pilau, and wiped off with their bread the grease that ran down their fingers after every bit. In drinking, the company made use indiscriminately of the spoons. At the end of the meal the prince, in spite of the Koran, ordered some wine to be brought, of which he poured me out a glass, and then drank two himself; one to my health, and the other to his own. When I told him I meant to visit Persia and Teheran, he offered to give me a letter to his mother, who belonged to the court and would introduce me there, and he immediately set about writing it, making use of his knee for a table. When he had done, he pressed his signet ring upon it and handed it to me, but cautioned me, laughingly, not to say anything to his mother, about his having drunk wine.

When this business was settled, I asked the prince whether I might be permitted to visit his wife, as I was told he had one with him, and he complied with the request, and led me into a little building which had once been a mosque.

Here, in a cool vaulted chamber, I was received by a most beautiful young creature—incomparably handsomer than any I had seen yet. Her figure was of middle height, and most elegantly

proportioned ; her features fine, of a true antique cast ; her complexion dazzlingly fair, with a delicate colour on the cheeks (though this was not pure nature), and her eyes were large and brilliant, with a slight expression of melancholy. The poor young thing had no companions but an old servant and a young gazelle. One ornament of her face, consisting of a broad blue stripe, which meeting over the nose, formed two arches to the temples, gave a very peculiar, and not very agreeable, character to the face : the hands and arms were also disfigured with tattooing—a custom not uncommon among the Mahomedan women of Bagdad. The costume of this beauty was much the same as those of the Pacha's wives, only that, instead of a little turban, she had on her head a white muslin, which could be drawn over her face at pleasure.

As the interpreter could not enter this sanctuary with me, our conversation was of course not very animated ; indeed we could not speak at all, but were obliged to be satisfied with making signs, and looking at each other. When I returned to the prince I expressed my admiration at the charms of his young wife, and asked what country had produced such a gem of loveliness. He named the North of Persia ; but assured me that his other wives, of whom he had four in Bagdad, and four in Teheran, were much more beautiful than this one.

I was now about to take my leave ; but the prince begged me to remain a little longer, and ordered in two minstrels, one a singer, and the other a player on a sort of mandolin with five strings. They both kept good time, and seldom made false notes, and the singer made an amazing number of flourishes, though his voice was not pure or well cultivated. The Persian songs and musical pieces have, however, great compass and variety ; and for a long time I had heard no such good musical performance.

I got into Bagdad again before sunset, and though I had had a ride of six and thirty miles, and had rambled about a great deal on foot, and the heat was tremendous, I was not immoderately fatigued ; and two days afterwards I set off for the ruins of Babylon.

The district in which these ruins lie is now called Irak-Arabi, the former Babylonia and Chaldea. As we rode on, the palms and fruit tree gradually became scarcer and scarcer, the cultivated lands less and less, and the desert advanced more and more, spreading its deadly influence over all life.

By the time we had gone twenty miles to Chan Assad the stunted herbage scarcely sufficed even for the abstinent camel. From Chan Assad to Hilla the way is one mournful and monstrous waste.

We came to the place where once stood the City of Borosipa, and where there is still one column of the palace of Nourhivan ; at least so it is said ; but I could nowhere find it, though the desert lay open before me, and a bright sunset gave me light enough. I had to content myself, therefore, with thinking of the great Alexander, on this the last scene of his exploits, where he was warned not again to enter Babylon. Instead of the column I saw the ruins of one large and several small canals ; the former connecting the Tigris with the Euphrates, and altogether serving for the irrigation of the country, but of course all now in a state of decay.

May 31st.—On the remote horizon I saw to-day what I took for groups of trees, but, like Macbeth's wood, it advanced to meet me, and gradually as it came closer developed itself into long legs, humps—in short a vast herd of camels, as much, certainly, as seven or eight thousand, many of them carrying burdens of women or children, but most going empty, so that this was probably the migration of a wandering tribe in search of new pastures. Among them I saw a few of those snow-white camels which are so highly prized, almost worshipped, by the Arabs. I saw also this day a new kind of bird, much like a green parrot, only that the beak was slenderer and less crooked, and which nestles in holes in the earth. The place where they were was one of the most dreary in the whole desert, and far and wide not a single blade of grass was to be seen.

The heat had now risen to 45 (Reaumur), and was still more insupportable from a glowing hot wind that accompanied it, and drove clouds of sand in your face. This day also we passed many canals, now half filled up.

The chans met with on this road are the finest and most secure that I have anywhere seen ; they are like little fortresses. A lofty gateway leads into a great court-yard, surrounded by spacious halls, with brick walls of considerable thickness. In these halls you find long ranges of alcoves, every one of which is large enough to form a sleeping place for three or four persons. Before the

terrace five feet high, on which travellers may sleep in the hot nights, and rings for tethering the cattle, that they also may, if it is desired, remain in the open air. These chans are intended for the great caravans, and are capable of accommodating five hundred travellers at a time, with their cattle and baggage. They are sometimes maintained by the government, but more frequently by rich people, who think by this means to gain a step in their ascent to Heaven. Every chan has ten or twelve soldiers for a guard; the doors are locked at night; and for all the security and accommodation afforded him the traveller has nothing whatever to pay. Near the chan, too, some Arabian families have usually taken up their abode, who furnish the travellers with camel's milk, bread, coffee, and often camel's or goat's flesh. The camel's milk I found rather heavy, but the meat good, and a good deal like beef. Travellers provided with a firman from a Pacha are allowed to take with them one or two of the mounted soldiers from one chan to another, and as I enjoyed this advantage I made use of the privilege when we were travelling at night.

It was afternoon when we arrived at a spot whence we could see the fine date groves beyond which lie the ruins of Babylon, part of the site of which is occupied by the town of Hilla. Four miles from it we turned to the right from the road, and soon found ourselves between enormous masses, like hills of bricks and rubbish. The largest of these is 140 feet high, and above 2000 feet in circumference. The date usually assigned to the building of the city is about 2,000 years before the birth of Christ, and 2,000,000 men and all the architects and artists of the vast Assyrian empire were called to take part in the work. The town wall was 150 high and 20 feet broad, defended by 230 towers, and closed by 100 gates. It was divided by the Euphrates into two parts, and on either bank stood a magnificent palace connected by a bridge. According to tradition, there was even a tunnel beneath the bed of the river, and three colossal figures of wrought gold adorned the tower of the Temple of Belus. Six hundred and thirty years before Christ, Babylon was still flourishing in splendour. The Temple of Belus was destroyed by Xerxes, and Alexander wished to restore it; but as it took 10,000 men two months,—some say two years,—merely to clear away the rubbish, he got tired of the work. Of the two palaces, one is conjectured to have been a castle, and the other the residence of the monarch; but there is still

completely to ruins, that there is nothing to afford the antiquarian any clue. An English mile from them you come upon another vast mound of rubbish, El Kasr, and here the Temple of Baal is supposed to have stood. There are still some massive fragments of walls, and columns, and a lion of dark-coloured granite, so large that I at first took it for an elephant. It is much mutilated, and to judge from what remains not the work of a very skilful artist. The bricks in all these ruins are of a reddish yellow colour, a foot long, and the same in breadth, and three and a half inches thick. In the ruins of El Kasr stands a single withered tree of the fir kind, which is quite unknown in these regions, which the Arabs regard as sacred, and of which many wonders are told,—how it utters melancholy sounds when the wind moans through the branches, and so forth. Of course it is considered to date from the days of ancient Babylon; but that a crippled looking tree, scarcely eighteen feet high and nine inches thick, should last 3,000 years, does seem, with all possible inclination to believe, somewhat too marvellous. The environs of Babylon, once so fertile that they have been called the Paradise of Chaldea, are now entirely barren and desolate, and the only way of crossing the river is by a wretched bridge made of boats, planks, and trunks of trees, which sway up and down at every step; it is scarcely broad enough for two horsemen to go abreast, and there is no kind of handrail to keep you from the water. Along the banks of the river there is still some trace of rich vegetation, and a few mosques and handsome buildings belonging to Hilla serve a little to reanimate the landscape. In this town I was received into the house of a rich Arab, who, as it was just sunset, invited me, not to a room but to a place on the magnificent terrace. For supper he sent me roast lamb, vegetables, some delicious pilau, and for drink, water and sour milk. This terrace had no walls round it, to my great satisfaction, as it enabled me to get some insight into the doings of my neighbours. In the courts I saw the women occupied in baking bread of the same kind that I had seen in Baudr-Abbas, and in the meantime the men and the children spread straw mats on the terraces, and brought up pilau vegetables and other dishes. When the bread was ready the meat was served up. I saw the women, too, sit down, and I was really in hopes that the Arabs had made such progress in civilisation as to allow my sex a place at table; but, alas! the poor women did not touch

the dishes, but only took up straw fans to wave off the flies from the heads of their lords and masters. I presume they got a meal afterwards inside the house, but neither on the terrace nor in the court-yard did I see them eat anything. When the time came for going to rest, men and women enveloped themselves entirely, from head to foot, in coverings, and lay down on the terrace, but neither took off a single article of dress.

Six English miles from Hilla, in what was once called the plain of Shinar, lie the ruins of Birs-Nimrod, and to visit these I engaged the services of two Arabs for an escort and two fresh horses. There is a mound near the Euphrates of 265 feet high, and a part of a wall of between twenty and thirty. Most of the bricks are covered with inscriptions, and near these walls lie some great black blocks, which might be taken for *laqa*, but that on a nearer inspection there are traces of masonry to be seen on them, and it is therefore to be presumed that their present condition is the effect of lightning.

From the summit of these hills you get an immense prospect over the desert, the town of Hilla and its beautiful palm groves, and over countless mounds of brick and earth. Not far from where I stood was a Mahomedan house of prayer, said to be on the spot where Shadrach and his companions were flung into the fiery furnace for refusing to worship the idols.

Towards evening the family of my obliging host paid me a visit, accompanied by several other women and children, their natural good sense and delicacy having prevented them from disturbing me on the day of my arrival, when they knew me to be wearied by my long ride. I cannot say but that I would willingly have excused the visit now, for Arabs, rich or poor, have but little idea of cleanliness, and the very filthy little children insisted upon sitting on my lap or in my arms, and I knew no way to decline that pleasure. Many of them had Aleppo boils, and others sore eyes and cutaneous diseases, so that I was very glad when the women and children left me and were replaced by my host, who was at least clean, and had more knowledge of the world.

The next day I left Hilla at sunrise, and rode without stopping sixteen miles to Scandaria, where I rested for some hours, and then went on another sixteen to Bir-Yanus. At one o'clock in the morning I set off again, escorted by a single soldier. We had gone about four or five miles when we thought we perceived, at no great

distance some very suspicious sounds, and my servant signified to me that I should remain quite still, that our presence might not be observed, and the soldier then alighted from his horse, and crept rather than walked through the sand to reconnoitre. My weariness was so great, that, though alone in the dark night, in the dreary desert, I could not help falling asleep on my horse, and only waked up when the soldier, with a joyful shout, came back to say there were no robbers, but a sheik, who, with his suite, was going to Bagdad. We immediately gave our horses the spur, and joined the procession. The chief saluted me by pressing his hand on his brow and his breast; and moreover, as a sign of good intentions, presented arms to me, his weapon being a club, with an iron knob at the end, furnished with many points, exactly like our well-known "morning star," a weapon that sheiks only are allowed to carry.

Until sunrise I remained in his company, and I then urged on my horse, and at eight o'clock was once more seated in my room at Bagdad, after having ridden 132 miles in three days and a half, besides rambling about a great deal on foot.

I had now seen every thing there was to be seen in Bagdad, and was beginning my preparations for continuing my journey to Ispahan, when I received a letter from Prince *Il Hony Ala Euly Mirza*, to say that he had had bad news from his country. The province of Ispahan was in a state of insurrection, the governor had been murdered, and my going to Persia at present was out of the question. I therefore took the resolution to go first to Mossul, and there await till circumstances should determine my further course.

MOSSUL AND NINEVEH.

Caravan Journey through the Desert.—Arrival at Mossul.—Things to be seen.—Excursion to the Ruins of Nineveh and the Village of Nebryanis.—Second Excursion to Nineveh.—Tel-Nimrod.—Arabian Horses.—Departure from Mossul.

IN order to travel safely and without too great cost from Bagdad to Mossul, it is necessary to join a caravan, and I begged Mr. Swoboda to recommend me to a trustworthy leader. He endeavoured to dissuade me from trusting myself entirely to the

Arabs, and thought I ought at least to take with me a servant of my own. But this would have occasioned too heavy expenses for my very slender means, and besides I knew the people tolerably well, and believed that I could trust them.

A caravan was to set off on the 14th of June, but a caravan leader is in this respect like the captain of a ship, and one must always give him a few days grace; so the 14th turned out to be really the 17th. The distance from Bagdad to Mossul is about three hundred English miles, which usually takes twelve or fourteen days. The mode of travelling is on horseback or on mules, and, in the hottest season, during the night. I hired for myself and my trifling luggage a mule, for which I was to pay the low price of seven and a half florins (12*s.* 6*d.*), and to have no further expense or trouble about his keep, and we were all to assemble in the caravansera before the city gate at five o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. Swoboda accompanied me thither, recommended me to the particular care of the leader, and promised him a good bachsheesh on his return if he should have been properly attentive; and then without any other protection I commenced my toilsome and dangerous journey through steppe and desert.

I was now travelling like the poorest Arab, and would have to make up my mind, as he would, to endure the glowing heat of the sun, to live on bread and water, or a handful of dates or cucumbers, and to content myself with the scorched ground for a bed. I had written out a short list of Arabic words for articles of the first necessity; but the language of signs was quite familiar to me, and by these means and that of the words together I got on wonderfully. I got indeed so much into the habit of making signs, that even in places where I knew the language perfectly well I found myself, if I did not take care, having recourse to my hands to speak for me.

Whilst Mr. Swoboda was taking leave of me, some bread and a few other needful provisions had been placed in two bags, and hung across the back of my mule. My cloak and a pillow formed a soft convenient seat, when I was once upon it, though the climbing up was rather difficult, as I had no stirrups. Our caravan was small at present, counting only six and twenty

At six o'clock we were in motion, and some miles beyond the town we were joined by other travellers, traders with beasts of burden, so that our procession soon amounted to sixty, but the number varied every evening, some going and others coming. Sometimes we looked like a regular rabble; and I was more afraid of our own company than the robbers; indeed I thought they might happen to be identical, for thieves often join caravans in order to find opportunities for pursuing their profession. In any case I could reckon nothing on the protection of such a caravan consisting of traders, pilgrims, and so forth, most of whom had never drawn a sword or fired a pistol in their lives. A few dozens of well-armed robbers could with ease have put to flight hundreds of them.

We rode on the first night for ten hours till we reached Yeugitsché. The country was flat and barren; there were neither men nor houses nor cultivated lands. Some miles after we passed Bagdad indeed all culture seemed to be suddenly cut off; and it was not till we reached Yeugitsché that we again saw stubble fields and palms, which showed that the industry of man was still able to wring something from nature.

Caravan travelling is very wearisome. You go always at a walk, and nine, even twelve hours, at a stretch. You lose your rest at night, and in the daytime the heat, the flies, and the mosquitoes make it almost impossible to recover any of your lost sleep.

The chan at Yeugitsché by no means equalled in beauty and cleanliness those on the road to Babylon, but it was surrounded by a little village into which hunger drove me in search of food. I went from hut to hut, and at last was lucky enough to make the conquest of three eggs and some milk, with which I proudly returned to my chan, after having filled my water-bottle at the Tigris. The eggs I baked in hot ashes, and ate immediately; the milk I put by for the evening; and I certainly felt more satisfaction in my hardly-earned meal than many do at the best furnished tables.

On my foraging expedition through the village I observed that it had formerly been a place of more importance, as there were many fallen houses and huts; but the plague had carried off all but a few families. I saw here a new mode of making butter, by merely shaking the cream in a leathern bottle; but the butter so

made was as white as snow, so that if I had not seen it made I should have taken it for lard.

At ten o'clock at night our caravan got under weigh again, and we rode without stopping for eleven hours. The country through which we passed appeared to be less desolate than that nearer to Bagdad; and the barking of dogs and the groups of palm trees intimated the existence of villages, though we could not see them. At sunrise we rejoiced in the sight of a low range of hills that relieved the continued monotony of the plains.

June 19th.—Yesterday I was finding fault with the chan of Yeugitsche, but to day I should have been thankful for a much worse, that would have afforded me some protection from the scorching beams of the sun, which streamed down upon me with intolerable fierceness. But we halted on a stubble field far from any human dwelling. My caravan leader threw a cloth over a couple of sticks, and endeavoured so to procure me a little shade, but the place was so small, and this imitation of a tent so slight, that I had to remain constantly in a sitting posture, and quite still, lest by the slightest movement I might bring it down. How I envied the missionaries and naturalists who make their difficult journeys with pack-horses, tents, provisions, and servants. For refreshment I had only lukewarm water, bread so hard that I could not possibly eat it without soaking, and a cucumber without salt or vinegar. But my courage and patience did not desert me, and I never for a single moment repented having exposed myself to these hardships.

At Deli-Abbas, where we stopped at eight o'clock in the morning, we found a chan, but in such a ruinous state that we had to encamp outside it, for fear of the snakes and scorpions which are apt to harbour in such places. Near the chan lay some dozens of dirty Arab tents, and the wish to obtain some other food than bread and cucumber drove me to overcome my disgust, and to creep into several of them. The inhabitants offered me buttermilk and bread, and they also possessed fowls, one of which I would have gladly purchased, but I could not make up my mind to kill it myself, so I was obliged to put up with the simpler fare. In this district there were wild flowers growing that reminded me of my dear country. At home I should have scarcely thought them worthy of a glance, but here I rejoiced at the sight of them: indeed I am not ashamed to say

that I bent over them as friends, and found my eyes dim with tears.

This day we set off again at five o'clock in the evening, as we had the most dangerous part of the journey between this and the next station, and we meant to try and reach it before a very late hour. The vast flat sandy desert now changed a little its character; hard flints rattled under the hoofs of the horses, and rocks, and rocky hills alternated with mounds of earth. Had this tract continued longer I should have taken it for the dried up bed of a river; as it was, it looked like a piece of ground left bare by the retiring of the sea. In many places there were crystals of salt that glittered in the sun.

Our leader urged on the beasts, for this spot is regarded as dangerous, because the rocks and hills afford places of concealment for robbers, and the poor animals had to hurry on over stock and stone at a much sharper pace than they are accustomed to; so that before it was quite dark we had passed that tract, and could pursue our journey more at leisure. Towards one in the morning we came in sight of the small town of Karatappa, and took up our quarters on a stubble field about a mile or two from it. Here the weary desert plains were at an end, and henceforth we were to travel through a cultivated country intersected by hills. The next day we got to Kuferi.

All these Turkish towns are much alike, and there is little to be said about them. The streets are dirty, the houses built of mud or unburnt brick, the shops wretched booths, the people disgustingly dirty, and the women increase their natural ugliness by dying their hair and nails red-brown with henna, and tattooing their hands and arms. At five and twenty they look quite old.

On the 25th of June we reached a village which was the home of our leader, and his house lay, with several others, in a large dirty court-yard, surrounded by a wall that had but a single entrance. This court resembled a regular camp, for all the inhabitants, as well as their horses and asses, were lying sleeping about it. Our animals recognised their own places, and trotted so fast by the sleepers that I was quite in fear for them. However, these creatures are very careful, and the men knew it, and remained quietly where they were.

My Arab had been three weeks absent, and had returned now for a very short time, and except one little old woman no one of

his family got up to greet him. Even the said old lady, whom I took for his mother, did not speak to him a word of welcome or attempt to help him, but merely trotted along by his side, so that I thought she might almost as well have lain sleeping with the rest.

