

Greek and Turkish love songs. The whole passed off with great good humour, and it was a late hour before we took our leave.

April 13.—Our friend the Surbaje considered it as a compliment that we should dine with him, we therefore did so. His house was plain and neat, and his table well served, but not so splendidly as the Governor's. He informed me that he had no family, and only one wife, which he said was the custom of his family. Emim Aga and Dervish Effendi were of the party. Mr. Briggs gave a ball this day to the European inhabitants of respectability, at which several very pretty Italian girls were present: twelve couple danced English and Piedmontese dances, to a band composed of several violins, played on by gentlemen, and a large English harpsichord brought out by Elfi Bey, and which had been purchased, from his plunderers, for two hundred piastres.

April 19.—No vessel had arrived in which it was possible for us to sail, nor could we hear of any that was expected. Major Missett therefore had the goodness to write to Sir Alexander Ball, at Malta, representing my situation, and the ineligibility of my running the risk of falling into the hands of the French, with all my papers, and suggesting that an armed vessel should be sent for me. As however it would be full six weeks before we could receive an answer, I determined to visit Damietta, and the lakes that separate the Delta from the sea shore. Mr. Briggs, Captain Vincenzo Taberna, and his brother, accompanied us. In the morning I sent off our baggage and servants, by a jerm. to Rosetta, where we were to make our arrangements for the journey, by the advice and with the assistance of Messrs. Rosetti and Petrucci, who were in the mean time to engage our Arab attendants. The Major gave a party at the gardens to

the Governor and the Surbaje, who afterwards took a farewell dinner with us.

April 20.—After an early breakfast we departed by the Rosetta gate, where we found Emim Aga seated, watching for our arrival to take leave, and wish us a good journey. He had lent us two tents, and had even extended his politeness so far as to offer to send a Turkish frigate with me and my party to Damietta. This I declined, as I did not consider the coast as a very safe one for unskilful seamen. Guards are not usually placed at the gates, but they were there that they might turn out and salute me. In short, it seemed the study of the Governor's life, to find out how he could oblige and compliment me. We passed by the Canopic gate, which is distinguishable from the hillocks of rubbish on each side. Thence the great road still remains open, passing between two lines of detached buildings, some of which are small, and being all broken open, shew evidently that they were tombs, the most perfect having a cavity within, of the size of a body, lined, like the cells of the catacombs, with a very hard red plaister.

It was nine when we reached a small fort, occupied by the disciplined troops of the garrison of Alexandria, to guard the narrow pass between the lakes of Mareotis and Aboukir, from the incursions of Elfi Bey and his Arab allies. The English cut away the neck of land on which the Alexandrian canal passed, in order to deprive the French of fresh water, and to re-form the Lake Mareotis, which would prevent the town from receiving any fresh supplies from the Arabs. The Turks found it necessary to reconstruct the embankment, that the water might again come to the town, and the celebrated Capitan Pacha, Hassan, employed a

Swedish engineer in the work, who has certainly done it well; but it is to be regretted that, instead of reconstructing a solid mound by sinking caissons filled with stones, he had not carried the canal across the breach on arches, leaving a free passage underneath for the sea. By these means the strength of Alexandria would have been greatly increased as a military position, and its salubrity would have been promoted, by the passing of the hot winds over a large expanse of water. As it is, the lake is gradually drying up, and will soon become a salt marsh.

A boat was here waiting for us, in which we embarked, and with a fair breeze passed across the lake of Aboukir in two hours, to the narrow channel which opens into the sea; though there was little swell, yet the water was so shallow that we struck in getting over the bar, and our men were obliged to get out and push us on. The same pleasant breeze carried us through the Bay of Aboukir in an hour and a half, to the Lake of Edco, which we had no difficulty in entering, as the passage is wide and sufficiently deep when the swell is not great. A little before three we reached Edco, where we were cordially received by the Schech, who is much attached to the English, and to the Beys. He is a powerful Arab, and his town is of importance, from commanding the narrow passage along which the only road goes from Rosetta to Alexandria. It is his duty to allow no one to pass without permission from government; yet he was then suffering for having done so. A party of Osmanlis was going by at night, of whose approach he had no notice from government, and consequently fired on it. Mohammed Ali made the Governor of Rosetta send for him, promising that he should be permitted to return, but when there, he was detained in prison. Several

hundreds of his people came into the town, and by force liberated him, on which the beforementioned Albanian chief went against him, and he was obliged to compromise the business by paying twenty-five purses for having done his duty. He received us most kindly, presented his children, and gave us fowls, roast pigeons, and mutton. His village is prettily situated on a hill close to the lake. Mr. Petrucci had sent two horses for us; we procured the rest, and some asses for the servants, from the Schech. The first part of the road was over moveable sands, and very heavy: the date trees were frequently covered nearly to the top; the latter part was much harder, except close to Rosetta, where the date trees and sand began again. We reached Mr. Petrucci's before it was dark.

April 21.—The morning was occupied in receiving the visits of the different gentlemen of the place, and in preparing for our journey. Mr. Petrucci having dismissed Paulino his secretary for staying at Alexandria, at Major Missett's request, I invited him to join our party, which he was happy to do. The boat, with the rest of our baggage, arrived safely, after having been aground on the Bogaz, and nearly lost by a sudden squall from the S. E. which brought so much sand that they could not see the way. It blew a kamsim all day, but the heat was not nearly equal to the hot winds of India: we could walk out without great inconvenience. Mohammed Ali had withdrawn all the soldiers for Cairo; and not more than twenty remained in the town. The Albanian chief went off to day: he demanded large presents from the Europeans. Mr. Rosetti, who had some objects of trade to carry, gave him shawls and watches; the Vice Consul of the Seven Isles was bullied into a similar compliance; but Mr. Petrucci stood out, and positively refused to give him

any thing. On going away, he sent to say, he would make him repent it. We hired asses ourselves for the whole way to Damietta, at twenty piastres each.

April 22.—We sent on our servants and baggage in the morning for Berimbal. In the evening we went up the Nile, in Mr. Petrucci's canja, to the same place. We landed at Mr. Rosetti's country-house, to whom we paid our compliments, and then adjourned to our tents, where we learned that the Schech of the village had sent us bread and milk as a present, and had waited on us himself, promising to supply us with camels for the morrow.

April 23.—We were up at five; but only two camels were ready, and we required five. The Schech paid us a visit, and brought the others. The Commandant, who was a young Mameluke that left the service of his brethren for that of the Kiahia of Mohammed Ali, stopped, and sat for some time with us, as he was proceeding to Rosetta, to bring all the boats to the eastern bank of the river, that the Mamelukes might not pass over. At eight we set off, Mr. Rosetti accompanying us to the marsh by the Lake Bourlos, which we reached in half an hour. At the time of the rising of the Nile, the lake reaches this spot, but we were an hour in passing the place where the water then was; our course was east, a little north. We here found several fishing boats, but to our great astonishment none had been hired for us, nor did we owe their being there to any thing but chance; a negligence in Mr. Petrucci which might have obliged us to return. We hired four to carry us and our baggage to Bourlos, for six Venetians. The wind was favourable when we left Berimbal, but when we embarked at twelve it was quite calm. The boats were built for fishing, decked at each

end, but at the stern sloping to a level with the water, for the facility of drawing in the nets. The lake, though salt, is only three or four feet deep, with a muddy bottom. The men, as it was calm, pushed us along with poles. We had ordered the Rais to keep together, but one boat went away to the south, and, in defiance of our signals for her to join us, continued her course till she reached the shore, and took in four fellows, for which act of disobedience we gave the Rais a good flogging. A fine breeze sprung up, with which we made tolerable way, but at four we were not a quarter of the way to Bourlos, and therefore determined to stop at a little island ahead. We reached it at five, and took a hearty dinner of cold mutton and pork, and our example was followed by our boatmen, in defiance of their religion. I prepared my couch as a tent; the other gentlemen procured a small tent about ten, and slept under it.

April 24.—We proceeded at eight, but the breeze being very fresh and unfavourable, we were obliged to tack frequently among the islands. Our Rais wished us much to stop at another island, where there was fresh water, but we positively refused, and obliged him to go on, though he pleaded that there was not water enough close to Bourlos, and that we could only go over the bank when the wind was fair and strong. At two we were off the spot he represented: it was indeed very shallow, and we were glad to send some of our party into a small fishing boat, to lighten our own, when the breeze blew very fresh, and we got safely over. The shoals near Bourlos obliged us to go a considerable round, before we could reach the channel by which the sea enters the lake. The current here, in consequence of the N. E. wind, was so strong that we were obliged to

track. It was dark when we reached the town, which is close to the Bogaz. The Schech came down to us, and invited us to his house, where we took coffee, and enquired about our way. We now found, to our infinite vexation, that instead of being able to procure every thing we might want here, as Mr. Petrucci had represented, (to whom we had left the arranging of our route), that three camels only were to be had, and that those were at Boltine, distant two hours march, where the Schech el Belled, and the Caimakan lived, and that there we must go for them. In short, we found that we had no business to come to Bourlos at all. Our other boats were not come up, so we desired the Schech to get us a dinner; he also offered us his house to sleep in. We sent off letters to Boltine, and determined to follow by water in the morning. Our tents came about eight.

