

whether justly or unjustly, by the Parghiotes; whilst he will have need of extreme caution to prevent his involving innocent parties with the guilty, and to guide him in affixing blame where blame is due. In spite of this, the duty of an historian, when undertaken, must be impartially fulfilled.

Under the powerful ægis of Great Britain, Parga remained for about three years comparatively happy, increasing both in wealth and population, although the mention of its name was omitted in the treaties of Vienna and Paris, which consigned to English protection the Septinsular republic. Strange rumours however were soon set afloat, highly calculated to disturb the tranquillity of its citizens; but they were still unable to believe that a Christian power, so noted for its integrity, would give them up to their bloody and inveterate enemy: under this conviction their devoted attachment to their protectors was shown in every mode that a grateful, industrious, and moral people, like the Parghiotes, could possibly devise\*: but whoever has perused the

\* General Campbell, in his instructions to Lieut. Brutton, gives the following testimony to their character. "The inhabitants are Albanian Greeks, extremely tenacious of their freedom, and of the liberty of their small community, and habitually adverse to the dominion of the Turks. They are a spirited and independent people, though at the same time docile and easy of command when treated liberally and justly; and all the male population are trained to arms, and expert in the use of them."

The following is Colonel Leake's opinion of the Parghiotes (*Researches in Greece*, p. 413), in reference to an unfavourable notion of their character, which Mr. Hobhouse had unwarily contracted. "This character of the Parghiotes is not just, and they are Greeks, not Albanians. Parga is one of those places which, being in a state approaching to independence, may be supposed to furnish the strongest resemblance to the ancient republics of Greece. Under the Venetians they enjoyed a municipality of their own and certain privileges, which, when they became vassals of Turkey, were secured to them by the powers who guaranteed the Septinsular republic. Hence at Parga property was more secure and industry more encouraged than at any place upon the continent of Greece; but their situation has been altered since the arrival of the French." Col. de Bosset's opinion of this unfortunate people is thus expressed: nor had any one ever a better opportunity of discovering their character than that officer. "The state of hostility which has always prevailed between the Parghiotes and the Turks, has rendered them brave, and has familiarized them to arms and dangers; they are temperate, and commonly attain an advanced age. The women of Parga are generally handsome; their dress is a jacket of cloth or silk, embroidered or trimmed with gold, with a long plaited petticoat. The hair is entwined with a double cord of red silk, and gracefully fastened up behind."

"The foreign garrisons which have occupied Parga at different periods, have had little influence on the manners of the inhabitants. They are attached to their ancient usages: their mode of life is simple; their women are chaste, though they enjoy the greatest degree of social freedom."

"They are hospitable, and one of the reasons for which Ali Pasha hates them and wishes to possess their country, is, that it afforded an asylum to the victims of his tyranny. Many examples might be

foregoing history of Ali Pasha, will be prepared to believe that his ambitious mind would not rest quietly when disappointed in a design which lay nearest his heart. His gold proved in this, as in many other instances, all-powerful at Constantinople. Parga was demanded by the Porte as the price of her acquiescence in our occupation of the Ionian isles; and a secret treaty consigned over to Mahometan despotism the last little spot of ancient Greece which had remained unpolluted by her infidel conquerors.

An article however was inserted in this treaty which provided that every person who emigrated should be remunerated for the loss of his property; and if the terms of this agreement had been fairly and strictly adhered to, the Parghiotes would not have had so much apparent reason to accuse their protectors of adding injustice to a cruel policy. The resolution of the high contracting powers was not communicated to this people before the month of March, 1817. It was then announced to them by the Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian islands through the medium of Lieut. Col. de Bosset, with whom a reinforcement of 300 British troops were sent to repress all commotions, and secure the garrison from danger. It is but justice to that excellent officer to say that in this delicate situation, obliged by military duty to fulfil his orders, and urged by a natural generosity to give ear

adduced of their hospitality. The protection which they afforded to the unhappy Suliotes who had escaped the sword of Ali, would alone establish their reputation for this virtue.

“Considered with respect to their neighbours and to their fertile soil and mild climate, they may be pronounced an industrious people. To be convinced of this, we have only to view the prosperity and smiling aspect of this little country, and to observe that by which it is bounded. Beyond the boundaries of the territory of Parga, every thing bespeaks desolation and tyranny. The eye discovers nothing but waste lands, abandoned to some scattered flocks, of which the shepherds are wretched slaves. Ruined and deserted dwellings announce to the traveller, that this country, ere it belonged to the Pasha of Ioannina, was less unhappy.

“Within these few years the inhabitants of that region have been torn from the land of their birth and transported to remote countries, without succour, without means of subsistence, and a great proportion of them have been already destroyed by sickness, want, and despair.”

These accounts of the character of the Parghiotes were amply confirmed to me when I visited their country, by that excellent officer the Hon. Sir Charles Gordon, under whose government the people appeared to enjoy as great a degree of rational civil liberty, supported by firmness, and dignified by urbanity, as I ever recollect witnessing in any settlement occupied by the British arms.

to the pathetic remonstrances and despairing resolves of the miserable suppliants, he shaped his course in such a manner as to entitle him to the praise of the good and virtuous, the approbation of his own conscience, and the eternal gratitude of the unfortunate Parghiotes.

Considerable pains were taken in persuading this people to transfer allegiance to that intriguing foe who wished to become their sovereign ; but in vain : a thorough knowledge of his character acquired by an experience of thirty years, saved them from this extremity of calamity. With one voice they resolved, if the decree against their beloved country was irrevocable, to beg their bread in foreign lands rather than be butchered in cold blood by a tyrant who had sworn to sacrifice every Parghiot to his implacable revenge. Who that has perused these pages will be surprised at their resolution ? Under such circumstances Colonel de Bosset ordered an estimate to be taken of public and of private property. This amounted, on a very moderate calculation, to more than 500,000 pounds, a very small pittance for a well-built city\* containing near 4000 inhabitants, and villages peopled with many more, in a tract of the most fertile territory that can be imagined, within a circuit of twenty miles, enriched with 81,000 olive trees, from which the finest oil in the Levant was made and exported on the most advantageous terms.

With this sum however the poor inhabitants professed themselves satisfied, and consented to be transported from the land of their birth, the sepulchres of their forefathers, the edifices of their religious worship, and all those sweet associations which render the name of our country so sacred. Ali Pasha however was not quite so contented, as he thought it very hard to pay any thing at all for a place which he always affects to consider his own by right of promise. Agents therefore were sent to him at Ioannina, who entered into a long and tedious negotiation, which was studiously protracted by Ali, for the

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\* The author has resided in Parga, and here speaks generally from observation.

purpose of gaining time and watching any opportunity that might occur for seizing his unguarded prey. In the mean time the poor victims had been deprived of their best friend: Colonel de Bosset, being considered an unfit agent in these transactions, was relieved from his post and departed for England: other commissioners were appointed to value the property of the Parghiotes; Ali poured his troops around their frontiers, and exerted every nerve to gain possession of the place by endeavouring to sow dissensions, to poison the water and bread of the inhabitants, to introduce a number of his adherents into the city by stratagem, and to terrify the people by the most horrid threats and menaces of vengeance unless they submitted to his authority. All these efforts however were rebutted by their constancy and vigilance: but being in daily expectation of seeing their country delivered over to their persecutor, they neglected either to sow the ground or to engage in commercial speculations; so that in addition to the rest of their miseries, famine and want began to stare them in the face. In this state of distress, augmented to the utmost by Ali's agents, who prohibited all supplies wherever his authority extended, the ministers of religion, joined by the primates, set a noble example of patriotism and liberality for the relief of their suffering brethren; and by their means a supply of corn, though scanty, was procured.

At length appeared the new valuation of property, for which a sum less than 150,000*l.* sterling was deemed an equivalent\*! and

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\* This valuation was, I believe, made between British and Albanian commissioners alone! and no Parghiot was allowed a voice in what so intimately concerned his interests. If a fair estimate had been made of Parghiot property, I know Ali Pasha enough to say, that he never would have become the purchaser. Will any traveller in Greece, or any other person acquainted with the subject, say that 81,000 of the finest olive trees in the world (as the district in which Parga is situated is called *Elaïstis* by Thucydides, *κατ' ἐλαιοῦν*, for the abundance and excellence of these trees) are not alone worth more than the whole sum given by Ali Pasha for the Parghiote territory? "This I will venture to say, without fear of contradiction, that the gathering of the fruit alone in an abundant season is worth more than was given for the trees. "An acre planted with vines or olives, however arid or rocky the soil may be, will very easily be made worth ten times as much as an acre of the richest corn land." *Michaelis on the Laws of Moses*, vol. iii. p. 138.



after some further delay, during which all remonstrances were answered only by threats, preparations were at length made for the evacuation of Parga, which took place on the 10th of April, 1819, during the festival of Easter.

The concluding details of this mournful history are extracted chiefly from the papers of the day, confirmed by the best authorities which I could procure. By the Lord High Commissioner's orders, the officer commanding the British garrison at Parga made known to the inhabitants, that according to arrangements made with Ali Pasha, a Turkish force was to enter their territory without delay; but that the English troops would remain for their protection until the emigration was completed. On receiving this intimation, which was confirmed by the appearance of a large Ottoman force, the Parghiotes, having held a consultation, sent to inform the commandant, that such being the determination of the British government, they had unanimously resolved, that should one single Turk enter their territory before all of them had a fair opportunity of quitting it, they would put to death their wives and children, and defend themselves to the last extremity against any force, Turkish or Christian, that should violate the solemn pledge which had been given them.

The English commandant, perceiving by the preparations that their resolution was fixed, instantly dispatched information to the Lord High Commissioner at Corfu, who sent to expostulate with the Parghiotes. When the British officers arrived at Parga, the inhabitants were disinterring the bones of their ancestors from the churches and cemeteries, and burning or burying them in secret places to prevent their profanation by the Turks. The primates, with the protopapas at their head, assured the officers that the meditated sacrifice would be immediately executed, unless they could stop the entrance of the Turks who had already arrived near the frontier, and effectually protect their embarkation. This appeared to be no idle threat, and fortunately means were found which prevailed with the Ottoman commandant

to halt his forces: in the mean time the Glasgow frigate, which had been sent from Corfu, having arrived, the embarkation commenced. It is said that the appearance of this brave people, kneeling down to kiss for the last time the land which gave them birth, and watering it with their tears, was a most affecting scene: some of them carried away a handful of the soil, to be a solace in their misfortunes, an inheritance to their children, a memento of their wrongs, and a stimulus to the recovery of their country: others took for the same purpose a small portion of those sacred ashes from their pile, which had been once animated by the spirits of their forefathers, and many carried away the bones which they had not time to burn. When the bands of Ali Pasha reached the walls, all was solitude and silence. The city, as it has been observed, received its infidel garrison as Babylon or Palmyra salutes the Christian traveller in the desert—nothing breathed, nothing moved; the houses were desolate, the nation was extinct, the bones of the dead were almost consumed to ashes, whilst the only sign that living creatures had been there was the smoke slowly ascending from the funeral piles\*.

