

the desert, we get rid of the difficulty of their having to march sixty miles in only three stages, which is the distance from the Nile to the Red Sea, and which seems almost impossible, incumbered as they were, with children, cattle, baggage, and kneading troughs, even supposing that their three marches were in a direct line east, which appears to have been by no means the case; for they were directed, after the second day's march, when they quitted Etham on the edge of the wilderness, "to turn," and encamp before Pihaheroth, between Migdol and the sea.

Confiding in the promises of Moses, confirmed as they were by the miracles which he had wrought, it is probable that the Israelites had prepared for their departure, and were all assembled at some one place, waiting impatiently for the result of his last interview with Pharaoh. The spot chosen must have been where they could either move towards Canaan, or the Red Sea; and it must have been at such a distance only from the Desert, that they could, although incumbered, reach the confines of it in two marches, and the Red Sea in three.

If the Red Sea terminated then, as it does now, at Suez, it appears to me impossible to fix on any spot that unites these requisite points; but if it extended then over the marshes, surveyed and laid down by Monsieur Aymé, the difficulty would be removed, and the vicinity of the modern Balbeis, on the banks of Trajan's canal, would accord with the description of the sacred historian, for it is in the direct road from Heliopolis to Canaan, and not above thirty-five miles from the sea.

As the great weight of my argument depends on the fact, that, from the present appearance of the country, there is every reason

to believe that the Red Sea did actually extend, in former times, twenty-five miles north of Suez, I think it may be right to observe, that the Savant, from whom I have derived my information, is not a person who, being zealous for the cause of religion, might have falsified a little to get rid of a difficulty, but that, on the contrary, he feels it necessary to justify himself from the suspicion of believing in the miracles of Moses, in whose book he declares that the transactions are doubtful, and the philosophy absurd. We may surely admit the evidence of such a witness, when it tends to confirm the authenticity of religious history.

It is evident that Pharaoh could have no expectation of the Children of Israel's return, when he had so frequently experienced their refusals to depart without their cattle, and their children; and he must have been confirmed in this idea, by their carrying with them the bones of Joseph. But the terror of the last dreadful visitation probably hung over him, and prevented his pursuing them, while they continued their proper route, and seemed under the guidance of their Almighty Leader; but when they turned aside, and were actually entangled in the land, and shut in by the wilderness, he had reason to hope that he might again recover so valuable a body of slaves. This is the reason assigned by Scripture for his pursuit; and I cannot, therefore, agree with Mr. Bruce, that he was influenced by resentment at the Israelites' carrying away the jewels. In fact, the idea is absurd, that he should feel tranquil while they were carrying off the spoils of the Egyptians to a country; whence he could never hope to bring them back, and that his anger should be roused when they were once more, apparently, in his power.

The sufferings of Egypt, in consequence of the residence of the

Children of Israel among them, were only temporary ; but there is good reason to suppose that the benefits were permanent. By the policy of Joseph, the whole of the land of Egypt became the property of the sovereign, and the people and their children his slaves ; an event which, however unpropitious it might be in any other country, was necessary there, where every harvest depended on the Nile, and where the equal distribution of its waters could alone produce a general cultivation. When the lands of Egypt were private property, would it be possible to induce individuals to sacrifice their possessions, that they might be turned into canals for the public benefit ? or, when the canals were constructed, would it be possible to prevent the inhabitants of the upper provinces from drawing off more water than was requisite for their own use, and thereby injuring the cultivators lower down ? But when the whole belonged to one man, the necessary canals would be constructed, the distribution of water would be guided by prudence, each district would receive its necessary proportion, and the collateral branches would then, as they are now, only be opened when the height of the river justified such a measure for the public benefit. It is evident that no canals were constructed before the time of Joseph, for Herodotus even attributes these mighty works to Sesostris, who did not reign till three hundred and ninety years afterwards.



## CHAPTER X.

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Departure from Suez.—Passage across the Desert.—Arrival at Cairo.—Visit to the Pacha.—Visit to the Citadel.—Description of it.—Visit to the Pyramids.—Observations on them.—Taher Pacha.—Visit of leave to the Pacha.



## CHAPTER X.

FEBRUARY 13.—**E**ARLY in the morning the Schech sent the camels for our baggage, and soon afterwards arrived himself with those that were intended for our accommodation. I travelled in a Takterouane, which is more like a box than a palanquin, and, being only five feet long, is very uncomfortable. It is slung between two camels, by large shafts which pass underneath it; between these the camels march. We had ten Mohaffas, in which the other gentlemen went; these are a kind of little couch, two of which are slung sideways on the opposite sides of a camel, with an awning spread between to keep off the sun: we had also fourteen camels for our baggage and water. To avoid the necessity of dressing food in the Desert, we provided plenty of cold meat, bread, fruit, butter, and cheese. We were obliged also to provide coffee, bread, and rice for the soldiers of Chedid, and the men who attended on the camels. It was half after ten when we took leave of our estimable friend Captain Court, and the other companions of our voyage, and mounted our camels. I found the motion by no means pleasant, but had reason to suspect, from the violent movements of the gentlemen in the Mohaffas, that they were still more incommoded. Nor was I mistaken, for, on meeting at the wells where the rest of the caravan had halted, they were loud in their complaints, and agreed in opinion, that a camel afforded the most uneasy conveyance they

had ever experienced. We reached the wells by twelve, a distance of about four miles, and immediately pitched our tents.

Our station was in the front of the line, close to the Schech's tent: our baggage was around us. The Turks were nearer the sea: their chief, Emir Effendi, sent in the evening to Chedid, to say that he had heard we were likely to be attacked on the morrow, and therefore wished to arrange with him the order of march. It was determined that a part of the escort, with the Turks, should go in front, a part in the middle of the caravan, and a few in the rear. The robbers of the Desert are not supposed to exceed in number five hundred, and are consequently little to be feared by Chedid, who is himself as brave as a lion, and can depend upon his followers. It was, however, wise to take every precaution, as the appearance of preparation might often prevent an attack; for the Arabs, like other banditti, never fight, except when they conceive themselves so superior as to be sure of success.

Chedid dined with us, and expressed great approbation of the cherry-brandy, which he drank most freely, though, the tent door being open, his people could distinguish that he did so. He was in great good humour, laughed, and told several stories of himself, which were interpreted by Mr. Thomaso. He at length began to praise my tent, which was lined with green cloth, so highly, declaring that it was superior to any he had for his wives, that I was induced to promise it to him on my arrival at Cairo, after which I could have no occasion for it.

February 14.—At half after five we took a dish of coffee, and mounted, and did not halt till a quarter before six in the evening. I think our camels never went less than three miles an hour, and

therefore suppose we travelled over about thirty-three miles of a road, which winds considerably among the smaller hills. At nine we passed a building on our right, which was formerly used as a fort by the Turks, when they were more powerful, to protect the caravans from the robbers; at present it is nearly in ruins. Soon afterwards the road became more stony, and we quitted the plain of Suez, and had small hills on our right and left. This was considered as the most dangerous spot; our escort was therefore on the alert. The Turks marched in front, displaying two flags; the first, belonging to the mahmal, was white, with a yellow border, and in the centre the two-bladed sword in yellow: the other, belonging to the Sultaun, which was half green, half red, the former uppermost. Chedid was with them as Commander in Chief, and always preceded the caravan to the top of the ascents, where he waited till they came up, and then went on as before. None of the party could this day procure the loan of a horse, except my servant, who made interest with a young Arab to let him have his, with sabre and musket, on promising to fight if we were attacked. A more complete coxcomb than this youth I never beheld. He had a very small musical instrument, something like a guitar, but with only four strings, on which he played with his fingers for several hours, while he continued to march on foot by the side of my Takterouane. At night he produced a little box containing a glass, a comb, and a toothpick, took off his turban, combed his hair, picked his teeth, and contemplated himself in the glass, with all the airs of a finished *petit maitre*.

I collected during the march several very beautiful specimens of Egyptian pebble, with which the whole road was covered, to the



great annoyance of the camels. The only vegetable productions which I saw, were a few stunted *Mimosas*, an *Artemisia*, which is probably the *Absinthium* of Bruce, an *Echium* with a purple blossom, and an elegant but leafless *Spartium*, with a purple and white blossom. Chedid dined with us; but he complained of the effects of the cherry-brandy, and would take neither wine nor spirits. The Emir fired a gun at night, as he had done in the morning, before he moved from his station.

February 15.—At six precisely the gun of the Emir warned us to mount. Our camels were evidently fatigued, and we did not reach our halting place till five, though it was not above twenty-two miles. The road was more winding than yesterday. From the time that we quitted the wells, till half after four this day, we had been gradually ascending; at that hour we reached the highest point, and beheld a descent before us, which led to the fertile plain of Egypt, dark with verdure, through which the Nile was winding its course. The whole was a beautiful scene, and appeared still more so, from the contrast formed by the arid foreground of the Desert.

The day had been by no means sultry, and as all danger was supposed to be over, every person who wished it, procured a horse. My friend the Emir sent to offer me one of his, but I declined accepting it. Chedid had parted with us early in the day, and gone on to his own residence, which was distant a few miles. He left a message for me, with his chief officer, requesting that I would not pitch my own tent, but occupy his, as it was intended we should set off again at midnight, he having heard that the robbers meant to follow, and attack us in the morning. I complied, though assured by Mr. Thomaso, that the whole was a trick to get us into Cairo as

early as possible, for this was to me as desirable an object as to them. Our two barrels of water had not been opened, nor should we now want them, I therefore told the Arabs that they might have them. A violent dispute arose about the division; and even my friend the Emir sent to request that I would give him some of it.