April 25.—We were up early, and made a breakfast on coffee with cakes and eggs, sent from the Schech. We took a cordial leave of the old man, (who boasted he had a firmaun from the mighty Sultaun Selim himself), wishing never again to see a place which has nothing to recommend it, except a sight of the gambols of thousands of porpoises, that seem to take a particular delight in the rapidity of the current at the entrance, and the shallow, muddy waters of the lake. The French have built a tower on the opposite bank, which commands the passage. No one is now in it. The wind was N. W. and the current came in so rapidly, that the lake evidently rose. We reached Boltine in about an hour. It was impossible to go close to the shore, but by means of camels and mens' shoulders we got there dry. The Schech el Belled met us, and made his compliments. We found that the three camels were all that were to be had, and the number of asses was uncertain. The Caimakan

paid me a visit, and invited me to drink coffee at his house, which is a kind of caravanserai for travellers : this I accepted. He was a pleasant middle-aged man, who had been in Italy, and over all the Turkish dominions. He assured us it was impossible to procure any more camels even in three days, and expressed his astonishment at our taking so disagreeable a journey, as hence direct to Damietta, a twenty-one hours march, over a barren desert, where not even water could be procured. We then enquired if we could make our way any farther over the lake. He advised us to go to a place on the opposite side of the lake, within eight hours sail, where we could procure every thing we wanted, and should have a succession of villages to the Nile, on which we might embark for Damietta. He said he had been this way seven or eight times. We thanked him for his council, and determined to follow it. He expressed his regret at not having any thing in this place to offer us, for even water they were obliged to fetch from a distance. Date trees are in abundance, as, in their season, are melons and water-melons, the best in Egypt; but at that time none could be procured. We invited him to share our dinner, which he accepted. On returning to our tent, and telling the Schech el Belled our intentions of going by water, he started many objections. There would not be water sufficient, the Caimakan had only gone when the Nile was at the highest, and thought all other times were as good; the road was infested with thieves, &c. We suspected he was only interested to let us his camels and asses; we therefore sent to the Caimakan to request he would pay us a visit at the tent. He came, and soon obliged the Schech to acknowledge that the road was safe, and that there would be probably water enough, as the lake was rising. Orders were therefore issued

for the boats to be hired. We took a walk in the town, which is tolerably large and populous. The people were all extremely civil. The more respectable inhabitants came up to make their compliments and shake hands. We found a broken stone with some singular hieroglyphics. The Caimakan dined with us; he drank wine; but on the Schech el Belled's coming in, removed the glass, and placed water before him in a silver cup.

April 26.—We were up by break of day, but it was some time before we could hear of the Schech; at length he appeared, and told us that he had not been able to find the Rais of the boats: in short, nothing had been done respecting our voyage. We asked for our bread, which he had been ordered to prepare for our breakfast: he coolly answered by desiring us not to be in a hurry, it would be ready in time. Irritated at his impertinence, Vincenzo gave him a hearty blow or two with his pipe, and sent him away for it. We now found nothing was to be done without the Caimakan, who came immediately on our sending for him. After much conversation between him and the different boat people, he seemed to hesitate with respect to the eligibility of our going by water; the lake had rather fallen in the night instead of rising, and the opposite shore in this case was supposed not to have any water for two miles from the town. The intermediate space was mud, from three to four feet deep, over which we could not walk.

Convinced by their reasoning, we gave up our favourite plan. Three camels were ready, but the asses were to be sought for. At eleven nine only were found, and we were told there were no more. Our baggage required twenty; we therefore asked if we could hire a boat to carry part of our things by water. The Caimakan said, yes,

but it was some time before he could induce the Schech to find a Rais, and when he came, he said he had never been at Damietta—an impudent lie! as their chief trade is with that place and Rosetta. At length he owned he had, but asked fifty dollars for his jerm. Violently irritated at this, the Caimakan gave the whole party a good flogging, not excepting the Schech, which immediately reduced the price to twenty piastres. The business was now settled. We only kept our tents, a single change of linen, our beds, the canteens, and wine sufficient for three days; all the rest of our baggage we sent to the boat, under the care of Mr. Briggs's servant, and Fowler. I gave our friend the Caimakan a gun, in return for two sheep he had sent us: to the Schech I gave nothing. We set off by five, after many disputes, to go due north to a village close to the sea, whence they procure all their water, Boltine affording none. We reached it in two hours and a half. Our camels did not arrive till an hour afterwards. I was mounted on a horse of Mr. Airut, the English Vice Consul at Damietta; the rest were on asses. The village is a small collection of huts formed of date leaves. Most of the males were gone to the cultivated part of the Delta, to assist in carrying in the harvest; for this purpose they had taken their camels, which was the cause of our distress, as Bourlos and Boltine, at other seasons, could produce sixty or seventy.

April 27.—At a little after five we were up, and having procured six large jars of water, set off at six. We went on at a brisk pace along the sea shore till nine o'clock, when we halted. The camels did not arrive till eleven. The country was a perfect desert on our right hand. We pitched our tent, and waited till the heat of the day were over. At three we sent off the tent, and followed at

half after four. At half after seven we stopped on the banks of an inlet of the sea, which in the time of the rising of the Nile is the vent of a canal. This is probably one of the Pseudostoma, mentioned by Ptolemy, as lying between the Sebennitic and Phatmetic mouths of the Nile; but as it is the only one of which we could discover a trace during our journey, it is impossible to ascertain whether it be that of Pineptimi, or Diolcos; but, according to D'Anville, it would be the latter. This geographer has not laid down the country we were passing, with his usual accuracy; there does not exist a vestige of an inland narrow lake running parallel to the sea shore, nor is there any village, nor any ruins where he places Lashom.

Fearing we might want water, we had sent on an express to Damietta, ordering some to be sent to meet us: we found it waiting our arrival, to our great satisfaction, for ours was all gone. It blew very fresh in the night from the west.

April 28.—We observed the water had risen considerably, and were all obliged to pass on the camels. It was six when we mounted. At half after eight we were met by the Schech of Salanie, the district opposite Damietta, and soon afterwards saw the town, and quitted the sea side to make direct for it. Near the Nile we were met by Signor Giorgio's brother, Signor Gabriel Airut, the Russian Consul. Under some trees, on the banks, carpets were spread, upon which we partook of coffee and sherbet. The Governor, Achmed Aga, had sent his boat for me. As we approached the vessels, they hoisted their colours, and fired a gun each. On landing, I was saluted with as many guns as they had mounted. I went directly to the house of the brothers Airuts, where I received the visits of the Vice Consuls, and among others of the French, who being also Swedish, came in

the latter capacity. I found a letter from Mr. Filippo Agnelli, recommending me to apply to a reverend Catholic priest, of the name of Padre Basilio, for any information I might want respecting Damietta. I sent for him, and he came immediately. I found him very intelligent. We walked with him in the evening to see the remains of an ancient obelisk mentioned by Andreossi, as forming the door-sill of the barracks. It is of granite, but nearly worn away. We next went to two pedestals, placed near the door of a merchant: the one had a Latin inscription, which Mr. Salt copied; it consisted of only two lines, in capital letters, and was as follows:

LICINIAE LF SECUNDAE
DOMITI CATULLI.

the other had one of Greek, which was partly concealed by a step, and turned topsy-turvy. We obtained permission from the owner to have it removed, that it also might be copied. He informed us that they were not found in Egypt, but brought in a vessel from Syria.

On determining to visit the Delta, we had written to Mohammed Ali Pacha, requesting a firman to the Governor of Damietta: one arrived yesterday, making him answerable, with his head, for our safety, directing him to afford us every assistance in his power, and to shew us every attention. We all went to the Hummaum in the afternoon, and were well cleansed from the dust of the Desert. Our baggage arrived at one; but we could hear no news of the boat and servants.

April 29.—I applied in the morning to the Governor, for the use of his boat to carry me to Lesbé, at the mouth of the Nile, which was immediately granted. This village was destroyed by the

French, who began to erect on its site a fort which would have been strong, but which they had not time to finish. It has a lofty brick wall, but no ditch nor glacis; within, three excellent barracks were finished; but the ruins of the ancient houses were not removed. I examined the whole of the place to see if I could discover any of the ruins mentioned by Savary, as existing in his time, and which he conceived to be the remains of the ancient Damietta, which was first besieged and taken by the Crusaders, and afterwards by St. Louis; but without the least success; not a vestige of a wall was visible, nor were there any heaps of pottery; nor any mixture of lime and brick with the soil; but where the canals were cut, the black mud of the Nile alone appeared. The mosque he mentions, could not be the one left when the Sultaun of Egypt destroyed the town, as it is of a modern date. Certainly, if Savary have faithfully translated the quotations he has given from Macrizi and Abulfeda, there can be no doubt that the ancient Damietta was destroyed, in order to prevent its being taken by the Christians, and a new town of the same name was built higher up the river; yet it is difficult to comprehend what advantage would arise from removing it only a few miles, to the site of the present town, or indeed for its removal at all, since the walls and fortifications alone were of importance, and their complete destruction would have precluded the possibility of its again becoming an asylum to a vanquished enemy.

