

verging ridges of Mount Argenick, a branch of the great Acroceraunian mountains. Here the vizir has established extensive powder-mills, and the scenery is very romantic. We crossed the river by a handsome bridge of a single arch, and proceeded in an easterly direction to the object of our excursion. This we soon discovered upon a moderate eminence, in a small district called Jarresi, but we were disappointed in our expectation of finding either a Greek or Roman fortress: it appeared from its mode of construction scarcely so ancient as the time of Justinian, and may possibly have been erected by the Norman invaders of this country in the reign of Alexius Comnenus.

On our return to Tepeleni we took a walk in the gardens of the seraglio, which are extensive, and laid out by two Italian gardeners, somewhat in the style of their own country. These men were deserters from the French army at Corfu, whom Ali received gladly into his service, giving them houses, with a good salary, and wives from his own harem of Tepeleni.

ἸΟικόν τε κληρόν τε πολυμήτην τε γυναῖκα.

We caught a view of these liberated captives during our walk, but they seemed to possess neither beauty nor elegance. The great tower, or treasury, in which more than two millions of money are withdrawn from circulation, is a vast oblong building three stories in height, and secured by ponderous doors, of which Ali alone keeps the key. Such are the resources of ambitious tyrants who are unable to establish or sustain public credit by any constitutional guarantees, and are dependent upon their people's fears rather than their love for support.

This day the sultana sent us a very excellent dinner from the harem, consisting of soup, ragouts, pilau, and various kinds of pastry, at which we were again gratified by the company of the governor. When the wine, of which he partook freely, had opened the heart of this worthy

old Mussulman, his tongue became very fluent, and he entertained us with many curious and highly interesting anecdotes. This night we slept in splendid misery, and if I had not feared it might have been taken for incivility, I should have made a retreat into my snug little trunk-bed.

Early in the morning, after sending our best acknowledgments to our kind hostess for the hospitality we had experienced, we departed for Berat, taking Demetrio alone to attend us, and sending Antonietti with greatest part of the luggage through the defile of Antigonea to wait our arrival at Premeti. Upon mature consideration we preferred this tour to one which we at first contemplated along the coast of the Adriatic through Avlona and Delvino. That part of Epirus however has been subsequently visited by my friend the Rev. William Jones, who has kindly permitted me to make an extract from his manuscript journal, which will be found at the end of this chapter. As we descended towards the river, a mad dervish came jumping out of the portico of a new mosque near the serai, vociferating the most horrid imprecations against our Christian heads : the application of some paras quickly changed his tone, and the poor wretch remained dancing in the wild manner of his fraternity upon the bank, and eulogizing us in a most Stentorian voice till we were out of sight.

We crossed the Voïussa in a curious kind of trough, scarcely oblong in shape, but broader at one end than the other : the horses were driven with great shouts and cracking of whips into the river, and made to gain the opposite bank by swimming : much confusion ensued, as some of the animals swam to a considerable distance down the stream, and others turned back when half way over : at length all arrived safe at the other side, when, the saddles and luggage being replaced, we proceeded on our journey, and followed the course of the Voïussa north, to the distance of six miles, where it takes a sweeping turn westward, in the direction of Apollonia. The country now began to lie in a regular ascent, the road winding along the side of continued chains of

low hills, rising one above the other. Nearly half way between Tepe-
leni and Berat we gained the highest point, when the views both before
and behind us were extremely grand. In front we looked over a moun-
tainous country, which can be compared to nothing so well as to the
Atlantic in a storm: the extreme horizon verging to the left was
bounded by the hills around Durazzo, that on the right by the mighty
Tomour, which in bulk and general outline bears a greater resem-
blance to Ætna than any mountain I have seen. His huge head,
clothed in a bright snowy mantle, rose splendidly sublime, like a cita-
del which the mountain Genius of this wild territory might fix upon for
his dwelling. Behind us was a spectacle still more superb: the
Voïussa pouring down its foaming torrent between its Alpine bounda-
ries; the distant summits of Pindus; the noble scenery of *Derópuli*;
and the vast mountains of Kimarra, those dreaded heights of Acroce-
raunia, little inferior to the huge Tomour itself, which reflected in
their snow-capt peaks the brilliant tints of the rising sun. After hav-
ing feasted our eyes some time with these enchanting prospects, we de-
scended into a deep fiumara, through which the road continues for
about two hours: from this point all the rivers take a different direc-
tion, and instead of flowing towards the bed of the Voïussa, seek to
pour their tribute into the river of Berat, the ancient Apsus*. The
manners of the people in these northern regions seemed much more
wild and barbarous than those to which we had hitherto been accus-
tomed. The peasants stared at us with a curiosity bordering upon in-
solence, whilst the women and children ran away, or if we came
upon them unawares, turned their faces from us till we had passed.

* There can be little doubt respecting this identity. The river of Berat is the only one of any con-
sequence between Durazzo and Apollonia, through the intermediate territory of which places it flows
into the Adriatic sea. That this was the direction of the Apsus, vid. Liv. lib. xxxi. c. 27. "Consul
Sulpicius eo tempore inter Apolloniam ac Dyrrachium ad Apsum flumen habebat campum." See also
Cæs. de Bell. Civ. l. iii. c. 13. It was on the banks of this river that the first actions took place
between Cæsar and Pompey. "Inter bina castra Pompeii atque Cæsaris unum flumen tantum intere-
rat Apsus," &c. De Bell. Civ. lib. iii. c. 19, &c.