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\* In the above details, I profess myself to have been uninfluenced by any party feelings, and unexcited by any motives to detraction. I am totally unacquainted with the individuals connected, or supposed to be connected, with the cession of Parga, and no one, I think, who has read these pages, will accuse me of a desire to calumniate my country; a country whose constitution I venerate and whose very soil I love; but he who loves his own country best will be most tender of the rights of others, and I own I have been anxious that every shadow of reproach should vanish from the name of that country amongst foreign nations, and that its ancient character for honour and generosity should be preserved inviolate: having moreover been a resident upon the rock of Parga and also resident in Albania, when the tyrant, whose history I have undertaken to portray, made his first attempts against that republic, I felt called upon to detail fearlessly and impartially every circumstance of this unfortunate case, upon the authenticity of which I could rely. I presume not to blame any individual, I wish not to exasperate any party; but I wish earnestly to impress upon a Government which is always ready to correct any oversight in its political measures, the necessity of inquiring strictly and impartially into the conduct of its agents: it is very easy to oppress the oppressed, and it is certain that the whole continent rings with exclamations, not more at the decrees made against Parga than at the extreme harshness with which those decrees have been put into execution: a harshness very different from that *humanity* and *liberality* which appear so prominent in the speech of the Lord High Commissioner before the Legislative Assembly of the Ionian states, on the 7th of April, 1820. Let the reader weigh well in his mind the following paragraphs, which appeared in the same paper with his Excellency's speech, and then say whether some inquiry upon this important subject, which compromises the honour of a great nation, is not indispensable.

The unfortunate exiles are now principally at Corfu and Paxo, no longer a nation, no longer united by the same public and private ties; but houseless wanderers, either waiting for the distribution of that miserable pittance which is called a compensation for the loss of property, natal soil, and social existence, or living upon their *capital*, already drained down by many expenses, and reducing themselves slowly to want and beggary. In the mean time the fierce implacable tyrant triumphs in their ruin and glories in his success at having wrested this last tract of Christian land from the hands of Christians. "As we pursued our way," says an enlightened English traveller\*, "over the Thessalian plain, the Albanians frequently burst forth into clamorous war-songs in praise of the

"On the 23d of November last a notification on the part of Sir Thomas Maitland was made to the Parguinote emigrants who are still at Corfu, informing them that, *upon consideration*, his excellency intended to *reimburse to them the deduction made for freightage of the money brought on board the English frigate Ganymede*, Captain Spenser, from Prevesa to Corfu, and other expenses; but that he should expect from them, after such reimbursement, a receipt in full for the value of the property they had left at Parga. They were also informed that, should the Ionian government have any unoccupied lands, a grant would be made to them, and a church built at the expense of that government.

"The answer of the Parguinotes was, that if the deduction in question had been improperly exacted, they did not conceive that any conditions could be imposed on restoring the amount to them; that no consideration, not even the distress which many of them were suffering at the time, should induce them to give an acknowledgment for an indemnification of which they had received only a part. That if it was his excellency's intention to grant them lands, they begged that such lands should be specifically pointed out, that it might be seen whether they were really susceptible of cultivation, or sterile and uncultivable, like the little island of Meganizi, of which mention had originally been made; that they had sent deputies to England to obtain redress for the wrongs they had sustained; and that, until an answer was received, it was not in their power to enter into any new arrangements.

"Another account states, that Ali Pasha has lately made an official application to the British government, for reimbursement of the money which he has paid into the hands of Sir Thomas Maitland, for the indemnification of the Parguinote emigrants who abandoned their property. The reasons assigned by him for this extraordinary reclamation are said to be principally founded on the violation of two secret agreements made between him and Sir Thomas Maitland. The first relates to a promise which he pretends to have been made to him, that the British government should assist him in paying the indemnity due to the Parguinotes, which promise was not fulfilled, he having been obliged to pay the whole of the reduced indemnity, amounting to 150,000*l*. The second refers to a compact made at Prevesa, at the time Sir Thomas Maitland received the abovementioned sum, according to which Ali was authorized to send to Corfu one of his agents, to be a member of the commission appointed to settle the claims of the Parguinotes; and this compact he declares to have been violated also, since his deputy was not allowed to continue in that commission, although he was received and installed as one of its members, on which exclusion the agent entered a formal protest."

\* J. B. Wright, Esq. fellow of Jesus college, Cambridge.

great deeds of Ali Pasha. The chorus of one was—That his last action had surpassed all the preceding, for he had made the *Christians' Land* become a part of *Turkey*—alluding to that brilliant achievement the *cession of Parga*.”

Soon after the evacuation of this unfortunate city, it is said that Ali came to view his newly acquired territory, with the beauty, fertility, and happy situation of which he was so much struck as to confess he was not surprised at the determined resistance made by the inhabitants against his attacks. But it is not the occupation of Parga that will content his ambitious mind, although its possession makes him master of continental Greece from the Attic boundary of Parnes to the rugged mountains of Illyricum. As long as he lives he will exert all his energies to gain a footing in the Ionian islands, and upon his death-bed he will bequeath these sentiments to his successor. The late insurrections in Santa Maura, which have not been quelled without much bloodshed, may shew upon what a frail tenure this island is held in the vicinity of so powerful and ambitious a potentate whom England has taught to despise rather than to fear her.

We have thus brought the history of this extraordinary man to a close. In estimating his character we must not be dazzled by a name: the splendour of conquest is too apt to mislead the judgment and throw into shade those vices which darken and deform the portrait. The epithet “great” must not be indiscriminately applied to the hero who treads the strait path of glory in labouring for the advantage of his fellow-creatures, and to the daring adventurer, who, following the crooked ways of an interested policy, and unrestrained by any conscientious scruples, practises upon the simplicity and abuses the confidence of mankind, for the organization of individual despotism.

The great basis of Ali's character is extreme selfishness, and he possesses many qualities positive and negative, natural and acquired, which are well adapted to promote this ruling passion. He has few

feelings in common with the rest of men : he regards all human beings as objects calculated to advance his own views and interests, whilst his very successes have resulted as much from a deficiency in human sympathies and moral virtues, as from his talents and his courage. No pity, no remorse ever turned him aside from the object of his pursuit : with him faith and justice are but terms invented to dupe the ignorant or unsuspecting ; and the most favourite art with which he is acquainted is that of deceiving all mankind.

Deprived of the advantages of early education, his study has been the human heart, and with the intricacies of that complicated labyrinth he is well acquainted : the native vigour of his genius readily supplies expedients for the suggestions of his ambition, and his moral courage always rises in proportion to the exigencies that require it. He has a quick perception of circumstances, and very rarely allows the opportunities of action to escape him : he possesses decision, and that decision is followed by the most indefatigable perseverance : he feels his ground before he commences operations, but never neglects to go where fortune seems to point : he is gifted with the talent of discovering amongst his followers the fittest instruments to be employed and the most faithful guardians to be intrusted ; nor does he allow the etiquette of oriental dignity to prevent his communication with society and intercept the knowledge thence to be acquired. He has dexterity enough to dazzle the multitude, and strength of mind to discard many national prejudices which might oppose his advancement. He attaches his troops to his interest not more by a ready participation in their hardships, difficulties, and dangers, than by the easy familiarity with which he engages their confidence or flatters their vanity, and by the ability with which he associates their military enthusiasm with his success and identifies their glory with his own. He is a great master of political intrigue, and so versed in the arts of simulation and dissimulation, that he has not only deceived his own government, but every



other which has attempted to turn him to its advantage: each in turn has discovered its plans betrayed and itself deserted, as soon as a more powerful ally or a more beneficial cause attracted his regards. "Divide and conquer," is his favourite motto: he has no remorse in setting father against son and son against father, brother against brother, and friend against friend: in every town or district which attracts his cupidity, dissensions are studiously promoted, jealousy and distrust increased, and intestine wars excited to disunite the inhabitants and desolate the country: he then procures for himself an invitation as an ally or arbitrator, when he contrives to eject both the innocent and guilty, and remains master of the contested territory. His perfidy is more than Punic: he will make a treaty and violate it in the same hour: he will allure his adversaries into his power by the kindest words and fairest promises, and then destroy them without compunction. His desire of vengeance is deeply seated, knows no limits, and increases by delay; neither does he possess the least portion of that magnanimity of soul which can requite valour and generosity in a foe. In discourse he is equally skilful at discovering the sentiments of others, and veiling his own amidst impenetrable obscurity. As his actions seldom correspond with his promises, so his looks rarely indicate his thoughts: he can throw into his manners and his countenance the appearance of frank honesty and an affectation of gentleness, whilst rage and fury fester in his heart: he frequently seems most gay, when he is inwardly torn by chagrin, and most courteous when he meditates the darkest deeds. Yet Ali is not wantonly savage, nor does he require, like a Djezzar Pasha, to be lulled to rest with the cries of innocent and agonized victims; let his own safety or even his interest be endangered or threatened, and no principles of religion, no ties of friendship, no dues of gratitude, will restrain him in his sanguinary career.

As Ali gazes at power with an eagle's eye, so he clings to wealth with

the appetite of a vulture. His avarice is so excessive that one might almost think his desire of dominion proceeded from the wish of gratifying this insatiable cupidity. In procuring wealth he has recourse not only to a legal revenue, but to the meanest artifices and the most shameful extortion. He has not political knowledge enough to see that the encouragement of commerce and agriculture, with equitable laws and financial arrangements, would, by an increase of capital and extension of credit, augment his revenue and support his government; but he prefers to fill his treasury by forced avanias and grievous exactions, annihilating industry and stifling all the bounties of nature in their birth. A vast deposit is always kept unemployed and used as the exigency of the times may require; when this is satisfied, the expenditure is replaced by additional contributions. The great repository of this stationary wealth, to the amount, as I was informed, of more than two millions sterling, is a lofty tower in the garden of his seraglio at Tepcleni; but he possesses also jewels of immense value, with numerous stores of furniture and utensils of all kinds, which he has pillaged not only from individuals but from cities and towns taken by assault or received under his protection. On one occasion he distributed many thousand pounds weight of brass kettles, pots, and such implements, to the French engineers at Ioannina, for the purposes of a cannon foundery which they had established by his orders.