February 16.—It was three o'clock before the caravan departed: at eight we reached an opening in the hills, down which we rapidly descended, and at the bottom were met by Mr. Aziz, the acting Resident for the British during the absence of Major Missett. We here parted from the rest of the caravan, and passing by some magnificent Mussulmaun tombs, kept along the walls of Cairo, till we reached an ancient and lofty gate, called Bab-el-Fituch, which we entered, with all our baggage, orders having been issued for that purpose by the Pacha. We soon arrived at the European quarter, and took up our residence in the British factory. We had scarcely time to dress ourselves, before the Reverend Fathers, and the Principal of the Franciscans of Jerusalem, paid me a visit, to congratulate me on my arrival; and immediately afterwards came the Franciscans of the Propaganda, with their Principal. Mr. Macardle, of Rosetti's house, and the other European gentlemen resident here, also came to pay their compliments. We dined at home quietly, and went to bed early, highly pleased to find ourselves in an excellent house, and in civilized society. His Highness Mohammed Ali Pacha sent in the evening to congratulate me on my arrival, and to learn privately on what day I meant to visit him.

February 17.—His Highness's Interpreter came again in the morning. He made an offer, in his master's name, of every assistance I might want to visit the town and neighbourhood, and expressed

his regret that the situation of the country was such as to render it uncomfortable to strangers. He sent the Interpreter to consult with Mr. Aziz, as to the proper etiquette in receiving me, assuring me, that it was his wish to pay me every possible attention; that he was attached to my countrymen; and that it was even his interest, having been recently raised to so high an office, to cultivate the friendship of those nations which were friends of the Porte; that immediately on hearing of my arrival at Suez, he had issued his orders to his servants there, to treat me with every respect, which he trusted had been complied with; and that if any thing should hereafter be neglected which ought to be done, he hoped I would attribute it to his being a rough soldier, little accustomed to the formalities of peace.

I expressed my great obligations to his Highness, and assured him that I felt too sensibly his past kindness, to doubt his future attentions. It was settled that I should visit him tomorrow, and the whole etiquette was arranged with Mr. Aziz.

I received a visit from the Reverend Fathers of the Greek Convent, situated in the Greek quarter, which is dependent on the Patriarch of Alexandria.

In the morning I returned Mr. Macardle's visit, and accepted an invitation from him to be present in the evening at an Egyptian dance. I went, but was not much amused. The dancers were veiled, not from modesty, but to conceal their ugliness. They sung somewhat in the manner of the Indian nautch girls, but never raised their voice to an artificial pitch. The dances were infinitely too indecent, even for description. Mrs. Macardle, a pretty Greek, and a great number of ladies, were there; none of them seemed the



least discomposed ; but, on the contrary, laughed excessively : yet unquestionably this was by no means the effect of vice, but solely of habit, which had rendered the scene so familiar, that they did not perceive its impropriety, and even, when asked, danced themselves in as indecent a manner. In the intervals of the performances, the dancing girls went round, demanding money from each person.

In so turbulent a city as Cairo, every house is wisely constructed for defence, and, consequently, has no windows, or only a few of small dimensions, towards the street ; they are generally built round a court, and contain a small garden within their walls. The house of Mr. Rosetti, in which Mr. Macardle resides, is very large, with lofty rooms, and well furnished ; a part of the end of the state apartment is raised from the floor, and covered with rich carpet, around which are couches composed of cushions, in the Eastern style, which is called a Divan. The whole room is covered either with a mat or a carpet, and in the middle are chairs and tables : the windows are large and glazed.

The female Greeks born in Egypt are pretty, fair, and well made, when young, but child-birth destroys their figures by relaxation, and their bosoms become large and flaccid. Their head dress is Asiatic, and richly adorned with gold, pearls, and diamonds : their robes are of the same style, and consist of satins and velvets, faced or lined with fur. Unfortunately, in the same proportion in which the outside is adorned, the inside is neglected. The mind of a female Greek is a total blank, or worse.

The gentlemen of Mr. Rosetti's house are chiefly Italians, sensible, and well informed. Of the French nation there are very few

A kind of Agent goes occasionally to the Pacha, but he cannot be received in any public character, as Bonaparté is not recognised as Emperor by the Porte. The evenings are generally spent at Mr. Macardle's, where the different gentlemen resort, and play at cards.

February 18.—At three o'clock we went, by appointment, to visit the Pacha, who does not reside in the citadel, but in a large house in the Osbeckia. His Highness had sent five horses, most magnificently caparisoned, for me and my suite, and a party of his Chaous, with silver sticks, to attend us and keep off the crowd. The apartment, into which we were shewn, was crowded with soldiers, and was remarkable neither for its size nor richness. As soon as we were seated, he entered by a side door. I arose, and paid my compliments in the European fashion, while Mr. Aziz, as a native subject of the Porte, kissed the hem of his garment, and continued standing during the audience. He is a little man, of an intelligent countenance, with a reddish brown beard of moderate dimensions, but of which he seemed to be proud, as he was continually stroking it. He seated himself close to me on a Divan, and began the conversation with the usual train of compliments on my arrival, addressing me by the title of General. I thanked him for all his kindness; and, as I had been previously requested by Chedid, mentioned how well he had behaved in the Desert, and at Suez. His Highness gravely answered, that if he had behaved otherwise, his head should have answered for it. He expressed a great regard for the English, saying that he had been much with their officers, when they were in Egypt, and that he had uniformly been kindly treated; that it was therefore his inclination to do

every thing in his power for them all, and particularly for a person of my consequence. It was also his duty, since he knew that we were the steadiest friends of the Porte. We conversed on the reports which had circulated of Bonaparté having taken Vienna : he said he could hardly believe it, though every thing was possible in such wars as these. He told me that the French Agent had been to notify it to him, and to inform him, that it was now the great Emperor's intention to reconquer the Crimea from Russia, and restore it to the Porte : that he had answered, "the Porte does not want the Crimea; she has already so widely extended an empire, that she cannot manage the whole of it; she only wants friends." I told his Highness, that if Bonaparté got the Crimea, he would restore it to the Porte as he did Egypt. He replied, he knew that very well; and if France should be victorious, he was very much afraid they should have to fight again for this country, and that the Turkish troops were not capable of resisting the French; that they were not now what they were formerly. I observed, that they had fought bravely, and resisted successfully, the Emperor Joseph in the last war. He replied, "aye, yet they were then much divided among themselves." He offered me every assistance in his power to visit the Pyramids, and desired I would not scruple to apply to him for every thing I wanted. Coffee was served on our entry; the cup out of which he drank was set with diamonds; our cups were of gold embossed. When sherbet was served, we took the hint to retire. He said, he hoped to see me again, and should any thing particular occur, he would send to me. His Highness was plainly dressed, and wore no jewels of any kind. On quitting the house, a salute was fired.



February 19.—In the morning I returned the visit of the reverend Fathers of St. Francis. The Jerusalem Convent is a very good building, and sufficiently strong to keep out the natives in a time of tumult. The church is handsome, and has some tolerable pictures, but they are spoiled by having gold crowns inserted over the heads of the saints. A very reverend Father, with a silver beard, who had lived fifty years in the convent, but who was still lively and intelligent, shewed me, with great satisfaction, the figure of St. George, his patron saint. He was extremely delighted when I told him that my name was George, and advised me to recommend myself to that saint, night and morning. They all seemed gay and contented. The Superior was a man of sense and information. These are the Capuchins whom Bruce mentions, as he always does the clergy, with disapprobation. They have a good organ, and a library tolerably filled. It has been formed by an accumulation of the private collections of such Fathers as have died in the convent: they who remove, always take their property with them. This is the most ancient establishment of the Franciscans, and has a noble friend in the house of Rosetti. In the sacristy they shewed me the splendid habilliments, in which the Cardinal de Rohan formerly celebrated high mass, and which were given to them by Mr. Macardle. They are entirely supported by charitable contributions.

I next visited the Franciscan Fathers of the Propaganda, whom Mr. Bruce accuses of having instigated the assassination of Monsieur de Roule. He gives a minute detail of a transaction, which passed seventy years before he was in the country, but does not quote his authorities. This, at least, he should have done, when accusing a reverend body of so horrid a crime. They had heard of his accu-

sation; and it was probably a feeling of resentment that induced them to repay the obligation, by charging him with having destroyed Luigi Balugani, the Italian youth who accompanied him into Abyssinia, in order to take the credit to himself of the drawings that he brought home. It was impossible to convince them of the injustice of their charge, though they did not attempt to produce any other evidence, than that Balugani could draw, and Mr. Bruce could not. These Franciscans are very poor; they formerly received each a miserable pittance of sixty dollars from the Propaganda at Rome, which is no longer paid. They subsist only on charity; and as they have fewer friends than the Capuchins, live very indifferently. Their convent is small, their church decent, but poorly furnished. The Superior was a Pole, an intelligent man, who spoke Italian, and a little French.

As the weather was fine, I took a walk in Mr. Rosetti's garden, which is large, and would be very pleasant, were it not that the Albanians intrude whenever they please, take what they like, and even cut the trees with their sabres. On my return home, I received a deputation from the Greek Archbishop of Mount Sinai, excusing himself for not having visited me. He was so afraid of being insulted, that, although he had been here a year, he had never ventured to quit his convent. Having been assured that he was a very pleasant and intelligent man, I returned an answer, that I would do myself the pleasure of visiting him.