The Arab's house consisted of one large lofty apartment, divided into three portions by two middle walls that did not reach quite to the front. Each of these divisions was thirty feet long by about nine feet broad, and served as the dwelling of a family. The light came through the common entrance, and two holes at the top of the front wall. In one of these compartments a place was assigned to me where I could remain during the day; and my first study was directed to ascertaining the relations of the family with whom I was to live. I wanted to ascertain the degree of kindred, and at first this was very difficult, for no one showed any affection for any but the little children, who seemed to be regarded as common property. At length I made out that in the whole house there were three families related to each other; the grandfather, a married son, and a married daughter. The grandfather was a stout vigorous old fellow, the father of my caravan leader. I had discovered this on the way, for he had been in our party. He was horribly quarrelsome; disputed about every trifle, and constantly contradicted his son, who took it very quietly, and did what his father liked. The animals of the caravan belonged to them both, and were also attended to by a grandson of fifteen and some servants; but when we had once got home the old man gave himself no further concern about them, but enjoyed his rest, and merely gave his orders. It was easy to see that he was the patriarch of the family.

On the first impression the character of the Arab appears cold and reserved. I never saw either husband or wife, father or daughter, exchange a friendly word; they spoke to each other only when it was absolutely required. For the children there was much more feeling shown; they might romp and riot as much as they would, not a word was ever said to them, nor anything they did taken amiss. As soon as the child is grown up, however, it comes to his turn to bear with the weaknesses of his parents, which he generally does, treating them with much patience and respect.

To my great surprise I heard the children call their mother *mama* or *nana*, and their father *baba*.

The women lay the whole day on their lazy sides, doing nothing whatever, and only towards evening they made up their minds to get up and make some bread. Their costume was certainly very ill adapted to work of any kind. The sleeves of their chemises were so wide that they hung down half an ell from their arms; and directly they went to do anything they had to wind them round their arms, or tie them in a knot behind their backs. Of course they continually got loose, and were a constant hindrance to the work. As they were not very punctilious about cleanliness, the good ladies used to make these sleeves serve in the capacity of pocket handkerchiefs, as well as to wipe the spoons and other utensils. The covering of their heads consisted of no less than two, three, or sometimes four large handkerchiefs, wound one round the other.

I had, alas, two days to pass in this family circle. The first was almost intolerable, for all the women in the neighbourhood came to stare at me. They began by examining my clothes; then they wanted to take my turban from my head, and after that they became so outrageously troublesome that I was obliged to deliver myself by a *coup de main*.

I suddenly took one of them by the shoulders, and turned her out of doors, and that so quickly that she scarcely knew what had happened. To the other I signified that I would certainly do the like if she did not behave better. Probably they supposed me much stronger than I really was, and they therefore drew off their forces; and I then described a circle round my place, and forbade any one of them to step over it, and in this they thought proper to obey.

The worst of my tormentors was the wife of my leader. She besieged me the whole day, kept coming close up to me, and worrying me to give her things. I gave her a few trifles, but I had little of any thing with me, and she would certainly not have left off till she had got all. Fortunately her husband came home, and I complained to him of her behaviour, and affected to be about to leave his house, and seek elsewhere for a shelter, which the Arab would regard as the greatest disgrace. He immediately set to work, and gave his wife a thorough good scolding, and then I got a little peace. I always insisted on having my own way, for energy and fearlessness impose on all people,—Arabs, Persians, Bedouins,—or whatever else they may be called.

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Towards evening, to my great joy, I saw a large pot set on the fire with a quantity of mutton. For eight days I had eaten nothing but bread, cucumbers, and a few dates, and I really longed for some warm and nourishing food. But how did my appetite decline when I observed the cooking operations. The old mother threw in a few handful of red grain, along with an immense quantity of onions, into a potfull of water. After half an hour she stirred them round with her dirty hands, and mixed and squeezed them together, then took out a portion, chewed it into small masses, and *spat it back again* into the pot. Then she took a dirty rag, strained this delicate sauce through it, and poured it over the meat in the larger vessel. I had firmly resolved not to touch this dish, but when it was ready my desire of food was so great, and the smell was so savoury, that I reflected that I had most likely already eaten what was not a whit cleaner; in short, I became unfaithful to my resolution. "I did eat, and was filled," and felt greatly strengthened by these untempting viands. I had gone through much fatigue in the journey from Bagdad, and really required support.

On the morrow I supposed that before setting off again we should have had a similar meal, but the Arab is too frugal a housekeeper to have such a feast twice running, and I was obliged to put up with bread and cucumbers, without salt, oil, or vinegar.

We left the village at nine o'clock at night, and by sunrise we had a magnificent prospect of a majestic chain of mountains, which forms a wall of separation between Kurdistan and Mesopotamia.

In the valley that lay between these were the loveliest wild flowers,—among others, blue bells, amaranths, and a remarkable kind of thistle that produces bunches of delicate blue flowers the size of a man's fist, and which covers large tracts. The country people cut it and use it for fuel, as wood is here very scarce.

We saw here also some troops of gazelles that came merrily past the caravan.

On the 28th of June we reached the small town of Erbil, once Arbela, where Alexander met the army of Darius. It is a fortified town, and lies on a single hill in the middle of a valley. We encamped in the suburbs, and, as I found to my great vexation that

where I could obtain shelter from the sun, and I found a hut where there were already several people, two asses, and a large number of cocks and hens. The proprietress, a particularly unpleasant looking old Arab woman, allowed me for a small consideration to lie down in a corner where, at least, the burning rays could not reach me, but beyond this I had not the smallest accommodation; yet this hut appeared to be considered a desirable place of residence, for from early morning till late in the evening there was always a crowd of company present. Some came to gossip only, others brought their flour to knead into bread in order to enjoy the gossip at the same time. In the background children were bathed and cleansed from vermin, and in the midst of all this the asses brayed, and fowls flew upon and dirtied everything. To the honour of the people, however, I must state that though there were among them men of the poorest classes constantly going in and out, no one of them offered me the slightest insult; even the women left me at peace.

In the evening, before our departure, a meal of mutton was boiled, in a kettle that had previously been filled with dirty linen: this was emptied out, and without the ceremony of washing, the mutton put in, and then the cookery went on in exactly the same style as on the former occasion.

On the following day we had to cross a large river, and this was effected on a raft, probably of a very ancient kind; inflated skins were fastened together by means of some poles, and on these were laid boards, reeds, and canes. There were eight and twenty skins, and the raft was seven feet broad, and the same length, and carried half a dozen men and three horse burdens at a time; but as our caravan consisted at this time of two and thirty animals, we took nearly half a day to get across. The horses were tied four or five together, and led by a man seated astride on a skin; the feebler ones, as well as the asses, had skins tied on their backs.

Most striking is in this part of Mesopotamia the entire want of trees; for the last five days I had not seen one, and I believe there must be many people who have never seen one in their lives. There were tracts of twenty or thirty miles where there was not so much as a shrub, though there is no want of water, for no day passed in which we did not cross one or two rivers, large or small.

The town of Mossul came into view twenty miles before we reached it; it lies on a low hill in a very large valley on the

western shore of the Tigris, which is here considerably narrower than at Bagdad.

We reached Mossul at seven o'clock in the morning, and I was in perfect health, though in the fortnight past I had only twice had a warm meal, had had no opportunity of changing my clothes, and had been almost constantly exposed to tremendous heat.

I alighted first at the caravansery, and then got some one to take me to the English vice-consul, Mr. Rassam, to whom my coming had already been announced in a letter from Mr. Rawlinson, and who had had a room made ready for me.

My first walk was through the town, but there is little to be said concerning it; it is surrounded with fortifications, and has about 2,500 inhabitants, but amongst them scarcely a dozen Europeans; there are many coffee-booths, and extensive, though not handsome bazaars. The entrances to the houses are low and narrow, and furnished with strong doors, as in former times the town was frequently exposed to hostile attacks; but, when you get inside, you find beautiful court yards, lofty airy rooms, with large windows and doors, and the walls of the ground floors mostly of marble, of which there is a rich quarry directly before the town. Here also it is the custom to pass the hot hours of the day in the subterranean chamber or sardab; and in the month of July, even there, the temperature will rise to ninety-nine degrees, when the burning simoom comes sweeping across the Desert. During my stay several people died suddenly, it was said of the heat, and even the birds suffered much, and kept their beaks wide open and their wings stretched out from their bodies. The eyes are often greatly affected here, but the Aleppo boil is less frequent than in Bagdad.

Amongst my sufferings from the heat at Mossul, however, I cannot at all events count that of a decrease of appetite; probably it might be in consequence of the severe regimen on which I had lately been kept; but I really think I could have eaten at every hour of the day.

During my stay at Mossul, a great body of Turkish troops passed through the country. The Pacha rode out to meet them, and then marched into the city at the head of the infantry. These troops were infinitely better dressed than those I had seen in Constantinople in 1842; they wore the fez, had white trowsers and blue spencers with red facings, and looked very well. The cavalry

As soon as I had in some measure recovered from the fatigues of my journey, I begged my kind host to furnish me with a servant to accompany me to the ruins of Nineveh,—but instead of a servant, a Mr. Ross and the sister of Mrs. Rassom were good enough to bear me company. We viewed on the first morning, the ruins that lie nearest, on the opposite side of the Tigris at the village of Neby-yunis,—and the next day the more distant, eighteen miles down the river, at a place called Tel-Nimrod.

According to Strabo, Nineveh was still larger than Babylon,—and the greatest city in the world ; the circumference of its walls was three days' journey, and the wall was defended by fifteen hundred towers. Now all is covered with earth, and only occasionally when the peasant's plough makes a furrow in the field does a fragment of brickwork or marble come to sight. Whole ranges of hills that extend across the boundless plain on the left bank of the Tigris, and lose themselves in the distance, cover, as is now known with certainty, the ruins of the city. In the year 1846, the celebrated Mr. Layard began here the excavations which have been crowned with such distinguished success. Passages were dug in the hills, and soon the excavators came to large and stately apartments whose walls were of marble covered from top to bottom with reliefs. There were kings with their crowns and sceptres, gods with vast pinions, warriors with their arms and shields ;—there were representations of hunts, of battles, of the storming of fortresses, of triumphal processions,—but, unfortunately, proportion, perspective, and correct drawing are wanting. The hills are scarcely three times higher than the men, the fields reach to the clouds, the trees are no bigger than the lotus-flowers, and the heads of men and animals are all after the same models, and all in profile. On many walls is that club-shaped sign or letter which distinguishes what is called the cuneiform character, and which is only found on Persian and Babylonian monuments.

Among all the chambers that were brought to light, only one had walls, not of marble, but of fine painted cement. But these walls, notwithstanding the utmost care, could not be preserved. As soon as the air reached them, the cement cracked, and fell off. The marble also had in many places been changed into lime by the terrific conflagration which laid the whole city in ashes. Many marble slabs with reliefs and cuneiform inscriptions have, however, been taken from the walls, and sent to England. When I

was in Bassora, a whole cargo of these antiquities, including a sphynx, lay ready to be sent off.

On our return, we visited the little village of Neby-yunis, which lies near the ruins on a slight elevation, and which is celebrated on account of a mosque where, according to tradition, the remains of the prophet Jonas lie buried, which every year are visited by thousands of devout pilgrims. On this excursion, we passed many fields where the people were separating the corn from the straw in a quite peculiar manner, with a machine consisting of two wooden tubs, between which was a roller with ten or twelve broad, long, blunt knives, or choppers. The whole was drawn by two horses or oxen over the bundles of corn, and when it had all been chopped up it was flung up into the air with shovels, in order to separate the corn from the chaff.

As we came home we saw near the walls of Mossul two sulphur springs, betrayed from a considerable distance by their smell. They rise in natural basins, and though they have been surrounded by high walls, every one is at liberty to bathe in them,—the women at certain hours, the men at others,—without putting his hand in his pocket. People here are not so envious and niggardly with the free gifts of nature as they are in Europe.

Tel-Nimrod lies, as I have said, eighteen miles down the Tigris ; here the earth mounds lie thickest, and here the principal excavations are being made. To visit them we seated ourselves one evening on a raft, and glided in the moonlight along the desolate shores. After a voyage of about seven hours, we landed at one o'clock in the morning at the miserable village that bears the proud name of Nimrod ; we awakened some of the inhabitants, who were all lying asleep outside their huts, got fire made, and some coffee ; and then lay down on some carpets we had brought with us, to wait for the morning light.

At dawn we mounted horses, which are always to be had, and rode a short distance to the excavations. We saw a number of hills opened, but there were not, as at Herculaneum, whole houses, streets, and squares, but only single chambers, at the utmost three or four connected together ; and even then the outer walls were not free from earth. The articles brought to light perfectly resemble those discovered at Mossul, but they are in greater number. I saw also here figures of gods, as animals with human heads, and of a colossal size. There were four of these but two

preservation, but sufficiently so to show that the art of sculpture had not reached any high degree of perfection when they were made. A small sphynx undamaged, and an obelisk of inconsiderable height, had just been sent off to England; but when Mr. Layard returned to his country the excavations had to be again closed up, as the wandering Arabs had begun to injure the antiquities. Mr. Rawlinson, of Bagdad, has occupied himself so much with the cuneiform character that he can now read it well, and to his industry we are indebted for many of the translations.

Our return to Mossul was made on horseback in five hours and a half. The horses had only a quarter of an hour's rest, and nothing but water to refresh them; and they would have the whole distance back again to do in the greatest heat of the day. It is wonderful what these Arab horses can endure, for Mr. Ross informed me that the post stations sometimes lie seventy-two miles apart. The finest horses are found about Bagdad and Mossul, and they fetch a high price. Some, which had just been bought for the Queen of Spain, and which Mr. Rassam had in his stable, had cost a hundred and fifty pounds each. Their long narrow heads, fiery eyes, and slender beautifully formed legs, would have thrown a connoisseur into raptures.

After remaining some time at Mossul I found I could, without great risk to my life, venture to undertake the journey to Persia, although I was compelled to take a circuitous route. A caravan was going to Tebris, and Mr. Rassam undertook to arrange my route as far as Ravandus, and furnish me with some letters to natives of that place. I was warned that I should not, on the entire way, meet with a single European, and as I could not feel very confident that my undertaking would have a happy issue, I first sent off my papers to Europe, in order that if I should be robbed or killed my journal at least might reach the hands of my sons.

• PERSIA.

• *Caravan Journey to Ravandus.—A Kurd Family.—Continuation of the Journey.—Sauh-Bulok.—A Happy Family.—Oromia.—The American Missionaries.—Kutschié.—Three chivalrous Robbers.—The Persian Chan and the English Bongolo.—Arrival at Tabreez.*

• In the evening of the 8th of July, the caravan leader came to fetch me, but his appearance was so little prepossessing that had

I not been assured he was a man well known in the place I should scarcely have ventured to go a mile with him. His dress was a mere collection of rags, and his physiognomy appeared to me precisely that which would suit a robber. He told me that the people and the goods had already been sent forward and had encamped at Neby-yunis, about a mile off. The journey was to commence before sunrise. I found at the place mentioned, the beasts of burden, and three other men,—Kurds, whose countenances were no more agreeable than that of the leader, Ali, and I saw that I could not promise myself much good from my company.

I took up my quarters for the night in the dirty court-yard of the Chan, but I could sleep very little for I could not help feeling rather anxious. In the morning to my surprise there were no preparations for departure. I asked Ali the reason of this, and was told it was because the travellers were not all assembled, and as soon as they came we should move. I could not, short as was the distance to Mossul, venture to leave the miserable shelter lest they should arrive in my absence, but the whole day passed in waiting, and the people did not arrive till towards evening. There were five of them, one of whom, apparently a man of some opulence, as he had two servants with him, was returning from a pilgrimage. At ten o'clock at night we started, and after a march of four hours crossed some ranges of hills, which form the boundary between Mesopotamia and Kurdistan. In the morning we reached Secani, but Ali did not halt at the village, which lay on the fine river Kasir, but on a hill where there were a few dilapidated huts. I hastened into one of the best, and found a place where at least the sun's rays did not pierce through the sieve-like roof; but the pilgrim who came in after me did not seem inclined to leave me in peaceable possession. I threw my cloak down, seated myself upon it, and would not move from the place, knowing well that a Mussulman would not use any violence towards a woman, even though a Christian, and so it proved. He left me my place, though he went away grumbling: but the behaviour of one of the traders was still better. When he saw that I had nothing to eat but dry bread, while he had cucumbers and sweet melons, he gave me one of each, and positively refused to take any money for them. The pilgrim also, I noticed, took no better food, though he needed only to have sent one of his servants to the village to buy eggs and poultry. The moderation of these people is really astonishing.

At six o'clock in the evening we were again in motion, and during the first three hours we were constantly ascending. The ground was barren, and covered with masses of stone resembling old lava; but towards eleven we entered a fine valley, into which the full moon threw a soft and brilliant light. We wished to halt here instead of travelling through the night, as our caravan was small, and Kurdistan has a very bad reputation; but as we were jogging on over a stubble field past some high heaps of corn, all at once, half a dozen stout fellows armed with strong cudgels sprung out, and seizing our horses bridles, poured out upon us, with uplifted sticks, what seemed a volley of bad language. Seeing that we had fallen into the hands of a band of robbers, I rejoiced at having had the happy idea of sending away, before entering on this journey, my papers and various treasures that I had collected in Babylon and Nineveh; my other effects would have been easily replaced. In the meantime one of the travellers had sprung from his horse, seized one of the assailants by the throat, and held a loaded pistol to his head, threatening to blow his brains out. This had an immediate effect; the highwaymen desisted from their attack, and were very shortly engaged with the travellers in quite a friendly conversation; nay, at last they even pointed us out a pleasant place to encamp in, for which service they received a trifling bachshish, collected from the whole caravan except myself, from whom, as a woman, they asked nothing. We passed the night in the spot indicated, though not without setting a watch, for we had not perfect confidence in the treaty of peace.

We passed through many villages on the following day which had a very wretched appearance; the huts were only of cane and reeds, and looked as if a puff of wind would blow them down. The people wore almost entirely the oriental costume, but in a most dirty and ragged condition. The surrounding hills were barren, and trees were still great rarities; at most there grew in the vallies some amaranths, wild artichokes, and thistles. The noble pilgrim thought proper, when we halted, to point out to me a place among the lowest of our company; but without giving him any answer I went and deposited myself under a fig tree. Ali, who was really a better fellow than he looked, brought me a pot of buttermilk; and so this day, on the whole, I may be considered to have fared well.

Several women came out of the village and begged of me, but I gave them nothing, for I knew, by experience, that if you give to one you may to all. I had once only given a little ring to a child, and immediately I had the mother and grandmother importuning me to make them also a present, and I had great difficulty in preventing them making their way, by force of arms, to my pocket; since then I was more cautious, but one of the women here soon changed her begging tone into one so threatening that I was heartily glad I was not alone in her company.

At four in the afternoon we broke up our camp, the pilgrim left us, and the caravan now only consisted of five men. After an hour and a half's travelling, we reached a height whence we had a prospect over an extensive and well-cultivated hilly country. The soil in Kurdistan is incomparably better than that of Mesopotamia, and the country is therefore more populous, and villages occur more frequently. Before night-fall, we reached a valley where there were some fresh-looking rice plantations and fine shrubs, and a pretty little brook was murmuring along a bed set with canes and green rushes,—a most welcome and refreshing sight after the heat of the day. Our satisfaction did not however last long,—for one of our party,—the tradesman, suddenly became so ill that he nearly fell from his mule, and remained lying on the spot. We covered him with carpets, but could do nothing more for him, as we had neither medicine nor any other requisite. Fortunately after a few hours he fell asleep, and we could only endeavour to do likewise. In the morning he felt well again, which we were particularly glad to hear, as we had that day a most fatiguing and mountainous road before us. We had to go constantly up and down hill, along the side of a valley following the course of the river Badin, which winds like a serpent from one side to the other. In the valley pomegranate trees and oleanders were in full bloom, and wild vines hung their draperies on tree and shrub. After a dangerous ride of six hours, we came to a ford, but our raft was so small that it could hold little luggage and only two people at a time, so that it took us four hours to get across the river.

The next day our road became still worse, for we had to cross a considerable mountain ridge. Far and wide we had only rocks and stones; but I remarked to my astonishment that in many places the stones had been removed in order to make use of every little spot of ground capable of cultivation. I saw, nevertheless,

no villages, but they must have existed, for on many of the heights there were large burial places.

Our halt on the following day was in the romantic valley of Halifan, which is surrounded by lofty mountains, rising on one side precipitously, and on the other sloping gradually down. Everything looked blooming and verdant, and we passed between plantations of tobacco and rice, meadows and stubble fields. There was a village pleasantly situated at the foot of a hill, and surrounded by poplars, while a stream, bright and clear as crystal, rushed impetuously from the mountains, but flowed more gently through the valley; and away over the hills, towards the west, I saw numerous herds of cattle, and flocks of sheep and goats.