To no art does he owe more of his success than to that of bribery, and his gold has often penetrated into those places which were proof against his arms: neither does his inordinate avarice repress, but rather promotes this system, for he scarcely ever fails to recover the bribes sooner or later with interest, whilst the life or liberty of the traitor is sacrificed to his skilful hypocrisy: yet with the power of assuming the most winning manners and clothing his stern countenance in complacent smiles, he contrives to draw fresh victims into his fatal snares, directs their villany to his own advantage, and persuading each deluded votary that

his fortune will be more prosperous than that of others, overwhelms at last both adversaries and adherents in a common ruin. He once gave a man a bouyourdec to kill another who was obnoxious to him: the bloody deed was perpetrated, but the assassin found in the pocket of his victim a similar bouyourdec for his own destruction. He carried it to the vizir, and expressed some signs of astonishment; when Ali, laughing, replied, "Hey murrie, if I had not given him this, he would never have put himself in your way, and you would have had no chance of effecting your purpose." In fact, the tyrant wished to get rid of both or either of them.

Let us now contemplate the portrait in a light which will perhaps show some of its features in a more agreeable point of view. Though we cannot give our unqualified admiration to any man, however brilliant may have been his career, whose actions have been directed solely by self-interest and discoloured by the most glaring vices, and though it is easy for a despotic tyrant to benefit one part of the community by oppressing another, or excite the admiration of future generations, by adding to the miseries of the present race, still we ought to estimate the character of a person with a reference to the habits of his country, the system of his education, and the principles of his religion, keeping in view also the example which others, placed in similar situations, exhibit for his imitation.

Bearing in mind these considerations, I should pronounce the people of Albania comparatively happy, whether reference be made to their own state before the consolidation of Ali's power, or to that which still exists in other parts of the Turkish empire. In one case the contiguity of many small, fierce, independent tribes, engendered constant and implacable discord. If blood was shed even by accident, vengeance, uncontrolled by law and intrusted to individual discretion, swallowed up all other passions and rendered society a scene of terror and suspicion. So lawless were the natives of these

wild mountains that every defile and rock was rife with muskets aimed against the unwary traveller or the unprotected merchant; if he escaped with life, his property was plundered and his person sold into slavery: to such an extent did brigandage prevail that agriculture was neglected, commerce languished, the very arts of civilization began to disappear, and the whole land to present one unvaried scene of poverty and wretchedness. In the other case, I mean that which regards the general state of the Ottoman empire, it is sufficient to allude only to that horrible theocratic principle which makes power depend solely upon faith, and converts every Mahometan zealot into a remorseless tyrant. On the contrary, in Albania, though all are subject to one mighty despot, no petty tyrants are permitted to exist, and protection is given equally to the Turk, the Greek, and the Albanian, against the aggressions of each other. Religious toleration is freely granted, and the regularity of monarchical power has in some measure succeeded to the factions of aristocracies and republics. There exists at present a security in these dominions which we should seek in vain where the baneful influence of the Crescent elsewhere extends: a police is organized, robbers are extirpated, roads and canals are made or repaired, rivers are rendered navigable, so that the merchant can now traverse the Albanian districts with safety, and the traveller with convenience; agriculture in spite of all obstacles improves, commerce increases, and the whole nation advances perhaps unconsciously towards higher destinies and greater happiness.

With regard to the domestic habits of Ali Pasha, his attention to business, and the distribution of his time, are amongst the most extraordinary. So jealous is he of power, that he rarely calls upon the services of his ministers, but transacts all affairs of government himself. He rises very early in the morning, and takes a cup of coffee with his pipe: he then gives audience to his various officers, receives petitions and decides causes, pronounces judgment, settles the concerns of his army, navy, and revenue, till noon; he then dines upon

very frugal fare, a few plain dishes, and a moderate portion of wine. After dinner he sleeps for an hour or two, and then smokes his houka whilst he is occupied in similar occupations till six or seven o'clock at night, or even much later: he afterwards takes his supper and retires to his harem. In the expeditions which he frequently makes through various parts of his dominions, he will sometimes partake of the frugal fare of a cottager, and sleep beneath his humble roof. No one knows beforehand where he intends to transact the business of the day: sometimes he fixes upon the Serai of Litaritza, sometimes that of the Castron, and often he retires to the gardens of the Kiosk, or to some one of the numerous tenements which he possesses both within and without the city. Wherever he may be, a large quantity of Albanian troops are generally seen scattered about, in their white capotes, waiting for his exit. This extraordinary attention to business is productive of great inconvenience to his subjects, for in spite of all his quickness in decision, and the impossibility of appeal, a vast accumulation necessarily takes place, especially during his frequent absence from the capital.

He is not at all strict, and is thought by no means sincere, in the article of religion. He visits a mosque but once in the year, at the festival of the Ramazan, when he goes in grand procession. His mind, strong as are its natural faculties, being untutored in philosophy or science, and unaided by religious truths, clings to the marvellous and bends beneath the power of superstition: hence it is that he is greatly alarmed at thunder and earthquakes, at which times probably remorse finds an opportunity of applying her vindictive lash.

*Hi sunt qui trepidant et ad omnia fulgura pallent.*

He believes in charms, and thinks that chemical combinations of matter might be discovered, which would cure all diseases, and prolong life to an indefinite extent; this makes him often the dupe of cunning and designing men.



Though strongly addicted to sensual lusts, and proud of the success which formerly attended his amours, he pretends to take great concern in the morals of his people, and perhaps no town exists where public prostitution is so severely punished as at Ioannina. In his exterior deportment he discovers little of that ostentation which often sits so awkwardly upon persons who have risen to very exalted stations. Ali on the contrary is affable and condescending as well to strangers as to his own subjects. His firmness of mind and command over himself is well illustrated in the following anecdote. In the year 1813, as he was inspecting some repairs in the great serai of the Castron, a large block of stone fell from a scaffold upon his shoulder, and laid him prostrate on the ground. Every one present thought he was killed, and a general alarm was spread: but Ali, though seriously hurt, ordered a horse to be equipped instantly, upon which he mounted and rode round the city, with a single Albanian attendant, without discovering the least mark of pain, though he had received a wound which confined him several weeks to his bed. After his recovery he told Mons. Pouqueville that he acted thus to assure his people of his safety, and to deprive his enemies of the pleasure of thinking he was likely to die. The consul replied, that every man had his enemies, but he could not think those of his highness went so far as to desire his death. "What?" said Ali, "there is not a minute of the day in which they do not offer up prayers to heaven for my destruction: how can it be otherwise? for forty years I have been doing every thing bad to every body: in this period I have caused 30,000 persons to be hung and put to death in various ways; and they know that if I live longer I shall do more: would you have them not hate me then? their hatred however will not affect my health,"—and upon this he burst into his usual Sardonic laugh\*. In his dress Ali is generally plain and

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\* I had this anecdote, not from Mr. Pouqueville, but from another person who was present at the conference.

simple, although some particular parts of it display the magnificence of a sovereign. In person he is about the middle size, but his body being long in proportion to his legs, he appears to the greatest advantage on horseback, or when seated upon the sofa of his divan. He was extremely active in his youth, but had become unwieldy by reason of his corpulency several years before our arrival in Ioannina; and I understand, that since our departure, his increased bulk has tended so greatly to sour his temper, and urge him on to so many acts of wanton cruelty, that his character is likely to take a stain of much deeper dye than it had before acquired. One of my Albanian correspondents, in a letter which I have lately received, expresses a sentiment on this subject, very similar to that of the Persian grandee, who never left his monarch's apartment without being inclined to feel with his hand whether his head was upon his shoulders. The following instances have been related to me of his atrocious ferocity. In the year 1816 he laid waste, without any pretext, the whole canton of Kimarra, burning all the villages, and turning the poor inhabitants adrift upon the wide world, to subsist upon the charity of their neighbours. In the year following, one of those young Albanian pages whom I have before mentioned as belonging to the Seraglio, stole some article of trifling value. The chief eunuch reported it to the vizir, who ordered the poor youth to be cast into the leopard's den at the entrance of the Kiosk. This cruel command was immediately put into execution; but the animal, by constant association with the guards had become so tame, that he began to fawn upon his victim, and play with him, instead of tearing him in pieces. The circumstance was reported to Ali; and the tyrant, more ferocious than the beast of prey, ordered the wretched boy to be cut alive into small pieces, and then thrown back to be devoured.

As Ali is now more than seventy years of age, and has for many years past been the prey of a mortal disease, his dissolution cannot be far distant, when the reins of power must drop from that iron hand

which has long held them with so firm a grasp. On this event his three sons will probably be competitors for his throne. Mouchtar the eldest, having not one virtue to recommend him but his martial courage, has made no progress at all during his residence in Albania to secure the affections of any class among his father's subjects, except perhaps a portion of the Albanian soldiery. Brutal ferocity, degrading sensuality, and monstrous perfidy, are the leading features of his character: he is considered as forgetful of favours and a deserter of his friends, without any portion of that political talent which might enable him to retain dominion, if fortune gave it into his hands.

Vely Pasha, the vizir's second son, is in many points of character totally different both from his father and his elder brother. He is considered the most accomplished gentleman in the Turkish dominions, and though a strong bigot to the Mahometan faith, has a decided taste for the habits, arts, and luxuries of civilized Europe. Dissipated to excess, he is generous in his prodigality, though the indulgence of his inordinate passions often urges him on to acts of the most rapacious injustice. He has a fine person, aided by the most engaging manners, with much natural sagacity and good sense: nor is he devoid of courage, or uninfluenced by the love of military glory. In his political career he has devoted himself constantly to the interests of his lawful sovereign, and probably there does not exist a more attached and faithful subject of the Porte. When he held the government of the Morea, he received a proposal from the inhabitants of the flourishing isles of Hydra Spezie and Poros, to place themselves under his protection, and pay the tribute to him instead of the Capudan Pasha. His father Ali would have gladly accepted such an offer, and fought with the Capudan Pasha for his possession; but Vely, in a courteous and conciliatory manner declined it, and recommended the islanders to remain peaceable and submissive to lawful authority. Vely aspires to the highest posts in the empire, but the Porte hitherto has not thought proper to indulge him in his wishes; it prefers keeping him in the

vicinity of his father, since there is no doubt but that the Sultan would support him in his attempt to succeed Ali in his dominion, in order, by his means, to recover those provinces which are now in some measure disjointed from the Ottoman empire. In that event Vely would abandon all those foreign relations which are courted by his father, and would own implicit allegiance to the Sultan: on this account there is a large party of Osmanli Turks who favour his pretensions, and exult secretly in the hope of recovering that power which they used formerly to exercise over their Christian slaves.