The present town is not five miles from the mouth of the river, and I cannot but think it probable, that the ancient Damietta was at nearly the same distance; for the Crusaders found a great chain extended across the river from two towers, which were probably at some short distance from the sea, and after breaking that, found a

space beyond sufficient to encamp their whole army, and surround themselves with a ditch and pallisade, although the Sultaun had erected a bridge to prevent their approach, and was encamped between them and Damietta. Lesbé is distant only a mile from the sea, and it is impossible to suppose that within that distance the whole of the armies, the bridge and the towers, with the chain, could have been crowded. I am therefore inclined to doubt the fact, as given by the Arabian historians, and the fidelity of Mr. Savary's translation.

Below Lesbé the Governor has established a village, where he obliges all the fishermen to live, and which seems in a very thriving state. I here observed a round tower of ancient masonry, which forms one extremity of a building, that extends to the river, and to which, I think it probable, that the great chain above mentioned was fastened. Every other building between Damietta and the sea has the appearance of being modern.

The Bogaz is not quite so bad here as at Rosetta, for it admits vessels of much larger burthen than the jermes, which take advantage of the fine weather, to enter the river, and anchor close to the town, where there is never less than fourteen feet water. As we returned we were much struck with the picturesque appearance of the houses, which not only cover the banks of the river, but have generally stages extended over it, on which vines are planted, and seats are disposed under their shade.

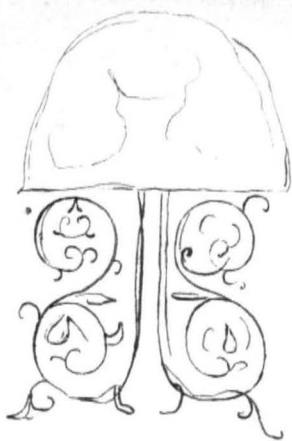
The Kiaia of the Governor called to pay his master's compliments, and excuse himself for not having been yesterday, by saying that he had fallen from his horse and hurt himself. As we knew it was only an excuse, we offered gravely the assistance of Vincenzo's

brother, who was a surgeon, which he as gravely declined. I accepted the excuse, and said I would visit his master on the morrow. We again walked in the evening to the merchant's door, where the pedestal had been removed, and copied the Greek inscription, which was as follows :

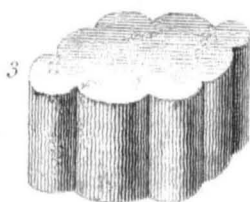
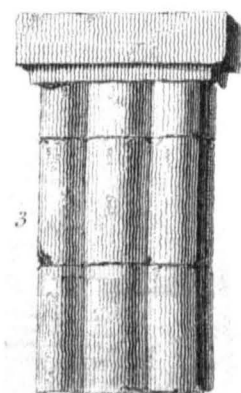
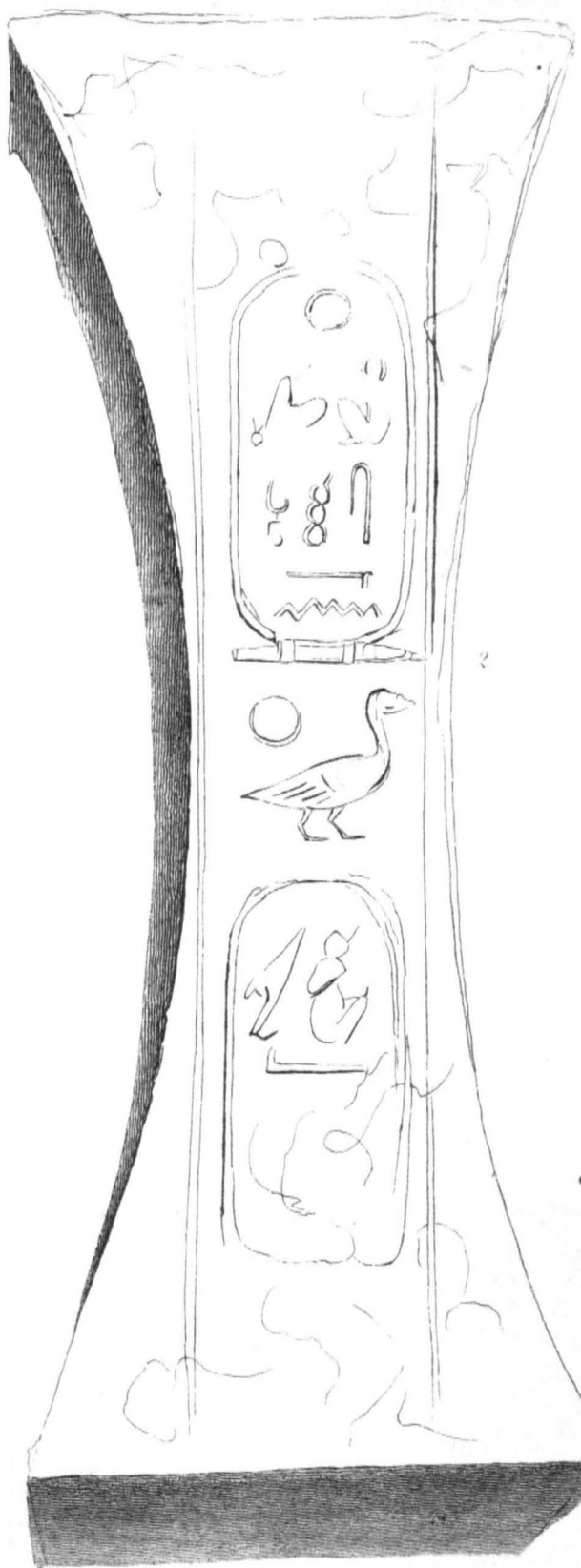
Η ΒΟΥΛΗ ΚΑΙ Ο ΔΗΜΟΣ
ΛΟΥΚΙΟΝ ΠΟΠΙΛΛΙΟΝ ΒΑΛΒΟΝ
ΠΡΕΣΒΕΤΤΗΝ ΤΙΒΕΡΙΟΥ
ΚΛΑΥΔΙΟΥ ΚΑΙΣΑΡΟΣ
ΣΕΒΑΣΤΟΥ ΓΕΡΜΑΝΙΚΟΥ
ΤΟΝ ΠΑΤΡΩΝΑ ΤΗΣ ΠΟΛΕΟΣ.

April 30.—In the morning I visited the Governor. He received me at the custom-house, met me near the entrance, and conducted me to a very next little apartment, which opened into a little garden, where pinks and roses were in full bloom. He gave me the seat of honour, and paid the usual compliments. General Andreossi had mentioned a column in a mosque which has a Greek inscription on it. I requested permission to enter the mosque and copy it, which he granted, and ordered one of his people to attend me. Vincenzo recognised in him an old friend, who had saved his life at Tripoli, when they were both in the service of Ali Pacha. He is a brave soldier, but haughty and uninformed. He has been here three years. Damietta, which formerly was the paradise of Egypt, where the gardens abounded with groves of oranges, and every fruit, where the finest rice was raised in the greatest profusion, is now totally changed, in consequence of the stream of the Nile having taken to the canal of Menouf, instead of passing to Damietta. The gardens have vanished, the rice fields are sown with wheat, and

the inhabitants want even fresh water. Achmed Aga has constructed a large vessel to supply in some degree this latter defect, by bringing, in vast cisterns, water from above Fareskour, between which place and Mansoura the river has still sufficient force to repel the waters of the sea, driven up the channel by the strong northerly winds, which prevail for the greater part of the year. It is singular that Citoyen Girard, in a paper read before the Institute of Egypt, mentions this as having been then remedied by the Canal of Menouf being closed by a mound; yet I came down the canal of Menouf, and the evil is now as great as ever: at Damietta the water is quite salt. This plan of Achmet Aga shews some intelligence, as does the construction of the village of fishermen so near the Bogaz, purposely, as he says, that they may be at hand in case any vessel should be in distress, or wrecked on the shore. We had coffee and sherbet. I returned the visits of the Vice Consuls, and then went, accompanied by the Chaous Bashi of the Governor, to the mosque. Mr. Salt entered alone, after the mats were removed. We gave two piastres to the attendant, and no objections were started. Many went in to pray, and saluted me as they passed; while I continued seated on the door sill. One man from Jidda murmured something, but he was soon silenced by the people. The inscription is, to me, quite unintelligible; it is certainly not entirely in Greek nor any other characters, but seems to be cabalistic. I have given a copy of it in the opposite plate. We next walked to a mosque nearly ruined, at Menshie, a suburb nearer to the sea. We found there an Arab inscription, which places its erection on the 1117th year of the Hejira. There were several very beautiful marble columns, but much injured. Near it was a marabout, the dome of



H H C O H T E H
 K E E H F R A G
 T O N G O H Δ Δ H
 Γ C W F O H



1. Inscription on a Column at Damietta.

2. Copper Dovetail found at Bahbeit.

3. Ancient Column found at Majrowah.

which was supported by four jasper columns, the polish of which was as perfect as on the day they were finished; one alone had a small piece broken out of it; a fifth column of the same materials, and in as good a state, was at the entrance. We returned about five, having passed the whole length of the town, which is about two miles.

May 1.—Major Missett having informed me he did not wish to detain the Panther any longer, I was all day employed in preparing my dispatches. Our baggage arrived, and to morrow we go to the Lake Menzalé, which was but little known till the arrival of the French in Egypt, when General Andreossi was directed by Bonaparté to make a survey of it. This was published in the first vol. of the *Mémoires sur l’Egypte*, with a memorial, giving a very interesting account of the lake itself, the inhabitants of its shores, and the ruins in its vicinity.