We encamped, however, far away from the village, and I could get nothing to eat but dry bread, and no couch but the hard ground of the stubble field. I counted this evening, nevertheless, as among the most delightful I had had, for the lovely landscape around me made ample amends for the want of any other enjoyment.

Ali granted us only half a night, for at two o'clock again the word was "to horse." Scarcely a hundred paces from where we were lying there was a magnificent mountain pass. The lofty walls were cleft to leave a passage for the stream, and a narrow foot-path beside it. The moon shone in her fullest splendour, otherwise it would have been difficult even for these practised animals to keep their footing along the narrow and dangerous way, among rolling stones and fallen masses of rock.

The good creatures scrambled along the steep mountain-side like chamois, and carried us safely past dreadful precipices at the bottom of which the river dashed along from rock to rock. This night-scene was so wild and striking that even my uncultivated companions were involuntarily silent, awe-struck, and as we moved along no other sound was heard than the clatter of the horses' hoofs and the noise of the stones which, set in motion by them, rolled down into the abyss. Nothing else disturbed the death-like stillness.

We had been going along thus for about an hour, when the moon all at once became covered with thick clouds, and the darkness was so total that we could scarcely see a step before us. Our leader kept constantly striking fire with a flint, in order that the sparks might enable us to see in some measure where we were

going; but this was not sufficient, and the animals began to stumble and slip, and soon there was nothing for it but to halt and stand motionless one behind another—as if we had suddenly been changed to stone—till morning. But with the dawn of light our life returned again, and we cheerfully urged on our steeds, and soon found ourselves in an indescribably beautiful circle of mountains. Right and left, before and behind, they rose one above another, and far in the back-ground towered above all a mighty giant crowned with snow. But the pleasure I had in contemplating this scene met with a sudden shock.

A short distance before we reached the plateau we noticed, at several places on the ground, spots of blood, to which we paid very little attention, as a horse or a mule might have scratched themselves against the rocks and left those traces behind. But soon we came to a spot that left no doubt of the origin of these stains, it was covered with a complete pool of blood, and looking down into the abyss below, we saw two human bodies, one hanging scarcely a hundred feet below the ledge on which we were—the other, which had rolled further, half hidden by a projecting crag. This told its own tale, and we hastened away from the hateful scene of murder. I could not get it out of my mind for days together.

In the valley on the other side of the plateau we found grapes, and further on came to a village of huts covered with leaves, near which, on the summits of two neighbouring mountains, we perceived fortifications. Here the rest of our travelling companions stopped, but Ali went on with me a couple of miles more, to the town of Ravandus, which we did not see till we were nearly upon it.

The aspect of this town is very singular. It lies on a steep round hill, perfectly isolated, but surrounded by mountains, and the houses lie in terraces one above another so completely that their flat roofs, covered with hard-trodden clay, look like little squares, and really serve the houses lying above them for a passage, so that it is often hard to tell which is roof and which street. Upon many of them there are also leafy arbours, where the people sleep.

I did not feel much pleased at the sight of this eagles' nest, for I could not help thinking it was no place for opportunities of travelling further, and every step strengthened me in the opinion. Ravandus was one of the most wretched places I had seen. Ali

led me across a deplorable bazaar into a dirty court that I took for a stable, but which turned out to be the chan. When I had alighted I was conducted into a dark hole where the merchant to whom I had been recommended was sitting on the ground before his shop. This Mr. Mansur was nevertheless the first of his class in Ravandus.

He was a full quarter of an hour spelling through the note I had brought with me, though it consisted only of a few lines ; and after that he saluted me with repeated salams, which were meant to signify that I was welcome.

The good man probably guessed that this day not the smallest morsel had passed my lips, for he ordered breakfast to be immediately served up, consisting of bread, lean cheese, and melons, to which I did ample justice.

With the conversation I did not get on quite so well, for he knew no European tongue—I no Asiatic one ; but I managed to make him understand by signs that I wished him to forward me as soon as possible on my journey, and he made it intelligible to me on his side that he would do so, and moreover that he would provide for my comfort during my stay ; and as he was not married himself, would take me to the house of a relation.

He kept his word, and conducted me, after breakfast, to a house that precisely resembled that of the Arab at Kerkoo, only that the court-yard was smaller and full of puddles.

Under the gateway, upon some very dirty carpets, sat some especially nasty-looking women playing with little children, and I was obliged to crouch down beside them and undergo the customary curious investigations. I endured this for a time, and then I got up and left the charming company to look for some place where I could bring my toilette a little into order, for for six days, in a heat equal to that under the line, I had not changed my clothes.

I found at last a dark dirty hole of a room, which, besides the disgust its appearance occasioned, gave me no small apprehension of vermin and scorpions. I had always been afraid of the latter, and at first fancied I should meet with them everywhere in this country, as I had read in books of travels that they were here in countless numbers. But subsequently my fears rather diminished, for even in subterranean chambers and among ruins I had never seen one. Indeed in my whole long journey I never saw but two.

But I suffered much from vermin—indeed there is often no way of freeing yourself from them but that of burning your clothes.

I had scarcely taken possession of this very uninviting apartment, where at least I thought I should enjoy quiet, when one woman presented herself, then another, and then another; the women were followed by the children, the children by the neighbours, who had heard of the arrival of an *Inglesi* (for here they have no notion of any foreigner that is not an Englishwoman), and at last I found I was worse off than under the gateway.

At length one of my visitors hit on the happy idea of offering me a bath, and I accepted the offer with great joy. They got the hot water ready and made me a sign to follow them; I did so, and came into a sheep-pen, and one that had not been cleaned for as many years perhaps as it had stood. Here they pushed together two stones, and intimated that I was to stand upon them and have the water poured over me, and that in the presence of the whole company who had followed me like my shadow. I desired them to go away, explaining that I would do what was necessary myself, and they complied; but, alas! the pen had no door, and they all turned round at the entrance and stood looking in.

My delightful hope of a bath faded away—for it is hardly necessary to say that I did not choose to bathe in the presence, and for the entertainment of a large party.

Four days did I pass among these people; the days in the dark hole—the evenings and nights upon the terrace. Like my hostess, I had to crouch upon the ground, and if I wanted to write to make use of my knees for a table. Every day I was told, To-morrow a caravan will go; but it was said only to tranquillize me, for it was easy to see I did not like my abode. The women lounged idly about the whole day, and slept or gossipped or quarrelled with the children, liking much better to go in dirty rags than to wash or patch them. The children were allowed completely to tyrannise over them. They did not indeed, exactly strike their parents, but if they did not get all they wanted immediately, they flung themselves on the ground and kicked and screamed till their will was obeyed. During the day there were no regular meals, but women and children were perpetually eating bread, cucumbers, melons, and buttermilk. In the evening every one bathed and washed hands, face, and feet,—a ceremony that was often repeated three or four times before the prayer, but they had no hesitation

in gossiping all the time it was going on. Perhaps, among ourselves, however, there might sometimes be seen at prayers very little more of true devotion.

Notwithstanding the great faults of these people they were not deficient in good nature, and when I noticed any thing amiss in their behaviour they were very willing to acknowledge themselves in the wrong. A little girl of seven years old, for instance, named Ascha, was particularly naughty. The moment anything was refused her, she would fling herself on the ground, howl with all her might, and even roll herself purposely in the dirt, and then come and lay her hands on the bread and melons. I tried to make her understand the impropriety of this proceeding, and I succeeded beyond my expectations.

The only plan I could think of was to imitate her behaviour as closely as I could, and do just what she did. The child gazed at me for a moment in speechless astonishment, and I then managed to ask it how it liked me to do that; it saw the error of its ways, and I seldom had occasion to repeat my lesson. I endeavoured in the same manner to give it a little instruction in cleanliness, and very soon it would go and give itself a good washing, and then come jumping to show me its hands and face.

In few days the little creature grew so fond of me that she was constantly at my side, and tried in many ways to do what she thought would please me.

No less fortunate was I with the women; I used to point to their torn clothes, and then fetch needle and thread, and show them how they might be mended. They were quite pleased with the discovery, and very soon I had quite a sewing school round me. What good might not any one do among such people who should set about it in earnest, and who understood their language; what a beautiful field would be here opened to the labours of a missionary who would submit to live among them, and endeavour by kindness and patience to overcome their faults. But the missionaries who come here devote to them at the utmost only a few hours in the day, and make their scholars come to them instead of seeking them in their own homes.

The women and girls in the Asiatic countries have no kind of instruction, and those in the towns have scarcely any employment, but remain the whole day abandoned to idleness. At sunrise the men go to the bazaar, where they have their booths and work-

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shops; the elder boys go to school or accompany their fathers, and neither return home till sunset. Then the husband expects to find the carpet spread on the terrace, the meal prepared, the nargileh ready; and when he comes he plays a little with the younger children, but they and the mothers must go away during the meal. The women in villages have more freedom and more occupation, as they generally take an active part in the house-keeping. It is said also that a better state of morals is found in the country than in the cities.

The costume of the Kurds is, with the wealthier classes, entirely oriental; that of the people varies from it a little. The men wear wide linen trowsers, and over them a shirt confined by a girdle, as well as sometimes a woollen jacket without sleeves, made of stuff of only a hand's-breadth wide, and sewed together. Some, instead of white trowsers, have brown ones, which are excessively ugly, and look like sacks with two holes to thrust the feet through. Their *chaussure* consists of boots of red or yellow leather, with large iron heels; or sometimes shoes made of coarse white wool, and adorned with three tassels. On their heads they wear the turban.

The women have the red and yellow boots, with iron heels, and loose trowsers like the men; but over this they wear a long blue garment long enough to reach half an ell below the feet, but which is tucked up under the girdle; and a large blue shawl hangs down below the knee. Round their heads they wind black shawls in the turban fashion, or they wear the red *fez*, with a silk handkerchief wound round it, and on the top of that a sort of wreath made of short black fringe, put on like a diadem, and leaving the forehead free. The hair falls in narrow braids over the shoulders, and from the turban hangs a heavy silver chain. It is not easy to imagine a more becoming head-dress.

Girls and women go with their faces uncovered, and I saw here several exquisitely beautiful girls, with really noble features. Their complexions are brown, and the eyebrows and eyelashes black, or dyed with henna. Nose-rings are only seen among the women of the very lowest class.

My friend Mr. Mansur entertained me very well. In the morning I got buttermilk, bread, and cucumbers, and sometimes even dates fried in butter; a dish however that I did not much relish. In the evening, mutton with rice; or barley, maize, onions.

and chopped meat,—all very good; and I had not to complain of any deficiency of appetite. The buttermilk and water is taken cold, besides the luxury of a piece of ice thrown into it; for as it can be procured from the neighbouring mountains ice is to be had here in every village, and the people may often be seen eating large pieces of it. But in spite of the endeavours of Mansur and his relations to make my abode with them endurable, nay perhaps in their opinion even agreeable, I was glad enough when one morning Ali came to me with the information that he had got a small cargo for Sauh-Bulok (70 English miles off) which lay on my route. The same evening I went to the caravan-sera, and on the following morning before sunrise we were once more in motion. Mansur remained to the last friendly and hospitable, and besides furnishing me with a letter to a Persian settled at Sauh-Bulok, he provided me with a stock of bread, melons, cucumbers, and sour milk. The latter I found particularly useful, and I advise every traveller to make use of this refreshment; it is carried here in bags of thick linen; the watery part trickles through, and one can at pleasure take out the thicker portion in spoonful, and thin it with water. In the hot season indeed it will dry up to cheese on the fourth or fifth day; but this cheese is very good, and in four or five days one generally comes to a place where the stock may be renewed.

On the first days of our journey we passed through narrow valleys between high mountains. The roads were extremely bad. On the second evening we came to a half-ruined citadel, and scarcely had we pitched our camp before there appeared half a dozen strongly-armed soldiers, under the command of an officer, who took a place at my side, pointed to a written paper, and made me several signs. I soon understood that he meant to tell me I was on Persian ground, and he required my passport. I did not however wish to open my trunk in presence of the whole village now assembled around us, and therefore pretended I did not know what he meant, and persisted in being stupid, till at last he left me, saying to Ali, "What can I do with her? she does not understand me,—she may go on"* In what European state should I have been treated so mildly?

* I had picked up enough of the language between here and Mossul to understand this much.

In almost every village we passed through I had had half the population assembled round me, and it may well be imagined what a swarm had gathered while this was going on, and I must own that this everlasting staring is to be counted amongst the greatest sufferings I had to endure in my travels. Sometimes when the women and children would not keep their hands off me, and my clothes, I was driven to take my riding whip, and distribute a few cuts among them. This always procured me some alleviation, and they at least drew back, and formed a larger circle. On this occasion a lad of sixteen tried to punish me for my boldness, and when I went down to the river, as I was accustomed to do to fill my water bottle, wash my hands and face, and bathe my feet, he followed me, and lifted up a stone. As it would not do to show any fear, I went down composedly into the river, and he flung the stone; but I thought from the manner in which it was thrown, it had been intended more to frighten than to hurt me; and after he had tried a second and a third, and I still took no notice, he got tired, and went home.

It was not quite without reason that I had felt fear of this journey, for few days passed in undisturbed tranquillity. This day I was much alarmed to see come galloping towards us a troop of seven well-armed, and five unarmed men. The first carried lances, sabres, daggers, knives, pistols, and small shields, and were dressed like the common people, with the exception of their turbans, round which they had wound Persian shawls. I took them, when they stopped us, for robbers; but after asking several questions,—where we came from, where we were going to, what we carried, and so on,—they allowed us to pursue our way; and as in the course of the day we were stopped several times in the same manner, I concluded they were soldiers on service.

The next day matters seemed to be taking a still more serious turn. Whether Ali had given any incorrect replies to their queries, I know not—but they seized on his two pack-horses, threw their burdens on the ground, and commanded the animals to be led away. Poor Ali begged and implored most piteously, and then he turned and pointed to me, saying, that all belonged to me, and that they certainly would have compassion on a helpless woman.

The soldier turned to me, and asked whether this was true, but as I did not consider it advisable to confirm the statement, I pretended not to understand. Ali began to cry, and our situation

really seemed desperate,—for what could we do in this desolate uninhabited country without the horses? but at last the soldier allowed himself to be softened, sent for the animals, and gave them to us back.

It was late in the evening when we arrived at the town of Sauh-Bulok. As it was not fortified we were able to get in, though it cost some trouble to get a chan opened to us; it was handsome and spacious, and had a basin of water in the middle of the court, round which were booths for the traders, and alcoves for sleeping in. The company assembled in it,—all men, had already mostly gone to rest,—and their astonishment may be imagined when they saw me, a woman, enter alone with the caravan leader. It was too late to deliver my letter, so I seated myself in resignation by the side of my modest package, and thought to pass the night thus; but a Persian came up to me, pointed out to me a place in an alcove where I could sleep, and afterwards brought me some bread and water. This charity was so much the greater since the Mahomedans have, as is known, an aversion to Christians.

The next day I delivered my letter, and the merchant to whom it was addressed introduced me to a Christian family, and promised to provide for my further journey. In this little town of Sauh-Bulok there are about twenty Christian families, who are all under the care of a French missionary, and have a very pretty little church. I rejoiced at this intelligence, as I thought I should now again have an opportunity of speaking a language with which I was well acquainted; but, to my vexation, I learned that the missionary was just now gone on a journey, and I was therefore just as awkwardly situated as at Ravandus, for the person with whom I was to lodge, and his family, spoke nothing but Persian.

This man, who was by trade a carpenter, had a wife, six children, and an apprentice. They all lived in the same room, and also with great apparent pleasure made room for me in it. The whole family was uncommonly good and complaisant towards me. They shared with me honourably every morsel they had, and if I bought fruit, eggs, or any other trifle, and offered some to them, they partook of them with great modesty. But it was not only towards me that they showed themselves thus benevolent: no poor person ever appealed to them in vain, or left their threshold without relief; and yet the abode with them was dreadful, and I had really a horror of them. The mother was a silly quarrelsome

woman, who was the whole day wrangling and fighting with her six children, (from four to sixteen years of age). No ten minutes ever passed in which the children were not quarrelling amongst themselves, and exchanging cuffs and kicks, or tearing each other's hair, so that I, in my corner, had not a single moment's peace, and not unfrequently ran great risk of getting my share of what was going on when they were spitting at each other or throwing lumps of wood at each other's heads. Several times the eldest son would seize his mother by the throat, and hold her till she was black in the face. I did what I could to keep the peace, but, unfortunately, I very seldom succeeded, for, from my ignorance of their language, I could not represent to them the sinfulness of their behaviour. It was only in the evening when the father came home that anything like peace and order was restored. °

Among no nation on the earth—among the poorest and lowest of the people, did I ever see such a specimen of behaviour, nor did I ever before see children lift their hands against their parents. When I left *Sauh-Bulok* I left behind me a letter for the missionary, in which I called his attention to the condition of this family, and entreated him to do what he could for their reformation. Religion does not consist wholly in praying and fasting, in reading the bible, and going to church. My stay at this place was rendered so unpleasant to me by these circumstances, that I daily worried the Persian merchant to find means of sending me on; but he shook his head, and made me understand that, in his opinion, if I persisted in travelling alone, I should be shot or have my throat cut.

At last, however, I really could bear my domestic *Inferno* no longer, and begged the merchant, at whatever risk, to get me a horse and a guide, and determined, let the danger be what it might, to go at least to Oromia—a place about fifty miles off, where I knew I should find an American missionary, and I did not doubt, some means or other of getting on.

The merchant came to me on the following day in company with a wild-looking fellow, whom he presented to me as my guide. I was obliged, on account of the risk of travelling without a caravan, to agree to pay him four times the ordinary price; but I would have done anything to get away. The treaty was concluded; and the guide bound himself to set off on the following morning and to take me to Oromia in a three days journey. The one half of the

money promised I was to pay him in advance, the other not till I got to Oromia, in order to keep some check upon him if he hesitated about fulfilling his engagement.

Joy and fear together took possession of my mind when the business was settled; and, in order to compose myself a little, I went out to take a walk in the bazaar and outside of the town, and I found not the slightest obstacle to my free locomotion, though I wore no veil, but merely the isar thrown round me.

The bazaars are not so poor as those of Ravandus, and the chan is large and pleasant; but the aspect of the common people I thought repulsive, if not terrific; they are large and strongly built, with harsh features, which are disfigured by an expression of wildness and cruelty, and they all looked to me like robbers and murderers. In the evening I took care to see that my pistols were in order, and made up my mind that if I were attacked I would not give my life for nothing.

It was towards noon, instead of sun-rise, as had been intended, when we left *Sauh-Bulok*. The way was very desolate, and I could not help a feeling of alarm when we occasionally met a stranger, but, thank God, no harm happened to me, and we met with no other enemy than enormous swarms of locusts, which passed in masses like clouds; they were nearly three inches long, and had large wings of a red or bluish colour. All the grass and plants in this district had been devoured by them, and though I have heard that the people try to indemnify themselves by eating them, I have never been able to meet with any such dish. After a ride of seven hours we entered a valley that was populous, large, and fertile; villages were frequent, and people were at work in the fields, wearing the high black Persian cap, which had a very odd effect with their ragged attire. We stopped for the night at a village called Mahomed-Jur, and had I not been too idle I might have prepared myself an excellent meal of turtle, for I saw many in the brooks, and even on the fields, and needed only to stoop and pick them up; but then I must have got some wood, have made a fire, and cooked; and I preferred contenting myself with a bit of dry bread and a cucumber, and eating it in peace and quietness.

The next day when we halted, I saw to my surprise that my guide was making preparations for a longer stay, and on my urging the continuation of our journey, he declared he could not go

on without a caravan, as the most dangerous part of the way lay before us. He then pointed to a few dozen of horses that were grazing in a stubble field near, and endeavoured to make me understand that in a few hours a caravan would arrive. But the whole day passed, and there were no signs of a caravan. I considered that my guide had deceived me, and was very angry, when in the evening I saw him making up for me with my cloak a bed on the floor. It was now necessary to summon all my moral strength, and make the man see that I would not be treated like a child, and kept there as long as he thought proper; but the mischief was that I had no words wherewith to scold him. I therefore snatched my cloak from the floor, flung it at his feet, and signified that if he did not take me to Oromia to-morrow or the next day, I would give him no more money. I then turned my back upon him (which is considered one of the greatest affronts), sat down on the ground, and leaning my head on my hand, gave way to a very melancholy mood; for what was I to do if the guide should not regard my *demonstration*, or leave me waiting here till a caravan should chance to go by?