Schech Chedid, and Mohammed Ali Pacha, were by no means friends, in consequence of the former refusing to pay any tribute, and occasionally interrupting trade. I found that, when Mr. Aziz suggested to his Highness the eligibility of sending this most pow-

erful chief to escort me across the Desert, it was difficult to induce him to enter the town; but at length he was induced to do so, on receiving the Pacha's passport, and security for his personal safety. He came in again this day, and settled with Mr. Aziz for my journey. In addition to the tent, I presented him with a shawl for himself, and a very rich piece of gold tissue for his wife, with which he declared himself more pleased than if I had given him ten times the amount in dollars. By the custom of the country, a Chief escorting a caravan was entitled formerly to four dresses; Mr. Rosetti reduced the number to two, which were also given to him. He charged eight dollars for the hire of each camel. Though only two were employed in carrying the Takterouane, yet the price was thirty-two dollars, in consequence of an idea that it is injurious to the animal. The whole expense of passing the Desert was upwards of six hundred dollars.

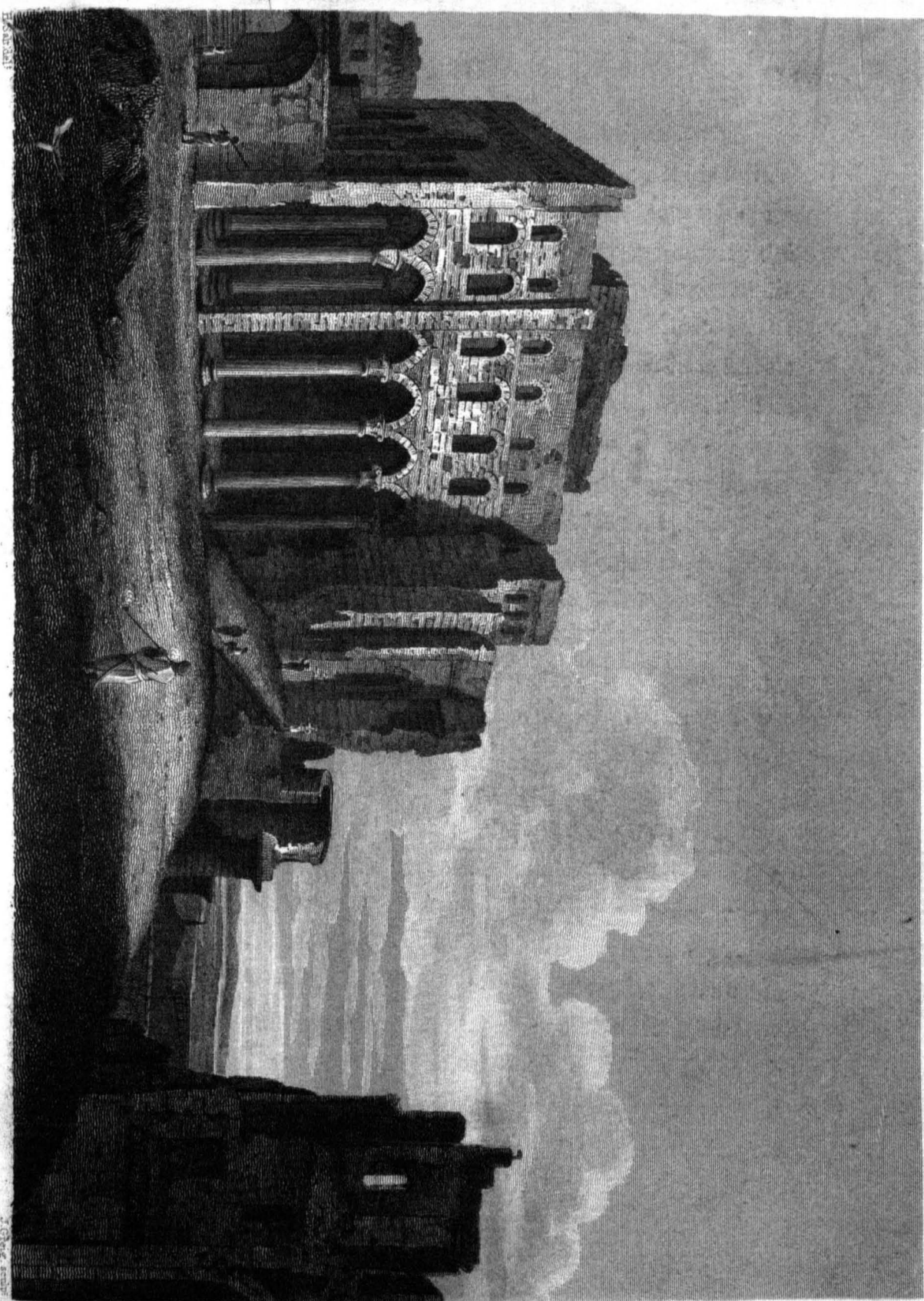
February 20.—In consequence of a notification to his Highness, that we wished this day to visit the Citadel, he sent early in the morning seven richly caparisoned horses for our use, an officer of the troops to conduct us, and two Chaous Bashi to keep off the crowd. We set off, accompanied by Mr. Aziz, Mr. Macardle, and many European gentlemen; and by the assistance of the Pacha's servants, who rode on asses, and did not spare their whips, made our way through the narrow streets, which were, as usual, crowded, till we reached a kind of open place before the gate of the new Citadel, opposite to which is a very noble mosque. We mounted a steep hill, paved with large flag stones, surrounded by ruins of houses lately destroyed in the disputes between the Turks and Albanians, till we reached the walls of the new Citadel, which are lofty and strong.



On entering, we went directly to the hall of audience, where we expected to find the Pacha's son, but he had gone to visit his father. We were, however, received by an officer of the garrison, who presented us with pipes and coffee, in a room which was formerly the zenana of the Pacha when he lived in the citadel, and looked directly over the walls towards Old Cairo and the Pyramids. In the middle was a fountain; but in other respects, it had nothing but its size, and its consequent coolness in summer, to recommend it. The officer attended us himself to the mint, where they coin gold zequins, half zequins, and quarter zequins; also in silver, piastres and parahts. As these are much adulterated, the profit of coining is very great to government, bringing in from one thousand to twelve hundred purses: it was more in the time of the Beys. The machinery for striking the coin, is similar to that used in Europe before the inventions of Mr. Bolton, but of inferior merit. Instead of using rollers to flatten the metal, they beat it out with hammers.

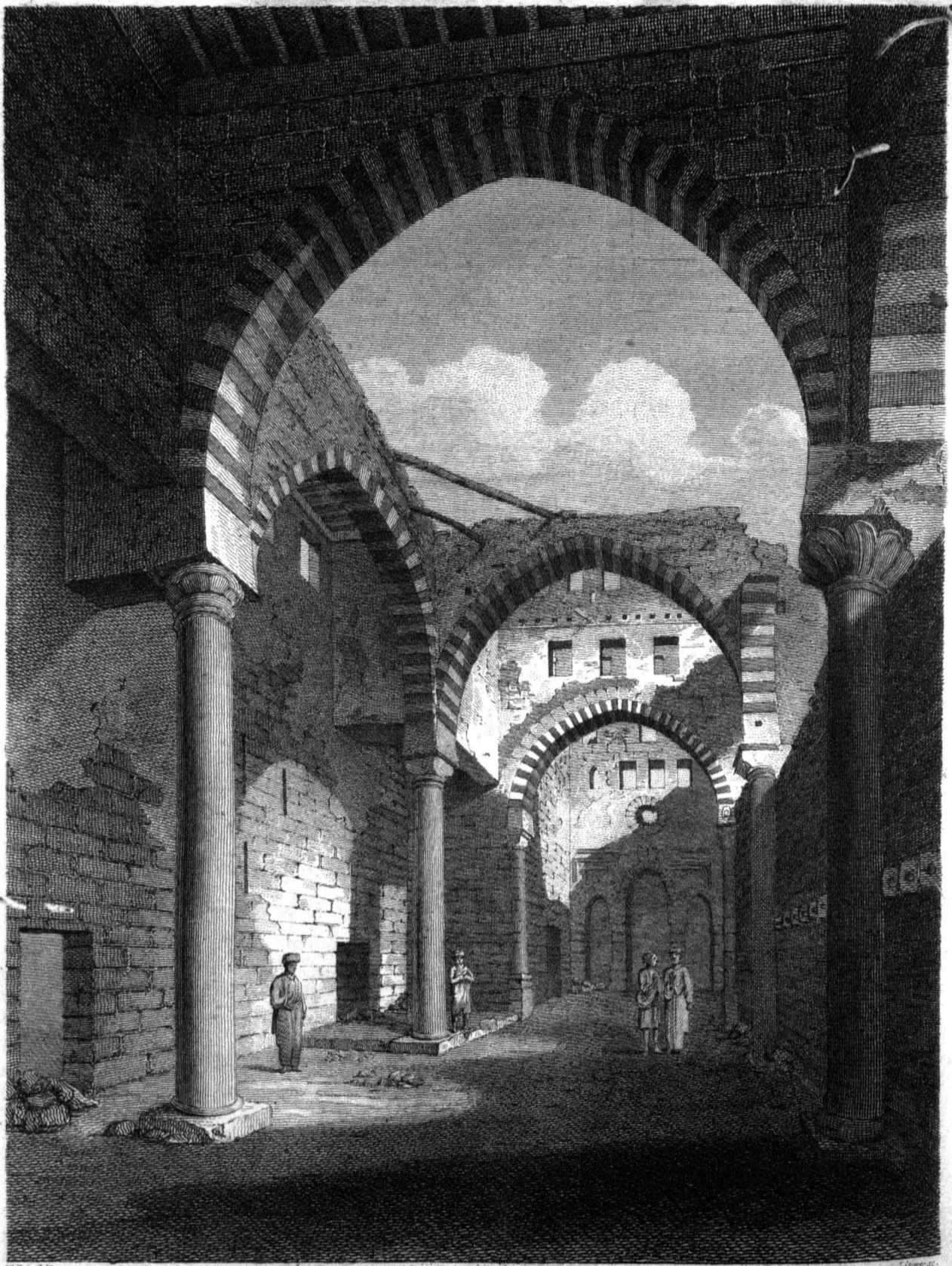
We next visited Joseph's well, which has been too frequently described to require an account of it here. It is an astonishing work, for it required no common mind to sink an oblong pit of twenty-four feet by eighteen, to the depth of one hundred and forty-six feet through the solid rock, and then, not baffled by the difficulty and want of success, to persevere in sinking another, still through the solid rock, to the depth of one hundred and thirty feet, where the rock ended, and the water was found. The size of this second is only fifteen by nine, according to Norden, which is sufficient for every purpose of utility. It was probably thought unnecessary to make it larger, as it is not visible from the top, and not forming one single piece, could not be considered as ornamental.