Salee Bey, the vizir's youngest son, whom he himself evidently designs for his successor, is now about twenty-one years of age, the son of a Circassian slave. When we were introduced to him at his residence in the fortress of Argyro-Castro, he appeared to be a youth of good understanding and amiable disposition, but his character was not then developed: it is said that he possesses most of his father's good qualities and some of his vices. He has a fair complexion, with a pleasing countenance, very much resembling that of Ali in his youthful days. Those who are best acquainted with the vizir's character and sentiments are decided in their opinion that he intends Salee Bey for his successor, and that if he lives five years longer he will ensure the accomplishment of this design. It is supposed that the great fortress of Argyro-Castro was built on purpose to give him that strong hold as a residence amidst his father's faithful clan, and an opportunity of rendering himself his successor in their affections: the mode of his education, which, whilst it improved his mind, hardened his constitution, tended to qualify him for this undertaking. His food was plain, and his exercise regular; he was obliged even to carry bricks and stones, and submit to the same labour as the common workmen, in the construction of the fortifications, whilst his tutors and the governor were enjoined to exact the most implicit deference to their commands. For several years past all the landed property purchased by Ali has been registered in the name of Salee Bey, whilst his in-

inense stock of jewels and the contents of his treasuries are all intended to support this son's pretensions after his own decease. With this view also he has put to death so many pashas and beys, and endeavoured to exterminate all those independent Albanian chiefs whose struggles to regain their power might interfere with the interests of his heir. If he lives much longer, the whole race will be extinct. As they are nearly all Mahometans, the indignation of the Turks against Ali is far greater than that of any other class amongst his subjects, and they would gladly join any power that would give them assistance in throwing off his yoke.

The Ottoman Porte, which has been long convinced of his insidious designs and treacherous system, and has long lamented its own blindness, inactivity, and temporizing policy, would gladly hurl him from that pinnacle of power to which his vices and his valour have raised him : but this is now impossible ; the old eagle is too strong upon his pinions for the Porte to curb his flight, and the mountain barriers of Epirus, defended by their Albanian palikars, are not to be scaled by a set of Turkish janissaries. No man knows better than Ali this decrepitude and imbecility of the Ottoman empire, the want of prompt decision in its councils and of communication with its provinces, the relaxation of that military system which once kept the world in awe, the rapacity of its officers, the dissatisfaction of its subjects, the diminution of its population, and every other sign of a state tottering upon the very brink of destruction : it is said that he entertains serious ideas of throwing off that nominal allegiance to the Porte which he has hitherto professed, and of assuming the title, as he has long assumed the authority, of an independent sovereign. In the mean time the following anecdote, which is extracted from a letter dated Constantinople, April, 1820, and inserted in the *Star*, will shew with what audacity he dares insult his sovereign, and beard the lion in his very den :

“ An affair has just occurred here which has caused a great deal of noise. Two Albanians, on horseback, rode briskly up to the door



of the Grand Signor's chamberlain, Pashow Bey, and on the chamberlain's looking out at his window to know what they wanted, they both fired their pistols at him. The balls whizzed past the bey's head, fortunately without touching him. The assassins instantly scampered off at full gallop by the road to Adrianople. A well-mounted party was in a few minutes in pursuit of them, and at a village about sixty miles off they came up with one of the fugitives, whom they seized and brought back to Constantinople; the other effected his escape. The Albanian in custody refused at first to say a word in explanation of the extraordinary and daring adventure in which he had been engaged, but, on being put to the rack, he confessed, what was generally believed to be the case, that he and his companion had been hired by the famous Ali Pasha to murder Pashow Bey.

"The fact, I understand, is, that this is only one of many machinations on the part of Ali Pasha to take away the life of the chamberlain, against whom he appears to have conceived an unextinguishable hatred. The history of Pashow Bey, for years past, has been nothing but a narrative of hair-breadth escapes from the vengeance of his persecutor. At one time, by means of bribery and intrigue, Ali Pasha contrived to procure a sentence of death from the Porte against him, to escape which Pashow Bey fled into Egypt, from the viceroy of which he received protection.

"While residing at Alexandria, some Albanian mariners called on him, and solicited his advice, as a countryman, as to the disposal of some goods which they said they had just brought into the harbour, and which they wished him to go on board their small bark to inspect. Pashow had learnt by this time the danger of being too confiding; he sent a person to make a private survey of the Albanian vessel, who reported that, instead of being laden with goods, she was all in sailing trim, ready to start at a moment's notice. Pashow, of course, declined the friendly invitation of his countrymen, who, finding themselves

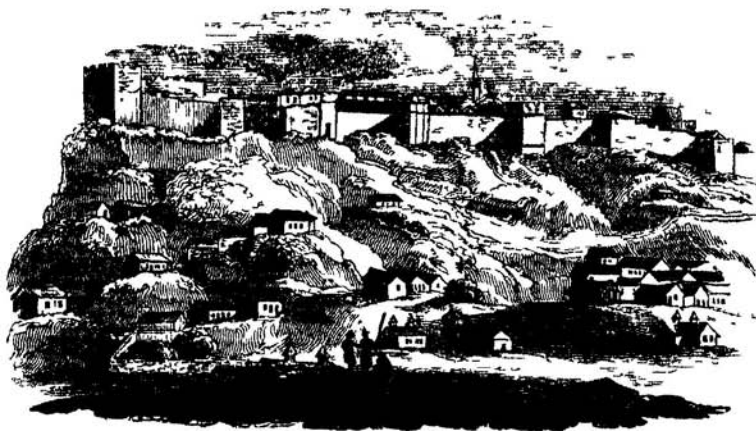
baulked in their too obvious design, left the port with all possible expedition. The circumstance coming to the ear of the viceroy so strengthened the interest which he had taken in Pashow Bey, that he applied in his behalf to the Grand Signor, from whom he obtained a revocation of the sentence of death, and permission to Pashow to return to Constantinople, where he has since resided.

“The Sultan, I am told, was so incensed at this last audacious attempt of Ali Pasha’s that he had determined to visit him with his utmost displeasure; but he has since adopted a more cautious but perhaps as severe a policy. He has appointed new governors to a number of military posts, particularly of the principal passes into Albania, which have been hitherto allowed to be held by persons of Ali’s appointment. This is supposed to be a great step towards the ultimate downfall of this formidable partisan. His agents have been also sent away from the capital, and all property of Ali’s in their hands has been seized.”

The Sultan has acted wisely in adopting the more cautious line of policy. It is perhaps practicable for him to dispossess Ali Pasha of those governments which he holds, by means of subordinate agents, on the eastern side of Pindus: but an attempt to eject him from Epirus, would probably have no other result than to show the real weakness of the Ottoman government and to hasten its downfall. Even the governors who shall be appointed to the Thessalian or Macedonian districts taken from Ali must hold them at his discretion, for no force which they, or even the Porte can establish, will prevent him from thundering down upon their plains from his mountain holds, wasting their territories, burning their cities, and carrying off their persons to imprisonment or death. The gradual and natural decay of Ali’s powers seems to be the only remedy which the Porte can now contemplate for those evils to which its unguarded policy gave rise; this decay indeed has been for some time past perceptible, and though the faculties of his mind are still in full vigour, his corporeal strength is

daily yielding before the attacks of an incurable disease: so that before these memoirs meet the public eye, there is an equal chance, whether he be seated on a throne, or the tenant of a tomb.

Such is the present state of Ali Pasha, his sons, his subjects, and his government: probably by this time he finds, or if he lives much longer he will find, that the elevated station to which his talents aided by his crimes have raised him, is unable to secure for him so much happiness as falls to the lot of an humble and contented peasant upon his wild mountains; for if injustice is ever visited with punishment, or crimes made their own ministers of vengeance in this world, it is when the infirmities of age creep slowly on a tyrant, when activity and bustle are no longer suited to his strength, and his habitual restlessness cannot be appeased; when a sense of approaching death excites a certain indescribable fear of retribution, and conscience holds a mirror to his view wherein every action is reflected which was instigated by the selfish and malevolent passions.



Fortress of Ali Pasha at Argyro-Castro.

## CHAPTER IX.

*Visit to Mr. Pouqueville—His Opinion respecting Parga—Visit to Mouchtar Pasha—Adventure of a Robber—Accident at Signore Nicolo's House—Superstitions of Mustafà—Old Tatar sets out on his Pilgrimage to Mecca—Spring at Ioannina—Appearance of Hawks and Storks—Excursion to the North of Albania—Zitza—Fall of the Kalamas or Thyamis—Tzarovina—Vizir's Powder-Mills—Delvinaki—Misery of its Inhabitants—Inscription upon a Church—Violent Conduct of Mustafà—Valley of Deropuli—Reflections thereon—Palaia-Episcopi—Snuff Manufactory—Libochobo—Remains of Adrianopolis—Appearance of Argyro-Castro—Albanian Soldiers—Captain Gianko—Cries of Women for the Dead—Description of Argyro-Castro—Inspection of the Fortress—Visit to Salee Bey the Vizir's youngest Son—The unfortunate Demetrio Anastasi—Statistical Paper sent by the Bishop of Argyro-Castro—Mistake of the Author respecting the Bearer.*

**MARCH** 5th.—This morning we received an invitation to dinner with Mons. Pouqueville, at which time we learned all the particulars

of Ali's attack and massacre at Ajà, as well as his defeat by the valiant and patriotic Parghiotes. Our conversation to-day turned chiefly upon this event, and the consequences that might be expected to ensue from it. It is not very consoling now to reflect upon the sentiments of the French consul upon this subject. He seemed fully aware that Parga would eventually change French for British protection, but he exulted in the prospect of its fate, and paid those compliments to our national faith which are particularly gratifying from the acknowledgment of a generous enemy. I recollect the almost enthusiastic fondness which he expressed for the character of the Parghiotes, with which his frequent residence amongst them had made him well acquainted; a character which we invariably found acknowledged by all who had similar opportunities of observing it, and which our own sojourn upon their rock tended strongly to confirm. And for *whom* did British authorities think proper to expatriate this interesting people, and to rivet the fetters of Greece!