Some women of the village who had come up during my dispute with the guide, now came to me and brought me some milk and warm food; sitting down by me, and asking why I was so angry. I managed to explain the matter to them, and they seemed to take my part, pouting with their countryman, and doing what they could to console me the stranger. They would not move from my side, but begged me so cordially to partake of the food they had brought me that I could not refuse, and ate a little, though I was not much inclined to it. The dish consisted of bread, eggs, butter, and water boiled together, and vexed as I was I thought it very good. I wished to give them a trifle in return, but they would not accept it; but seemed quite pleased to see me a little more tranquil and happy.

All at once, at one o'clock in the morning, my guide got up, saddled my horse, and desired me to mount him. I was thrown into some consternation by this move, for I saw no appearance of any caravan, and the thought flashed across my mind that perhaps the man was about to revenge himself on me. Why should he wish now in darkness, in the middle of the night, to go through a district that he had avoided in bright daylight? I had not Persian enough to ask for an explanation, but I would not leave

him any excuse for not fulfilling his contract, and so I agreed to go.

I mounted my horse with some anxiety, and commanded my guide, who wished to remain behind me, to ride on, and I kept my hand on my pistol, listening to every sound and watching every movement he made ; but I would not turn back.

But after all my fears were groundless, for in half an hour's rapid riding we came up with a large caravan, and one that had the additional advantage of being protected by a dozen well-armed peasants. The way, it seemed, really was dangerous, and my guide had received information of the passage of the caravan.

I could not help wondering on this occasion at the persistence of this people in whatever is matter of custom. Because they are in the habit of travelling in the night, they would do the same even in the most dangerous regions, where the peril would be greatly diminished by daylight.

In a few hours we came to the lake of Oromia, which henceforward remained always on our right hand. On our left lay for many miles a tract of naked hills, mountains, and ravines, which composed the dreaded part of the road ; but the morning brought us to a beautiful fertile valley, the sight of which with its inhabited villages, gave me courage to leave the caravan, and push on to Oromia.

The lake of Oromia, from which the town has its name, is above sixty miles long, and in many places above thirty broad. It appears to be quite closely surrounded by high mountains, but in reality there are large tracts of level land between them and the water. The lake and its environs are both beautiful, but its waters have a somewhat melancholy aspect, as no sail or boat enlivens its surface ; it is, in fact, a second Dead Sea, for its waters are so salt that no fish or mollusk can live in them ; it is said that the human body will not sink in the lake for the same reason ; and there are on its shores large spaces covered with a thick white incrustation of salt, which the people have nothing to do but to scrape up.

Since leaving the sandy wastes around Bagdad I had seen no camels, and did not expect to see them any more, as my way lay towards the north ; but to my surprise we here met with several troops, and I found that they serve the Kurds as beasts of burden as well as the Arabs. This affords a sufficient proof that they are able to bear a cold climate, for even in the valleys the snow often

lies here several feet deep. They appeared to me stronger made than those I had before seen; their legs are thicker, and their hair closer and longer, the neck shorter and not so slender; their colour is generally darker, and I saw no quite light ones. Besides these animals, the Kurds use a kind of waggon to assist in bringing home their harvests, but they are of the coarsest and simplest construction, being in fact nothing more than slender trunks of trees fastened together, with a shorter one for the axle, and two rude wheels. They are drawn by four oxen, and have a driver for each pair, who in an odd manner sits upon the shaft with his back to his cattle.

Late in the evening, after riding sixteen hours, I arrived at Oromia in perfect safety. I had no letters to any of the missionaries, who I found lived with their families some miles in the country, and were all absent but one—Mr. Wright. He indeed received me with true Christian kindness, and once more, after many weary days, I tasted of comfort and cheerfulness. The first evening I could not help laughing when he told me how I had been announced to him. Since I knew too little of Persian to explain what I wanted, I had merely pointed to the stairs when I came in, to intimate to the servant that he should go up to his , and he immediately went with the intelligence that a woman was below who spoke no language at all; but a moment after, when I asked another for a glass of water, he rushed up stairs to correct the statement, and declare that I could speak English. Mr. Wright informed the other missionaries of my arrival, and they were so kind as to invite me to spend some days with them in the country. I accepted the invitation, however, only for a single day, as I was anxious, having already lost so much time, to go on. These gentlemen would have dissuaded me from going on alone, but they admitted that I had already passed the most perilous part of the road, and they recommended me at all events to take with me some armed peasants as an escort across the mountains of Kutschié. Mr. Wright had the kindness to provide me an honest and safe guide, and I paid him double the usual price, that he might take me to Tabrecz in four days instead of six. In order to make the guide believe that I was a poor pilgrim, I gave Mr. Wright the half of the sum I agreed for, and begged him to pay it for me, and tell the man he would get the other from Mr. Stevens, the English consul.

Of the day I spent in Oromia, I made the utmost possible use. In the morning I saw the town, and afterwards I visited with Mrs. Wright some families both of the rich and poor, in order to see something of the manner in which both classes live. The town contains 22,000 inhabitants, and is surrounded by walls, but not closed at night, so you can get in or out at any hour. It is built like most other Turkish towns, with the exception that the streets are tolerably broad and clean. Before the city lie many large fruit and flower gardens surrounded with high walls, and with pretty dwelling-houses in the middle of them. In the streets the women go very closely veiled, covering head and breast with a white cloth, and having even the places left for the eyes covered with a close impenetrable net-work.

In the houses of the poorer classes three or four families live under one roof; they have little other property than straw mats, cushions, blankets, and some cooking utensils; not to forget a large wooden chest, containing the store of flour, which is their chief treasure; for here, as in all countries where it is cultivated, corn is the chief food of the common people. Families here bake twice a day—morning and evening.

Many of the small houses have very pretty little courts, in which are grape vines, trees, and flowers, so that they have quite the appearance of gardens. The dwellings of the rich are spacious, lofty, and airy; the reception rooms with many windows, and the floors covered with carpets, on which you sit, as there are no divans. We made our visits without any previous notice, so that we found the ladies in quite simple coloured cotton dresses, made of course in the fashion of their country.

In the afternoon I rode out in company with the missionaries to their large summer house, which lies six miles from the town, upon a low hill. The valley through which we rode is very large, fertile, and beautiful, though it lies 4,000 feet above the level of the sea. Cotton, wine, tobacco, and all the fruits of Southern Germany are raised here—as well as the castor-oil plant. Many of the villages lie almost hidden in the groves of fruit trees; and I came at a fortunate time, when the magnificent peaches, apricots, apples, grapes—all the fruits of my native country, were ripe.

The house of the missionaries commands a view over all this lovely valley, as well as the lower ranges of hills and mountains.

and comforts that it seemed to me as if I were not under the roof of simple followers of Christ, and teachers of the Gospel—but in that of some wealthy private gentleman. Here were four ladies—their wives—and a whole troop of children, large and small, amongst whom I spent some most delightful hours, and greatly regretted when nine o'clock compelled me to take my leave.

A few native girls were presented to me who were instructed by the wives of the missionaries. They spoke and wrote English, and had some knowledge of geography.

I cannot help here making some remarks on the mode of life of the missionaries which I have had in the course of my travels so many opportunities of observing. In Persia, China, India, every where I found them living quite differently from what I had imagined. I had represented to myself, missionaries as half, if not whole, martyrs; and supposed them to be animated with such zeal for the conversion of the heathen, that like the Apostles of Jesus Christ, they forsook all personal indulgence—all conveniences and comforts of life—lived with the people under one roof, ate out of one dish, and so forth.

Ah! those were ideas that I got out of books; things were in reality quite different. They live quite in the manner of opulent gentlemen, have handsome houses fitted up with every convenience and luxury. The missionaries repose upon swelling divans—their wives preside at the tea-table—their children feast on sweetmeats and confectionery—in short, their position is one incomparably pleasanter and freer from care than that of most other people—and they get their salaries punctually paid, and take their duties very easily. In places where several missionaries are settled, they have what are called “meetings,” three or four times a week, supposed to be devoted to business, but which are little else than parties at which their wives and children appear in tasteful dresses. At one of the missionaries’ houses the meeting will be a breakfast, at another a dinner, at a third, a tea party; and you will see several equipages and servants standing in the court-yard. There is indeed, on this occasion, some little talk of business, and the gentlemen remain together perhaps half an hour discussing it; but the rest of the time is passed in mere social amusement.

I cannot believe that this is the proper method for gaining the affections of the people or effecting the objects of a mission. The foreign dress, the elegant mode of life, leaves the poor man at too

great a distance, and induces him rather to draw back in awe, than to approach in confidence and affection. He does not venture to look up to this grand rich gentleman, and the missionary has great difficulty in overcoming the reserve and timidity thus occasioned.

- The missionaries themselves say that they must appear in this halo of splendour in order to create respect; but I cannot but think the kind of respect they should seek would be better purchased by noble behaviour and the dignity of virtue, than by any external display.

Many of the missionaries think they do much good by travelling through the towns and villages, preaching in the language of the country, and distributing religious tracts, and they draw up the most captivating reports of the number of people that have thronged to hear them, and get their tracts, so that one might suppose that at least one-half of their audience were ready for immediate conversion to Christianity. But alas! this listening to sermons and taking tracts is no proof at all.

Would not Chinese, Indian, or Persian priests draw immense audiences to hear them if they should come in their national costume to preach in French or English? Would they not have plenty of people to receive books and pamphlets that they gave away for nothing, even though no one could read them?

In all places where I have been I have made close enquiries on the subject of the conversions made by these missionaries, and it always appeared that they were excessively rare. The few Christians in India, small scattered communities of twenty or thirty families, have arisen from fatherless children which the Missionaries have brought up, provided afterwards with employment, and kept under vigilant superintendence, that they might not fall back into the errors of heathenism.

Preaching sermons, and distributing tracts, do not make up the whole duties of a missionary. Any one who takes on himself this sacred office should be willing to live amongst and with the people, to share their toils, their joys, and their sorrows, and by a modest and exemplary course of life to gain their affections, and then communicate some simple and intelligible doctrine. It would be better too, it appears to me, that a missionary should not be married to a European woman; firstly, because European girls are seldom willing to adopt this mode of life, except for the sake of an establishment; and secondly, that a young European woman who

has children in this country generally becomes sickly, and can then no longer fulfil the duties of her station, but stands in need of change of air, or of a voyage to Europe. The children, too, grow up weakly, and require at least till their seventh year to be kept away. The father will often accompany them, and take the opportunity to spend some time in his native country ; or if this is not to be managed, the family will go to the mountains in search of a cooler climate, or they go to a *Mela*, a religious festival of India, at which thousands of people assemble, and where the missionaries often preach. On all these occasions, too, they do not travel in a humble and simple manner, but surrounded by luxurious accommodations,—with palanquins carried by men, pack horses, or camels,—with tents, beds, cooking utensils, dinner services, &c.,—with male and female attendants in suitable numbers. And who pays for all this? Often poor well-meaning believing souls in Europe and America, who perhaps deprive themselves almost of the necessities of life that the good seed may be sown in these distant regions of the earth.

Were the missionaries married to native women, few of these expenses would be requisite. There would be few sickly wives and children, and no need for voyages to Europe ; and the education of the children might be provided for in schools established in the country, though perhaps not such luxurious ones as those in Calcutta.

I trust that these remarks will not be misunderstood. I have great respect for the missionaries, whom I have known to be worthy men, and good fathers of families. I believe that there are among them also very learned men, who could furnish most valuable contributions to history, geography, and ethnology. Whether by all this they fulfil the object of their appointment, is another question. For myself, I owe these gentlemen many thanks, for they every where received me in the most friendly and hospitable manner. Their mode of life surprised me only because I had to give them the name of missionary ; for I could not help remembering the men who, with no promise of support from their country, went out into the world to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and took nothing with them but a staff.

On leaving Oromia (which, by-the-bye, I should mention was the birth-place of Zoroaster,) I rode for ten hours to the village of Kutechiá, which also lies not far from the lake though we seldom

got a glimpse of it. During the whole journey, not only from Mossul, but from Bagdad, I had had no such agreeable day as this. My guide was an excellent fellow, full of attention for me, and anxiously careful about every thing. In the village of Kutschie he led me to a very clean peasant's house, inhabited by most obliging people, who spread a beautiful carpet for me upon the terrace, brought me immediately a basin of water to wash myself, and large black mulberries for refreshment. Afterwards they served up to me nourishing soup, with meat, rich sour milk, and good bread, and moreover all in cleanly utensils. But what crowned this good treatment was, that when they had brought me my food they did not stop to stare at me, as if I had been a strange animal, but went away. After all, they actually refused to receive any compensation, and at last I only managed it in a round-about way, by taking two of the men of the family as an escort to the mountains, and giving them double the usual payment. They thanked me with really touching earnestness, and wished me all happiness and blessings for the rest of my journey.

The dangerous passage across the mountains, of ill repute, lasted three hours ; and my two armed men would have afforded me but little protection against a band of robbers ; but, at least, they rendered the journey less terrible to me, than if I had made it alone, with my old guide.

When we had ascended the mountains, we came to some vast vallies, that seemed to have been forsaken by man and forgotten by nature ; and I could not help thinking that, though our escort had left us, the dangers of the journey were not altogether over, and so it proved : for, as we were passing some ruinous huts, several fellows rushed out upon us, and, seizing the bridle of our horses, began rummaging my luggage. I expected a command to alight, and already looked upon my small package of worldly goods as lost and gone. But they spoke with my guide, who told them the fable I had arranged for such occasions, namely, that I was a poor pilgrim, and that the English consuls or missionaries everywhere paid the expenses of my journey. My dress, my insignificant baggage, my being alone, all agreed perfectly with this story ; they believed it, had compassion on my supplicating looks, and let me go on, unmolested ; nay, they even came to me, and asked whether I wanted any water, which is very scarce in these

vallies. I begged them for a draught, and so we parted excellent friends, though for some time I felt a little uneasy lest they should repent of their magnanimity.

We now approached the shores of the lake, and the oppressive feeling of fear passed away as we found ourselves again among pleasant inhabited vallies, and saw people at work in the fields, corn being carried home, cattle grazing, and so forth. During the heat of the day we remained at Dise Halil, a considerable little town, with very clean streets. The principal one is intersected by a silvery stream of water, and the courts of the houses are like gardens. There are also, outside the town, many neat gardens enclosed within high walls.

To judge from the number of the chans, this town must be much frequented by caravans, for only in the small street we passed through I counted half a dozen. We alighted at one of them, and I was quite astonished at the accommodations I found in it. The stalls for the cattle were covered in, the sleeping-places for the drivers were neat paved terraces, and the rooms for the travellers were perfectly clean, and furnished with fire-places. These chans are open to every one, and nothing whatever is to be paid for the use of them; at most, you may give a trifle to the keeper, who, in return, will attend to any little commission for you.

In this respect, the Persians, Turks, and others whom we consider as uncultivated nations, are far more liberal and magnanimous than we Europeans are. In India, for instance, when the English erect bongolos, you must pay a rupee for the privilege of spending a night in one, or even taking an hour's rest; and there is no provision for the driver or his beasts,—they may sleep in the open air as they can. In many of the bongolos no traveller is allowed to enter who is not a Christian, or, at all events, he must only remain till a humble-minded Christian comes to turn him out. Even though it should be in the middle of the night, the poor heathen is expelled without mercy.

But in the infidel countries, the first comer has the place, let him be Christian, Turk, or Arab; nay, I am convinced that if the chan were already in the occupation of these infidels, and a Christian should arrive, they would crowd them together to make room for him.

At Ali Schach, which we reached in the following afternoon, we met three travellers, who were also going to Tabreez, and my guide

agreed to journey in company with them, and that we should set off in the middle of the night; but, I must own, this addition to our party was not particularly welcome to me, for the men looked very wild, and were completely armed. I would much rather have set off at day-break, without these companions, but the guide declared they were very worthy fellows; and so, trusting, perhaps, more in my own good fortune than in his word, I mounted my horse at one o'clock, and away we went.

The feeling of apprehension with which I had set out gradually wore off, however, as we met on the road parties of two and three persons, who would not probably have been travelling in the night had there been any danger. After this we met great caravans, with several hundred camels, which blocked up the road so completely that we had often to wait half an hour to let them pass. Towards noon we reached a valley, where we came in sight of a great town, but the nearer we came to it the more ruinous and desolate it appeared. The town walls were decayed, the streets and squares full of heaps of rubbish, and many of the houses lay in ruins, as if an enemy had destroyed it, or the plague committed fearful ravages. I at length inquired the name of this melancholy place, and thought I could not have heard rightly when I was told it was Tabreez. My guide took me to the house of the English Consul, Mr. Stevens, who, to my terror, I found did not live in the town, but ten miles off in the country. A servant, however, said that he would go directly to a Dr. Casolani, who could speak English. In a very short time this gentleman arrived, and his first questions were, How came you here alone? Have you been robbed? Have your companions been murdered, and you alone escaped? When I gave him my passport, and explained how the matter stood, I think he scarcely believed me. It appeared to him absolutely incredible that a woman, without any knowledge of the languages, could have made her way alone through such countries; indeed, I felt myself that I could not be sufficiently thankful for the Divine protection that had been accorded me in such circumstances. My mood now was perfectly joyous, for it seemed that life had been bestowed on me a second time.

Dr. Casolani assigned me some rooms in Mr. Stevens's house, and told me he would immediately send a messenger to him, and in the meantime I should apply to himself for any thing I required. When I expressed to him my wonder at the deplorable condition

of this the second city in the country, he explained to me that from the side on which I had entered the town had indeed a wretched aspect, but that I had ridden through an old and mostly forsaken suburb that was not reckoned to the town at all.

TABREEZ.

Description of the Town.—The Bazaar.—Behmen Mirza.—Anecdotes of the Persian Government.—Presentation to the Viceroy and his Wife.—Behmen Mirza's Women.—Visit to a Persian Lady.—The People.—Persecution of Jews and Christians.—Departure.

TABREEZ, or Tauris, is the capital of the province of Aderbeidschan, and the residence of the heir to the throne of Persia, who bears the title of Viceroy. It lies in a treeless valley, on the rivers Platscha and Altchi, and counts 160,000 inhabitants. It is a handsomer town than Teheran or Ispahan, has many silk and leather factories, and is considered one of the chief commercial places of Asia. The streets are tolerably broad and clean, and subterranean conduits are carried along them, with openings at certain distances for drawing water. Of the houses you see from the street, as usual in an oriental city, nothing but high walls, without windows, and low entrances. The fronts are always turned towards the court-yard, which is planted with flowers and small trees, and frequently opens into a handsome garden. The reception rooms are large and lofty, and furnished with such long ranges of windows as to make perfect walls of glass. They contain, however, little or no furniture, except carpets, for European articles of luxury seldom find their way here.

Of beautiful mosques, palaces, monuments, either of ancient or modern times, there are none but the half-ruined one of Ali-Schach, which can bear no comparison with the mosques of India; but the new bazaar is very handsome, and its lofty streets and covered passages reminded me vividly of the bazaar of Constantinople, except that it looks newer and pleasanter. The goods displayed in it are, perhaps, not quite so costly; but as the stands of the merchants are larger, they are laid out with more taste, especially the carpets, fruits, and vegetables. Even the cook-shops had an inviting appearance; the eatables were excellent, and often diffused a most savoury and tempting odour. The shoe-making

department was certainly very inferior, for only articles of the commonest kind were exhibited, whilst in Constantinople you see behind glass cases the most costly shoes and slippers, embroidered with gold, and even ornamented with precious stones.

It was at a most unfavourable time in which I had come to Tabreez, for it was the month of the great fast, and from sunrise to sunset no one goes out, or receives a visit, or takes anything to eat. People do nothing whatever but pray. These fasts are observed by the Persians so strictly, that many sick people fall victims to them, as they will not even take medicine, for a single mouthful would be enough to forfeit the benefit of the fast. The more enlightened, indeed, make an exception in case of illness, but not without permission from a priest, which can only be obtained by a written declaration from the physician that such a medicine or drink is positively necessary. The priest then puts his seal on the declaration, and the indulgence is granted. Whether this practice of indulgences has been borrowed by the Mahomedans from the Christians, or that the reverse has happened, I know not. The girls begin the practice of fasting in their tenth, the boys in their fifteenth year.