I do not see any reason to doubt the tradition reported by Mr. Niebuhr that this, as well as the other noble works which are attributed to Joseph, were constructed by the celebrated Saladin, whose real name was Yusuff, and in whose time the citadel was constructed, though others attribute it to his minister. We next visited the Divan, which has nothing to recommend it, but its great size, being one hundred and forty-nine feet long, eighty-six broad, and between thirty and thirty-five high; formerly indeed it was splendidly ornamented, but now it is rapidly falling to decay. The French used it as an hospital, for which it is admirably adapted. The view hence, and from every part of the ramparts, which are themselves lofty, and are elevated on a rock, is most beautiful. It extends over the ruins of Old Cairo, the villages of Boulac and Gheza, with the great Pyramids, the Pyramids of Sacara, and the Nile, to enrich the prospect. At that time the extensive plains of light-green wheat formed a singular contrast with the arid desert, and the barren rock of Mokattem. This last commands the citadel, which would otherwise be a place of great military importance, as the whole city of Cairo lies at its mercy. The French engineers wished to remove it, but Bonaparté would not consent to a measure that did not originate in himself. It would be a work of great labour, but certainly not impracticable. The new and old citadel cover a great extent of ground: they were formerly separated, but the French opened a communication between the two. All the splendid remains of antiquity are in the new citadel, where is also a very handsome place d'armes. The houses are chiefly in ruins. In the old citadel are a great many houses in better condition, but no noble public building. The walls have a parapet, and towers at equal distances, of



THE GREAT HALL OF JOSEPH.





JOSEPH'S HALL .

two or three stories high, built of solid stone, with vaulted roofs ; in each of which are cannon. After quitting the Divan, we visited the hall of Joseph, a noble apartment, but in ruins ; four enormous pillars of red granite sustained the roof, which is now gone. They are each of one piece. The capitals are Egyptian, and seem to have been removed from some more ancient building. The walk along the ramparts on this side is as beautiful as on the other : the view from it commands the town of Cairo, with its numerous minarets, and public buildings : beyond lies the Nile, the island of Rhoda covered with large sycamore trees, the verdant plain, and the Pyramids. The line of forts erected on the different hillocks from the citadel to the Nile, are seen to a considerable distance on the left : the aqueduct of old Cairo extends to the same distance on the left, and the noble mosque which I have before mentioned forms a bold foreground to the view. On this side of the fort are mounted many cannon and mortars. The Turks considered the citadel more as a place to overawe the town, than to protect it from foreign enemies. When first built, the use of gunpowder was unknown, and it was equally valuable in both points of view, as it was too far from el Mokattem to be injured from it by any thing except artillery. We next passed to a very noble room, supported by numerous pillars of granite, each a single piece : all of these, except four, were Egyptian ; the others had Corinthian capitals. The roof had fallen in, but at a great height a cornice of wood four feet broad still remained, ornamented with inscriptions from the Koran. Mr. Salt's drawings will give a better idea of these than any description. I believe all the pillars to have belonged to some more ancient building. Opposite to this room is another, which overlooked the city : it had been intirely

covered with mosaic, of which a considerable part remained, though the buildings themselves had fallen to ruins, and were now filled with rubbish, instead of being occupied by the manufacturers, who used here to embroider the rich covering of the Caaba at Mecca. It is indeed a melancholy circumstance, that the many splendid remains of the ancient Sultauns, which the citadel contains, should be so rapidly disappearing. The outer walls may continue to defend the garrison within, and the massive columns of Egyptian architecture may survive the destruction of the apartments they were meant to adorn; but civil broils will destroy every other vestige, that could point out the citadel of Cairo as the former abode of monarchs. Near this is the mortar battery, whence Hurshid Pacha bombarded the town during the late disturbances. We visited a round tower, somewhat resembling the castle of Saint Angelo at Rome: it consists of three stories, with one chief apartment on each. The stair-case is excellent. Cannon are mounted on the tower. The whole is of stone with vaulted roofs, and is probably as old as the foundation of the citadel. We rode through the old citadel, but returned into town by that gate of the new by which we entered.

With my own party and Mr. Macardle, I visited the Greek Archbishop of Mount Sinai. He is a handsome young man, of considerable talent, an excellent scholar, and liberal in all his sentiments. He was educated at St. Petersburg, and spoke French fluently. The convent is small but extremely neat. He informed me that it was founded in the third century. He had a good library of books, among which was Norden, and several other writers on Egypt. He had not got Niebuhr; I therefore requested his acceptance



of my copy, which I could easily replace in Europe. He informed me that there were forty monks of the order of St. Catharine, here and at Mount Sinai; that they had convents at Jerusalem, in Asia Minor, and in Russia; the whole number of fathers amounting to about two hundred. He said that he wished to get out of this place, but that the Arabs demanded one hundred thousand piastres every time the doors of a convent were opened to admit a new archbishop, and that they were not at that moment in a situation to pay such a sum. This is the only occasion on which the gates are ever opened. All visitors ascend to a window by a basket, as in the other convents among the Arabs. I observed, that he would be nearly as much a prisoner at Mount Sinai as here; he replied, that there he should have a fine climate, and an excellent and large garden to walk in, which is surrounded by a high wall, and is separated from the convent, but communicates by a subterraneous passage. He would also have the consolation of being in a most holy place, for St. Catharine's of Mount Sinai is as much venerated in the Greek church, as Jerusalem is in the Catholic; pilgrimages are made to it, and the good fathers dispersed over Europe and Asia, make large collections from the faithful, which are remitted to Mount Sinai, and enable the archbishop to sustain the expense of his entry, and of nearly feeding all the Arabs around, who, on this account, willingly convoy the provisions from Egypt, without which the reverend monks could not exist in the desert. He informed me that one tower exists that was built by Helena; but that the rest of the convent was erected by Justinian. I enquired respecting manuscripts; he said he was informed that there were some, but of what kind he could not yet say, as he had never been there.

He presented us with sherbet, coffee, and liqueurs. Every thing was neat, and had an air of affluence. The library, which they used as a council chamber, was filled with an infinity of small pictures of different saints, most of which had crowns of real gold inserted, and some had the whole drapery in the same strange way. There was a small picture of a beautiful St. Catharine, without any of this meretricious ornament. Monseigneur attended me to the door, and declared he was determined to venture out, for the first time, to have the pleasure of paying his compliments to me.

February 21.—The scenery from the Citadel had excited in me so great a degree of admiration, that I determined Mr. Salt should take a set of views from it, which would answer as a Panorama. Early in the morning he therefore set off, with one of the Chaous Bashi to protect him, and Mr. Thomaso to interpret for him. He continued there several hours, and met with no molestation.—The Archbishop of Mount Sinai sent me a present of apples, pomegranates, and almonds, from St. Catharine's, also a large flask of Cyprus wine, which he assured me was ten years old.

February 22.—It was impossible to persuade Mohammed Ali that my objects were not political, and as the English had ever been on friendly terms with the Beys, and latterly their protectors against the Porte, he was extremely jealous of my having any communication with them. The most distant hint of visiting Upper Egypt, therefore, excited alarm, and I was obliged to abandon the idea altogether.

The Archbishop of Mount Sinai fulfilled his promise, and this day paid me a visit, accompanied by two of his clergy. They were much interested by the Axum inscription, which he requested me

to lend him, that he might endeavour to translate it. One of his attendants read a great part of it with facility. Mr. Salt again went to the Citadel, and sketched a proportion of the view, in defiance of a high wind, which raised clouds of dust among the ruins.

February 23.—I went to the mass of the Franciscans of Jerusalem. As it was Lent, the organ did not play. The voices were fine. Afterwards we accompanied the Superior to the Refectory, where, according to their constant custom, coffee, liqueurs and gingerbread were served round. The custom of taking liqueurs is very general.