Next day we called upon Mouchtar Pasha at his serai. He received us with civility, and confirmed the intelligence of the capture of Ajà, though he studiously concealed the defeat before Parga. The mention of these events turned the conversation to his own exploits at the attack of Prevesa, where he headed the charge of Albanian cavalry, and drove in the out-posts. Like the generality of these warriors he boasted much of his own valour, and expressed a contemptuous opinion of the French which they little deserved: had they possessed a single troop of cavalry, probably Mouchtar would not have lived to tell the tale; nor would Prevesa have fallen so easy a prey, had the French troops been properly supported. As we sat smoking our pipes in social converse, a secretary of the pasha's came to inform him that a desperate leader of banditti, who had long infested the forests of Acarnania, had voluntarily surrendered himself, and desired to make the adoration (*προσκύνησις*) upon condition of receiving pardon and employment. In this ceremony the criminal prostrates himself before



the chief and kisses the hem of his garment, after which his life is safe whatever may have been the crimes he has committed. Mouchtar admitted the man to this expiatory rite, but in so doing he incurred the displeasure of his father, whose vengeance was implacable against this individual, who had committed the most atrocious excesses and long eluded all attempts to take him. To give up the pleasure of revenge is not compatible with Ali's nature ; whilst, on the other hand, to violate the customs of his country and destroy all confidence between himself and his old companions the kleftes was thought adverse to good policy. In this dilemma therefore he released the man, and gave him safe conduct to the haunts of his associates, determining to wait patiently until chance or a diligent police should again bring the culprit into his grasp.

Having left Mouchtar we paid a visit to young Mahmet Pasha, with whose conversation, as at all other times, we were highly interested, and then returned home to be witnesses of a catastrophe which had nearly laid all Ioannina in ashes. On this day we had invited a party of natives to dinner, and Antonietti, that he might do honour to us and give satisfaction to our guests by his skill in cookery, had lighted a fire to which the vizir's kitchen itself could scarcely have afforded a parallel : but the houses in this country are not built to stand fire ; indeed, so seldom is a Grecian hearth illuminated by any thing like a blaze, that the architect takes no precaution to secure the beam ends of the upper story which may jut into the chimney. Such was the case in the present instance ; a large dry beam coming into contact with Antonietti's flame, took fire, and the smoke soon ascended through the roof : luckily this was formed of pantiles instead of thatch, or the next messenger dispatched to the vizir might have told him ' half his Troy was burnt : ' for as more than one half the house, in all instances, is constructed of wood, whilst the modern invention of a water-engine has not yet found its way to Ioannina, and moreover, as a high wind finely calculated to spread a con-

flagration was then blowing, Antonietti very narrowly escaped gaining a niche in the Temple of Fame by the side of Erostratus. On our arrival we found every body and every thing in confusion ; but Signore Nicolo alarmed not less for his head than for his house, mounted the roof with uncommon agility, and acted the part of fireman : tearing off some dozens of the tiles, and exposing the enemy to view, he cooled his courage by the application of successive buckets of water, which we handed up to him, and Ioannina was saved : but the dinner was spoiled ; and our guests were taught to sympathise with the Horatian party in their misfortune at Beneventum.

Ubi sedulus hospes,  
Pæne ausit macros dum turdos versat in igne.

This however was not the only misfortune we experienced : the French consul, having understood that we gave an entertainment, kindly sent some sausages to garnish a turkey : these having been saved from the wreck, were amongst the articles dressed for dinner, none of the party recollecting that pork was a principal ingredient in their composition : but Mustafà was too good a Mussulman to forget it, and no sooner did his olfactory nerves give him notice that this infernal viand was to compose a part of our feast, than he consigned us all over to perdition, and with every mark of horror and disgust pictured in his countenance, packed up his goods and retreated to his little den within the castron. At the expiration of two days, when he thought the house was tolerably purified, he re-appeared, but refused to break bread with us until Demetrio had washed every dish and platter in his presence, and we assured him that no more of this abomination should come under our roof. Mr. Parker indeed contrived to persuade him that he had not partaken of the sausages, and by that means gained a step over me in his affections which I was never able to recover : as for Antonietti, who cooked the trash, he looked upon him with infinitely greater abhorrence than if he had

roasted a Christian, nor could he ever after hear the name of M. Pouqueville mentioned with any degree of patience. This was not the only time when we were amused by the superstitious peculiarities of poor Mustafà. One day as he was putting in order a houka for Mr. Parker he happened to break the glass vase: for this he took not the least blame to himself, but ascribed all the fault to a Greek gentleman who had left the room ten minutes before, and whom he had observed to look at it with an *evil eye* (*κακὸ ματὶ*): he said he was well aware that some mischief would befall him, and was glad it was no worse; for in going to the bath the day preceding he had broken the ribbon which fastened his amulet round his neck, and was thus left defenceless against the glances of every wicked eye that might be cast upon him. The fear of this eye-battery is equally prevalent amongst the Greeks, many of whom are struck with horror if a stranger praises any article of their property, or one of their children, for its beauty; they generally observe the ancient method of averting this evil by spitting upon the admired object, or into their own bosom.

On the morning after this conflagration scene we were awoke early from sleep by a violent outcry in the street, which we found to proceed from a long procession that was conveying the vizir's favourite tatar, named Delhi Yachjà Agà, out of the precincts of the town on his road to Mecca, where he was going to be made a hadjee, or "holy man." He was accompanied on this occasion by all the different trades of the city with silken banners flying, and the college of dervishes carrying axes and halberts; these were preceded by a chorus of young men singing hymns in a fine sonorous strain, relieved at intervals by a band of music: his horse, magnificently caparisoned, was led by two tatars, his ataghan and pistols being tied to the saddle, whilst a large body of the tatarian fraternity in their picturesque attire closed up the rear. When he arrived at the outside of the town, near the plain of Bonila, he took an affectionate leave of his relations and friends, each of whom he kissed upon the cheek, then mounted his steed, and de-

parted on the road to Prevesa, where a ship was waiting in which he intended to embark for Alexandria. This man was very celebrated, and highly valued by his master for the astonishing journeys which he had performed in his service: he had the faculty of sleeping on horse-back, which enabled him to make the greatest possible dispatch, since he never stopped longer than was necessary to take the refreshment of food. He was now sixty years old, and so anxious to make this grand composition for sin, and secure a safe entrance through the gate of Paradise, that no entreaties of friends, not even those of Ali himself, could divert him from his pilgrimage.

It was near the end of March before the germs of vegetation began to appear and serenity was restored to the atmosphere. The first harbingers of spring at Ioannina are innumerable flights of small hawks, extremely beautiful in appearance, of a lighter colour, but about equal in size to the common sparrow-hawk: they come in such numbers that they may be seen upon every tree and every house of the city: no doubt this bird is sent by Providence for some useful purpose like its immediate successor the stork, which is called by way of eminence, the bird of Mahomet, and held so sacred in many parts of Turkey, that he who kills one is subjected to the severest penalties: this is not indeed the case at Ioannina, though even here its murderer is looked upon with an evil eye. Nothing can add more to the picturesque appearance of Turkish cities than the frequent occurrence of this majestic bird either standing upon a mosque with all the solemnity of an imaan, or seated like a moralist amidst the ruins of antiquity. The veneration paid to the stork however proceeds not so much from its appearance as its utility; it is furnished by nature with that long formidable bill for the destruction of serpents and other reptiles with which the country abounds. I have seen many desperate struggles in the air between these implacable combatants.

The weather now appearing settled and the snow partially dissolved, we became anxious to seize the earliest opportunity of making an ex-

cursion into Albania for the purpose of viewing its noble scenery and becoming better acquainted with its singular inhabitants. Our first intention was to have visited the monasteries of Meteora on the eastern side of Pindus, from which we were diverted by the earnest representations of Mouchtar Pasha, who gave us a lamentable account of the ravages made in that district by the plague. But the North or Upper Albania lay open to our researches, and its banditti being dispersed from all the provinces subjected to the vizir's authority, every possible facility and accommodation was offered to the traveller.

On the 28th of March therefore at noon, one fortnight before the festival of Easter, we commenced our expedition, attended by Signore Nicolo, Antonietti, Demetrio, four suradgees, and Mustafà, armed with the plenipotential powers of his bouyourdee. In our first day's journey we advanced no further than to Zitza, which is four hours north-west of Ioannina, situated upon some turfy knolls so as to command a fine view of that mountainous region through which the Thyamis flows into the Thesprotian plains; those plains wherein it once imparted verdure and luxuriance to the groves of platani that sheltered the Amaltheum\*. To their umbrageous shade the munificent Atticus retired a voluntary exile from the calamities of his country: there he endeavoured to forget his sorrows in the exercise of generous hospitality, in philosophical studies, and rural amusements, amidst scenery whose soft features were so congenial to the amenity of his own disposition. At the entrance of the village we passed a monastery on our left hand, situated in a tuft of fine trees upon a lovely eminence, and on the right a small serai belonging to the vizir, to which a granary is attached for containing the produce of his chiflick: throughout the whole of our route we constantly observed similar mementos of tyrannic power. Zitza contains about 150 houses, with four Greek churches: it is cele-

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Cave putes Attici nostri Amaltheo, platanisque illis quidquam esse præclarus.