May 2.—In the morning we sent off the baggage, and soon afterwards followed ourselves on horses and mules, to the borders of the Lake Menzalé. Signor Gabriello and the Padre accompanied us. We had four vessels waiting for us; two very good and large; the other two, small fishing-boats. We embarked near the tomb of Schech Chaffa, with a very fair and stiff breeze. In half an hour we fell in with a chain of islands, which are totally omitted by General Andreossi in his otherwise excellent chart of the lake. After two hours sail we passed between two islands, through a channel not above thirty yards wide, on the north bank of which was the tomb of Schech Elsebi, which are accurately laid down in the General’s chart. The wind continued fair, but the men said that it had driven the water from this to the eastern extremity of the lake,

so that it would be impossible to reach Menzalé ; we therefore determined to proceed directly to the island of Schech Abdallah, on which are situated the ruins of the town of Thouna. We arrived there by five, but found not a vestige of a building. The whole of the island is covered with bricks almost reduced to powder, mixed with small bits of glass and mica. There could never have been any building of great importance here, or very great pains must have been taken to destroy it. I should rather suspect, from its situation in the middle of a lake abounding with several kinds of very good fish, that it was an extensive fishing-town. We encamped for the night close to the Schech's tomb, having sent off to Menzalé to announce our arrival, and beg to see the Schech.

May 3.—We had determined originally to visit the ruins of the island of Tennis, but having learnt that there were no remains of antiquity except heaps of powdered bricks, as at Thouna, and knowing from Sebastiani's account that the French had searched there, as they had done here, without success, we altered our intention, and ordered the baggage on board to proceed to Matarieh. In the Schech's tomb the French have carved several names, among which we observed that of Nouet.

We reached Matarieh by ten, and were received by the Schech of the Lake and of Menzalé, the son of Hassan Toubar, by name Ali. The father died in the time of the French, who, at the request of Ali, appointed his uncle Chelabi, Schech. They may be considered as equally Schechs at this moment, and are both here. This Hassan Toubar was, according to General Andreossi, whose account is confirmed by Messrs. Airuts, one of the most powerful individuals in the country, having a vast profit from the trade of

the Lake, which he farmed from the Beys, and being able to protect himself from the usual oppressions, by the natural strength of his islands, which could not be approached by an enemy, all the boats on the lake being his own, and by the friendship of the Arabs, whose chiefs he constantly bribed with liberal presents. His family were originally of Menzalé, and were said to have held the sovereignty, by their prudent management, for five generations. Our wish was to visit the ruins of Tanis, situated at Sann, on the banks of the Kaliz el Moez, where, according to the French accounts, several obelisks still remained standing. We consulted him on the subject. He informed us, that in the time of the rise of the Nile, it would be very easy for him to conduct us thither by water; but that at present it was out of his power, as the vicinity was much infested by the wandering Arabs. He said that one or two might make their way, by his sending to one of the tribes, and receiving hostages from them for the safety of the travellers; but that this would require time, and would, after all, be doubtful. The distance was said to be six hours march on horseback. As by his account, and that of General Andreossi, there was but little to be seen, we determined to give up the pursuit.

The Schech sent me six sheep, some rice, ghee, and bread, as a present. The town is but small; the houses chiefly mud, though a few are brick. The people are nearly naked, but robust, and healthy: the children are numerous, indeed, more so than I have seen in any part of Egypt. The inhabitants of the two islands amount to about eleven hundred males, besides females and children, the whole district of Menzalé is said by General Andreossi to contain eight thousand souls. At present there are six hundred boats employed in the

fishery, particularly of the mullet, whose roe is cured and exported in great abundance under the name of botargo. In the time of the Mamelukes there were three times that number. Opposite Matarieh is another town on an island of equal size, the Schech el Belled of which came to pay his compliments. On my mentioning the name of Hassan Toubar, the old Schech immediately addressed himself to Signor Gabriello, and said, "How does he know any thing of Hassan Toubar? where could he hear of him?" He also knew of Schech Abdallah, and ordered the people to go there; when did he learn this?" On its being explained to me, I told him the English knew well his brother, and all that belonged to him, which was unintentionally an odd sort of a compliment, as Hassan Toubar was very much attached to the French. The natives were uniformly civil to us; as we walked along the streets they always made their salaams. The women were veiled, but chatted freely. I observed several green turbans. We sent our baggage on board in the evening. Signor Gabriello and Padre Basilio went on board and sailed in the night.

May 4.—We were up by three, and at half after four set sail. The wind was fair till ten. We reached the shore by two, where we found the horses and asses waiting for us by the orders of Signor Gabriello. When we reached Damietta we went to the Hummaum.

May 5.—We hired two boats to take us to Mansoura. Achmed Aga, the governor, sent to express his regret that I had not applied to him for any thing I wanted, to offer his canja, and to say that he would get me as many more boats as I wished. I told his Kiaia I did not want his canja, or I should certainly have applied for it. Vincenzo gave him a hint, as from himself, that he was surprised

the governor had not paid me a visit ; he said, it had been his intention, but that I had never staid long enough at Damietta. He departed, but returned again, pressing me to take the canja. I did not see him, but still declined the canja, which I suspect he attributed to my not having been visited ; for soon afterwards the governor arrived : I met him at the door of the room, and handed him to a seat. He pressed me so strongly to take the canja, that I was obliged to comply. He offered letters to the Cacheefs of Mansoura and Semenoud, which I accepted.

After an early dinner we went on board. I was saluted by nine pieces from the shore, and the vessels hoisted their colours, and fired one gun each. The wind was fresh and favourable ; we therefore made one of the jerns take us in tow. We passed Fareskour too early to stop there.* At sunset the wind fell, so that we made little way ; we therefore stopped at Berishie, a village from which the inhabitants had chiefly fled, in consequence of some dispute with their neighbours of Fareskour. The village has a wall of mud, and gates to defend it from the wandering Arabs. A quantity of flax was on the shore, in the middle of which we pitched our tents.

May 6.—We got milk in abundance from the few villagers who remained, and set sail early. We stopped at Caffre Toura to take our breakfast, where a Schech resided, a friend of Messrs. Airuts. He was a Sheriffe, and a good looking man. The peasantry were working hard to raise water for their rice fields, as the river is here fresh. I saw some very fine cattle. The Schech presented us with bread, which was all we wanted. He spoke in melancholy terms of the

* A place rendered famous by the captivity of St. Louis, and his whole army, but which now offers nothing interesting to the traveller.

oppression under which the country laboured; that scarcely a week passed without a contribution; and that at present their means of payment were totally exhausted. We got at night to Baramoun, where the Caimakan Mohammed Aga Blefié waited on me. He was formerly a Mameluke of Osman Bey Hassan. He spoke in a still more desponding way of the situation of the country, and the extortions exercised by the Albanians and the government. He said the inhabitants had nothing left; that all their cattle had been sold; that those who then worked night and day to raise water, belonged to Basilio Tacha, to whom the crops were mortgaged. He seemed completely heart-broken at being the instrument of these extortions, and prayed most earnestly that the merciful God would send the English to restore peace and plenty.

I was pleased to find our nation thus wished for, in a part of the country where they had never been, but where their character could only have been learned from the other inhabitants of Egypt. He still begged me to mention any thing I wanted, as, in spite of their distress, he would find it for me. I declined every thing except milk and bread, articles which I ever made it a rule to pay for, and watched very closely that no extortions were practised in my name, by our numerous followers. Among these was the Chaous Bashi of the Governor of Damietta, who always wished to be taking what he chose, and to pay for nothing. He gave this day a good sample of Turkish manners. Our boat was in tow of the jerns, and the wind being very fresh, it was once or twice dashed against us; the Chaous struck the son of the Rais who was at the helm, with a stick, and not satisfied with that, drew his pistol, and was with some difficulty prevented from shooting him.

May 7.—At an early hour we set off, having secured three small boats, that, in case the river became shallow, we might take our baggage out of the jerns and put it into them. It was well we did so, for about five miles above Baramoun, the river ceased to be navigable for large vessels, and even the canja passed only by the men going into the water and pushing her along. Mansoura is very beautifully situated on rather a higher bank than usual of the Nile. It has several gardens in front of the houses, and some large sycamore trees adjacent. Its numerous mosques give it an extensive appearance. We landed about two, and pitched our tents immediately in an open garden, close to the river. The Intendant, Malum Yusuff, a Copt, immediately paid us a visit: from him we learned that the Cacheef was absent; we therefore sent the Governor of Damietta's letter to his Kiaia. The Chaous had another private one for him, mentioning the very strong orders he had himself received from Mohammed Ali, and advising him to pay me every possible attention. We went to take coffee at the Intendant's, having ordered one of the hot baths to be prepared for us. We now learned that Timai was four hours distant, and had every hope given us that we should be well recompensed there for our past disappointments. He gave me two Egyptian figures in earth. After the bath, we returned to our tents.

A very respectable old man of the name of Hassan Belgahie, who was formerly Governor of the town, and therefore still preserved the title of Surbaje, paid us a visit. We found it was his garden in which we were encamped. He asked many questions about me; who I was, and what I did here. Vincenzo told him that Mohammed Ali considered me as a very powerful man of England; but that as

for my business in Egypt, it was a secret with which he was unacquainted, but that he supposed it was of great consequence. The old man was very civil, but soon left us to say his prayers. The Kiaia of the Cacheef soon afterwards paid us a visit. The Intendant came next, so that we had a full tent. It was now in a moment settled that every thing should be ready for our departure in the morning. Vincenzo recognised, in a person who attended the Kiaia, an old acquaintance who had been formerly in the service of Ali Pacha. He was also Caimakan of a village close to the ruins of Timai, and undertook to accompany us. Indeed I found them all extremely anxious to oblige and serve me.