February 24.—Signor Filippo Agnelli, who is employed by the Emperor of Germany to preserve animals, and collect other curiosities in this country, arrived to-day from Damietta at Mr. Macardle's, and immediately waited on me. As I knew that his Imperial Majesty was much attached to natural history, I gave Signor Agnelli a very large collection of shells, which I had found in the Red Sea, and every duplicate in my possession, either from India, Arabia, or Abyssinia, to be presented, in my name, to his master. The skins of the Abyssinian birds, which Mr. Salt had brought from Tigré, being infested with vermin, I was fearful that they would never reach England in a state to be described: anxious to preserve them for the public, as many specimens were perfectly new, I thought it of little consequence whether they were in my own cabinet or another's, and therefore gave the whole, amounting to one hundred specimens, to Signor Agnelli, who promised that he would immediately begin to put them in order. He was extremely delighted, as, with all his assiduity, he had been able in three years to make no very large collection. At Suez, in particular, during a residence of three



months, he had obtained fewer shells than I had done in fifteen days. Alone, and without servants, it is impossible to accomplish much, for the Arabs will do nothing that gives them trouble, even for money.

It rained very heavily last night. The houses are ill adapted for wet weather. Mr. Macgie was driven from his bed, and my room was deluged with rain. The thermometer was at  $55^{\circ}$ .

February 25.—We had hitherto intended to visit the Pyramids on the 27th, but at present we are afraid of a disappointment. Elfi Bey has appeared in the neighbourhood, and his advanced guard is said to be within an hour's march of Gheza, and he himself within four. He has a force of ten thousand men, and may mean to march into Lower Egypt and spread devastation, as he did once before. If so, we may be able in a day or two to go thither; if not, it will be impossible, although we have nothing to fear from him, who is attached to the English, and ever speaks with gratitude and delight of his reception in England. Yet, mixed as his army is with Arabs and Albanians, it might be dangerous to fall in with them; besides, Mohammed Ali would have fair grounds of suspicion that I had some political intention in meeting him. That he has already taken the alarm at Elfi's approach, was hinted to me to day by Malum Gali, the Coptic receiver general of the revenue of Egypt, here called the Bas Kateb, a respectable and able young man. He excused himself from not having called before, by assuring me that he had not heard of my arrival, which is very possible, as he is occupied from morning till night. He said, laughing, that he felt himself quite comfortable at escaping for a few minutes from incessant persecution; but at that very moment a fellow, who had chased him to the British House, entered with a paper, on

which he laughed, and took his leave. I have no doubt that he was sent by the Pacha to give me the hint not to see Elfi. After all the attentions I had received from His Highness, I would, on no account, do any thing that might be disagreeable to him; besides, were he to have any suspicions, in such critical times as these, all the Europeans might suffer for it. A private individual might do much, which I cannot, from the consequence they have been pleased, unfortunately in some respects for me, to attach to my title, which has been increased by my having a Company's cruiser to bring me to Suez. Malum Gali has promised to give me information of Elfi's motions.

Hammed Bey Elfi el Sageer (or the younger) died yesterday. He was a brave, active, young man, and will be a severe loss to the old Elfi, who is no great soldier. He has made his Khasmadar, or Treasurer, Bey, in his stead.

Mr. Salt continued his labours at the citadel, accompanied by Captain Rudland and the Chaous Bashi. He told me they were very busy there casting ball, and that the flying artillery was gone out.

I paid a visit to Signor Filippo, who shewed me his whole collection. The fishes are most beautifully preserved; those of the Nile are very curious, and some of an enormous size. I was surprised to see among them a species of the same genus as that which blows itself up, and is covered with spines. I thought it was peculiar to the sea. He was so kind as to give me several specimens, and to offer to teach any of my people how to preserve them, and the birds. He has been several years in the Emperor's service, and told me that he once preserved for his Majesty a favourite negro, whom he has seated on the back of a camel.

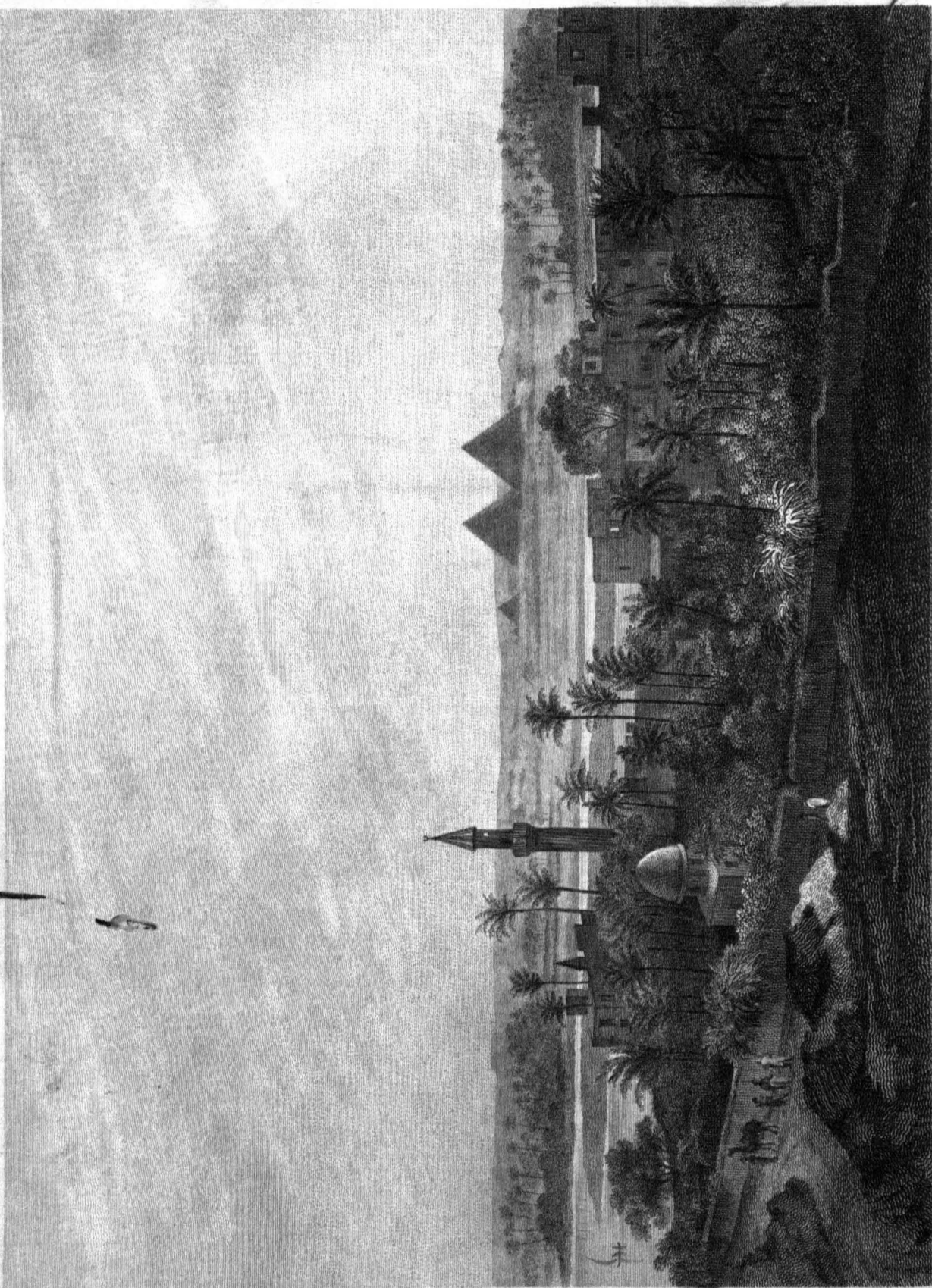
February 26.—If Elfi were at the Pyramids, it seems he has marched on; for his Highness sent this evening to inform me, that his horses were ready for to-morrow, and that he had ordered the Governor of Gheza to attend me with all his troops, and to answer with his head for my safety. I deferred our journey till Sunday, as Saturday is the great festival of Beiram, and it would have been rather hard to take the good Governor away from his people on such an occasion.

February 27.—I received, from the Archbishop of Mount Sinai, the Greek inscription and a translation of it, with a very flattering letter. The weather was very cold, with showers of rain. The thermometer  $52^{\circ}$  in the morning.

February 28.—Mr. Salt went again to the Citadel, but was soon obliged to return, as they began to celebrate the festival of Beiram, by firing musquetry with balls; an amusement by no means safe for the by-standers. I went to see his Highness pass to the mosque, which he did in very great state. Some of his Chaous Bashi were most magnificently dressed. His two sons preceded him: the eldest is a fine boy; the second is less handsome, but is said to be intelligent. Some young Mamelukes attended him, whose complexions were fairer than any Europeans, and, if they were not painted, the vermillion tint of their cheeks was superior to any thing I ever saw in nature. His Highness was plainly dressed, and, as at my interview, incessantly stroked his beard.

March 1.—The French Agent notified to his Highness that he had official intelligence from Constantinople of the peace being signed between France and Austria, and of a very great victory obtained over the Russians by Bonaparté. He, at the same time,





requested the Pacha to lend him some cannon to fire a salute on the occasion. The Pacha replied that he did not believe his story, and that if he did, he would not let him have the cannon.