Cic. Proem. lib. ii. de Leg.



brated for a very excellent and fragrant species of white wine, made from grapes which have been exposed for about three days to the sun, and which has a peculiar flavour from the absynthus employed in its preparation. We procured from the convent a copious supply of this nectar, in which Signore Nicolo indulged his genius so freely as to bring on certain symptoms of an incipient fever, which, in the course of a few days, prevented our having the benefit of his company during the rest of this excursion. Next morning we resumed our journey through an undulating tract of country covered with vineyards: at one hour's distance from Zitza we passed a beautiful cascade on the left hand, called the fall of Glizani, where the river Thyamis rolls over a rock about fifty feet in height and thirty in breadth, adorned on one side by a fine wooded knoll, and on the other by a picturesque water-mill: the sun was shining brilliantly and a fine iris playing over the spray. The scenery down the valley of the Thyamis would probably afford ample gratification to the lovers of the picturesque: our route lay upwards in a more northerly direction, which brought us in about four hours to the lake of Tzarovina, which is said to be unfathomable, and seems as if it filled up the vacuum of an exhausted crater; its great depth gives a deep azure to the transparent water, whose gloom is increased by some trees and shrubs which bathe their branches in its margin. Tzarovina is the place which Ali Pasha first occupied in his advances against Ioannina, and here he has built a small serai and fortress, which is mounted by a few cannon: below the lake, near the channel of the Thyamis, his largest powder-mills are situated; but the article is wretchedly manufactured. Advancing about one hour further we turned suddenly to the right, up a very precipitous and magnificent glen, down which a small river flows into the Kalamas; at this point of the road we met a company of Albanian soldiers escorting several French and Italian prisoners who had been taken in league with some brigands in Northern Albania. Antonietti entered into conversation with his countrymen, who did not much enjoy the prospect of an interview with

the dreaded chieftain : as we did not hear of any punishment being inflicted upon these rogues, it is very probable that he received them into his service. After proceeding about a quarter of a mile up the valley, we crossed it and ascended a steep hill towards the town of Delvinaki. Here we met a number of women returning from the toils of agriculture with hoes, spades, and other implements of husbandry in their hands : one poor creature had two infants tied in a kind of bag over her shoulders. Almost all the cultivation of the ground in this district is left to women, whilst the men are absent during greatest part of the year at Constantinople, Adrianople, Saloniki, and other large cities, where they carry on the trades of butchers and bakers. Many of these sun-burnt daughters of labour had very fine features, the place being noted for the beauty of its women : some of them accosted us with great frankness and were very inquisitive as to the objects of our journey, and the place from whence we came.

At the top of the hill we burst suddenly upon the town of Delvinaki, seated in a large circular coilon, around which nothing but bleak and barren rocks appear. It contains four churches and about 350 houses, built for the most part in a style of neatness and comfort : but at least a hundred were at this time uninhabited, owing to the cruel exactions of Ali Pasha. He has long been desirous of converting the place into one of his detestable chiflicks, but has been constantly opposed in his endeavours by the inhabitants, who are equally desirous of retaining their independence : to subdue this spirit he has had recourse to the most oppressive avanias, and the most odious impositions, quartering several thousands of his Albanian troops for six months together upon the unfortunate district, and removing them only to introduce a fresh set and subject the inhabitants to greater misery. No resolution can withstand a force like this ; and probably long before this time the miserable Delvinaki has sunk into insignificance. Its site has been by some mistaken for Nicæum, and for Omphalium by others who have been misled by its umbilical appearance ; but after a diligent

investigation we could not discover a single trace of antiquity upon the spot. The only inscription we observed was one in modern Greek, carved upon the entrance of a new church and signifying that this sacred edifice had been erected in the year 1812, at the expense of the primates, in the reign of the high and mighty Ali Pasha.

At Delvinaki two principal roads branch off, one towards Delvino and Butrinto, in the direction of Corfu; the other towards the great plain of Argyro-Castro and the north of Albania. We took this latter, and enjoyed a superb prospect when we arrived at the highest point above Delvinaki, where the eye is carried down the vast chasm that we had passed the day before, and from thence over the extensive mountain scenery of the Kalamas. After passing through a wild rugged country for one hour and a half north-west, we arrived at the lan of Xerò-Valto, or the *dried marsh*, where the process of drainage has been carried on to a considerable extent, and a large quantity of very productive land brought into a state of cultivation. Near this place I had a serious altercation with our kaivasi Mustafà. He had just discovered that a Greek lad by whom he was attended on the journey, had lost a small parcel containing a shawl which had been committed to his custody. Irritated at this accident he drew his ataghan and beat the poor fellow most unmercifully about the head and shoulders with the back part of it: this passed over, but in a short time the Turk's rage suddenly broke out afresh like a smothered flame; he began to repeat the castigation with double fury upon the unfortunate offender, and would probably have soon proceeded to use the edge of his scymitar, had I not thought proper to interfere; but it was only by a threat of complaining to the vizir that he could be persuaded to remit his indignation.

Soon after this affair we entered into the magnificent and spacious valley of Deròpuli, on the western side of which stands the large city of Argyro-Castro. This plain, as enchanting as any which Arcadia itself can boast, is watered by the river Druno, commonly mistaken for the

Celydnus of antiquity: it extends in length more than thirty miles, and varies from four to six in breadth. it is inhabited by a population probably of 80,000 souls; near a hundred towns and villages may be enumerated, which are seen partly studding the sides of its huge mountain barriers that rise above them in Alpine grandeur, partly hid within their sinuous recesses, or embosomed in thick foliage: flocks of sheep and large Epirotic herds range through the green pastures, and numerous goats browse upon the lofty precipices. A degree of animation is thus communicated to the solemn and impressive features of nature that is perfectly delightful; nor can I recal to mind a view which unites so much of the pleasing with the grand. In contemplating this scene imagination could not help picturing to itself the still more brilliant colours it may assume when the golden wings of Liberty shall be spread over its soil, when wisdom and justice shall direct the energies, restrain the vices, and encourage the emulation of its inhabitants: when industry shall lead into this terrestrial paradise the sister arts, teaching the transparent stream to fertilize every corner which is now deserted, mingle the various hues of every opening flower, spread the umbrageous grove along the plain, and cover the huge sides of every hill with foliage: when architecture shall distribute all around its elegant appendages of decoration, in the splendid dome, the lofty tower, and the columnated portico, scenes adapted to philosophical meditation or scientific research; and above all, when true religion shall once more raise her awful head amidst these shades, diffusing moral happiness amongst the people, recalling them from their long slumber of ignorance and barbarism, and animating their hearts to adore the Author of all good!

No district in Albania is half so populous as this, though the miserable tenure of the land, which is chiefly that of the chiflick, tends greatly to diminish its inhabitants. The principal articles of produce are corn, rice, and tobacco, besides vast flocks of sheep and goats, which are seen scattered over the mountains. We re-

mained for about an hour at the beautiful village of Palaia-Episcopi, which is intersected by many transparent rills flowing from the upper parts of the mountain Mertzika, which turn the wheels of a number of water-mills, where the best snuff in all Albania is manufactured. A few miles beyond Episcopi we descended into the vale, and soon afterwards crossed the river nearly opposite the large scattered town of Libochobo, lying upon a steep acclivity of Mertzika, and near a vast chasm in that mountain chain, through which a torrent pours its tribute into the Druno. This town, with its territory, is a chiflick belonging to Shainitza, the sanguinary sister of the Albanian tyrant, and at this time she occupied a large seraglio which had been constructed for her by the vizir. On the western side of the valley, nearly opposite Libochobo, and at no great distance from the river, Signore Nicolo pointed out the ruins of a small Roman theatre with a few vestiges of other ancient foundations, upon a spot which he designated by the name of Drinopolis, an evident corruption of Hadrianopolis, which in very early ages was called Phanote, and in later times of the Eastern Empire Justinianopolis\*. Argyro-Castro has succeeded to its consequence, though not to its site, upon which it is erroneously placed in the maps. In a little more than one hour we arrived under that city, whose unequal rocky acclivities, intersected by deep chasms and dividing it into several distinct partitions, give it a truly grand and imposing aspect. The houses, which are generally good, and belong chiefly to Turkish proprietors, are not contiguous, but stand in various positions, some on commanding eminences, others beneath projecting crags, many on the ridges of precipices, but the greatest part upon the flat surfaces of rock, between its deep ravines: the whole appearance is singularly striking, and its fine effect is augmented not only by the minarets of its mosques, but by the

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\* 'Ον δὲ καὶ πάλαι ἀντὶ (sc. Justiniano) πεποιήται Ἰουστιανόπολις, ἢ πρότερον Ἀδριανόπολις καλεμένη. Procop. de Bldf. l. iv. c. 1.



grand fortress of Ali Pasha, which was at this time nearly completed, upon a much larger scale than has ever been adopted in this country for works of a similar description. At about five o'clock in the afternoon we entered this city and obtained excellent lodgings in a house belonging to a friend of Signore Nicolo.

After dinner we took a walk into the city, accompanied by a fine youth, the son of our host: our appearance attracted great notice and curiosity from the inhabitants. Many Albanian guards came up and entered into familiar converse with us, but there was nothing uncivil or impertinent in their address, and they very freely communicated all they knew respecting the works going forward, the views of the vizir, his wars with the Argyro-Castrites, and their subsequent capitulation. Amongst these troops it was difficult to distinguish the officers from the privates, by dress, by style of conversation, or by any assumption of superiority. A captain of artillery, named Gianko, was extremely civil, and accompanied us during the whole of our walk. This man stood high in the confidence of Ali Pasha, and was present with him at the massacre of the Gardikiotes, where he led on the first body of troops to fire into the court of the Han. In the minute circumstantial account which he gave us of that horrid catastrophe, he said not more than eighty persons were selected by the vizir as objects of clemency, whom he spared. During our excursion we heard many doleful cries and loud lamentations, proceeding from several houses: we inquired the reason of this circumstance from our guides, who informed us that the women were still wailing for their husbands and sons who had fallen in battle against the vizir: now many of these had been thus occupied at least seven years previous to the time we heard them; yet no one appeared surprised at the folly of this observance. So powerful is the force of custom! I remember listening frequently at Ioannina to the cries of a matron who had lost her husband seventeen years before in a Russian campaign, but had never

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omitted howling three times a day after she received the tidings of his death\*.

— ὑφ' ἑμέρον ὤρσε γόοιο.

The weather being extremely fine we never thought of abridging our excursion, by which means we considerably fatigued ourselves in making the circuit of this craggy city, standing, as it does, upon a steep acclivity and occupying a very extended space sufficiently large for double its population, which is not computed at more than about 15,000 souls. The bazar is spacious, and appeared very well supplied with articles of commerce. The inhabitants, before the vizir's conquest, were the greatest merchants in this part of Albania, and Argyro-Castro was a great depôt for internal trade. Ali contrived to seize the persons of many of these traffickers, who were scattered about the country, and by this means facilitated greatly the reduction of the place. The most picturesque parts of its site are the chasms which intersect it, whose sides are lined with habitations beautifully intermingled with trees, shrubs, and gardens: these situations however, are exposed to great dangers from the mountain torrents, which, after heavy rains, or the melting of snow, sometimes sweep down with such a swell and impetuosity as to carry every thing before them. About three years ago a terrible inundation of this kind swept away more than sixty houses, with their inhabitants, in the deep ravine which lies to the north of the castle, where the ruins still attest the extent of the calamity. On our return home we found that poor Nicolo, being unwell, had retired to bed. An officer also

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\* In a similar manner the wandering Ulysses seems to have been lamented by his faithful Penelope.