May 8.—Early in the morning we went to see a piece of granite, on which were cut some hieroglyphics, but they were too much worn to be of value. As we went out, we were joined by the Kiaia, who took us to see a hot bath, where the water had a yellowish tinge, but had no particular taste. On our way we were shewn the upper part of a statue of Isis, which had been brought from Timai by the French, who had embarked it on the river, but it had fallen into the water. The bust was sufficiently entire to make it interesting. We had it carried to our tent, and determined to send it by water to Damietta. Mr. Salt drew it for fear of accidents. Our friend the Surbaje sent us a breakfast of excellent cakes and bread. I learned that an express was sent off by the Kiaia to his master with the letters.

It was necessary to hire a Schech of an Arab tribe to accompany us to Timai, which was settled by the Intendant. We could procure only three camels, the rest being employed in carrying the wheat. We all procured horses, but bridles and saddles were rare. We set off about two, accompanied by the Intendant, the Caimakan, and the

owner of the village. The Schech Foud Abou Koura of Metel Hamour, accompanied us with about twenty horsemen. We halted at the first village till our camels past us. They reached another unaccompanied, when the inhabitants thought it a good opportunity to plunder, and sallied forth. We just then came in sight, when our Schech and his people set off full gallop, and obliged the rascals to take refuge in the village, all of which have walls to protect them from the wandering Arabs. Their corn was all piled on the outside, in the open air. We reached Timai about six. The village Schech paid his compliments, and they permitted us to pitch our tents close to the mosque, and the tomb of Schech Abdallah, from whom this place takes its name. We sat down, fourteen, to a cold dinner, spread on the ground; the Schech el Arab declined dining with us, but sent for a bottle of wine. All the Mussulmauns took their share of this prohibited liquor. The villages are built on sandy hillocks, though the plain is composed of the mud of the Nile. The strata of those hillocks which were open for pits were regular and horizontal; I conceive therefore that they are natural.

May 9.—Timai is the Thmuis of Ptolemy, and was situated in the Mendesian Nome, where, according to Herodotus, the god Pan was worshipped, and out of respect to him goats, particularly males, were held in great veneration, and one was more honoured than all the rest, and his death lamented by the whole Nome. Timai has been described by no traveller, and was visited for a short period only, by General Vernier, to collect the tribute from the Schechs in the vicinity. We arose early in the morning, and visited the ruins nearest to us, which are called Medinet Timai, or the Capital. We found a place where the soil had been a little thrown up, and

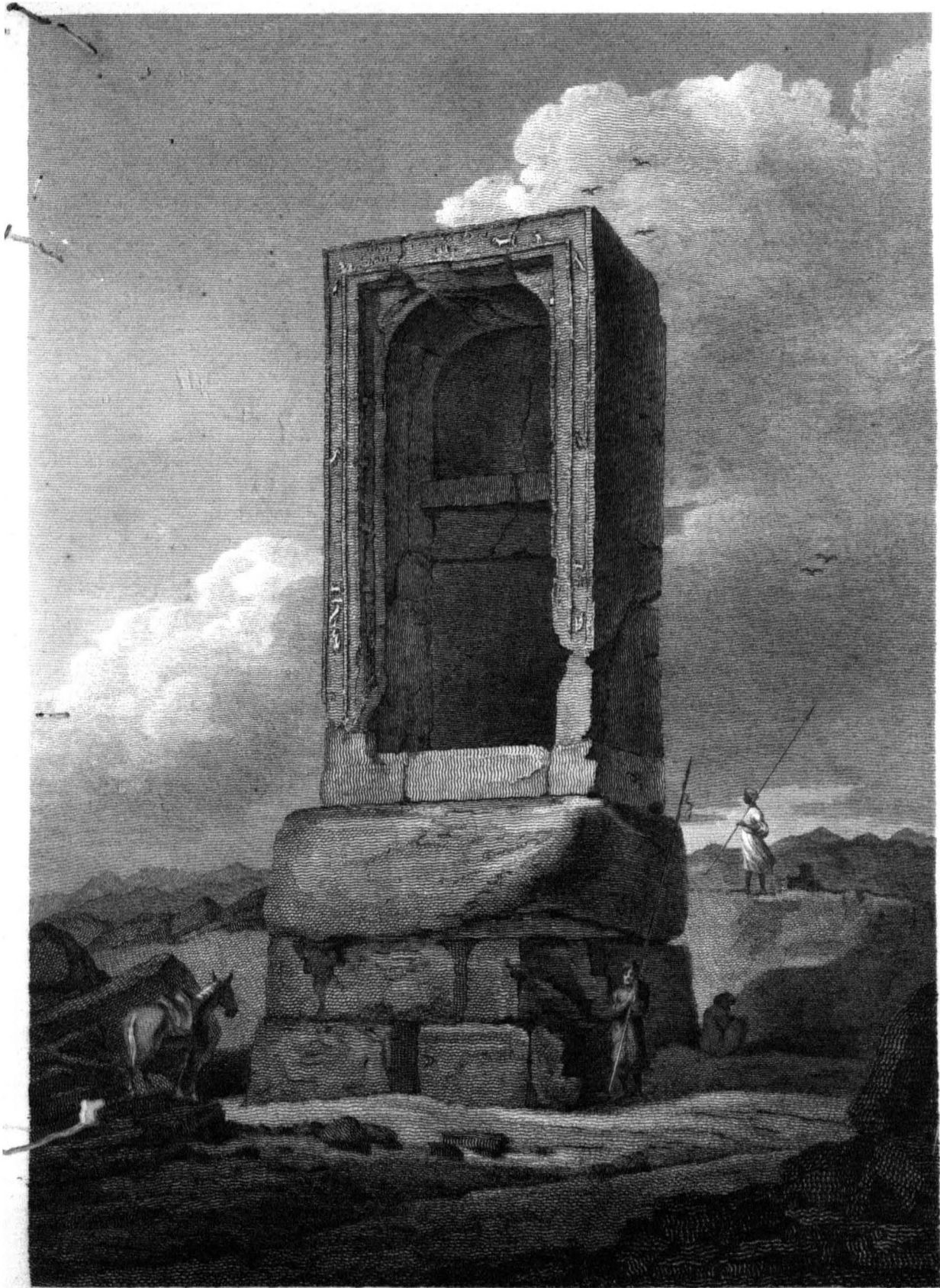
appeared of the black colour of the Ibis mummies: on examining, there actually appeared some vases which contained mummy composition and bones. We procured several of different sizes; they seemed to have contained the bodies of the sacred goats. The ruins consist chiefly of heaps of broken bricks and pottery, with here and there a broken granite column, but the whole in such confusion, that neither the walls of the town nor the foundation of a building could be distinguished.

After breakfast we visited Gussur Timai, or the Palace of Timai, as it is called by the Arabs, which is situated on a hill, at the distance of about half a mile from the other. We were here compensated for all our trouble, by the discovery of a vast shrine of polished, red, Thebaic granite, which still continues standing, and of which the accompanying engraving will give the best idea.

The shrine itself is of a single piece, of the following dimensions :

	Feet.	Inches.
Height - - -	23	4
Breadth in front -	12	8
Depth on the outside	11	3
Breadth of the chamber	8	8
Depth of the chamber	9	2

It stands on a pedestal of the same substance, five feet high, and that again on two layers, that amount to six feet three inches; so that the whole elevation is thirty-four feet seven inches. The polish on many parts continues perfect, but in others has been injured by time, or external injury. A large crack runs down it behind, and there is another on each side, which resembles much the effect of lightning. The front has been ornamented with hieroglyphics,



Salt del.

Angus Sculp.

SHRINE AT TIMAI.

chiefly at the top, but on the sides more scantily. The smooth surface reflected so strongly the rays of the sun, and the heat was so great from the surrounding banks keeping off the air, that it was impossible to draw the ornaments with accuracy. The top is not flat, but elevated to a point in the centre, as we found when we viewed it from a distance. It is hardly to be doubted, that a statue of a deity was originally placed in the cavity; I should suppose of Pan, for the height seems too great for the ram only. The shrine was placed facing the N. E. in the centre of one side of an irregular square, forty-three paces wide by thirty-six; at present marked only by very high mounds of earth, and some remains of a wall; it had apparently a shrine of a similar construction on each side of it. On a block of Thebaic granite, which had formed a part of one of these, was a figure of a ram with four horns; two which were visible were long and twisted, diverging horizontally from the top of the forehead: a third was shorter, a little curved, perfectly smooth, and lying close to the face; the fourth was concealed.

There were no other ruins within this square; but in a second, at the northern corner, were several very large blocks of granite, and the same in a third. The second and third square were both forty-three feet wide; but the former was seventy eight, and the latter forty paces long. At a small distance in front of these, and near to the canal, were three hillocks in a line, on which were probably some buildings, but at present not a vestige of them remains.