March 2.—The disturbances in Egypt during the last three years, had rendered a visit to the Pyramids too dangerous for individuals to venture, and I, consequently, had numerous applications from the Europeans who happened to be in Cairo, to permit them to attend me, with which, of course, I complied. The Pacha supplied my party with horses, and sent two Chaous Bashi to take care of us, as usual. About eleven we quitted the city, and passing among the innumerable hillocks, composed of broken pottery, decayed bricks, and sand, which rise to a great height between New and Old Cairo, at length reached the convent of St. George, which is within the walls of the Citadel of the latter. It consists of a lofty round tower, divided into many apartments, and some square buildings, both of great antiquity.

As the air is salubrious, and the vicinity to the river and the groves of the island of Rhoda renders the scene more pleasing than the narrow streets of the city, it was formerly the custom for many respectable families to come out and reside here during the summer months, the good fathers supplying them with provisions, and by the presents they received in return, adding somewhat to their own scanty pittance. The heavy contributions which Mohammed Ali was obliged to levy on that part of the country, which is under his control, in order to satisfy the rapacity of the Albanian banditti, who raised him to power, have ruined numbers, and have reduced the monks of St. George to so wretched a state, that they have been obliged to abandon this large convent, and retire to a smaller



within the city. They however came out in order to receive me, as I wished to sleep at their house, that I might have the whole day before us to reach the Pyramids. The church is neat and clean, and, as it is dedicated to the Patron saint of the English, a corner is reserved for the sepulture of such of that nation as die here. The pictures are in the worst style of modern Greek art.

Our party did not consist of less than forty, who, after resting, determined to take a walk, and look at the Mekias. This building has ever been a greater object of curiosity than it seems to merit, though the pillar in the center is very handsome. This is divided into numerous compartments, as is shewn in the drawing of Norden, and affords the means of ascertaining the rise of the Nile, with which the bason that surrounds it has a communication. Every traveller either has visited it, or wishes to have it supposed that he did so. Pococke's drawings are always so bad, that the sins of omission and commission, which cover his view of the Mekias, do not lead me to doubt of his having seen it. But that Mr. Bruce should have preferred his naked and erroneous view to the perfect drawing of Norden, if he had ever himself seen it, I cannot believe; yet so he has done; for the drawing given in his work is an exact copy from that of Pococke. Mr. Bruce, as usual, talks of the difficulty of his attempt to see it, and this certainly was the case at all times to a native Christian, but never to a Frank, except during the time of the rise of the river, when, from political reasons, all access would be denied.

We wandered for some time among the ruins of a palace which stood around the Mekias, and had several flights of steps descending to the river. A mosque had formerly been its chief ornament,



the roof being supported by Corinthian pillars of Italian marble. But even this holy edifice had not been spared during the civil wars between the Beys and Albanians, and the artillery of both parties had equally contributed to its destruction when they occupied the opposite sides of the river, and were constantly firing at each other.

Our next visit was to a Jewish synagogue, which had nothing remarkable in it, but its filth; and we afterwards examined a Coptic church, which was not only more cleanly, but was an object of curiosity, from its being believed to contain the cell, in which the Virgin Mary resided during her abode in Egypt. It is a vault under the body of the church, containing an ovenlike aperture, where the infant Jesus was supposed to have slept. Many of our attendants took the opportunity of so free an access, to chip off small bits of wood from the beams which supported the roof, to wear as amulets about their persons.

We returned to the convent and found an excellent dinner provided for me, and plenty of good wine sent from the Residency. I invited all the gentlemen to partake with me. This was the day fixed on by the French Agent to celebrate the victories of his master. He had invited the Pacha's interpreter to be of the party, but his Highness ordered him, "to go and dine with the General (as he always called me), and accompany him to the Pyramids." I was very glad to see him join our party, as it added a consequence to us, and greatly increased our security by the certainty which every one felt, that if any thing should be wrong, he would report it to his master.

March 3.—We were all up by five, and immediately passed the



river to Gheza, but, when there, discovered that the Governor; who had been ordered to attend us with all his garrison, had gone out, in the night, to a neighbouring village, in consequence of the appearance of a Bey, and some Mamelukes of Elfi in its vicinity. Our friend the interpreter went to him, and soon returned with assurances, that the Governor had certain information of the enemy being one thousand strong, that he believed they were come down solely to attack us, and that therefore he had felt it his duty to communicate to his Highness this unexpected circumstance, and must wait for his commands before he could venture to move. He very politely added, that as he hoped to be able to make them retire in the course of the day, I might not like to return to Old Cairo, in which case his house was very much at my service. I declined his invitation, and preferred lounging during the day in the groves and gardens of Rhoda, while the Interpreter went to the Pacha. He joined us again at dinner, and brought a message from his Highness, expressing his extreme regret at what had happened, assuring me that he would send over troops sufficient to protect me, and that his household cavalry, and the French Mamelukes, should attend me as as a body guard to the Pyramids.

March 4.—We sent over our horses yesterday evening to avoid delay, and were up early : but our impatience was useless. It was ten before a Mameluke appeared, and then the guards were not arrived. At length, to my great surprise, I was informed, that Taher Pacha, Mohammed Ali's nephew, was arrived, and sitting on the bank of the river. I immediately went to pay my compliments to him, when he received me very civilly, and offered me a share of the carpet on which he was sitting, which I accepted. He

told me his uncle had sent him over to Gheza to make arrangements for my visit to the Pyramids, that he was taking over many men, that more were passing by Boulac, and that he expected, in the course of the evening, every thing would be settled, in which case he would send to me. He now began to joke with the Mameluke boys around him, and obliged one to own himself a French lad, and speak in his native language to us. He was an odd looking, little animal in his Mussulmaun dress, and carried his master's snuff-box. The conversation then turned on Jidda, and he told me he was going there when Egypt was quiet. I warned him against the Sheriffe; he replied, he knew him well, and would take care of him.

I should myself much doubt if Taher Pacha will ever go to Jidda. His uncle was appointed originally, but when the revolution gave him Egypt, he appointed this young man in his stead, but has hitherto kept him here. The Porte can hardly choose to give an office of such high respectability to so young a man, and the relation of a person whom they already fear. I have been told that, in general, the Pachalic of Jidda has been considered as an honourable banishment for life, as the Sultaun himself is obliged to rise to receive the minister of so holy a place on his return, to avoid which, as being derogatory to the dignity of the sovereign, he is never recalled.

I heard an anecdote of the present Sultaun Selim, which, if true, does him the highest honour. On his accession, the Pacha of Jidda was his tutor, for whom he had the greatest regard. He determined to recall him, but the Divan remonstrated, representing the indecorum of his getting up to receive him. "What," said he, "shall I be ashamed to get up to my second father? no, let him be sent



for immediately." He accordingly arrived, and Selim not only rose, but advanced to the door to receive him, and, after embracing, placed him by his side.

When all his troops were over, Taher Pacha got up himself, and, smacking his open hand against mine, took his leave with great good humour. He is young and rather handsome, has the appearance of being good tempered, but did not seem to possess much ability. He sent in the evening to say, that every thing was settled, and that I might come over in the morning.

March 5.—Our party passed the river as soon as it was light, but Mussulmauns are not to be hurried, and it was some time before the governor of the town joined us with a large body of cavalry, and a piece of curricule artillery. We crossed the plain direct for the Pyramids, while Taher Pacha kept between us and some villages to the north, where the Mamelukes and Arabs were said to be. He had with him full two thousand infantry, and another piece of curricule artillery, a force more than sufficient for our protection. I cannot say that I was struck with that astonishment, which many have expressed on approaching these vast masses. The idea of a Pyramid is easily conceived, and consequently surprise cannot enter the feelings of a person when he first beholds them. When, however, reason points out the prodigious labour, with which they must have been erected, and the incomprehensible motives, which could have led to such vast exertions, astonishment gradually increases, and the mind is lost in conjecture and admiration.

On reaching the entrance into the great Pyramid, we were joined by many Arabs, residing in the neighbouring vaults, who offered

their services in assisting us among the ruins, and clearing the passage that led to what is usually called the Sepulchral chamber, from the sand that had accumulated in it. This was rapidly executed, and the flambeaux being lighted, the party entered. The different passages and chambers have been so often visited and described, that it is impossible any new discovery can be made by a modern traveller. The French have ascertained the actual dimensions, and it is curious, that Diodorus should have been proved to be correct, who has stated the base to be seven hundred feet, and the elevation six hundred. The British army had leisure to visit it frequently, and the officers have added their testimony to that of their predecessors, that the great pyramid is built of a stone found in the vicinity, and of which the rock itself on which it is erected, is composed. If ever this, or the others, were covered with marble or granite, not a vestige now remains to prove the fact; but it is probable that they were at least intended to be thus adorned, from the passages being of the finest white marble, and the chambers of the red granite of Upper Egypt.

If it were dubious in the time of Herodotus, by whom, or for what purpose, the pyramids were constructed, it is scarcely possible that modern ingenuity should clear away the deeper gloom with which the course of ages has covered the mystery; yet every person, who has written on the subject, has embraced some decided opinion, and many have laboured hard to prove, what must ever remain doubtful. Among these, Monsieur Maillet is the most remarkable, who has described the process of closing the great pyramid, as accurately as if he had been present when it was done. I am myself inclined to believe that it never was intended to be shut



up, nor that any pains were taken to conceal the approaches to the great chamber ; for if such were the case, nothing could be more absurd, than to line the passages, from the entrance to the extremity, with a highly polished white marble, which would have served as a guide to any depredator, and would have precluded the possibility of his erring either to the right or left ; whereas, if the passage had been formed of the same materials as the rest of the building, nearly a moiety of it might have been destroyed before its contents could have been discovered. If, on the contrary, the pyramid were intended to be open for the celebration of any of the sacred mysteries, the lining of polished marble to the passage, and the splendid coating of granite, which adorns the chambers, would be at once accounted for, and the sarcophagus might have been destined to contain the supposed body of Osiris during the annual lamentations for his loss.