Ἐς δ' ὑπερῷ ἀναβᾶσα σὺν ἀμφιπόλοισι γυναῖξί,  
 Κλαῖεν ἔπει' Ὀδυσῆα Φίλον πόσιν, ὅφρα οἱ ὑπνον  
 Ἦδ' ἐπὶ βλεφάροισι βάλε γλαυκῶπις Ἀθήνη.

Od. α. 362.

had arrived from young Salee Bey to inquire after our health, and offer his congratulations upon our arrival.

Next morning, after having sent a messenger to the young bey, to apprise him of our visit and deliver a letter from his brother Mouchtar Pasha, we set out to view the fortress. We were received at the great entrance by our friend Gianko, and conducted into the apartment of the governor Hassan Bey, an elderly man, who had accompanied the vizir in most of his early campaigns: no greater mark of confidence could have been placed in him by his sovereign than the command of this fortress and the care of his favourite son and successor. The person of this old chief was fine, though his apparel was coarse, and even dirty; he wore a little red skull-cap on his head, and a large coarse cloak of goat's hair thrown over his shoulders: he treated us with pipes and coffee, but spoke to us through the medium of an interpreter, as he was unacquainted with any other but the Albanian language. After remaining about half an hour in his little dirty apartment, which was totally devoid not only of grandeur but even of neatness and comfort, we departed, under escort of Gianko, to view the fortifications, deferring our visit to Salee Bey for the present, that we might not interrupt him in his studies. The area of this castle is extremely spacious, containing not only barracks for the accommodation of five thousand troops, but a very large seraglio and a mosque. The magazines are subterranean and well calculated to secure not only ammunition but provisions: the walls are of great thickness, though in some places they display too much haste in their construction: subterranean passages lead to all parts of the building, and water is brought by an aqueduct, from the hills that back it on the west, over a space of about six miles. In one apartment we were shewn a curious mill for grinding corn without either wind, water, steam or any other power but that of clock-work: it requires to be wound up only once in twenty-four hours, during which time the stone makes 42,000



turns and grinds 1400 ochas of flour: it is the invention of a poor Greek artificer, who had worked with some Frenchmen at Taigan in the Crimea. From the battlements of this castle we had a noble view of the grand plain of Deròpuli, presenting an appearance of fertility and animation that is wonderful in this country. Forty cannon only were as yet mounted, but forty-five more were expected: that end of the fortress which is turned towards the mountain was defended solely by one large traversing gun at the south-west bastion; amongst others we remarked several pieces of English and French ordnance, together with about a dozen brass field-pieces standing on their carriages upon a platform near the south-east corner. I observed to Captain Gianko that the whole castle was commanded by a position on the south-west, and he said it was in contemplation to secure that by the erection of a strong outwork. If artillery could be brought to play upon it from the heights above, on the western side, it could not sustain a siege of two hours: but whilst Turks only are the enemies to attack it, its deep ravines are a sufficient defence against this danger. About 1500 peasants were busily employed in various labours about this building, and by a shamefully oppressive avania were allowed only rations of coarse calamboci bread, by way of remuneration: and this for the forgery of their own fetters!

After having minutely inspected the works, we adjourned to a small house adjoining the serai, for the purpose of paying our respects to Salee Bey, whom we found seated on the divan in company with his tutor. He received the respectful obeisance of our attendants with a dignity that would have surprised us, if we had not known that lessons in etiquette are among the first in which youth of high rank in these countries are instructed: he appeared pleased to see us, and asked many questions respecting his father and brother; but we thought him deficient both in manner and acquirements when compared with his nephew little Mahmet Pasha, who is about his own age. Motioning

Nicolo to sit near him on the sofa, he questioned him, in a low tone of voice, respecting a difference which he observed in Mr. Parker's dress and my own, as why he wore a sabre and I did not, why his pantaloons were blue and mine white; but he desired his informant not to look at us, lest we might think he was discoursing about us, which, he added, would not be courteous towards strangers. The complexion of this youth was fair, his hair and eyes light, and his physiognomy bore a very strong resemblance to that of his father; he was considered docile, and rather of a mild disposition, although I understand he has since shewn some traits of that vindictive spirit which distinguishes the paternal character. No pains appeared to be spared in his education; he was not only instructed in the Turkish, Albanian and Romaic languages, but was daily trained in bodily exercises, whilst every opportunity was taken to ingratiate him with the Albanian tribes that were to be his future subjects. At our departure he promised to send us letters to various governors of cities that might lie in our route, as well as one to his mother, resident at Tepeleni, who, he added, would be proud to entertain Englishmen as her guests. We then took our leave, when the young bey arose and accompanied us to the door of his apartment, wishing us a pleasant journey and every kind of prosperity.

In the evening an Albanian colonel, accompanied by a dozen guards, brought the promised letters to our lodging: our friend Gianko also called, and two or three Greek gentlemen dropping in, we detained them all to pipes and coffee and discussed the valour and politics of Ali Pasha over a flowing bowl of punch made in Antonietti's best manner.

Next morning we intended to have resumed our journey, but Signore Nicolo complained so much of the state of his health, that we thought it right to remain another day in Argyro-Castro, to see what turn his complaint might take. Early in the morning, being accompanied by Demetrio, I ascended the mountainous steep behind the city with an intention of gaining the summit; but we found this quite impracticable, on account of so many deep chasms which presented themselves in our

path. We returned therefore, after having enjoyed a view of the plain which fully recompensed us for our trouble. About noon, Nicolo feeling better, I walked out with him, and we paid a visit to poor Demetrio Athanasi, whose fine house at Ioannina the reader may recollect was seized by Ali for the sake of his nephew the Pasha of Ochrida. A small miserable tenement was now the residence of this wretched family who had been long accustomed to all the comforts and the luxuries of life. Its master appeared gradually sinking under the attacks of a slow fever, nor did any consolation or any medicine afford him relief. The cause of this worthy man's exile and the confiscation of his property, when explained, is enough to make one shudder at the insufferable tyranny under which he was doomed to breathe : it was a refusal to let one of his beautiful children become a victim to the despot's lust within the walls of his accursed harem !

Soon after our return, a person was introduced who had brought, at my request, a paper from the Bishop of Argyro-Castro, containing the number of villages and inhabitants in the valley of the Druno. As I understood the bearer had taken the trouble to copy out this document for my use, I presented him with a small pecuniary remuneration ; this he accepted with great good-nature, for I found afterwards, to my utter confusion, that I had been seeing one of the most dignified canons of the church. I had not made such a mistake since the time when I gave a pair of English razors to the old dragoman at Tripolitza, who prided himself upon the longest beard in the Morea, which steel had never touched since it first sprouted from his chin and which he nourished with more than parental attachment. Besides the statistical paper, my friend the canon gave me a curious history of the settlement of Argyro-Castro, or rather of Drinopolis, written in excellent Romaic, which refers its foundation to Theseus King of Athens, and contains numberless inconsistencies and absurdities.



*Fountain of Viroua and Fort of Schindriada in the Valley of Argyro-Castro.*

## CHAPTER X.

*Departure from Argyro-Castro—Fortress of Schindriada—Fountain of Viroua—Visit to the Ruins of Gardiki—Han of Valiari—Road to Tepeleni—Arrival there and Reception at the Grand Serai—Hospitality of the Sultana—Ibrahim the Albanian Governor—Description of Tepeleni—Serai burnt down—Curious Anecdote of Ali Pasha connected therewith—Excursion to Jarresi—Gardens of the Serai—Departure from Tepeleni—Mad Dervish—Route to Berat—Magnificent Scenery, curious Dwelling-Houses and Manners of the People—Approach to Berat up the Valley of the Apsus—Lodging in the Suburb of Goritza—Curious Fashions of the Women—Visit to Hussein Bey—Old Usuff Araps—Turkish Chargers—Ascent up the Acropolis—Buffaloes—Ancient Isodomon in the Fortress—Historical Accounts—Great Plain—Ali's Character in Berat—Extract from Mr. Jones's MS. Journal relating to Apollonia, Delvino, Phœniké, &c.*

**APRIL 2d.**—Signore Nicolo being still indisposed, it was settled that he should remain a few days at Argyro-Castro and then join us on our return at Konitza, where he had a sister married and settled. Accordingly we set out this morning, without him, in a northerly direction along the western side of the valley. We left at some distance on our right the fortress of Schindriada crowning the summit of an eminence which rises abruptly out of the plain. This was built by the vizir about nine years before the surrender of Argyro-Castro, for the purpose not only of annoying his enemies but protecting that line of country through which he was obliged frequently to pass. In one hour and a half we came to a deep fountain, close to the road, called Viroua, where the water rises, as it were, out of a profound crater, curling at the surface in broad eddies: it then flows precipitously over a steep rock and forms at once a river: this I have endeavoured to represent in the vignette prefixed to this chapter. In about half an hour more we turned suddenly to the left, through an opening in the mountain barrier; the road was no more than a fiumara, over which at this time a torrent from the melted snow was flowing rapidly towards the plain, and made it sometimes very difficult for our horses to keep their legs. The ruins of many villages both on the right and left scathed by the destructive flames of war, testified the cruel mode of warfare practised by the Albanian soldiery. We toiled for more than an hour up this wild and rugged glen, when the mountains, suddenly taking on each side a bold sweep, formed a perfect amphitheatre and displayed to view the ruins of Gardiki spread over the sides and summit of a conical hill which rises in the very centre of its vast area: high above this fine circumference of hills appeared the huge summits of Acroceraunia whose wintry snows, now melting, allowed the spiry fir here and there to peep out from beneath its resplendent mantle: few cities could boast of so superb a situation. At a little distance from the foot of the hill we passed a large farm house which once served as an outpost to the garrison: the doors and walls, pierced with ten thousand bullets, testified the sharp conflicts it had lately sustained. In the



plain beyond we observed a small village peopled by Suliots, who have been congregated together in this spot by the pasha's orders; it is thought he meditates to take some signal vengeance upon these unfortunate victims when he has got as many as possible within his grasp.