To the especial courtesy of Dr. Casolani, and his great connexions, I was indebted for being introduced at court, as well as into several Persian families, notwithstanding the Fast.

The viceroyalty of the province of Aderbeidschan dates only from about six months before my arrival. It had been created by the then reigning Shah, for the eldest son of the monarch, and future heir of the empire. The last governor of Tabreez, Behmen-Mirza,* the Shah's brother, was a very honourable and intelligent man, who had brought the province, in a few years, into a most flourishing condition, and established order and security in every part of it. But this only awakened the envy of the first minister, and he urged the Shah to recall his brother. For a long time he resisted these insinuations, but the minister did not rest till he had effected his purpose. Behmen-Mirza, who understood the whole business, came immediately to court to justify himself, and then the poor Shah declared his entire love for and satisfaction with his brother, and entreated him only to try and gain the favour of the

* *Mirza*, when it stands after a name, signifies Prince; when before it, merely *Mr.* •

minister. But Behmen-Mirza learned through his friends that the hatred of the minister was implacable, and that, if he remained, he was in imminent danger of having his eyes put out, or being murdered, and he was advised to lose no time in making his escape from the country. He returned to Tabreez, therefore,—hastily got together his valuables, and took refuge, with a part of his family, on the Russian territory. There he wrote to the emperor, begging his protection, which was immediately granted, and the emperor wrote with his own hand to the Shah, declaring that the prince was now no longer a Persian subject, and that every persecution of him or his family *must* cease. He then assigned the prince an elegant palace at Tiflis, sent him costly presents, and, I was told, settled on him a yearly pension of 20,000 ducats.

This minister, Haggi-Mirza Agasi, entirely ruled over the Shah, whom he had even found means to make venerate him as a prophet or a saint, and obey without hesitation every one of his behests. On one occasion he related to the Shah how, the night before, he had been awakened in the night by feeling his body floating upwards in the air, and that he had gone higher and higher, till at length he had reached Heaven, and had had an interview with his deceased father, who had required from the minister a report of the government of his son. The deceased monarch had expressed himself extremely well satisfied with the behaviour of his son, and advised him by all means to go on as he had begun. The Shah, who had been much attached to his father, was in raptures, and then the adroit minister took occasion to suggest that, in some few particulars, his royal parent had desired alterations,—that he had wished that this or that should be done or not done,—mentioning, of course, certain schemes of his own, and forthwith it was done as he desired.

It must be added, however, that the minister does sometimes apply his power to a good purpose, and stand between the wrath of his highness and its victims; for his said highness is very passionate, and will sometimes proceed briskly to the instant execution of any one who has incurred his displeasure. The minister has therefore given orders that in such case he shall be immediately sent for, and the preparations for the execution proceeded with slowly. He then makes his appearance, *quite accidentally*,—asks what's the news; and when the angry monarch declares he is about to punish a criminal, the minister goes to the

window to observe the heavenly bodies, and commonly finds the conjunction unfavourable, so that the execution (if it should take place) might involve some damage on the illustrious head of the state himself. The order is then given to delay it till the next day, and by that time the passion of the Shah is over, or he has forgotten the whole affair.

On one occasion the minister saved a friend who was a governor of a province from strangulation, by declaring that he had adopted him as his son; and that if it should be his sovereign's pleasure to put him to death, which of course he did not oppose, he must go to Mecca to find another in his stead. The journey to Mecca lasts a year, and the king could not do without him for so long a time; and as he was not going to differ with his favourite about such a trifle as a man's life, he promised that he would let the offender remain unstrangled, and, moreover, let him keep his place. These anecdotes I had on the best authority.

My presentation at the court of the Viceroy took place a few days after my arrival. I was requested one afternoon by Dr. Casolani to accompany him to a summer-house lying in a small garden, and this again in another, both surrounded by high walls. In the first, besides grass, fruit-trees, and dusty roads, there were many tents occupied by soldiers, who wore the ordinary Persian dress, with the difference that the officers had a sword girded on, and the common men carried a musket on their shoulders. It seems they only appear in full uniform on rare occasions, having the same objection to it that our military men often have.

At the entrance of the small garden we were received by several eunuchs, who led us into an unpretending one-storied house that lay at the end of a parterre of flowers. Certainly, from its appearance, I should never have guessed it to be the residence of an heir to the Persian throne, yet so it proved. In the narrow entrance were two flights of stairs, one of which led to the reception-rooms of the Viceroy, the other to the apartments of his Queen; and Dr. Casolani was led up the first, while some female slaves attended me to the latter. At the top of the stairs I pulled off my shoes, and entered a pleasant little room, the side walls of which were entirely composed of lofty windows. The Vice-queen, a young lady of fifteen, was seated in a simple arm-chair, and one of the same kind was placed opposite to her for me, whilst not far from the princess stood a matron whom I took for the duenna of the harem.

I was so fortunate as to meet with a particularly favourable reception, for Dr. Casolani had not only introduced me as an authoress, but mentioned that I was going to publish an account of my travels. The princess inquired whether I would mention her; and as I replied in the affirmative, she determined to show herself to me in all her finery—she said, to give me an idea of the rich costume of her native country.

The youthful princess wore trowsers of silk so rich and heavy, and made so full, that they seemed as if they could have stood quite alone. I am told they are often not less than twenty or five-and-twenty ells in width. Over these was worn a jacket fitting closely to the figure, and elaborately and tastefully embroidered in gold. Under this was a chemise of white silk; on her head a white crape handkerchief, worked in coloured silk and gold, falling down on the shoulders, and fastened under the chin; and the whole dress, as well as the arms and hands, was richly ornamented with jewels of great size and beauty, but which lost much of their effect from being merely strung on a gold wire, instead of being properly set. The wearer could not be called positively handsome, but she had large fine eyes, a pretty figure,—and only fifteen years. Her face was painted red and white, and she had the usual blue stripe over eyebrows and eyelashes, which to me did not appear at all a beautifier.

Our conversation was carried on in dumb show, for Dr. Casolani, who speaks Persian very well, was not admitted to-day, as the princess was in gala dress and unveiled. I found some amusement in looking at the prospect from the windows, which commanded a fine view of the town; and here first I perceived how extensive it is, and how many gardens it possesses. They are, it is true, its only decoration, for it has no fine buildings to show, and the valley in which it lies, as well as the surrounding mountains, is naked, treeless, and destitute of any attraction. I expressed to the Vice-queen my surprise at the extent of the town, and the beauty of its gardens, and she seemed much pleased. Towards the end of my audience fruits and sweetmeats were brought upon large plates, but for me only, on account of the fast.

I was afterwards taken to be presented to the Viceroy, who was only two years older than his Queen; and to the name of authoress, which the Doctor had bestowed on me, I was again indebted for the honour of an arm-chair. The largest of these saloons was

wainscotted, and had looking-glasses in gilt frames and several paintings of heads and flowers. In the midst of this apartment stood—two great empty bedsteads! The prince was dressed in the European style, with a blue coat,—the collar, cuffs, and edges richly embroidered in gold,—and white silk stockings and gloves; but on his head he wore the Persian fur cap, very nearly a yard in height. This, I was told, was not his common costume; but it would be difficult to say what that is, as he changes his fashions oftener than his wife, and appears sometimes in the Persian costume, and sometimes entirely enveloped in Cashmere shawls. I should have taken his highness for several years older than he really was, for his complexion had a pale, yellowish, sickly cast, and his glance is not open; on the contrary, he seems never to look any one in the face, and from the whole expression of his physiognomy I could not help pitying all who should be subject to his authority.

He put several questions to me, which were interpreted by Dr. Casolani, who stood a few paces off; but none of them shewed any intelligence, they were merely common-places about my travels. The Viceroy can read and write only his mother tongue, but he takes some European papers and periodicals, from which his interpreters have to make extracts. At the accounts of the recent revolutions in Europe, he is said to have declared that the European sovereigns must be good, but extraordinarily stupid, to allow themselves to be driven so easily from their thrones. If they had set to work vigorously, strangling and beheading, things would have turned out better. In the application of these remedies he is said to be far more energetic than his father, and unfortunately he has not even the advantage of a minister of the character of Haggi Mirza to control him. His government is quite that of a child. He orders a thing one minute, and countermands it the next. But what can be expected from a boy who has had very little education, who has been married at seventeen, and placed as the unlimited ruler of a large province, with an income of a million of tomans, and to whom every means and temptation to sensual indulgence is at command.

The prince has at present only one lawful wife, though he is entitled to four; but he finds no deficiency of fair friends, who supply their places. In Persia it is the custom, if the king or the heir to the throne hears of any of his subjects having a beautiful

daughter or sister, for him to desire the girl to be sent to him; and the parents and relations are delighted at the honour, for even if the royal lover grows tired of her after a little while, she is provided for, as he makes a present of her to his minister or some other rich man; but should she have a child, she is regarded as a lawful wife, and remains at court. On the other hand, it sometimes happens that when the damsel is presented she does not find favour in the eyes of the monarch, but is sent back again,—a terrible misfortune, for her reputation for beauty is damaged, and her market injured accordingly.

The Vice-queen, young as she is, is already a mother, but unfortunately only of a girl, and if any other wife should produce a boy she will take her place, become Vice-queen in her stead, and be honoured as the mother of the heir to the throne. One consequence of this custom is, that the poor infants are continually exposed to be poisoned or murdered in some way, for the envy of all the childless women is immediately awakened towards a mother, more especially if her child is a boy. When the princess followed her husband to Tabreez, she left her infant daughter to the care of its grandfather the Shah, in order to secure it from her rivals. When the wives of the prince go out, not only are they closely veiled and surrounded by eunuchs, but several others hasten onward and announce their coming, when all men must leave the street through which they are to pass, and fly into the houses or bye lanes.

When the wives of Behmen Mirza, who had been left behind, heard from Dr. Casolani of my intention of going to Tafilis, they begged me to come to them; and as their husband had not been among the most fanatical on this point, Dr. Casolani, as his friend and physician, was allowed to accompany me, and remain in the room, though the ladies wrapped themselves up very much in consequence.

Most of these women looked much older than they really were; one who was only two-and-twenty looked at least thirty. They presented to me the latest addition to the harem,—a plump, brown, little beauty of sixteen; and they seemed to treat their new rival with great good nature, and told me how much trouble they had been taking to teach her Persian.

Among the children there was a beautiful little creature of six years old, whose face was not yet disfigured by white and red

paint. I perceived on this occasion, what I had before been told, that the Persian costume is not particularly modest; for at every rather quick movement the jacket flies back, and the silk chemise is displaced, so that the whole form down to the waist is displayed. I noticed this also with the female attendants when they were preparing the tea, or performing any other service. Some part of the dress was every moment opening.

Another more interesting visit that I paid was to Haggi-Chefa-Hanoom, one of the most distinguished and cultivated women in the city. At the very entrance into the house there were signs of the presence of a superior spirit in its greater cleanliness and taste. My visit had been expected, and I found quite a large party of women and girls drawn together by curiosity to see a European woman. Many of them were very handsome, though, like the Vice-queen, they had too high cheek bones. The greatest beauty of the Persian women is their eyes.

As compared with the women in most Oriental houses, I was told this might be considered as quite an educated and refined society; and I conversed with the lady of the house, in the French language, through the medium of her son, a lad of eighteen, who had received what was thought a liberal education in Constantinople; and even the girls, Dr. Casolani assured me, could all read and write. In this respect the Persians are greatly in advance of the Turks.

The mistress, her son, and myself, were seated upon chairs, the rest crouched upon the carpet. But here, for the first time in a Persian house, I saw a table. It was covered with a beautiful cloth, and loaded with fruits, sweetmeats, and sherbet, the latter prepared by the lady herself. The peaches and melons were so magnificent as to shew that Persia is their native country. The latter were, if possible, sweeter than sugar itself, and fit to eat almost to the outermost skin.

Before I leave Tabreez I must say a few words about the common people. Their colour is browner than can, I think, be accounted for by the mere effect of the sun, though among the higher classes the white skin is common with both sexes. They have black eyes and hair, and features strongly marked, especially the nose, and with a somewhat fierce aspect. The women of the poorer classes do not seem to be severely treated; I saw very

few at work in the fields, and I observed that in the towns all the hard work is done by men.

In Tabreez, as in Persia in general, the Sunnite Mahomedans, the Christians, and the Jews, are equally hated. Only three months before my visit, the two latter had been exposed to great danger. A tumultuous mob assembled, and traversing the quarter of the town where they live, plundered and destroyed the houses, threatened the inhabitants with death, and in some instances fulfilled the threat. Fortunately the governor was informed of these terrible scenes, and, being a bold determined man, rushed out at once into the thickest of the mob, and with a brief energetic speech induced them to disperse.

From the intelligence which I received while I was at Tabreez, I had at first very little hope that I should be allowed to continue my journey, as I had intended, across Natchivan and Erivan, to Tiflis; for since the late political occurrences in Europe, the Russian government has excluded strangers from its territory as jealously as the Chinese could do. Mr. Stevens promised, nevertheless, that he would use his influence with the Russian consul; and to this powerful intercession, as well as to my sex and age, I owed the consent to make an exception in my favour. I received from the Consul also several good letters of introduction to Erivan, Natchivan, and Tiflis. I was advised to take post horses and a servant as far as Natchivan (155 wersts); and several gentlemen, whose acquaintance I had made in Tabreez, accompanied me the first few miles. Before we parted we took a luncheon together on the banks of a beautiful rivulet, and then I went on my way in good heart, for now I thought I was entering a Christian country, beneath the sceptre of a civilized, European, law and order loving monarch.

ASIATIC RUSSIA.—ARMENIA, GEORGIA, AND MINGRELIA.

Sophia Marand.—The Russian Frontier.—Natchivan.—Caravan Journey.—A night in Prison.—Continuation of the Journey.—Erivan.—The Russian Post.—The Tartars.—Arrival in Tiflis.—Residence there.—Kutais Marand.—Voyage on the Rione.—Redout-Kale.

THE stations between Tabreez and Natchivan are very unequal; but one of the longest is the first, to a village called Sophia, for

which we took six hours. The road led mostly through barren and uncultivated vallies.

Since it was three o'clock when we arrived the people did not wish to let me go on further. They pointed to the sun, to signify that it was late, and performed a good deal of expressive pantomime to intimate that I should be plundered and probably murdered. But representations of this kind never have much effect on me; and after I had, with much trouble, made out that it was only four hours journey to the next station, I ordered my servant, to his great vexation, to saddle fresh horses for the continuation of our journey. Immediately on leaving Sophia we entered a narrow wild valley, which my guide declared to be very dangerous; and perhaps it might not have been quite safe to go through it in the night, but just now the sun was shining in full splendour, and I urged on my horse, and enjoyed the sight of the magnificent colouring and grouping of the rocks. Many gleamed with a pale grass green, others were covered with a semi-transparent white substance, and many terminated in crags and peaks of such wildly fantastic forms that they looked at a distance like groups of stately trees. There was so much to see, in short, that I had no time to think of fear.

About half way to Marand we came to a pretty village, and after this again had to climb a steep mountain, from whose summit I obtained such a glimpse into a grand mountain world, as kept me long rivetted to the spot. We did not reach Marand till eight o'clock, but we brought in our luggage, to say nothing of our necks, perfectly safe and sound.

This is the last Persian town that I saw, and it is an extremely pleasant and pretty place. It has broad clean streets, houses and gardens well kept, and several little squares with springs encircled by trees. I cannot bestow quite such unqualified praise on my quarters, for I had to pass the night in the court-yard with the post horses; and my evening meal consisted only of roasted eggs, burnt, and quite spoiled with excessive salting. To-day we had but one stage, to Arax the Russian frontier town, but it was a stage of eleven hours long. We followed the course of a brook that wound through valley and ravine. No village met our eyes, and, except some little mills and the ruins of a mosque, I saw no building more in the Persian dominions. It is a country which, from the scarcity of water, is very thinly populated.

the world has fewer rivers or more mountains, and for that reason the air is very dry and hot.

The valley in which Arax lies is large, and very picturesque from the remarkable form of the rocks. Far in the background rise lofty mountains, amongst which is the Ararat, towering to a height of 16,000 feet; and in the valley itself walls and towers and peaks, of which the chief is the so-called Serpent Mountain. Near its foot flows the river Aras or Araxes, separating Armenia from Media, and forming the limit between the Persian and Russian frontiers. We crossed the river in a boat, and on the opposite bank we were detained to prove that we were not robbers or murderers, or, what is worse, politically *dangerous* persons. Besides this, if it is supposed that the plague or the cholera is to be found anywhere in Persia, you have to be shut up to perform quarantine.

I had scarcely set my foot upon Russian ground before the shameful begging for *drink money* began. A fellow was sent to me by the officer at the station to ask my wishes (the letter from the Consul procured me this civility); and though he had pretended he spoke German, he knew in reality as much of it as I of Chinese,—at the utmost three or four words. I consequently had to decline his services, but he nevertheless stretched out his hand for money all the same.

Natchivan lies in a large valley among the mountains of the Ararat, which, though not unfertile, is, like most of the country, very bare of trees. In no place in the world have I ever had so much trouble to find a shelter. I had brought with me two letters, one to a German physician, and the other to the governor; but I did not wish to present myself to the latter in my travelling dress (for I was now in a civilised country, where of course people are judged of by their clothes), and therefore, as there was no such thing as a hotel, I thought I would beg the hospitality of the doctor.

His address had been written for me in the language of the country, and I thought it would be easy to find him; but every one I showed it to, shook his head, and bade me inquire further. By this time we had reached the custom-house, and my trifling luggage had to be examined by the inspector, who ordered me into a room, whither to my surprise, for I supposed it to be out of civility, the inspector's wife and sister accompanied me. I

soon found, however, that the ladies had another motive than civility. They sent for chairs, seated themselves before my trunk, and I had scarcely opened it before six hands were rummaging in it,—those of the two ladies and the inspector. About a dozen folded papers, containing coins, dried flowers, and other articles from Babylon and Nineveh, were immediately snatched up and scattered about. Every cap, every ribbon, was pulled out; and it was very evident that it cost the lady inspectress a struggle to let the ribbons again out of her grasp. I really thought that now, for the first time, I was in the hands of savages.

When the trunk had been sufficiently scrutinised, the turn came for a small box, which contained my greatest treasure, a head in relief that I had brought from Nineveh. The inspector snatched up a hatchet in order to break open the lid, but that was more than I could bear. I flung myself upon it, and just at that moment came in a third woman, who proved to be a German. I explained to her that I had no intention of refusing to open it; but that it must be cautiously done with proper tools; but, behold, at the custom-house, where daily similar cases occur, there were no tools for the purpose but the hatchet; and the utmost I could obtain was, that they should break the cover as carefully as possible into three pieces. Notwithstanding my anger, I could not help laughing at the foolish faces of the inspector and the two ladies when they saw that the box contained nothing but some fragments of brick, and a rather damaged head. They could not at all understand how any one could be at the trouble of carrying such things.

My countrywoman, Mrs. Henriette Alexandwer, invited me to take a cup of coffee with her, and when she heard of my embarrassment with respect to a lodging, politely invited me to take up my abode with her. But on the following day, when I paid my visit to the Governor, he overwhelmed me with attention, and insisted on my moving to his house. He put my passport in order, provided it with the due amount of *visés*, of which it seemed, short as was the time which I had yet spent in this civilised dominion,—half a dozen at least were required,—and then arranged for my further progress with a Tatar, whose caravan was going to Tiflis.

I viewed the half-decayed little town, and what is called the tomb of Noah, in company with Mrs. Alexandwer. As the

to Persian report, this Natchivan was once one of the largest and handsomest towns of Armenia, and its founder, moreover, was no less remarkable a person than Noah. It is built mostly in the oriental style, but here and there are houses with their windows turned towards the street. The costumes also present the same mixture of styles; for the people wear the Persian dress, while the authorities are dressed as Europeans. Noah's tomb is merely a small vaulted chamber, without a cupola. It seems as if there had once been one; but there are so few ruins lying round, that it is impossible to tell with certainty. In the interior is neither a sarcophagus, nor any other appearance of a grave, nothing but a stone column in the middle which supports the roof. The whole is surrounded with a low wall, and many pilgrims, both Christian and Mahomedan, come here. They seem all to have a singular superstition connected with it, namely, that if they press a pebble on the wall, and think of something at the time, or form a wish, the wish will be fulfilled, or the thought prove true, if the pebble remains sticking where they placed it, which sometimes happens, as the cement is mostly damp.