The usual account of Cheops having finished it for his own interment, seems hardly reconcileable with the account of Herodotus, of his being buried in an island surrounded by the Nile, which might be *under*, but could not be *in* the pyramid, from its being elevated one hundred feet above the level of the plain. The ridiculous account of the Arab historians, of the body of a king having been discovered adorned with jewels, when Sultaun Almamoun opened the pyramid, is unworthy of consideration, for it appears that the passage was open in the time of Strabo and Pliny, who mention the oblique descent, and the well of eighty-six cubits. The conjecture of Pococke seems worthy of more attention, who believes that the whole point of the high land, which protrudes due east into the plain of the Nile, was intended to be covered with an



uniform pile, of which the existing pyramids were to form a part, and that others were to be erected, to correspond with the great pyramid and the third. The second pyramid would then be in the centre, with the sphinx in front of it. The regularity of the excavations which surround this building on two sides, leaving an opening to the east, and the fact that the causeways extend in the same direction, seem to prove, that this was intended as the front of the pile, and thereby confirm the conjecture of our learned countryman.

Mr. Bruce, who certainly visited the pyramids, has given us only one observation, and that is totally contrary to the truth, viz. "that large fragments of the rock are visible in the roof of the great chamber, where the sarcophagus stands, and also in the top of the roof of the gallery, as you go up into that chamber." I have before stated that the pyramid itself is built of a stone found on the spot, but that the gallery is lined with white marble, and the chambers with the finest granite.

Among the renegado French, who escorted me, was a man, who said he had accompanied Bonaparte on his visit to the pyramids, and assured me that that General had sent down a man into the well, with a cord fastened to him, but that, after he had descended some distance, they found it impossible to get him out, probably from some curve in the passage. It is to be regretted that the experiment failed, for the description of Herodotus gives sufficient grounds for believing that we are hitherto unacquainted with many of the mysteries of this gloomy building.

Taher Pacha sent so frequently to hasten my departure, that, at length, we were obliged, however unwillingly, to comply. He im-

mediately prepared to attack the Mamelukes, who were lurking in the date groves ; but his Albanians thought it safest to proceed so slowly, that the enemy had sufficient time to retire before they were within reach. Taher Pacha told them plainly, that they were only fit to extort money from the peaceable natives, but that they would never be induced to seize it from an armed enemy. Our cavalry attended us across the plain to Gheza, a distance of only six miles, but rendered very fatiguing by the cultivation of the ground, over which we were obliged to move, and by the heat of the sun passing through an unclouded sky. We were all heartily fatigued when we reached Cairo, after having been in motion for twelve hours.

March 6th.—I received a letter from Captain Court, informing me that they were in the greatest distress for water and provisions. At my request, Mr. Macardle very kindly sent off his servant to Schech Chedid, desiring him instantly to forward to Suez, forty sheep and three bullocks.

I was this day to visit his Highness the Pacha, to take my leave. I mentioned to him the distress of the Panther for water. He instantly ordered a letter to be written to the Governor on the subject : it was sealed in my presence, and delivered to me to be forwarded. I observed that he watched the Secretary very closely the whole time the seal was in his hand. He presented me a sabre with his own hand, requesting I would keep it for his sake. His attendants gave one to Mr. Macgie, Mr. Salt, Captain Rudland, and my servant. Shortly afterwards, I was presented with a rich pellisse of sable, worth here about two thousand piastres. I immediately put my right arm into it, and again sat down. He made a great



many professions of regard, and apologies for any neglect that might have taken place. On asking if he had any commands for England, he requested me to procure him a good pair of pistols, which I, of course, promised. He pointed out his two sons to me, who were standing on my right hand. On my taking leave, he rose up and spoke to me—a most pointed compliment, and contrary to his religion, as well as his dignity. On quitting the room, I put my left hand into the pellice, and rode home in it.

March 7.—We hired a boat which had been taken by the Pacha to carry up the troops, but which, at our request, he immediately discharged. I sent his Highness a diamond ring, more than equal in value to his presents. He requested me, through the interpreter, to procure him a gun, as well as a pair of pistols, and promised that he would not be behind hand in making a suitable return.

March 8.—I received a message from the widow of the celebrated Murad Bey, who had been the favourite slave of Ali Bey, saying, that she was very sorry she had not seen me; that she could not come out, from fear the people should cut off her head; that she therefore hoped I would write, and send to her a short account of my travels. I own that I had not the inclination, even if I had had the time, to comply with so reasonable a request.

March 9.—I called, in the morning, on the Archbishop of Mount Sinai, to take my leave of him, and to request that, on his arrival at his monastery, he would examine the manuscripts, and let me hear from him if there were any thing that was valuable; which he promised to do. He certainly had not weaned himself from the vanities of this world, for he shewed us, with evident complacency, his mitre, and a brilliant cross, which had been given him by the



Emperor Alexander. The poverty of his convent, I suspected to be an excuse for the delay at Cairo, while the real cause was a lurking hope, that he might be able to obtain some preferment in Europe, and thereby avoid a perpetual seclusion on Mount Sinai. We determined to quit Cairo on the morrow, and therefore sent our baggage to Boulac, and hired a small boat for the cook and provisions.

The rank which the Pacha had been pleased to bestow upon me, of General, and the consequence which he annexed to my arrival, were so far fortunate as they enabled me to see the pyramids, and every thing that was interesting in Cairo, but the expense which it brought on me was very great. The journey to the pyramids cost me above four hundred dollars, and the visits to the Pacha three hundred more, in presents to his servants. The Bedowee Arabs brought in many Egyptian antiquities, which I purchased under the guidance of my friend Signor Filippo, before whose arrival I had, as is usual, been most completely imposed on. My stay had been rendered very comfortable by the unremitting attentions of Mr. Macardle, a countryman by extraction, though born in Italy, and whose long residence in Egypt enabled him to be particularly useful to a stranger. My worthy friend Mr. Macgie, who had attended me with the utmost anxiety, during repeated indispositions, was now obliged to return to the ship. Chedid undertook to provide him with a Tackterouane, and to protect him to Suez, with the different articles which he had purchased for the officers and crew of the Panther.

## CHAPTER XI.

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Departure from Grand Cairo.—Arrival at Rosetta.—Conference with Carlo Rosetti.—Voyage to Alexandria.—Reception there.—Visit to the Governor.—Journey along the Coast to Rosetta.—Preparations for a Tour in the Delta.—Berimbal.—Voyage on the Lake Bourlos.—Boltine.—Transactions there.—Arrival at Damietta.—Account of Antiquities found there.—Observations on Mr. Savary's Account of ancient Damietta.—Visit to the Governor.—Descriptions of the Lake Menzale, and the Ruins of Thouna.—Visit to Matarieh.—Account of the Schech.—Return to Damietta.—Voyage to Mansoura.—Journey to Timai in the Desert.—Description of the Ruins there.—Journey from Mansoura to Bahbeite.—Remains of the Temple of Isis there.—Journey across the Delta by Mahallet-el-Kebeer to Foua.—Dispute with the Albanians there, and its consequences.—Arrival at Rosetta.—Observations on the Delta.—Return to Alexandria.



## CHAPTER XI.

MARCH 10.—ABOUT ten we mounted the Pacha's horses for the last time. Mr. Macardle and Mr. Aziz attended us. We passed by the Osbeckia, a large square covered with grain, but which the French had planted, and laid out in a very beautiful style. Every tree was however cut down by the Turks as soon as they were gone. Here was the palace of Elfi Bey, the best in the town, and where Bonaparté lived: it was set on fire by the Arnauts when they bombarded Mohammed Pacha, who had fortified it, and the outer wall alone remains. Boulac is completely in ruins. It joined Cairo in its revolt against the French, though an open town, and was taken by storm in about a quarter of an hour. It was given up for three days to the plunder of the troops, who set it on fire in several places. Mr. Rosetti had here an excellent house and garden; the latter was destroyed by the French, the former by the Turks. He has now a small house pleasantly situated on the river, with excellent warehouses. We here took our farewell breakfast, and about two embarked, taking Mr. Thomaso with us to secure supplies. The wind was tolerably fair, but our Rais, or Captain, had not all his people on board, and therefore crossed from side to side. At length they came, and we set off in earnest. I was in a canja, the boat described by Mr. Bruce, and looked about for his main yard two hundred feet long; ours was but one hundred; though I under-



stood few were larger, and those only a very little. I looked also in vain for his little stick, with which a single man was to move so prodigious a weight as a yard of one hundred feet, with a proportionable sail annexed. Alas! the present race has lost this valuable discovery, which, not even Mr. Bruce's elegant drawing and section could preserve, and it is now necessary to employ seven or eight men to dip the yard, and change it from one side to the other. Our cabin was comfortable, though low, and we were furnished with excellent provision through the care of Mr. Thomaso. The Rais went on till about two, when he stopped for day-light to pass a place considered as dangerous, in consequence of piles driven into the river to turn a part of the stream into the Damietta branch, which was nearly dry. This work succeeded, but occasioned the loss of several vessels.