Having crossed a deep ravine, which defended the city of Gardiki towards the south and east, we ascended up its steep hill by the winding narrow path which but a short time before led Ali's troops to victory. Upon a detached eminence on the right hand stood a small citadel, whose ruined walls present nothing worthy of notice: after inspecting them we entered at once into the mournful skeleton of Gardiki, "a peopled city made a desert place," where no living beings disturb the solitude, except serpents, owls, and bats. A chilling kind of sensation, like the fascination of some deadly spell, benumbs the senses, and almost stops the respiration of the traveller, who treads as it were, upon the prostrate corpse of a great city, just abandoned by the animating spirit. The feeling is far different from that which he experiences amidst the fine ruins of antiquity, whose aspect, mellowed down by time and unconnected with any terrible convulsion, inspires only pleasing melancholy, or animating reflections: but here the frightful contrast of a recent and terrible overflow appals him; his heart sickens at the sight; and whilst the deep silence is broken only by the breeze which sighs around the ruins or amidst the funereal cypresses which here and there wave over them, he almost expects to meet a spectre at every step he takes.

Amidst these monuments of destruction we found our progress often barred by vast heaps of ruins; nor after an hour's ramble did we discover one habitation which had not suffered in the work of demolition; even the tombs were razed to their foundations, and the very mosques themselves had not escaped profanation; so duly had the vengeance of an implacable enemy been executed: one minaret alone peered out amidst surrounding masses, to the top of which we ascended, that we might contemplate the whole extent of this melancholy scene. From

hence we observed a solitary dervish stealing gently from the covert of some ruins at a distance. Probably the poor man had come, in spite of Ali's dire anathema, to live and die amidst the relics of this once populous city, to weep over the memory of former days, of friends departed, and connexions broken. Yet the heart of him who has thus rudely torn asunder all the bands of social life, glories in the dreadful deed of vengeance, the memory of which, instead of festering like a canker in his bosom, seems rather a source of joy and exultation.

In our return down the fiumara we marked with surprise the immense quantity of sand and pebbles which a wintry torrent in these mountainous countries will carry down into the plain, overwhelming many acres of fine land at its mouth with the most unfruitful materials.

———— d' infeconda arena  
Semina i prati e le campagne amene.

Opposite, in the plain, we observed the deserted han of Valiarè, whose walls enclose the mouldering bones of the murdered Gardikiotes. The door is nailed up, over which an inscription openly testifies the bloody deed, and gives warning that a similar punishment awaits the wretch who shall dare to offer any dishonour to the family of Ali.

At about eleven miles from Argyro-Castro, and nine from Tepeleni, the great plain contracts itself into a narrow valley, where a good han appears, near a lofty bridge of a single arch, thrown across the Druno. Soon afterwards this valley becomes a narrow defile, compressing the bed of the river into a very narrow compass between its parallel ridges of mountains. At the distance of a mile from Tepeleni we passed that magnificent defile called anciently the Fauces Antigoneæ, where Philip was attacked by the Consul Flaminius, and where the rapid Voïussa, the *Æas* or *Aöus* of antiquity\*, receives the

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\* Flumen Aous a quibusdam *Æas* appellatum.  
Plin. N. H. lib. iii. c. 23.

tributary stream of the Druno between the opposite heights of Asnaus and Æropus: it flows from seven fountains on Mount Pindus, beneath the town of Mezzovo, and passing near the cities of Konitza, Ostanizza, Premeti, Klissura, and Tepeleni, falls into the Adriatic below the ruins of Apollonia.

The shades of evening almost hid Tepeleni from the view as we entered the town, where we were received into the grand seraglio, and accommodated with the best apartments: as soon as we were settled, the Albanian governor entered to offer his congratulations upon our arrival, bringing also those of the Sultana, with an intimation that her ladies were preparing to send us a dinner from the harem. We returned a proper acknowledgment of this unexpected favour, together with a letter which we had brought from Salee Bey to his mother: and to say the truth, nothing could exceed the civilities paid us during our stay by this unseen benefactress: we learned however that female curiosity prompted her to take a transient view of her guests, through a latticed window, as they passed into the great court of the seraglio. Our unexpected arrival obliged us to wait a considerable time for dinner, which was announced by musical instruments and brought in by a crowd of slaves and Albanian guards, who nearly filled the room, and stood around the table during the time of our repast: Ibrahim, the Albanian governor of the serai and town, dined with us, and paid due respect to the dainties of the harem: he was an intelligent man, full of conversation, and well acquainted with the early life of Ali, concerning whom he amused us with many interesting anecdotes: for he remembered the vizir when he had not where to lay his head. He spoke to us also of his mother, whom he described as possessing all the martial qualities of an Amazon, with the spirit of a Laconian matron: he extolled the good qualities of Salee Bey, and appeared as if he entered into his master's projects respecting the future destiny of that youth. Thus the evening passed very agreeably till bed-time, when a party of slaves came into the room, bearing in their hands, and on their heads,

silken mattresses, rich coverlets of embroidered velvet, pillows of the same material, with a species of fine Constantinople gauze for sheets, and all the apparatus of bed-furniture, fit for princes in magnificence; *δάπνιδας καὶ πακίλα προσκεφάλαια*. These articles were spread out upon the sofas of the divan\*, and we retired to the comfort of sleep, which requires not much wooing from those who have undergone the fatigues of travelling in this country: not even the novelty of the scene or the roughness of the sheets could long keep us awake. As soon however as we were laid out in state, the governor, with several other officers of the palace, came into the room under pretence of wishing us good night; but in reality to satisfy their curiosity regarding the mode in which Englishmen lie in bed. I observed them sneering a little at our effeminacy; their own custom being to throw off merely the upper garment and recline upon the cushions of the divan, with no covering but a thick *paploma*, and that only during the cold season. From this cause, and their great aversion to a change of linen, the hircinus odor attaches itself very strongly to Albanian society.

Next morning we took a view of the town, which is only interesting as the birth-place of the present ruler of Epirus. It stands upon the high bank of the Voïussa, which is here about as broad as the Thames at Kew, and like the Araxes indignant at a bridge: a very fine structure of this kind, which was thrown across it during the times of the Lower Empire, had been left in a ruinous state by the violence of the stream, and though the vizir expended 1500 purses in repairs, all his efforts were in vain; not quite two years before our visit, a dreadful inundation swept away the new works and left the old broken arches

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\* Had the season been more advanced, and the weather sultry, we should have requested to sleep in the portico, like the Ithacensian prince in the palace of Alcinous.

*Κέλετο δ' Ἀρήτη λευκώλενος ἀμφιπόλοισι  
Δέμν' ὑπ' αἰθέρι θέμεναι, καὶ ῥήγεα καλὰ  
Πορφύρε' ἑμβαλέειν, τορέσαι γ' ἐφύπερθε τάπητας,  
Χλαίνας γ' ἐνθέμεναι ἕλας, καθύπερθεν ἑσασθαι.*

*Od. η. 355.*

in their former state of a picturesque ruin. A very handsome reward is still proposed by Ali to any engineer who shall enable him to defy the current. Tepeleni contains about 200 houses, with a population exclusively Albanian: it possesses no architectural beauties, if we except the grand seraglio which Ali has built upon the site of his paternal mansion. This is a very spacious edifice standing upon a fine rock at the edge of the cliff: I speak indeed of the seraglio which then was, for a new edifice has lately been erected upon the ruins of the former, which was accidentally burnt by fire in 1818. The account of this conflagration, which I received from an Albanian correspondent, is worthy of detail, since it tends strongly to illustrate the character of Ali, which these pages are intended principally to portray.

The mischief was occasioned either by the negligence of some attendants in the train of Salee Bey, who was at Tepeleni on a visit to his mother, or by a storm of thunder and lightning which occurred at the time. However this may be, about the middle of the night the whole palace was in flames. In the horror of the scene the Sultana, with all the other ladies of the harem, endeavoured to make their escape through the doors of the apartments, but were actually met and driven back again by the ataghans of the eunuchs appointed as their guards: these wretches would rather have seen them all fall a prey to the devouring element, than exposed to the lawless gaze of public curiosity: such is the force of Mahometan prejudice! in this extremity they let themselves down through the casements of the windows which they broke and tore away for that purpose. Before morning scarce a vestige was left of that superb edifice which Ali had raised upon the residence of his forefathers. His rage and fury were so dreaded, that it was thought proper at once to ascribe the cause of this misfortune to the effect of lightning, without hinting at the possibility of any other. As soon as he received intelligence of the misfortune he set off instantly, and scarcely rested day or night till he arrived at Tepeleni: there he felt some consolation when he found that the subterranean cham-



bers in which he kept his plate and other valuables were uninjured, as well as the great tower in the garden which is the depository of his treasures. He now set his head at work to contrive some plan for restoring the edifice without incurring any expense. His first care was to issue proclamations throughout his dominions stating that the vengeance of heaven had fallen upon him, and that Ali had no longer a home in the place of his ancestors. He called therefore upon his loving subjects to assist him in his distress, and fixed a day on which he expected their attendance. On the day appointed Tepeleni was crowded with deputies from the various districts of Albania, with his old associates and intimate friends, his children, and relations of every degree. At the outer gate of the seraglio Ali was seen seated upon a dirty mat, cross-legged and bare-headed, with a red Albanian cap in his hands to receive contributions. He had been cunning enough to send large sums of money beforehand to several of his retainers, from whose poverty little could be expected; and these they now brought and restored to him as if they had been voluntary presents from their own stores. When therefore any bey or primate offered a sum inferior to his expectations, he compared his niggard avarice with the liberality of others, who he felt certain had deprived themselves even of the necessities of life for his sake, refusing the present in the following terms: "What good will this offering do for Ali, a man afflicted by the Divine vengeance? Take it back murrie, take it back, and keep it for your own necessities." This hint was quite sufficient to double or even treble the contribution, and by such means he collected a sum of money which enabled him not only to rebuild his seraglio, but to add very considerably to the treasures in his garden.

After breakfast this morning we set out to investigate the ruins of a palαιο-castro, which, as we heard, lay at about one hour's distance from Tepeleni. The road led us for about a mile up the stream of the Bentza, a small river which flows into the Voïussa below the town. At a village of the same name, its bed is contracted by two con-