In walking without the squares, we discovered at least twenty troughs of granite, roughly excavated, chiefly of an oval form, and which, from their being under five feet long, could not be intended for sarcophagi. Not a fragment of a column could be found about

the place ; but we were shewn a piece of a statue about three feet wide across the breast, but so damaged, that it was impossible to conjecture for what it was originally intended.

A Kamsin, or hot wind, set in, and drove us to our tents, but in the evening we ventured out, and at one extremity of Medinet Timai discovered the ruins of a temple, the columns of which had been thrown down and broken ; they were of granite, together with their capitals and bases. A little boy carried us to a spot, where we saw the lower part of a statue in basalt, of very fine workmanship ; this I bought from him for a dollar, and hired an ass from the Schech of the town to carry it to Mansoura. Whoever discovers an antique, has a right to dispose of it ; they say it is God's property, and he gives it to whom he pleases.

The Arabs brought me a few antiques, which were generally of little value, but which I bought for a few paras. The Schech gave me a little figure in lapis lazuli, of a ram with four heads, but it had not the long, horizontal horns. The night was cool and pleasant.

May 10.—I wished to have dedicated this day to an examination of the ruins ; but the Schech urged us to continue no longer in the country, as, from the present disturbed state of Cairo, the Bedowee were become more bold, and might, possibly, think it worth their while to collect a large party, and attack us. His arguments were conclusive, and we therefore gave orders for our departure ; but in the mean time took a ride to Gussur Timai, whence we were soon driven by millions of sand flies, which attacked us without mercy.

I think that tradition has judiciously appropriated the two Timai's,

for one has all the appearance of having been the residence of the priests and chief only, and the other of the common people. The Arabs have made many researches among the ruins of both, and have, at different times, found some valuable articles, which they sold for an insignificant price at Mansoura, whence they made their way to Damietta and Cairo, where the Europeans were always willing to purchase them. In the vicinity of the present Timai, a deserted village at some distance from the ruins, a pit was by accident broken into, in which were two hundred figures of Isis, from four to nine inches long, of a baked earth, coloured blue, and varnished a little on the outside, with hieroglyphics on the lower part. One alone was a foot long, which I purchased for about a shilling.

On our way back we made a bend to the south, to visit a village, near which are the remains of an ancient temple and town. The large blocks of granite that lie prostrate on the ground are uniformly broken. I cannot but suspect that the conquerors of this country found treasure concealed in some of the stones of the ancient edifices, and that the expectation of finding more, led to the laborious destruction of these massive temples, which seem to have been constructed to bid defiance to time itself. I observed a few blocks of a very singular shape, having the external form of a bell, but no cavity within, and being five or six feet in diameter at the base. They could not have formed a part of any building, nor can I conceive any use to which they could be put. I think Timai is ten miles from Mansoura, in a due east direction.

The Schech would make no charge for his men; I therefore gave him a double-barrelled gun for himself, and one thousand paras for his relation, who was next in command.

We reached Mansoura by two, and again took up our residence in the Surbaje's garden. After having indulged ourselves at the Hummaum, which the Kiaia had ordered to be cleared of all other visitors for our accommodation, we walked to the canal that runs to the east of the town, beyond which, on the plain, St. Louis and his army were encamped, till driven, by famine and disease, to attempt their retreat to Damietta. Nobody can doubt the courage nor religious zeal of St. Louis; but it is impossible to allow him those necessary qualifications for a General—prudence and judgment. The misfortunes of the first Crusaders ought to have warned him not to attempt to penetrate into Egypt during the inundation of the Nile, when every canal became a defensible post. Later invaders have wisely chosen to remove the attack to Alexandria, where the natural strength of the position, and the excellent harbour, offer every advantage for repressing the attacks of the inhabitants, and receiving supplies from the sea.

In the evening we received an express from Major Missett, informing us that a vessel of one thousand tons burthen had arrived from Malta, and meant to return thither shortly, and suggesting the eligibility of my taking my passage in her, as it was doubtful whether Sir Alexander Ball might have an armed vessel disengaged, to send for me. We therefore determined to hasten our journey, and visit such places only in the Delta as lay directly in our way. By the paper sent us, we heard of Sir John Duckworth's victory, and of the capture of the Cape, for which good news we fired three small guns; on which the Kiaia sent to congratulate us, and ordered a salute of seven to be fired from the town.

We took leave of our worthy friend the Padre Basilio, who re-

turned to Damietta, having in charge the antiquities I had procured during our tour. Messrs. Airuts still accompanied us. We were up early, but it was two hours before the asses arrived which we had hired for the party, and which were to go with us into the Delta, lest we should not be able to procure any there. Our baggage and servants went in four boats. We breakfasted at Goraka, on the banks of the river, near which are some heaps of rubbish, that seem to indicate the site of an ancient town, but no granite was visible among them. The Schech waited on us, and was very civil, providing us with all we required, which was bread and milk. He amused me much by asking Vincenzo if I were the Sultaun who had landed at Suez, and on whose arrival at Cairo they had fired one hundred and sixty pieces of cannon. It was clear that a story did not lose more in Egypt by travelling than in other countries.

We here quitted the river to visit the ruins of Bahbeit, or the beautiful house, which D'Anville has considered, and I think with justice, as the Isidis Oppidum of Pliny. It is difficult to conjecture how, without the assistance of gunpowder, the vast masses of granite of which the ruins consist, could have been thrown into the form in which they now meet the eye of the astonished traveller. Blocks, ten feet long and five feet broad and wide, are piled on each other, in such a way as frequently to leave openings sufficiently large for a person to pass underneath, and view the beautiful sculpture with which one face of each is covered. The Arabs have removed the sand in the centre, by which means it is apparent that there is as much of the building underground, as there is above; and in several places the massive foundation still remains. Without any very great expense, the ground plan might be ascertained,

by employing the Arabs to clear away the rubbish; but this can never be executed in safety while Egypt is under its present savage masters. Three different kinds of granite have been used in this beautiful temple: the first is a very fine grained red, mixed with black and a little white; the second is black, and of an inferior quality; the third is the common Thebaic red, with much white and a little black. On each of these the subject is different, and the style of carving dissimilar.

On the first are representations of the goddess Isis, seated, and a person offering gifts to her, with a border of written hieroglyphics about a foot broad, inclosing each pair of figures in a compartment. The head-dress of Isis is not exactly the same in any two places, nor are the offerings similar, nor made by the same persons. Below these, but separated from them by a line of five pointed stars touching each other, is a range of smaller figures, bearing tables with three legs, on which are placed three vases and other ornaments. I could find no remains of the door way, except the vast block which covered it, and which had on it the globe, with the two serpents and the wings, as usually found in the temples of Upper Egypt. Nothing could be more admirably executed than the basso relievo of this part of the temple, which probably formed the front, or the wings; the polish remained perfect on the faces: the designs were good, but the figures were invariably ill drawn.

On the second, or black granite, which I conjecture to have covered the outer walls, are a number of figures, some seated, but the greater part standing, with their hands extended, among which we found one with the hawk's head, having in his hand the cross, with a circular handle, which has given rise among the learned to

so many fanciful conjectures. These are of inferior execution to the first, and instead of being raised, are sunk into the granite, and have only a little relief, but not so much as to bring the figure to the level of the surface in which they are cut.

The third kind has certainly been employed for the body of the temple itself, the roof is also composed of it, and is covered with the five pointed stars. The pillars, of which we could only discover the remains of three, are likewise of the same material: the capitals are formed of four gigantic heads of Isis, and the shafts are covered with hieroglyphics. The blocks of this granite, except those intended for the roof, are smaller than the others, and are only ornamented with hieroglyphics cut into them without any relief. Several of these are very singular, but the goose with the globe, and the serpent with the cap on his head, are the most frequent. At one extremity of the ruin is a great lion of the same granite, but so buried in the earth that we could not judge of its execution.

Pococke visited these splendid ruins, and speaks of them with a just degree of admiration. Savary, as usual, runs into a strain of panegyric, which is absurd. The features in the basso relievos are certainly beautiful, but the figures are out of all proportion, and display a total ignorance of anatomy. Since their times the devastations of the natives have continued, and many a valuable record of the ancient splendor of the Delta has been destroyed to form a millstone, or the sill of a door. The French also removed a few, but there are still remaining a sufficient quantity to gratify the curiosity of a traveller. I hope and trust that the day will arrive, when some of the most perfect will be conveyed to a country

where they will be free from injury, and their merit be justly appreciated.

As it was impossible for Mr. Salt to finish drawing, during the evening, all the remains that were visible, he and Captain Vincenzo staid behind while we proceeded to Semenoud, where we were very civilly received by the Schech, who came to make the excuses of the Cacheef, for his not being able to wait upon us, in consequence of severe indisposition.

May 13.—It was very sultry in the morning, till the air was cooled by a violent thunder storm. Mr. Briggs and I went, as usual, to the Hummaum, which we invariably found refreshed and cooled us, and took off the sensation of soreness, which exercise in such a climate is apt to produce. The inhabitants were extremely civil; the better order complained heavily of the oppressions under which they laboured, and declared that the French did not use them half so ill. The poorer people brought me a few trifling antiques to purchase, and among others a small brass statue of Isis, as she is represented at Bahbeit, with large horns, and the moon placed between them; composing altogether a head dress which a mortal would be unable to sustain. Captain Vincenzo and Mr. Salt returned to dinner, having finished the drawings, and purchased for me a dovetail of metal, evidently intended to fasten two stones together. My friend, Mr. Davy, informs me that it is pure copper. On account of its singularity I have given a drawing of it, with the hieroglyphics that are still visible.