Not far from this tomb is another very handsome monument, though I could not make out of whom, which is covered inside with mathematical figures, and has two half decayed towers like minarets at the entrance.

When the evening came, on which I was to set off again, I was excessively unwell. For several days I had not been able to eat anything, and I was now lying on a sofa, extremely weak; but I got up when the time came, and managed to mount my horse, as I thought perhaps change of air might be the best restorative.

The caravan was carrying only goods, and the guides were Tatars. The distance to Tiflis is two hundred and fifty miles, which would take, I was told, twelve or fourteen days; but to judge by the rate at which we commenced our journey, it seemed likely to last six weeks; for in the first night we went only three miles, and in the second little more than twelve. I could have walked on foot faster.

The next day it was almost worse. The whole day long we lay on a stubble field, exposed to the burning rays of the sun. It was not till the evening at eight o'clock that we started, and then halted again at one. The only good thing about the caravan was that it was better than before, for the Tatars do not live

so frugally as the Arabs. Every evening a magnificent pilau was prepared, which was enriched with plums or dried raisins; and almost every day splendid water-melons were brought us for sale, and a nice piece was always offered to me as a present.

- The road led along the foot of Mount Ararat, through large fertile vallies. The mighty mountain rose so clear and vast in its proportions that it appeared not more than eight or ten miles off; and from its superior size it seems to stand alone, though it is, in fact, connected with the Taurus by ranges of hills. Its highest summit is cleft, so that between the two peaks there is a small plot or hollow space; and here it was, according to tradition, that the ark rested; indeed, there are many people here who maintain that if the snow were scraped away, it would be found there still; and below, where now stands the convent of Arakilvank, is the very spot where Noah built his first house.

After several days travelling we still remained in the neighbourhood of Ararat, passing, however, several Russian and German colonies, but along a very rugged and stony road. Near Sidin a very disagreeable adventure befel me. The caravan had encamped close to the high road, and about eight o'clock in the evening I trotted out upon it for a walk, and was just about to return when I heard the sound of the bells of post horses. I stood still to hear who the travellers were, and soon saw a Cossack with a musket, and a gentleman seated beside him on an open car. As soon as they had passed, to my great surprize, the car suddenly drew up, and almost at the same moment I felt myself seized by two powerful arms. It was the Cossack who was dragging me to the car. I struggled to get loose; pointed with my free hand to the caravan, and screamed that I belonged to it. But the fellow immediately placed one hand over my mouth, and flung me upon the car, where the *gentleman* held me fast. The Cossack then sprung up, and the driver received the order to go on as fast as the horses could gallop. This all passed so quickly that I scarcely knew what had happened. The men, however, held me with a strong grasp, and my mouth was not uncovered till we were so far from the caravan that my cries could not be heard.

- I did not, fortunately, feel much afraid, for it immediately occurred to me that these two amiable Russians must, in their zeal, have taken me for some dangerous person, and imagined that

had made an important capture. As soon as they allowed me to speak, they commenced a long list of questions, concerning my name, country, and so forth; and I understood Russian enough to answer them, but they were not satisfied, and required to see my passport. I told them to send for my trunk, and I should then be able to give them full satisfaction; but when we came to the post-house, they placed me in a room as a prisoner, and the Cossack mounted guard over me with his musket on his shoulder, keeping his eye constantly upon me. The gentleman also, whom by his green velvet collar and cuffs, I took for an imperial officer, remained some time in the room. In half an hour, the post-master, or whatever he might be, came to take a view of me, and hear the heroic exploit of my capture narrated.

I had to pass the night, under strict superintendence, on the wooden bench, without either blanket or cloak to cover me, and without food or drink; and if I only attempted to rise up from the bench, and walk a little up and down the room, the Cossack ordered me back, and desired me to remain quiet.

Towards morning my effects were brought. I showed my papers, and was set at liberty; but instead of making any apology my captors laughed in my face, and when I came out into the courtyard all the people pointed their fingers at me, and joined in chorus.

Oh you good Arabs, Turks, Persians, Hindoos! How safely did I pass through your heathen and infidel countries; and here, in Christian Russia, how much have I had to suffer in this short space.

By the time I reached Erivan I had fully made up my mind to leave the caravan with the first opportunity, for it never travelled more than four hours a day; and I thought, as I had some letters to the town physician (a Dr. Muller) and to the governor, I might be able by their assistance to find means of getting rather more quickly to Tiflis, and I was not disappointed.

Erivan, which lies on the river Zenqui, is the capital of Armenia or Trans-Caucasia, and, according to tradition, was of all the earth the spot first peopled after the deluge. It lies in a large plain encircled by mountains, as well as by some fortifications. Here begins the completely European style of building, but the town is neither handsome nor clean. The bazaar I found very amusing, not that the goods I saw there were handsome but that there

were so many costumes of nations to me entirely unknown, Circassians, Georgians, Mingrelians, Turcomans, &c.,—and the wearers were fine handsome looking men, with noble expressive features. The costume of the Tatars was extremely like that of the common Persians, except that they wore lower caps, and had pointed toes to their boots, often as much as four inches long. Of the female sex of all these races little is to be seen in the street, as they are much wrapped up, but at least they do not veil their faces. The Russians and Cossacks have coarse Calmuck features, and their behaviour shows that their features do them no injustice. I have nowhere else met with people so rude, covetous, and servile in disposition.

I was strongly advised not to travel with the Russian post, since, as a solitary woman, I should have infinite trouble with the noble-minded official personages whom I should have to deal with; but I was resolved nevertheless to take my chance, and begged Dr. Muller to see to whatever was necessary for me.

In order to obtain permission to travel in this pleasant Russian empire, I found it was necessary to take no less than six walks,—first to the treasurer, then to the police, then to the commandant, then again to the police, then again to the treasurer, and lastly, once more to the police.

In the *paddroshne* (permit) that you receive, it must be exactly stated how many miles you mean to travel, and the postmaster must not allow you to go a single werst further. For every horse you must pay half a copek the werst, which seems at first little enough, but when you consider that a werst is only half a mile, and that you always travel with three horses, it amounts at last to a considerable tax.

It had been arranged that the horses were to be at the door at four in the morning, but the clock struck six, and nothing was to be seen of them. Dr. Muller was so good as to go himself to look after them, and so at last I started at seven, a pleasant foretaste of the punctuality I was to expect. We drove fast enough, but whoever has not a well-stuffed spring carriage, or a body of cast iron, would prefer often on these rough roads to go a little more gently.

The post-chaise, for which you pay ten copeks a station, is nothing more than a very short uncovered wooden car on four wheels; and instead of a seat some hay is put in the bottom, and a

small box, on which the postilion sits. Of course these machines jolt horribly; and the bells, hung to a wooden arch over the neck of the middle horse (they are harnessed three abreast), keep up a constant abominable jingling. These with the creaking of the car, the screaming of the driver to his horses, make so much noise that when, as has sometimes happened, the traveller has been flung out on the road by the violent motion of the car, the driver has gone on, and never missed him till he arrived at the station.

Between the second and third stage of my journey, I came to a short tract, on which I found a kind of lava which perfectly resembled the fine shining glassy lava of Iceland called obsidian, which, it has been supposed, could be found nowhere else.

August 27th.—To-day, I had again some experience of the pleasures of travelling in Russia. I had in the evening ordered and paid for everything that I should want on the following morning, yet when the morning came I had to go myself to awaken the postmaster, to find the driver, and, in short, run about after every one of the people wanted. At the third stage, I had to wait four hours for the horses, and at the fourth they would give me none at all, and I was obliged to stop the night, although in the whole previous day I had gone only twenty-seven miles.

August 28th.—Perpetual torment with the post people. I am in general a great enemy to harshness and severity; but to these fellows I really would rather have spoken with the stick; their rudeness, stupidity, and want of feeling really exceed belief. You find officers and men lying asleep and drunk at every hour of the day, and if you succeed in raising them they will perhaps only laugh in your face, instead of helping you. It is not till after endless scolding and disputing that you can induce one to get out a car, another to grease the wheels, and a third to feed the horse, which besides often has to be shod; then, perhaps, the harness is not in order, and has to be patched and mended, and over all these operations as much time is lost as possible. When I expressed in the cities my surprize at the miserably defective arrangements of these post stations, I was told it was because these countries had been so short a time under the Imperial sceptre,—because the Imperial city was so far off,—and, moreover, as a single woman travelling without a servant, I might think myself well off to have been served no worse.

I could only answer that in countries belonging to the English,

which lay much further away from their capital than these did from St. Petersburg, I had found the arrangements excellent, and that there it was supposed that a woman who paid for attendance had as much claim to it as a man, or even an official gentleman.

Now, in Russia, the moment an official personage of any sort makes his appearance every one flies at his bidding, and all vie with one another who shall most humbly bow before him; for this is the privileged caste; and though, according to law, those who are not travelling on official business have no rights beyond those of other travellers, they who should be the first to show an example of respect for the law, pay not the smallest attention to it. They send a servant, perhaps to mention that on this or that day they will require ten or twelve horses; should anything induce them to delay their journey,—a dinner, a hunting-party, or a headache of the lady,—they simply put off the journey for a day or two, and desire the horses to be kept till they are wanted; and, in the meantime, any private travellers arriving at the station must await their pleasure. It may easily happen, therefore, with all these hindrances, that though the Russian rate of travelling is very rapid when you do get into motion, you do not, on the whole, get on faster than in a caravan. Many a time, in the course of my journey through Russia, I have not been able to do more than a single stage in a whole long day; and every time I saw a uniform it threw me into a fright, lest I should not be able to get any horses.

Waiting at the post stations is of course extremely disagreeable. There is a room for you to wait in, and a Cossack and his wife, who are supposed to wait upon you; but it is often hard to get for your money either civil treatment or food,—eggs, milk, or whatever it may be that you require. With all its dangers I greatly prefer travelling in Persia.

Among the interesting incidents of this part of my travels I must count the meeting several migrating hordes of Tatars. They were seated on oxen and horses, and had their tents and household utensils packed up; the cows and sheep, of which there were always great numbers, were driven near them. The dresses of the Tatar women were often rich, though ragged,—crimson silk, sometimes embroidered in gold, wide trousers, a long caftan, with a short one over it, and on their heads something that looked like a bee-hive, and which is made from the bark of a tree, but covered

with red silk, and ornamented with corals, coins, and metal plates; and their dresses also, down to the waist, exhibit a profusion of buttons, bells, rings, and amulets. They had large shawls wrapped round them, but their faces were uncovered. Amongst their household goods I saw handsome carpets, vessels of copper, iron kettles, and so forth.

The villages of the settled Tatars have a most singular appearance; they lie mostly on the declivities of hills, in which chambers are hollowed out, with no other light than from the entrance; and this is protected by projecting eaves of planks supported on trunks of trees. You see neither walls, windows, nor doors, nothing in fact but these penthouse roofs. Those who have their abode in plains build huts of stone or wood, and cover them over with earth, so that they look like large molehills.

August 29th.—To-day I had a variety in my Russian travelling pleasures. It had been raining all night, and rained still, and the wheels of the car flung up such a mass of mud, that I sat in a thick puddle, and found my head and even my face crusted over. Some small boards fastened above the wheels would easily have prevented this annoyance; but who in this country troubles himself about the comfort of a private traveller?

We came in sight of Tiflis during the latter half of this day, and I was much struck by its European aspect, as I had seen no city in this style since Valparaiso. It is the capital of Georgia, and counts about 50,000 inhabitants. Many of the houses are built on hills, or even on high steep rocks, and from these you get a magnificent prospect over city and valley. The latter, however, had not, at the time of my arrival, a very attractive appearance, as the harvest had robbed it of all colour, and it is not rich in gardens and groves; but the river Kurry (mostly called Cyrus) meanders beautifully through it, and far in the distance glitter the snow crowned peaks of the Caucasus.

In the interior of the city, the old houses are everywhere being pulled down to make way for new; and the Greek and Armenian houses will soon be the only memorials of the oriental style of building. The churches are far behind the other edifices in size and grandeur; the towers are low, and mostly covered with green glazed tiles. The oldest Christian church stands on a rock within the fortress, at the entrance of the town, and it is only used as a prison. The town possesses many warm sulphureous springs,

which is partly indicated by its name, since *Tiflis* or *Ibilissi* signify *warm town*; but of the numerous baths there are scarcely any that are not in a bad condition. The buildings containing the springs are small domes covered with windows, and the basins, floors, and walls are of stone. Marble is very scarce.

Not far from the baths you find the Botanic Garden, which has been formed, at great expense, on the side of a mountain on a series of terraces which have to be supported by masonry.

Why a place so unsuitable has been chosen I could not make out, especially as there are few rare plants, and indeed little else than vines. The most remarkable things in the garden were two vines, one of which has a stem a foot in diameter; they are carried to an immense distance, and walks and arbours formed out of them. From these two only, more than eighty dozens of wine are obtained every year. On one of the uppermost terraces of this garden a very spacious lofty grotto has been cut in the rock, in which, in the summer evenings, there is music and dancing, and even sometimes dramatic performances. On Sundays and holidays the governor's garden is opened to the public, and there you find swings and running at the ring, and two bands of music; but the performance of these Russian musicians I found still more intolerable than that of the blacks in Rio de Janeiro.

I entered an Armenian church, and there saw the dead body of a young man, lying in a rich open coffin, lined with crimson velvet, and trimmed with gold lace. The body was adorned with a sort of crown, scattered over with flowers, and covered with fine white gauze, and priests in magnificent robes were performing the ceremony, which was very like that of the Catholics.

The poor mother, at whose side I accidentally knelt down, sobbed aloud, as they prepared to carry away the dear remains, and I too could not refrain from shedding tears, not for the death of the youth, but for the deep sorrow of the afflicted mother.

Leaving this place of mourning I went to visit some Greek and Armenian families. The ladies were in simple Greek dresses, and the rooms, though spacious, were almost destitute of furniture. There were only painted wooden chests running along the walls, and partly covered with carpets; on these they sit, eat, and sleep. In the streets the mixture of European and Asiatic costumes is so common that neither the one nor the other attract the least attention. The newest to me was that of the Circassians.

It consists of wide trousers, and over this a very full garment fastened by a girdle, worn by the wealthy of dark blue cloth, trimmed with gold or silver lace, and in the breast pockets of these are carried from six to ten cartridges. The Circassians are, as is well known, celebrated for beauty, though I have myself seen far more striking beauties among the Persians.

I have not much to tell concerning the domestic life of the Russian government officers here, for though I had letters to two of them it did not appear to me that I found favour in the sight of either of these gentlemen ; probably on account of my expressions concerning the last regulation of the post-stations, the wretched roads, and my own capture and imprisonment, which I told with the addition of a few marginal notes. What was worse, I said, it had been my intention to cross the Caucasus, and go by Moscow to St. Petersburg, but after what I had seen of the Russian dominions I should certainly take the shortest way, and get out of them as soon as possible.

Probably, had I been a man speaking thus, I should have paid for my boldness with a short excursion to Siberia. As it was, they only teased me about my passport, for which I had to apply again and again, and at last did not get it, till the sixth day ; and yet, I had letters to the chief officers. How the poor travellers get on who do not enjoy this advantage I know not.

One of my most agreeable visits was that to the Persian prince Behmen-Mirza, to whom I had letters and news of the family he had left behind him at Tebris ; although he was very ill at the time, and received me in a great hall which looked like an hospital, for there, on carpets and cushions, lay *eight* sick people—the prince, four of his children, and three of his wives—who were all ill of fever.

The prince is a remarkably handsome, powerful looking man of about five and thirty, and his open eye is full of intelligence and goodness. He spoke with deep melancholy of his country, and a mournful smile played over his features as I mentioned his lovely children (it would have been contrary to Mussulman etiquette to have mentioned the wives), and told how well and safely I had travelled through the provinces which had been under his government. How fortunate would it be for Persia if this man should come to the throne instead of the young Viceroy.

The most interesting, and at the same time most useful,

acquaintance that I made was that of a countryman of my own, a Mr. Salzmann, of whom every one speaks with the highest honour. He has a beautiful house, fitted up with every possible convenience, where he receives travellers, especially his own country people, with the most hospitable kindness; and he has also, five miles from the town, a large fruit garden, near which are some naptha springs that I went to see. The naptha is drawn in wooden tubs out of a deep square pit, but it is of the commonest kind, of a dark brown colour, and thicker than oil. From this is made asphalt, cart grease, and so forth; but the fine white naptha, which can be used for light and fire, is got from the neighbourhood of the Caspian Sea.

Mr. Salzmann offered to accompany me on an excursion to the German colonies which lie around Tiflis, but from the accounts I had heard of the sad degeneracy of the Germans who have emigrated to Russia—of their idleness, drunkenness, uncleanness, and dishonesty—I felt little wish to visit them.

On leaving Tiflis, I noticed just outside the town a pedestal of polished granite, surrounded by an iron railing, and on which stands a metal cross with an “Eye of God,” and an inscription, stating that on the 12th of October 1837, his Imperial Majesty was here upset, but that he had escaped unhurt, and that this monument was placed there by his most grateful subjects. It is to be recollected, that this monument could not have been placed there without the express permission of the illustrious personage himself.

I made this day but one stage, but it was so long a one that it took me till the evening, and going on was out of the question, as it is not safe to travel in the night without an escort of Cossacks, of which there is for this purpose a small division kept at each station. The country was not unpicturesque; there were pleasant valleys and hills, on whose summits stood ruins of castles and fortresses; for here, as in the German empire, there was a time when every noble might make war upon the other, and lived in a strong dwelling within which his vassals could take refuge in case of hostile attack. It is said there are still people who wear shirts of mail and iron helmets, but I never saw any of them.

As we went on to the small town of Gory the scenery became more wildly romantic, hill and valley was covered with wood, and in the town itself an eminence crowned with a citadel rises abruptly from the surrounding plain.

weather the Caucasus, which like a triple chain is drawn across between the Black Sea and the Caspian as the limit between Europe and Asia, is constantly in sight. Their highest points, from the recent estimates, are 16,800 and 14,400 feet. They were now covered far down with snow.

September 7th.—To-day I made but one stage, as far as Suram. They could not allow me to go on further, as an officer, with his lady and her companion, &c. were returning from a bathing place, and would require twelve horses. In order to drive away my ill-humour a little I took a walk to an old castle that lay mostly in ruins, but where you could still see, from the numerous walls and spacious vaulted apartments, that the knights who had their abode there must have lived in rather grand style. On my return home through the fields I was much struck by the teams used for ploughing. The ground was a beautiful plain, and almost without a stone, and yet there were twelve or fourteen oxen harnessed to a plough.

September 8th.—The mountains are now drawing closer together, and nature is becoming more and more luxuriant. All sorts of parasite plants,—wild hops, wild vines, twining from tree to tree,—enwreath them to their highest summits, while the under-wood grows so thick and rich that I am reminded of the forests of Brazil. The third stage led mostly along the banks of the river Mirabka, and the road between the river and the rocky wall is often so narrow that there is not room for a second carriage, and we had repeatedly to wait for ten or twenty minutes for the cars laden with wood to pass ; and that is called a post-road !

Georgia has been now fifty years under the Russian rule, and it is not till quite lately that there have been any roads made at all, or rather begun. Perhaps in another fifty years they may be finished; or, what is more likely, fallen again into decay. Another want, besides that of roads, is of bridges. The deep rivers are crossed in wretched boats, and the shallower you must walk through how you can. In rainy seasons, or after a thaw, when the snow has melted on the mountains, a traveller may have to wait for many days, or cross at the utmost hazard of his life. What a vast interval between the colonisation of Russia and of England !

Late in the evening, wet through, and covered with mud, I arrived at the station, which lies about a mile from Kufais ; for,

among other inconveniences, it is to be mentioned that the post stations usually lie one or two wersts from the towns and villages, so that you cannot easily provide yourself from them with anything you may require.