March 11.—The river winds so considerably, that every half hour the wind must be adverse, let it come from what point it will. It blew fresh towards the middle of the day, and drove us against a bank, where we were obliged to track. We reached Menuf about twelve, but our cook-boat did not make its appearance till three. During our stay here I received a very polite message from the Kacheef, saying that he should be happy to see me, or would pay me a visit. I went to him. He was a sensible Turk, who made very civil speeches. He wished to know if I wanted any thing. He expressed a regret that, as he had not many sheep here, he had been able to send me only two, but had a bullock at my service if I wished for it. This I declined, and soon took my leave. I found the sheep had arrived, with a cargo of bread, and some coffee. A present was requisite in return. I sent him a muslin embroidered shawl, and, in consequence of a hint, given to my servant, two

bottles of brandy. He was highly pleased with both, declared the latter excellent, and gave my Arab servant twenty-five piastres. My cook-boat had leaked; the Kacheef offered me another; but as the leak was stopped, I did not like to lose time. We were in motion about five, and sailed all night with a fair wind.

March 12.—The wind continued fair and fresh all day. We passed rapidly through a country generally in a high state of cultivation, and crowded with villages, but which afforded no variety of scene. We landed occasionally when the windings of the river made the wind adverse, and tracking necessary. We entered the villages without the smallest fear, and uniformly met with a civil reception from the inhabitants, who seemed to be wretchedly lodged, and to take care to have no visible property. We did not stop to view Rahmanie, celebrated by the engagement between the French and English, but hastened on to Rosetta, where we arrived at ten, and were most hospitably received by Mr. Petrucci, the British Vice Consul.

March 13.—In the morning Mr. Rosetti, who acts as Consul General for the Emperors of Russia and Germany, paid me a visit. He is now very old, having acted a considerable part in the revolutions which have taken place from the time of Ali Bey till the arrival of the French. His figure is dignified, and his faculties still unimpaired. He has several monopolies for the government, and still carries on a more extensive trade than any other person. After the usual compliments, and my having returned him thanks for the invaluable assistance he had afforded me by sending Mr. Thomaso to Suez, and permitting him to accompany me to Rosetta, he inquired of me if I had known Mr. Bruce, which immediately



led to a conversation respecting that traveller. He said, that he had known him well, while on his way to the Red Sea ; that he had accompanied him in his canja to Cairo, and had been constantly with him during his residence there ; that he had therefore begun to read his book as soon as he received it, but had never finished it, from finding so many mis-statements respecting Ali Bey, all the adventures with whom were, to his knowledge, romances. " You may know," said he, " that Bruce never saw Ali Bey, by the description he gives of the diamonds in his turban : every one will inform you, that no Mameluke ever wore any jewels there ; it is contrary to their custom." Rosetti was in Italy when Bruce returned, and saw him, as he says, at Venice. He and another gentleman were shewn the drawings made in Egypt and Abyssinia; but the latter observed that they were in the Italian manner, which so extremely offended Bruce, that he refused to exhibit any more. I expressed to him my regret that he had not himself given us an account of Ali Bey, and the revolutions which had since taken place, a task which no one was so competent to execute. He replied, that he had once begun a work of that sort, but that his partner had committed it to the flames in a time of tumult, fearful that his enemies might seize it, and use it as an instrument to injure him with the Beys. He said he was now too old to begin it again ; but at my request promised that he would mark in Savary, Volney, and the other authors who had written on Egypt, what was true, and what was false.

March 14.—I had the pleasure in the morning of hearing from my friend Captain Court, that the Pacha's letter had had a very beneficial effect on the Dola of Suez, who expressed the greatest anxiety to comply with his Highness's orders ; in consequence of



which they received a daily supply of water, but the quality was so indifferent, that the scurvy began to appear among the sepoys ; and he feared, if the vessel were detained much longer for Major Missett's dispatches, that many would suffer severely. I hoped that the supply of forty sheep and three bullocks, which I learned from Mr. Macardle had actually been sent off by Chedid, would counteract the ill effects of the brackish water. After having been so fortunate as not to lose a single man, during a continuance of thirteen months in the Red Sea, out of nearly ninety persons, it would have been painful to see them perish, when about to return to the comforts of India.

March 16.—Mr. Petrucci yesterday gave an entertainment to Mr. Rosetti, and the Vice Consul of the Seven Isles : we this day dined with Mr. Rosetti. In the morning, a notorious Albanian chief paid me a visit, attended by a banditti of his countrymen. This man was six feet high, and universally admitted to be the greatest liar, plunderer, and murderer, among the Albanians.

March 22.—On the 20th all our baggage was embarked on board a jerm, to sail for Alexandria, but we had scarcely quitted the shore when the wind came round to the westward, and blew so heavy a gale, that it was impossible to pass the Bogaz, or shoal at the mouth of the river ; and even if that could have been done, no jerm would have ventured out with a foul wind, for there is no place in which shelter could be found between it and Alexandria. We yesterday went down to the mouth in Mr. Petrucci's boat, and found a very heavy surf beating on the shore, and shoals, though the wind had moderated. The fishermen were actively employed in the shallow water, and caught, while we were there, a great number of very fine mullet. The Mediterranean afforded me no interesting marine

productions on my first visit, and the arid sand of the sea shore was equally unproductive of vegetable curiosities.

March 23.—The swell having gone down, in consequence of the wind's coming round to the south, we sailed from Rosetta at half after five in the morning, accompanied by an intelligent young Italian, of the name of Cravazza, in the employment of Mr. Petrucci. An officer is constantly appointed to attend at the mouth of the river, to point out the course to the vessels passing. He is called the Captain of the Bogaz, and was at his station, anchored in the shallowest part, to pay his compliments, and ask for a present, which was given to him.

The wind was very fresh, but so far favourable that we could lay our course. After passing Aboukir it became more foul, but by a single tack we were enabled to reach the new harbour of Alexandria. As soon as the British flag was seen from the shore, the Major dispatched his interpreter, Mr. François, to receive me. I and my party descended into the boat, and immediately the fort of Pharos began a salute of eleven guns, a compliment which is only paid to Pachas of three tails. On the beach I was met by Major Missett, and the other members of the mission. The Consuls of the different European powers, not at war with Great Britain, sent their dragomans to attend me, and the Governor sent forty of his Chaous. I proceeded to the house of Mr. Briggs, the British Consul, where I found myself most excellently lodged.

The reception I met with in Egypt was most uncommonly flattering, and I felt the more pleased with it, as I found that it extremely mortified the French Agents. Mr. Drovetti, their Consul, could not contain his vexation. He exclaimed, "how very ridicu-



"lous to make such an uproar about a private individual!" but he well knew that, although in fact his observation were just, yet that I was on this occasion a public pageant, as no one believed that I had come without political motives; an idea which Major Missett encouraged, to counteract the intrigues of the French, whose agents had for some time unblushingly asserted, that England considered Egypt as of no consequence, and did not wish to keep up any connection with it. I received a message from the Governor of Alexandria, stating, that he was rejoiced to hear of my safe arrival, and that he would have paid his compliments to me in person, if he had not been particularly engaged. This was a Turkish compliment, and a very high one to a Christian, although untrue, for he was, in fact, perfectly at leisure; but he justly considered himself as entitled to the first visit.

March 24.—The different Consuls paid me a visit, and were received with due civility. A very respectable native, who acted as Surbaje, or chief magistrate of Alexandria, during the time the English were there, was also introduced to me. He had quitted Egypt with them, and retired to Malta, where he was astonished and gratified by a reception as friendly as if his assistance had still been required. He received from them a pension of ten shillings per day, on which he lived very comfortably, having a few villages of his own. He openly professed his attachment to the English, and refused to hold his former office under the Turks. He was nevertheless on very good terms with the present Governor, and highly respected by the Arabs, and inhabitants of the town. In the morning I visited the Governor, who had drawn out a considerable detachment of the Turkish soldiers, disciplined after the European



manner, who presented arms in a very good style; he himself, at the head of his household, received me at the outward door, and conducted me to the audience room, where I partook of the usual refreshments, sweatmeats, coffee and sherbet, after which he again escorted me to the street, when I was saluted by the Turkish frigates in the Old Harbour. Mr. Drovetti, the French Agent, wrote to me in the evening, expressing his regret that political circumstances put it out of his power to wait on me.

March 30.—On the 25th I returned the visits of the Consuls; on the 26th the Governor returned my visit, and on the 29th accepted an invitation to dine with Major Missett, on condition that we would dine with him the day following. He paid us the compliment of turning out the guard, and meeting us himself at the door. He showed us the whole of the house, which is new and elegant, particularly the hall of audience and the room over it, where we dined, which has a beautiful view of the Old Harbour. These rooms are richly ornamented with arabesque paintings and coloured glass, and are of a size well adapted to a sultry climate. The whole was built by a former Governor, who commanded when the French stormed the place, and who was beheaded by them. Emim Effendi, the Aga, was a Candiot, and belonged to the navy, having commanded a frigate before his elevation to the government. He had with him an adopted brother, Dervish Effendi, who with the Surbaje formed our Mussulmaun society. The dinner was excellent, particularly the pastry and confectionary. The whole was served in the European style, and the wine was freely drank by the whole party. Arab music was played during the dinner, and afterwards, the Aga and his brother amused us greatly by singing several