We were informed in the evening, that Mohammed Ali had ordered a fresh contribution of grain to be levied on the Delta, in consequence of the alarm excited by the appearance of Elfi and his

troops in the vicinity of Menouf. His Highness seemed to suspect that it was the intention of his antagonist to occupy the Delta, and attempt to starve Cairo, and therefore wished to guard against it, by accumulating stores beforehand. We had an intimation of Elfi's plan before we left Alexandria, in consequence of which I wrote to him, and requested he would send me a passport. By the return of the messenger he sent me a very civil answer, conjuring me, on my return to Europe, to make known to my government the wretched situation of Egypt. He inclosed the passport, or rather letter, which was as follows :

“ To all my dear and beloved children the Beys, to my children the Cacheefs, to all my Mamelukes, to all my Albanians and Turkish soldiers, to all the Schechs of the Arabs, and to all the Arab tribes. Health to you all ! I notify to you, that our beloved and respected friend Lord Valenzia, a chief of the English court, is going from Alexandria to Damietta. I will that none of you offer him any impediment, but that you let him pass with all his party, rendering to him all the honours which are due to his rank. Remember, he is a chief of the English court, our best and most dear friend, which is the reason of my issuing this order. Whoever disobeys it shall receive the merited punishment.

“ Dated the 10th of the month Suffar, in the year of Hejira 1221.”

From the disposition shewn in this order, to make use of me as an evidence to the Arabs of Elfi's friendly connection with England, I should have been by no means sorry to have met this Chief, as I should have been perfectly sure of a civil reception, and should have enjoyed the novelty of a Mameluke camp.

May 14.—We were up by day break, but our camels and servants

were not ready to march till it became so hot, as to render our march to Mahallet-el-Kebeer very unpleasant. In the time of the Beys, one of their body resided in this place, which is the capital of the Garbie, or lower division of the Delta. It is a large town, containing some good houses, and is surrounded by extensive gardens; but like every other place we had visited, is going rapidly to decay. Mohammed Ali gave the district to his eldest son, whose deputy, the acting Governor, was formerly a Mameluke. I had sent on my interpreter to notify to him my approach, and to request he would have camels and asses ready for me to continue my journey: at first he seemed to care little about the business, but on being spoken to in stronger terms, became very civil, sent a man to point out a pleasant spot in the gardens for our encampment, and immediately on our arrival, came to pay his compliments in person. Vincenzo recognised in him an old acquaintance, and we were the best of friends in a few minutes.

We were greatly disturbed at learning that the camels of this place had all been sent to the army with grain, and we were therefore obliged, however unwillingly, to compel the servant of the Cacheef of Semenoud, to drive on those belonging to his master. We purchased six asses, and procured the rest that were necessary. The Governor not only sent us bread and sheep, but ordered one of his Mamelukes, and a Chaous, to attend us across the Delta, and provide for us during the journey.

The heat was great, but we wished to go on to a village at the distance of three hours march, where we had an order from our friend the Governor to procure the camels we wanted; but when every thing was ready, the men employed to load our camels were

missing, having been taken away by the servant of the Cacheef of Semenoud. We were obliged to employ others in their stead, who were so awkward, that it was six when we began our march, and then we were forced to stop several times before we were out of town, from the baggage falling off. The night was dark, and the road so bad from the large fissures in the ground, that we determined to stop at the first village; but took the precaution of sending the baggage-camels in advance, that we might not be taken for a party of plundering Arabs, and be fired upon. We at length reached a miserable assemblage of mud huts, the backs of which were outwards, and formed a kind of wall. The harvest was lying around, among the heaps of which we pitched our tents.

May 15.—Early in the morning the Schech brought us hot bread, with sweet and sour milk, and humbly requested to know if I insisted on his paying one thousand paras also, which he said my interpreter had demanded. I assured him that nothing could be more contrary to my orders than such a demand; that I was rejoiced he had applied to me, and that I would punish the servant who made it, by dismissing him from my service; which I did. When a great man formerly travelled in Egypt, it was always the custom of the country for the Schechs to present money to his people. When the British were here, the dragomans of the army attempted to continue the practice, as they had done to an enormous extent under the French; but it was instantly checked by severely flogging them at the head of the corps. My interpreter thought he might be guilty of a similar imposition, though I positively prohibited it, but I fear he had previously succeeded in other places. In three hours we reached the village, where we had orders for the camels

and asses. As there was not a tree near it, we went into a room built over the gateway. Here, as the wind was very fresh, we were nearly smothered with dust. The Schech had been wounded by some Osmanlis for their amusement; he could not therefore wait on us, but his brother did, and gave us the camels and asses, with which our people immediately set out for Calim. This village had been attacked a few nights before, by the inhabitants of another, in hopes of carrying off their sheep and cattle; but they had been repulsed, with the loss of two killed and one taken prisoner, who had been sent to Mahallet-el-Kebeer. Soon after three we were on our way, and by seven reached Calim, and encamped under some trees, where the air was cool, and pleasanter than in the town. We were received very civilly by the Schech, a respectable man, whose father had been a Mameluke, and had married the daughter of the former Schech. Formerly the town must have been handsome, but now it is greatly decayed. We had passed a village, which our guides said had been a French village. This town, the Schech informed me, had formerly a fortification, which had been built before the Mussulmauns came into the country, but of which there was not now a vestige. The country we had passed through is very rich, but a great part of it lies waste. Wheat formed the chief crop; many fields were sown with clover or hemp, and in some places the people were watering the ground for rice. We saw only one field of oats, and a few plantations of cotton; cucumbers, water melons, and gourds, are raised near every village. The people seemed extremely industrious, in defiance of the oppressions under which they laboured.

May 16.—We took coffee and cakes with the Schech, under the gateway of his house. He told us his brother had been shot by some

Osmanlis at the gates of Cairo, as he was riding out, without his having ever spoken to them, merely to shew their skill. He complained of the total ruin that was falling on the country, and asked me why the English did not come and liberate it? A question I could not answer. He would not give us camels on to Foua, but changed our asses, which were bad. One of our camels, after being loaded, was seized with the cramp, and could not move. We again applied to the Schech el Belled, who still objected; we therefore gave orders to take one that was employed in the harvest. We marched three hours to a village, where we waited for the baggage, which came up in an hour and a half. We breakfasted on milk and some bad bread, which were brought us by the Schech, who was a Sheriffe. At one we were again on our way, as the heat of the sun was tempered by a fine breeze. We rested for an hour under the shade of a tree, to give our asses some clover and water, and reached Foua in the evening, after having marched seven hours in the heat of the day. The country was similar to that we had passed yesterday, but more rice was grown, in consequence of the vicinity of the Nile. We encamped on the banks, under the shade of a sycamore. I sent to the Commandant to notify my arrival, who immediately called on me. He was also Schech el Belled, the proprietor of several villages near, and an old friend of Vincenzo's. He offered every assistance in procuring a jerm for our baggage, and his own canja for ourselves, which were accepted.

May 17.—We went at eight to the Hummaum, which was the worst we had met with, and then waited on the Commandant, who took us to his garden, on an island which is well planted, but from which, he said, the soldiers had taken every thing. He had no

soldiers he could depend on, being himself an object of plunder for the Albanians, who continually came hither from the army, which was at no great distance, under Taher Pacha, and was supplied hence with provisions; and he owned he could not receive us in his house, from the confusion that reigned. After an excellent meat breakfast, and coffee, we departed. Some of the party went into the town to view the ovens in which chickens are hatched, but the heat was so great, that Mr. Salt and I returned to the tents in the Commandant's canja. On the way we saw a jerm just arrived from Cairo. I called to know who was in her, when Dr. Raffaelli and his son appeared, and were rejoiced to see me, as they had fallen into the hands of a rascally Rais, who had taken on board twenty-eight pilgrims from Mecca, after the Doctor had paid for the whole vessel, and had been already delayed six days on the way. I immediately returned to the Commandant with my friends, and told the Rais to attend to make his defence. He was clearly to blame, and was told that, had he not been a person belonging to the Custom-house, he would have been flogged; that as it was, he must immediately go down to the place where my boats lay, and sail in the morning with me. I then returned to the tents with my friends, and soon afterwards the jerm arrived.

While I was writing my journal, a little dancing girl about nine years old, with two men to play on the usual instruments, came to the tent door. The child danced for some time, and several of the soldiers sat on a bank facing the large opening left for air. I conversed familiarly with them through my servants, and, as the weather was hot, gave several of them oranges. Soon after, a difference arose between my people, and some of those who crowded round the tent, whom they wished to drive away. I blamed my

people, and told the men they were heartily welcome to stay. One soldier, however, who was drunk, became very riotous, and declared that Christians had no business to have a girl in their tents dancing, and that he would take her out by force. Many of his companions opposed him, and strongly took our part, but he tried, in defiance of them, to force his way into the tent and draw his pistols, but was prevented. Two Albanians, in particular, took up our cause, and at length the fellow, baffled in his object, went in a rage towards the town. I sent also to the Governor to state our situation, and request his presence to send off these people, and in the mean time gave a turban to the man who behaved best, to secure him in our interest. He now conjured me to send the child away, as he said her life would not be safe if the soldiers got her, as she would be punished for being the cause of the dispute. I suspected that he wanted to give her to his companions in the boat, and told him so. He assured me I was mistaken; and said, if I would let her go, he himself would be answerable for her safety, as he would fire at the first man who attempted to follow her. I did as he desired, and she got off into the country without being seen by any of the boat people.