Kutais has about 18,000 inhabitants, and lies in a natural park; all round it is verdure and luxuriant foliage. The houses are neat and pretty, and the green painted church steeples and barracks have a pleasant effect. The costumes of the people are just as various here as about Tiflis. What struck me most was the comical hats of the Mingrelian peasants, which are large, round, flat pieces of felt, tied with a string under the chin.

I had now only two stages to go to the village of Marand, on the river Ribon or Rione, for there you exchange the post car for a boat, which carries you to Redout-Kalé, on the Black Sea.

The first part of the way lay through beautiful woods; the second commands a free prospect over field and meadow, but the houses still lie hidden among trees and shrubs. We met many peasants, who, if they were but carrying a few eggs, fowls, &c. to the town, were on horseback. There was abundance of pasture, and, consequently, no want of horses or horned cattle.

There was no kind of inn at Marand, so that I had to alight at the house of a Cossack. These people, who live here as colonists, have pretty little wooden houses of two or three rooms, and a piece of land which they cultivate as field and garden. Some of them receive travellers, and know how to make high enough charge for the wretched accommodation that they offer. For a little dirty room without a bed I paid twenty silver copeks, and for a chicken the same sum. I got nothing more, for the people are too lazy to fetch anything, and if I had wanted bread, milk, or anything else, I should have had to go for it myself. At the utmost, they would take such trouble only for an officer or official person.

In the morning of the 11th of September the boat started for Redout-Kalé. It was bad weather, and the Rione, otherwise a beautiful river, cannot be navigated at night or in a gale of wind, on account of the many trunks of trees and other obstructions. The country was enchanting. The river flowed on between groves and fields of maize and millet, and the eye, wandering over hills and promontories, reverted at last to the grand peaks of the

distant Caucasus. Before and behind, on the right and the left, according to the windings of the watery road, they appeared in all their endless variety of form, dome, peak, horn, and table land. We often stopped and landed, and then everybody hastened towards the trees, to pluck the tempting grapes and figs; but the grapes were sour as vinegar, and the figs small and hard. I found only a single ripe one, and this I flung away as soon as I tasted it. The fig trees were of a size that I have never seen in Italy or in Sicily, and it seems probable that the whole vigour of the plant shoots into wood and leaves, and the same cause may act on the grapes, for the vines are of immense height, though the grapes are so small and poor. With cultivation much might be done with them. We had to go out to sea, and be rocked about for a few hours, in order to pass round from the main arm of the river into the smaller branch on which Redout-Kalé is situated. There is, indeed, a canal between them, but it is now so blocked with sand, that it can only be passed when the water is unusually high.

In Redout-Kalé I had again to give myself over to the miseries of a speculative Cossack, who keeps three rooms which he lets to travellers. I was uncertain how long I might have to stay, as I was to leave with one of the government steamers which go twice a month from this town to Odessa, calling by the way at eighteen forts and military stations. They take with them any traveller who may wish to go without making any charge, though he must content himself with a place on the deck, as the cabins are kept for the military officers, who frequently go from one station to another. No places are to be obtained by payment.

I did not know when I might be summoned, as the steamer when it comes, stays only two hours, so I hastened to get my passport put in order, and I certainly cannot complain of having got nothing for my money, for instead of a simple *visé* I got a whole page of writing, and of this copy after copy was taken, till I thought there would never be an end of it. I packed my goods ready, and scarcely ventured to have a dinner cooked, lest I should be called away before I could eat it; yet, after all, I had five days to wait.

From what I saw during this time of Redout-Kalé and Mineralia it seems to me that the country, beautiful and luxuriant as

sun draws up heavy mists, that remain floating four or five feet from the ground; and these are said to be the cause of many diseases, especially of fever and dropsy. Besides the unhealthy influences to which they are unavoidably exposed, the people are unwise enough to build their huts and houses, not in open, airy, sunny places, but deep in the woods, and under a canopy of foliage. You may go through a village and scarcely see a house, so concealed are they by trees. The people look thin and sallow, and appear both stupid and indolent, and they very seldom, I was told, reach the age of sixty. For strangers the climate is still more injurious; and yet I cannot but believe that for industrious colonists, and good economists, the country would offer the finest opportunities. There is land enough to be had; for certainly three fourths of it is lying unemployed, and by clearing the woods and draining, the climate would lose much of its insalubrity. Its fertility is almost boundless, and would be, of course, greatly increased by judicious management. The finest grass grows everywhere in abundance, mingled with rich herbs; the fruit grows wild; the vines, as I have said, shoot up to the highest branches of the trees; and during the wet season the earth is so soft that only wooden ploughs are used. The wine is prepared by the inhabitants in the simplest manner. They hollow out the trunk of a tree, and in this tread out the grapes, and they then take the juice in earthenware vessels, and bury it in the earth. The Mingrelians bear generally a very bad character; they are said to be given to drunkenness, to disregard the ties of marriage, to be commonly thieves, and not unfrequently murderers; but of the truth of these allegations I can, of course, know little from personal experience. Of their idleness I can, however, speak with some confidence, for during the five days I stayed there I could not, either for money or good words, induce any one to get me either grapes or figs. I went daily to the bazaar, but never found one to sell, for the people are too lazy to go into the woods to gather them. They will do no manner of work until they are driven to it by dire necessity, and then they require immoderate payment. I had to give as much for eggs, milk, and bread as I should have done in my native city of Vienna.

Another thing that displeased me in the Mingrelians was the senseless multiplication of external religious ceremonies. You are

on putting the first bit in your mouth at dinner, before you drink, before you put on or off any of your clothes, on going into another room; in short, the only thing their hands find to do is the making everlastingly the sign of the cross. When they pass a church they will stand still and keep bowing and crossing as if they would never have done; and if they are in a carriage they will stop it to go through the same performance. While I was at Redout-Kalé a ship was going to sea, and then the priest had to be fetched to bless, first the ship in general, and then every part in particular. In and out he went, and up and down, and creeping into every hole and corner, and at last he blessed the sailors, who laughed at him when his back was turned. I have always found that where there was most show of it there was least real religion.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA.

A Voyage on the Black Sea.—A Case of Cholera.—The suspected Vessel.—Kertsch.—The Museum.—Tumuli.—Continuation of the Journey.—The Castle of Prince Woronzow.—The Fortress of Sebastopol.—Odessa.

ON the night of the 19th of September, amidst a violent storm of wind and rain, I found myself on the Black Sea, in the Russian government steamer. Although my place was on the deck, I begged permission, as the weather was so bad, to sit upon the cabin stairs, and it was with some shrugging of shoulders granted to me; but after a few minutes there came an order from the commander to put me in a place of shelter. I was rather surprised at this politeness, but less so when I saw where I was to go to, for I was conducted into the great cabin, filled with sailors, who smelled so horribly of brandy, and in some instances too had been tasting it to such an extent that I was soon glad to go back to the deck and endure rather the fury of the elements than their company.

The next day the Caucasian mountains had disappeared, and the thick forests had given place to great open spaces; but wind and storm and rain continued unabated. Fortunately for me, however, there was an Englishman on board, a Mr. Platts, the engineer of the steamer, who now presented himself to me, offered me the half of his cabin during the day, and then made interest for me with one of the officers, and got me a small one for myself, near

that of the sailors, indeed, but separated from them by a door. I was very grateful to both for this kindness, and it was so much the more deserving of gratitude as I was a stranger, and there were at least half a dozen Russian officers for whom no accommodation had been found, and who had to encamp on the deck.

The next night was a dreadful one. One of the sailors, who had eaten his supper with a good appetite, appearing perfectly well, was suddenly attacked by the cholera. His cries and groans went to my heart, and I fled again to the deck to escape from them; but the violent rain and the piercing cold were scarcely more bearable. I had nothing but my cloak to protect me, and it was almost immediately wet through; my teeth chattered, the frost seemed to penetrate quite through me, and I had no resource but to return to the cabin, hold my ears closed, and pass the remainder of the night by the dying man. He died in the course of eight hours, notwithstanding all that could be done for him; and in the morning, when we stopped at Bschada, the body was wrapped in sailcloth and sent away, the cause of his death being kept carefully concealed from the rest of the passengers on board. The cabin was then well washed with vinegar, scoured, and no second case occurred. It was certainly not surprising that there should be illness on board, but I should have expected that it would have appeared among the poor soldiers, who lay day and night upon the deck, had no other food than dry black bread, and were not even provided with cloaks or covering. I saw many of them, dripping wet and half frozen, gnawing a piece of dry bread. In winter the sea is so rough that they are often for days together opposite a station without being able to reach it, and the voyage to Kertsch will last frequently twenty days. It is really wonderful if they reach the place of their destination alive, for on the Russian system there is nothing done for the comfort of the common soldier. The sailors are a little better off; they get at least brandy with their bread, and a little meat, and twice a day a sort of cabbage soup called bartsch.

The number of officers, with their wives and children, on the deck, increased at every station, and very few were landed. The deck was consequently soon so encumbered with household goods, as well as chests, trunks, or boxes of all kinds, that I could find no other place to sit down than on a pile of these effects. The ship was a complete camp.

In fine weather all this life and bustle was amusing, for every one looked cheerful and contented, and as if they all belonged to one family; but when the rain came down, or a heavy sea washed over our deck, then there was crying and lamentation—"Oh! my flour will be quite spoiled!" "Ah! how can I protect my sugar?" Here was a woman mourning for her spoiled bonnet, and there another for her husband's damaged uniform. At some of the stations we took up sick soldiers, to carry them to the hospital at Kertsch, not so much that they might be better taken care of as for the sake of security, as all the villages, from Redout-Kalé to Anapka, are liable to the incursions of the Circassians, who burst unexpectedly from the mountains and plunder and murder all in their way. Not very long ago they got a cannon, and fired upon a Russian steamer.

The poor sick men were laid upon the deck, and all the care that was taken of them was, that a sail was spread so as to shelter them from the wind on two sides; but when it rained heavily, the water streamed in upon them from all quarters, so that they soon lay quite in the wet.

After passing Anapka the shore no longer presented the beautiful variety of wooded hills and mountains, but the dreary monotony of the steppe, but I was amused by an incident that occurred to-day. Our captain perceived a vessel lying quietly at anchor in a little bay, and immediately, stopping the steamer, sent out an officer to see what it was doing. This was not surprising, for in Russia they would like, if they could, to prohibit so much as a foreign fly from crossing the frontier; but when the officer came up to the ship, he did not attempt to board, or require that papers should be shown to him; he merely bawled to the captain to ask what he was doing there. The other answered that he had been detained by contrary winds, that he had been compelled to cast anchor, that when he got a wind he was going to so-and-so; and with this answer the officer returned quite contented, which seemed to me much as if you were to stop a suspected person in the street, and ask him to tell you whether he really was an honest man or a rogue, accepting his own assurance as sufficient proof.

September 23d.—Another wet and stormy night! How I pitied the poor sick, and even the healthy, who were on deck, exposed to this weather! Towards noon we reached Kertsch.

The town lies in a semicircle on the shore, and looks very well from the sea. Behind it rises the Hill of Mithridates, and on it, higher than the town, lies the museum, in the style of a Greek temple, with columns all round. The summit of the hill terminates in beautiful rocky peaks, amidst which lie obelisks and monuments belonging to an ancient cemetery. Around the town the steppe is covered with *tumuli*, which contain memorials of bygone ages. The town of Kertsch is now considered the capital of the government of Tauria, and has a population of 12,000, a secure harbour, and a tolerably important trade. The streets are broad, and furnished with side pavements for foot passengers; and on the two squares there is a great deal of lively bustle on Sundays and holidays, as a market is then held of all possible articles, but chiefly eatables. But the rudeness and coarseness of the common people was very striking to me; I heard nothing but screaming, scolding, and cursing.

The Mithridates Hill, the only public walk, is provided with stately flights of steps and abundance of winding paths. It is about 500 feet high, and must have served the ancients as a burying place, for wherever the upper soil has been washed away sarcophagi are discovered. From its summit the prospect is almost boundless, but very unattractive, for on three sides is nothing but the dreary, treeless steppe, whose monotony is only broken by the many grave hillocks before mentioned; on the fourth, indeed, is the sea, which always has its charms, and here so much the more as you see at the same time the Black Sea and the Sea of Asoph. There were, too, many ships in the roads, though by no means the five or six hundred that I had read of in newspapers.

On my return from visiting this hill I went to the Museum which consists of a single saloon, containing some interesting antiquities from the *tumuli*; but all that was most valuable has been sent to Petersburg. The statues, though damaged, indicate a high degree of art; and one sarcophagus, in white marble, is covered with exquisite reliefs—especially a figure in the form of an angel, holding two garlands of fruits and flowers above his head. On the lid are two figures in a recumbent position, the heads of which are wanting; but the bodies, the attitude and the draperies are all masterly. Another wooden sarcophagus shows great skill in the arts of wood carving and turning.

A collection of earthen pots, lamps, and vessels for water reminded me vividly of those I had seen in the Museum of Naples. The pots are burnt and painted in the same manner as those dug up from Herculaneum and Pompeii. The water pitchers have two handles, and are so pointed at the bottom that they cannot stand without being supported against something ; in Persia, pitchers of this form are still in use. There were some coarsely made gold ornaments, bracelets, rings, and crowns of wreaths of laurel leaves ; copper chains and kettles ; and ugly caricature faces in plaster of paris ; besides finely executed coins and ornaments that seemed to have been used for the outsides of houses. On some of the coins I saw remarkably beautiful impressions.

The tumuli are monuments of a very peculiar kind. They consist of passages sixty feet long, fourteen feet broad, and twenty-five feet high, and built with long thick slabs of stone, and with a very small chamber at the end, of a long shape, and the walls of which, like those of the passage, incline together towards the top. It appears that when the sarcophagus was deposited in its place the whole monument was covered with earth. The fine marble sarcophagus now in the British Museum was taken from a tomb near the Quarantine Building, and is considered to be that of King Bentik.

Most of the monuments have been already opened by the Turks, and the remainder by the Russians, and they have found many of the bodies with golden crowns and trinkets as well as coins.

September 26th was a great religious festival for the Russians ; and the people brought bread, pastry, fruit, and so forth as offerings to the church, which were all laid up at first in a heap in a corner ; but after the service the priest blessed them, and then gave a few small fragments to the poor who surrounded him ; but the greater part he had packed up in baskets and sent to his own abode.

In the afternoon almost the whole population turned towards the cemetery, whither the common people also took provisions which were blessed by the priest, but consumed with right good will by themselves.

Among the people I saw but few in the genuine Russian costume, which, for both men and women, consists of a long wide garment of blue cloth ; and for the former, low felt hats with broad brims.

The next point of my journey was Odessa, to which I had two ways to choose between. The land route promised much that was beautiful and interesting; but that by sea offered the inducement that I should escape so much of the Russian post roads, and this was to me irresistible.

On the day following that on which I left Kertsch, the steamer arrived at a village called Yalta in the Crimea, where it was to stay four and twenty hours, and I employed this time for an excursion to Alapka, one of the estates of Prince Woronzoff, and celebrated for a castle which is one of the sights of the peninsula. The road led over low hills close to the sea-shore, and through a beautiful natural park, in which only here and there the helping hand of man had been called in. Among groves and woods, vineyards and gardens, open glades and slopes, lie elegant villas and castles belonging to the Russian nobility, and so lovely a scene is presented to the eye that one could almost think only happiness and concord could find admittance into it.

The first of these charming abodes that strikes the eye is that of Count Leo Potocki, lying close to the sea-shore, and remarkable for its extent rather than its beauty. It was intended to serve the Empress of Russia as a bathing-place, but has not yet been used as such. Then comes the extremely pretty seat of the Princess Mirzewski, in the midst of a superb park, and commanding a grand view of sea and mountain; and then the villa of the Princess Gallitzin, built so entirely in the Gothic style that one takes it at first for a church, and looks about for the town belonging to it.

After going about thirteen wersts, the road turns to the right round a stony hill, and the princely castle of Woronzoff comes into view in all its extent. Its aspect is however not so striking as I had expected, perhaps because the freestone of which it is built is of exactly the same colour as that of the surrounding rocks; when it comes to be encircled by a fine park it will appear to more advantage. There is a fine garden now, but every thing is still too young, though the head gardener, Mr. Kebach, a German, is, it must be owned, a master in his art.

The castle is built in the Moorish-Gothic style, full of towers and turrets, and battlemented walls and points and corners. The principal front is turned towards the sea, and two lions of Carrara marble, by the hand of a celebrated artist, lie reposing at the top of a magnificent flight of steps that descends to the beach.

The interior arrangements remind you of the enchanted palaces of the Arabian tales; for what the whole world can produce in costly stuffs, precious woods, and choice workmanship is here to be seen in its perfection.

There are state apartments in the Chinese, Persian, Indian, and European styles, and a garden saloon which is probably unique in its kind, for it not only contains the most beautiful and rare flowers, but even the highest trees. Palms with their rich crowns of leaves rear their majestic heads, intertwining foliage decks the walls, and flowers and blossoms spring up on every side, while the pure air is perfumed with their fragrant breath, and soft swelling divans stand half hidden in leafy bowers; every thing, in short, is combined to produce the most enchanting impression on the senses. The proprietor of this fairy palace, Prince Woronzoff, was unfortunately absent. I had letters to him, and should have been glad to have made his acquaintance, for I heard him spoken of everywhere, by rich and poor, as a most just, noble-minded, and benevolent man. They endeavoured to make me await his return, saying he was only gone for a few days to a neighbouring estate, but my time was too short to allow of my accepting the invitation.

In the neighbourhood of the castle lies a Tatar village, of which there are many in the Crimea. They are distinguished by their flat roofs covered with earth, which are more used by the inhabitants than the interior of the houses, for they do all their work upon the housetop, and when they have done it remain and pass the night upon the same spot. The men are adopting more and more the Russian costume, but the women still dress in the oriental style, though they do not veil their faces. I have nowhere else seen vineyards so beautifully planted and kept so clean as here. The grapes are sweet and full flavoured, the wine light and good, and perfectly adapted to the making champagne which is indeed often done. In the Prince Woronzoff's vineyards there are above a hundred different species of grapes.

When I returned to Yalta I found I had above two hours to wait, as the Russian gentlemen with whom I was to go on board the steamer had not yet finished their drinking bout, and when at length they arrived one of them was so excessively drunk that he could not stand, and was dragged by two others to the shore. Here we found the steamer's boat waiting, but the sailors said it was for the captain, and refused to take us. It became necessary

therefore to hire a boat, for which twenty silver copeks was demanded.

The gentlemen did not know that, though I could not speak Russian, I understood it, and one of them said in a half whisper to the other, "I have no money about me, *let the woman pay*," and thereupon the other turned to me, and said, in the French language, "the share that you have to pay is twenty silver copeks." These were persons who considered themselves gentlemen in Russia!

Sept. 29th.—To-day we stopped at the fine and strong fortress of Sevastopol. The fortifications lie partly at the entrance of the harbour and partly within it. The harbour itself is encircled by hills, and is one of the most secure in the world, and so deep that the largest ships of war can come close up to the quays; these, as well as the sluices, docks, &c., are all built in a style of profuse grandeur and magnificence. The greatest bustle and activity reigned in all parts of them, and thousands of hands were busied in all kinds of work. Among the labourers I was shown many Polish nobles, who have been sent here as a punishment for the last effort (that of 1831) made to free themselves from the Russian yoke.

The fortifications and barracks are capable of containing thirty thousand men. The town is of very recent origin, and lies on a naked and desolate chain of hills. Among the buildings the Greek Church strikes the eye first, as it lies quite alone on a hill, and is built in the style of a Greek temple. The library is highest, a good allegory if it were not a mere accident. There is also a very handsome open hall surrounded by columns, from which a fine flight of steps leads down to the sea-shore, and forms a very convenient landing place; and, as in all new Russian towns, the streets are broad and clean.

In two days from Sevastopol we reached Odessa, which has a very handsome appearance from the sea, as it lies high, and its really fine buildings, the palace of Prince Woronzoff, the government offices, several large barracks, and stately private houses, can be seen at a glance. The environs are flat and naked, but the numerous gardens and avenues of trees give the town a pleasant aspect, further animated by the forest of masts in the harbour. The greater part, however, lie not here but in the quarantine harbour: for all vessels coming from any part of the

Turkish dominions have to submit to a fortnight's quarantine, whether any infectious disease has prevailed in them or not.

Odessa is the capital of the government of Cherson, and by its position on the Black Sea and at the mouths of the rivers Dniester and Dnieper, is one of the most important commercial cities of Russia. In the year 1817 it was declared a free port.* Most of the merit of its rapid rise and present prosperity is commonly attributed to the Duke of Richelieu, who, after making in the emigrant corps several campaigns against his native country, was, in 1803, appointed to the governorship of Cherson. On his entering on his office it contained scarcely 5,000 inhabitants; but under his administration it rapidly rose to nearly its present population of 80,000. In acknowledgment of his services his name has been conferred on many of the finest streets, and his statue in bronze is the ornament of a beautiful public walk, planted with trees and commanding a view of the sea. From this boulevard broad flights of steps lead down to the beach; at one end of it lies the Exchange, a building in the Italian style, and surrounded by a garden; and not far off is the Academy of the Fine Arts. The theatre, with its beautiful portico, promises more than its interior fulfils; and next the theatre you find the Palais Royal, with its rows of handsome shops containing abundance of costly goods, but not so tastefully arranged as they might be. In the interior of the town lies what is called the Crown Garden, which, though neither large nor fine, affords recreation to the inhabitants, who assemble there in great numbers on Sundays and holidays to listen to a band of music that plays under a tent in summer and in a simple pavilion in winter. Among the churches the Russian Cathedral is most worthy of notice. It has a high vaulted nave, resting on strong pillars, covered with a polished white substance that resembles marble; and the decorations in pictures, chandeliers, candlesticks, &c. are rich, though not artistically managed. This was the first church in which I saw stoves, and it was really necessary, for the approaching winter was beginning to make itself keenly felt. I had not seen an autumn for several years, and it made a mournful impression on me. I

* Odessa is not a perfectly free port, but merchandize is liable to only a fifth of the duty it would pay in any other Russian port, and this fifth is given to

could almost have envied the dwellers in warm climates, with all the sufferings occasioned by heat. I was not likely, however, to feel much inconvenience from cold in Odessa, for it was my intention to leave it as soon as I possibly could; but it is as difficult to obtain leave to get out of the Russian territories as to get into them. You are required to change again the passport obtained at your entrance; each operation costing you two silver rubles; and, besides this, the traveller must have his name, and his intention of leaving the city, announced three times in the papers, in case he should have any creditors whom he might leave unpaid. These announcements take up at least eight days, and in many cases two or three weeks; and the only way of escaping the delay, let your business be ever so pressing, is to find some one who will be bail for you. This service was rendered to me by our Austrian consul, M. Gutenthal; and joyfully did I, on the 2d of October, bid farewell to the dominions of his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias.

CONSTANTINOPLE AND ATHENS.

Constantinople.—Changes.—Conflagrations.—Journey to Greece.—The Quarantine in Egina.—A Day at Athens.—Callimachi.—The Isthmus.—Patras.—Corfu.

I HAD rejoiced at leaving Russia; but I was still on board a Russian ship, and my good friends had resolved that I should not be too tenderly treated, lest the parting might be quite too hard for me. The night was mild and warm, and I had taken refuge from the close steaming cabin on the deck, and was lying wrapped in my cloak not far from the steersman, and had nearly fallen asleep, when I was awakened by a kick from one of the sailors, who desired me to leave the place. I thanked him for his delicate mode of giving the hint, but declined complying with it, and remained where I was. Among the passengers were six English sailors, who had been taking a new ship to Odessa, and were now returning to their own country. I quite won their hearts by talking occasionally with them; and when they noticed that I had no friend with me, they asked me whether I knew enough of Turkish to be able to make any agreement with the boatmen, &c. when we got to Constantinople. On my confessing I did not, they offered to manage every thing for me, if I liked to land with them.

When we got into the boat, on our arrival, a custom-house officer came in after us, in order to examine the luggage, and to expedite his movements I slipped some money into his hand; but when we got to shore the English sailors would not allow me to contribute any thing to the expenses of the boat, as they said I had paid the custom-house officer for all; and I saw that I should really offend them if I persisted in offering it. These were common English sailors; and the three I mentioned at Yalta were Russian gentlemen.

As I have already described the entrance to the Bosphorus, and what is most remarkable in Constantinople, in my "Voyage to the Holy Land," I will not dwell much on the subject now. I went immediately to my good Mrs. Balbiani, but found, to my great regret, that she had left Constantinople, and given up her hotel; and I was recommended to that of the Four Nations, kept by a gossiping Frenchwoman, who was perpetually singing the praises of her servants, her cook, and her whole establishment; but I believe few travellers will be inclined to join in the chorus. She charges also four florins a day, and adds in besides a number of "*pour boires*," to make up the account.

Some changes had taken place since I was last here. A new handsome wooden bridge had been thrown over the Golden Horn, the beautiful palace of the Russian embassy was finished, and the Oriental women did not go so closely veiled as on my first visit to Constantinople. Some indeed wore such thin veils that the form of the face could be seen through them; others had only the forehead and chin covered, leaving eyes, nose, and cheeks openly to be seen. The suburb of Pera had a very desolate appearance, for there had been several conflagrations in it, and their number was increased by two more in the three days of my stay.

These two were what are called little fires, since only thirty houses were destroyed by one, and only a hundred and thirty houses, shops, and huts by the other. In general, the numbers on these occasions are reckoned by thousands.

The first fire broke out in the evening, while we were at dinner; and one of the guests offered to take me to it, thinking, that, if I had not yet witnessed such a spectacle, it would interest me. The scene of the occurrence was at a considerable distance from our abode; but we had not gone a hundred yards before we found ourselves in a crowd of people, who all carried paper lanterns, so that

the streets were completely lighted.* All were running, and bawling as loud as they could. The people in the houses tore open their windows to ask the amount of their own danger, and watched with fear and trembling the reflection of the flames on the sky. Ever and anon a loud "*Guarda! Guarda!*" resounded through the street, and four men bearing a small water engine, and skins of water on their shoulders, came rushing along, overturning everything in their way.† Behind them came foot and horse soldiers, and pachas, with their train of attendants, to urge the people to exertion; but commonly all their efforts are in vain. The fire finds ample nourishment in the wooden and oil-painted houses, and runs with incredible rapidity along whole lines of streets, till it is stopped by some garden or empty space. Very often a thousand houses are destroyed at once, and the unhappy occupants can barely escape with their lives. Those living farther off the danger hastily pack up their goods, and hold themselves in readiness for instant flight. Thieves too, as may be supposed, are not inactive at such times; and only too often the poor burnt-out people lose again, in the throng and tumult, the few things that they have been able to save.

The second fire broke out in the middle of the night, when we were all asleep; but the fire watchmen stormed through the streets, striking with their iron bound staves upon the doors, and screaming till everybody was broad awake.

I sprang from my bed in a fright, ran to the window, and looked out in the direction where the sky was reddened by the fire; but in a few hours the glow had faded from the sky, and the noise was hushed. They are now beginning to build ~~stone~~ houses, not only in Pera but even in Constantinople.

On leaving the Turkish capital I went to Smyrna, and afterwards passed through the Grecian Archipelago; but as precisely the same route is described in my former work, before referred to, I shall pass at once to Greece, where I arrived on the 10th of October.

Sailing near the coast, we first caught sight of a lofty promontory

* The streets of Constantinople are not lit, and whoever goes about without a lantern is regarded as a suspicious person.

† On account of the unevenness of the streets, and their being often full of holes, it would be impossible to use horse engines.

on which stood twelve great pillars, the remains of a temple of Minerva, and we soon neared the hill on which lies the glorious Acropolis. I was glowing with an enthusiastic longing to tread the soil, which, after that of Rome and Jerusalem, is the most remarkable and interesting in the world. How eagerly my eyes sought the city of Athens, which lies on the same spot as the one of old renown; but a hill concealed it from my view, and before I could have any chance of seeing it we had to go out again, and sail for Egina, where we were compelled to go into quarantine for twelve days, for fear we might bring cholera. Had the fear been of plague it would have been for three weeks.

It was quite dark when we reached the island, and the steamer lowered a boat, and sent us ashore. But neither porters nor waiters were to be seen who could lend us any assistance, and we were obliged to drag along our trunks, boxes, and portmanteaus as well as we could ourselves to the quarantine building, where they at length put us into a small empty room, but did not even allow us a light. Fortunately I had in my pocket a wax taper, which I cut into pieces, and distributed amongst my companions, by which a little relief was afforded; and on the following morning we were informed of the quarantine arrangements; a small perfectly empty room was rated at three drachmas (about 1s. 9d.) a day, and three shillings was charged for board. A small fee to the doctor on our arrival, and another on our departure; and additional charges were made for water, attendance, for every separate article of furniture, and for small matters innumerable.

I cannot conceive how this system can be permitted in an institution established for the sake of public health, and which the poorest cannot escape, and where, consequently, they must suffer more privations than they do at home. They cannot even allow themselves a warm meal, for it costs five or six times what it would do any where else in the country. Some mechanics who came in our steamer lived the whole twelve days on bread, cheese, and dried figs.

What was worse, these men, and a servant girl, were put all into the same room, and after a few days the poor thing begged me for God's sake to take her into mine, as their behaviour towards her was extremely improper. What a situation would she have been in had not a woman been accidentally among the passengers, or if I had refused her request! Is it not injury enough, too, to

a poor person to keep them all this time in a state of enforced idleness without exposing them also to extortion and ill-treatment?

On the second day of our quarantine our cage was opened a little, and we were allowed to promenade within an enclosed space about 150 paces long. On the fourth day we were allowed to fly a little farther, as it might be, at the end of a string; that is, under the superintendence of a guard, to visit a neighbouring hill; and at length the joyful hour of freedom arrived. We had ordered, the evening before, a boat, that was to take us early in the morning to Athens; but my fellow prisoners chose to celebrate their release at a tavern, so that it was eleven o'clock before we set off, and then there was not a breath of wind to fill our sails, the men had to take to the oars, and it was eight o'clock in the evening before we at length landed at the Piræus. Our first visit, of course, was to the health office, where the testimonies we had brought with us from the quarantine at Egina were studied with the deliberation due to such important documents, and there was, unluckily, no one among us who could, by the distribution of a few drachmas, render them more easily intelligible. We were next requested to make a call at the police office; but the police office was shut, and we were therefore forbidden to leave the quarter that night. I went into a large handsome looking coffee-house, to endeavour to find a lodging for the night, and I was conducted into a room, of which half the windows were broken; but, as the waiter observed, that was of no consequence, as one could close the shutters. The room did not in other respects look so *very* bad, and I went to bed; but scarcely had I taken possession of my couch than I discovered that it had already ~~so many~~ occupants that I could not think of intruding. I betook myself to the sofa; but there, alas! the population was no less numerous, and I had finally to pass the remainder of the night on a chair.

I had been told before of the condition of the inns at the Piræus, and warned not to pass a night there; but the police regulations left me no chance.

The distance from the harbour of the Piræus to Athens is six miles, and the road leads between ~~noted~~ hills and plantations of olives. The Acropolis remains constantly in sight; but the town of Athens does not come into view till later. I had proposed to myself to stay at least eight days there; but I had scarcely alighted before I was met by the news of the October revolution of Vienna.

The February revolution of Paris I had heard of at Bombay, and subsequent events at Tabreez and Te lis ; but no one had so completely taken away my breath as this. I knew, too, that my family was in Vienna, and I had not heard from them ; and had it been possible I would gladly have set off to them that very moment. Fate had really played me a cruel trick. There had I been kept twelve days in quarantine, longing to tread the classic soil of Greece, and now that I was free to do so the ground seemed to burn beneath my feet. The steamer did not, however, start till the following day ; so, in order to pass away the time, I engaged a cicerone to take me to all the most remarkable places.

[The original city lay on a rocky hill in the middle of a plain, which consequently became covered with buildings. The upper part was called the Acropolis ; the lower, the Katopolis. Now there is nothing left but a part of the fortress, the renowned Acropolis, on the hill which boasted the finest works of Athenian art. Its principal ornament was the Temple of Minerva, the Parthenon, which still, in its remaining fragments, is the admiration of the world. It was 215 feet long, 97 broad, and 70 feet high ; and here stood the gold and ivory statue of Minerva, by Phidias. Fifty-five columns yet remain of the entrance to the temple, and some enormous blocks of marble resting upon them. Of the Temple of Neptune some beautiful fragments are still to be seen, and it is easy to make out the circuit of the amphitheatre. Outside the Acropolis lie the temples of Theseus and of the Olympian Jupiter ; one on the north and the other on the south side. The first is of Doric structure, and surrounded with thirty-six fine pillars, and the exploits of Theseus are represented in magnificent reliefs upon the metope. The interior is full of beautiful sculptures, most of which, however, have been taken from other temples, and merely placed here. Outside the temple stand several marble seats, brought from the neighbouring Areopagus. Of this nothing more is left than a chamber hewn in the rock, to which a flight of steps, also cut in the rock, leads. Of the Temple of Jupiter Olympus enough of the foundation wall is left to show its proportions, as well as sixteen magnificent columns of fifty-eight feet in height. This temple, which was completed by Hadrian, was the most superb building in Athens. The exterior was adorned with 120 fluted columns 59 feet in height and six feet in diameter, and all three temples were built of the purest white marble. Not far from the

Areopagus is the Pnyx, where the free people of Athens were accustomed to debate; but all that remains of it is the rostrum for the orators, and the seats for the clerk, which are cut out of the rock. What men have stood and spoken from that spot! And not far off is the rocky prison where Socrates drank the poison. In the new city of Athens there is nothing to be seen of the antiquities but the Temple of the Winds, sometimes called the "Lantern of Diogenes," a small octagonal temple, with fine sculptures, and the monument of Lysicrates, consisting of little more than a pedestal, some columns, and a dome of Corinthian architecture. There are a considerable number of houses in modern Athens, but most of them small and insignificant, though the country houses are pretty, and surrounded by tasteful gardens. The royal palace, of course a quite new building, is of dazzling white marble, and built in the form of a large quadrangle, but without any ornament, and its great walls look so naked that even the splendid milk white of the marble produces no effect, and it is not till you come quite close that you perceive what costly material has been employed in its construction. I was sorry to see such a building on a soil rendered classic, as much by its treasures of arts as by its heroic men. The marble for this, as well as for the glorious edifices on the Acropolis, has been taken from the quarries of the Pentelicon; yet they are still so rich that whole cities might be built out of them.

As it was Sunday, and a beautiful day, I had the advantage of seeing the whole beau-monde of Athens, and even the court itself, assembled on the public walk. This consists merely of an avenue of trees, at the end of which is a wooden pavilion, and it has neither lawns nor flower-beds to adorn it. Every Sunday a military band plays from five to six o'clock, and the king rides or drives about with his wife, to show himself to the people. This time he came in an open carriage, drawn by four horses; and though his wife wore the ordinary French costume, he himself had assumed the Greek, or rather Albanian, which is one of the handsomest that can be seen. It consists of a full white tunic, from the hip to the knee; a closely-fitting waistcoat of coloured stuff, without sleeves; and over that a jacket of fine red, blue, or brown cloth, with the sleeves left open to display a silk shirt, and the whole profusely decorated with buttons, clasps of gold or silver &c., cords, rings, and tassels. On the head is a scarlet fez, with a

blue silk tassel, and the shoes are mostly of red morocco. Of the women, few wear the Greek dress, and even when they do it has lost much of its original character. The principal garment is a French dress, open at the bosom, and over it a closely-fitting-jacket, also open, and the sleeves of which are wide, and something shorter than those of the dress. On the head they wear a little fez, wound round with pink or other coloured crape, or gold and silver embroidered muslin.

I left Athens on the small steamer, of seventy-horse power, the "Baron Kubeck," which was going to Callimachi, on the Isthmus of Corinth; and I much regretted, when we arrived there, to be compelled to change to another, for the captain, Mr. Luitenburg, was one of the most obliging whom I had ever met with.

The village of Callimachi has not many attractions. Its few houses only date from the establishment of steam communications, and the high mountains on which it leans are for the most part barren, or covered only with low brushwood. We took a few walks upon the isthmus, and climbed some small heights, whence you look down from one side on the Gulf of Lepanto, and on the other on the Egean Sea. Before us rose far above its compeers the mighty mountain of Akro-Corinth, the summit of which is crowned by a fortress, in good preservation, used by the Turks in the last war. The once world-renowned city of Corinth, which gave its name to so many of the appliances of wealth and luxury in the interior of the Byzantine palaces, has sunk into a little town of scarcely 1,000 souls, which lies at the foot of the mountain, among vineyards and gardens, and owes its place in the world's estimation to a single article of commerce—its small dried grapes, commonly known in England as *currants*.

No town in Greece possessed so many costly statues of marble and bronze as Corinth; and here, on this isthmus, which consists of a narrow gently-sloping mountain ridge, formerly, in great part, covered with groves, stood the magnificent temple of Neptune, and here were celebrated the Isthmian games. How now can a country and a nation sink from what it once was. Greece, which once held the foremost place in all the earth, is now occupied by one of the last. I was told I could not think, in Greece, of trusting myself alone with a guide, as I had done in other countries; that I must by no means venture far from the harbour, and must make a point of returning to the steamer at twilight. We had to leave

it however in two days, and cross the isthmus, which is at this part about three miles in width.

At Arachi, on the other side, we found the steamer *Hellenos*, and the following day reached Patras, a town which before the breaking out of the Greek revolution in 1821 had 20,000 inhabitants, but now has only 7000. It was formerly an important commercial town, and is protected by three forts; two at the entrance to the harbour, and one on a hill above the town. The streets are narrow and dirty; but the country round is better cultivated than any I have yet seen in Greece, and is rich in vineyards, fields, and meadows. The size and beauty of the grapes tempted me to buy some; but I found them so hard, dry, and tasteless, that I could not even venture to offer them to one of the ship boys, but threw them into the sea.

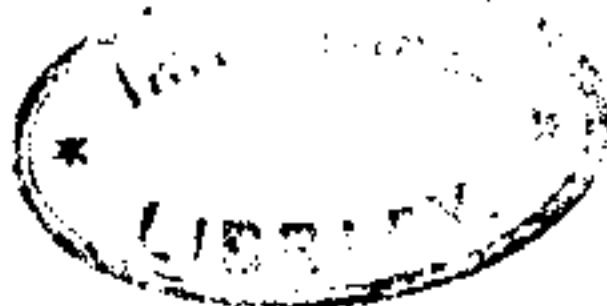
The next stop we made was at Corfu, at the entrance to the Adriatic. The town (since 1815 under the protection of the English) lies in a much finer and more fertile country than that of Patras, and is defended by two bold romantic rocks, with strong fortifications. On one of them is also a telegraph and a lighthouse. Both are surrounded with moats, crossed by drawbridges; and the whole island is rich in groves of olive and orange trees. At the entrance to the town is a large covered stone hall, on one side of which the butchers, and on the other the fish-mongers, expose their wares; and on the open space before it are laid out the choicest vegetables and most tempting fruits. There are many handsome houses and streets, though some of the bye ones are astonishingly crooked, and by no means too clean; and there is a pretty theatre, which, from the character of the stone figures upon it, has certainly at some time served as a church. The principal square, where the palace of the English governor stands, is very fine, being planted with avenues of trees, and having one side open to the sea.

The celebrated church of Spiridion contains many fine oil paintings; but its chief attraction is a little dark chapel in the back ground, where, in a silver sarcophagus, rest the remains of the saint who is held in high veneration by the Ionians. This chapel is constantly filled with devout visitors, who press many fervent kisses on the marble.

On the 29th of October I once more came in sight of the low mountains of Dalmatia; and on the 30th, at break of day,

landed at Trieste, whence I hurried in a post-chaise to Vienna; but the city had just been taken by storm, and no one ~~was~~ allowed to enter it. In the most painful anxiety I waited before it till the 4th of November; and when I had found all my family safe and well, returned thanks to God for their safety, and for the wonderful protection which had been granted me through so many perils, and I thought with renewed gratitude of the many kind parts that had lightened for me so often the toils and hardships of my pilgrimage.

My readers I can only entreat to pass a mild judgment on a little book which professes but to describe in the simplest manner what I have myself seen, felt, and experienced, and has no claim on their attention but that of truth.



THE END.