Soon afterwards, my head Frosh returned from the Governor to say he would send his people. I saw some soldiers coming, and thought they had been his, till they were close, when I too late discovered the rascal who had run away. They rushed towards the tent, and not seeing the child there, seized the Frosh, and said he must go to the Governor. They began instantly to beat him, and cut at him with their sabres, without accusing him of any thing, or listening to a word we could say. The confusion became

general ; several took our parts, but we were without arms, and unprepared. We seized our sabres and pistols, but as no person appeared from the Governor, and we knew not what number of drunken Albanians might come down against us, we thought it best to proceed to the town. A shot was fired after my servant, who was the last, and another at the Captain's servant, who was in a soldiers dress : fortunately neither took effect. We found the Governor seated at his door. He begged us to wait till the people returned. I told him, that after what had passed, I knew not if I were in safety, even near him. He declared to God I was, and begged me to wait. The fellows now approached with our poor wounded Frosh, and some shots were fired in the streets. We knew the Governor's want of power, and told him we would retire into his house, where we could not be shot unawares, and could, for some time, defend ourselves ; which we did. The soldier had the impudence to deny having fired at any one, and said they took the Arab for one of the people who had offended us, and meant to oblige us by punishing him. This lie it was useless to refute. The Governor had no power, and we were at the mercy of a drunken banditti, any one of whom might with his pistol put an end to any of us with impunity. The fact was, that the men were enraged with our poor Frosh from his having been our messenger to the Governor, where they had been, and had told him that a girl was in the Christian's tent, and that if he did not instantly send to take her out, they would do it without him. He told them to take care what they were about, as we were people of great consequence, and it would be a very serious business, but that he would send for her. They however set off instantly. Fortunately the girl was gone, or

she would have perished before we had time to arm in her defence, which we should certainly have done for our Frosh, had we not been so completely deceived by supposing them to be the Governor's people. When, in the dispute, Vincenzo told them that we were friends of Mohammed Ali and Taher Pacha, one of them answered, "I despise the beards of both of them;" literally, "I am on the beards, what care I for them? I will be master here."

Our first care on reaching the house was to examine the wounds of our poor servant, which were not dangerous, his turban having protected his head from the blows of their sabres. The Governor soon joined us, and earnestly requested that we would go to a small house without the town, whither he would follow us as soon as possible. We immediately complied, and he soon followed us. He was evidently alarmed, and anxious to get us away, saying that he would conduct us himself to our tents by a circuitous rout, without going through the town, and that it would be advisable for us to embark in his boat, and proceed to Rosetta in the night. We thought it our duty to comply with every wish of his, in order that, in the discussion that was likely to follow, nothing might be attributed to our proceedings. On arriving there we found that nothing had been stolen. The two soldiers who had joined the Hadje in the attack on the Frosh, were in the boat with him, which had not sailed. We however were now prepared. We took our arms and little cannon, sent our baggage, and that of Mr. Raffaelli, in the jerm, and went ourselves in the canja. We embarked by six, and the Governor went with us to a village of his a few miles lower down. The pilgrim's jerm set off before us, but as the wind was contrary, we soon passed her, and received no insult, which indeed we were

now well prepared to resent. We rowed all night, and at four in the morning reached Rosetta.

May 18.—As soon as I arrived, I communicated the transactions at Foua to Mr. Petrucci, and through him to the Governor, whom I called upon to secure the delinquents on the arrival of the boat, that they might be sent to the Pacha to answer for their conduct. The Governor promised that this should be done, and soon afterwards sent to say that the chief criminal had quitted the jerm above the town, but that the other two were well known, and should abide his Highness's pleasure. The poor Frosh was his own servant; I had therefore no reason to doubt his wish to punish the people who had so wantonly injured him.

After having passed through the Delta; after having examined its whole line of sea coast, and viewed both the great mouths of the Nile, I confess that I cannot discover a single argument in favour of the idea, that this fertile district has been formed by the mud of the river. For if, in ancient times, this had actually been the case, how happens it that, in these days, the same cause does not produce the same effect? Yet it is evident that the volume of water brought down is as great as ever, by its covering the whole plain of Egypt; and many of the ancient canals being closed, the quantity discharged into the sea at Rosetta and Damietta is still greater than formerly. Instead, however, of the land continuing to extend to the northward, and a mound of black loam being deposited at the mouths of the river, the bar, which at all times renders the entrance shallow, and which after a gale from the north becomes so considerable as to be impassible till the stream has formed a new passage, consists of an arid sand alone, uncovered by any more fertile deposition.

It cannot be argued that, in early times, the sea shore may have been sand though higher up, and that it has been covered by the mud of the Nile ; for throughout the Delta the same rich soil is discoverable in the deepest pits, without any strata of sand between, while the whole sea coast is now like other flat coasts, unoccupied by rocks, a sand so mixed with marine salt, as scarcely to produce any vegetation.

The present sea shore of the Delta has, to me, so little the appearance of having been formed since the deluge, that I must have better authority than Mr. Savary, or the traditions of the Egyptian priests, for believing that it was so. The former is a wild romancer, whose descriptions I have already been obliged to controvert at Damietta, and to whom I can give no additional credit, when he asserts, that the narrow strip of land below Lesbé has been the gift of the Nile since the days of St. Louis ; an assertion completely disproved, by its being of the same arid sand as the rest of the sea coast, and not of the rich soil of the Delta ; and it is only necessary to look at the map of Egypt to be convinced, that unless the Lake Menzalé had been united to the sea, it is impossible but that the land must then have extended as far as it now does, for it is scarcely of a sufficient width to keep their waters asunder. To the traditions of the Egyptian priests, I am inclined to give as little credit. They were celebrated for their anxiety to exalt their country, by giving it a remote antiquity ; and what fable could be better adapted for the purpose than this ? Slow and imperceptible as was the increase of the land at that time, how many ages must have confessedly passed away, before eighty miles of sea could have been filled up by the depositions of the river !

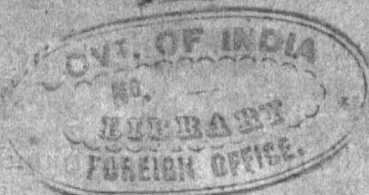
May 19.—The wind was so strong from the north, as to prevent our sailing for Alexandria, but we went down, in the evening, to a country house which belonged to Mr. Petrucci, and is opposite Fort St. Julien. Gardens in Egypt are by no means beautiful objects, although Savary is in raptures with them. The trees, as in India, are necessarily watered by little canals cut to them; the grass is not allowed to grow at their roots, and the trees are planted in regular rows, and as close together as possible. Mr. Petrucci has endeavoured to cultivate potatoes, but without success; with artichokes, and many other European vegetables, he has been more fortunate. I was much pleased to find that the Musa, and several other plants from Abyssinia, of which I had sown the seeds, were already above the ground. Egypt would undoubtedly bring to perfection most of the Indian fruits, if the seed could be procured fresh; but the captains of the vessels which come to Suez from Bombay, are not likely to bring with them so unprofitable an article. I suggested to Mr. Petrucci the writing to India on the subject, and having them sent to Mocha, whence they might come in his own vessels. I also recommended to him to procure the different grapes of Yemen.

May 20.—The wind was still northerly, so that it was five before we reached the Bogaz, though we sailed at three. The sea was smooth, and towards mid-day the wind lulled. We arrived at Alexandria in good time, and were met on the beach by Major Missett and his suite, with the Chaous of Emim Aga.



CHAPTER XII.

Observations on Alexandria, and the Ruins now remaining.—The Site of the Palace of the Ptolemies.—Conjectures respecting the Serapeum.—Dioclesian's Pillar.—Strictures on Sebastiani's Account of his Visit to Egypt.—Observations on the State of the Country.—Departure from Alexandria.—Description of the Bay of Finica in Caramania.—Arrival at Malta.—Quarantine.—Government.—Departure for Gibraltar.—Transactions there.—Voyage to England.—Arrival at Spithead.



CHAPTER XII.

MAY 30.—OUR first business, on our arrival, was to visit the vessel that had arrived from Malta, which we found to be sufficiently large to accommodate our party, and stow my baggage, after having received all the articles she could procure at Alexandria; I therefore immediately agreed with the Captain for my passage, and prepared for departure.

On the 23d, at the request of Emim Aga, I accompanied him in his barge on board the Turkish frigate, which he commanded as Commodore. His boatmen were very well dressed, and as we rowed by her in the Old Harbour, each merchantman hoisted her colours, and saluted with three guns. The frigate, on our appearing on deck, fired thirteen guns by the order of Emim Aga, who shewed us over the whole ship, which was old and ill constructed, so much so, indeed, that there was a difference of six inches in her height between decks, on one side and the other. The same military compliments were paid on our visiting a corvette, which was kept in excellent order, having her brass guns highly polished, and her decks as clean as a room in a house. We were here presented with oranges, and some very fine apples from Rhodes, by the Captain, who was a Greek. I requested the Governor to go on board our vessel, the Queen, which he did, and was received with the same military honours that he had paid to me.