The villages, some on the declivities of the mountains, and others in the valleys, had a very dull and gloomy appearance, the houses being built of a dark red stone, all widely distant from each other: their construction served to give us a proper notion of that dreadful insecurity which must have rendered society a perfect state of misery before the conquests of Ali Pasha: each mansion was formed like a tower, the entrance to which was in the second story, at least three yards from the foundation, and whenever any member of the family wanted ingress or egress, a rope ladder was lowered and drawn up again by the rest: no apertures admitted the free light of heaven to these keeps, or dungeons, except a few loop-holes pierced in the wall, from whence the family muskets might be pointed against an advancing foe. Almost all the inhabitants of these regions profess the Mahometan faith, though they know as much about Mahomet as the Grand Lama: they abjured Christianity to save their possessions, and are despised equally by the Osmanlis and Greeks. A few years ago this country was quite impassable to a foreigner; every house which he had ventured to approach would have teemed with muskets aimed against his life. Surely even the tyranny of Ali Pasha is happiness compared with such a state as this!

When we arrived within a few miles of Berat, which is distant twelve hours from Tepeleni, the aspect of the country appeared more pleasing and cultivated, and the manners of the people more civilized. Just about sun-set we entered a charming valley extending towards the north, through which a gentle stream flows into the Apsus and distributes verdure and fertility in its course. Here we observed, in several instances, a nearer approach to the country villa than we had before seen in Turkey: some houses on the banks of the river were surrounded by a lawn, plantations, and fences, which, with a little more taste, might have been rendered most agreeable retreats. The rich mellow tints of the sky shed an additional lustre upon the landscape, as we turned to the right up the magnificent valley of the Apsus, where

the towers and minarets of Berat burst full upon the view, with huge Tomour rearing his gigantic head into mid-air: the grandeur of the view was so striking, that we should have thought this alone a sufficient recompence for every fatigue in our journey from Ioannina.

Such scenes as these will justify the bard, who thus describes them after his inspection of the most classic regions that have been celebrated in the songs of poets.

From the dark barriers of that rugged clime,
Ev'n to the centre of Illyria's vales,
Childe Harold pass'd o'er many a mount sublime,
Through lands scarce notic'd in historic tales;
Yet in fam'd Attica such lovely dales
Are rarely seen; nor can fair Tempe boast
A charm they know not; lov'd Parnassus fails
Though classic ground and consecrated most
To match some spots that lurk within this lowering coast.

At the distance of about half a mile up the valley a fine bridge of eight arches thrown across the Apsus, leads into a picturesque burial-ground and suburb of Berat, to the east of which rises a noble hill crowned by the fortifications of the citadel and serai of the pasha*; both of these have been lately much enlarged by their conqueror. From the bridge a road runs along the right bank of the river to the city, which is higher up the valley, and lies chiefly around the south-east side of its acropolis. The inhabitants of Berat being almost entirely Mahometan, we were lodged with a Greek merchant named Nicolachi, in the large suburb of Goritza, on the left bank of the Apsus, where the Christian part of the population have their dwellings. Though this house was one of the

* The annexed plate was slightly sketched by the author from the window of his lodging in the suburb: it received the high and beautiful finish which it now possesses from the pencil of the same gentleman to whom these volumes are so much indebted.

best in the place, and the family turned out of the best room in it for our accommodation, its filth and suffocating smell was quite appalling! We found the master seated round the fire with half a dozen loungers who were nearly hid from our view by a dense smoke which issued into the room instead of passing through the chimney. How insignificant such trifles appear to those who are accustomed to them, may be inferred from the following short dialogue which took place between Mr. Parker and our host:—"C'è fumo qui, Signore."—"Sì, Signore, dal fuoco." The night did not pass without our apprehensions being fulfilled regarding the nocturnal enemies which assailed our quarters, and next morning the Augean stable was cleansed by our attendants, to the perfect astonishment of the host, who appeared to glory in the antiquity of his dirt.

Unable to sleep I arose with the sun and accompanied Mustafà to the city. In passing over the bridge, as well as in the suburbs, we met several parties of Turkish ladies riding out on horseback to take the morning air: they sat astride upon the saddle with their feet in stirrups, whilst a male attendant generally walked before each horse and carried a short stick in his hand. Some of them were unveiled, not expecting, I suppose, to meet the polluting eyes of a Christian at this time in the day. Throughout Upper Albania it seemed as if a certain colour predominated in female apparel as connected with particular districts. In Argyro-Castro this was a light straw colour: here at Berat it was blue; in which latter city a fashion also prevailed in the head-dress of the women which was very singular and striking: this consisted of a cap or bonnet, nearly two feet in height, in the shape of a bishop's mitre: it was made generally of blue cloth, well stuffed, and fastened under the chin by ribbons.

The bazar, which is an extremely handsome and spacious quarter of Berat, lies close to the river and abounds in all sorts of articles brought from Constantinople and the large towns of Macedonia, as well as in foreign goods which are imported through the sea-port of

Avlona. It was now full market, and the appearance of a foreigner excited no small degree of curiosity. Mustafâ however, who is of Macedonian origin, was soon recognised, and kissed upon the cheek according to custom by many old acquaintances, and before we thought of returning to our lodging, his brother, who had heard of his approach, and made a journey from the city of Monastir to meet him, alighted from his horse at the door of a han. The affectionate embraces and tears of joy shed by these two semi-barbarians at this rencontre were so affecting, that I felt loth to separate them and returned home alone.

Soon after breakfast our kaivasi rejoined us, and we proceeded to pay a visit to Hussein Bey, eldest son of Mouchtar Pasha, who resided here in quality of his father's caimacam, under the guidance of old Usuff-Araps, in whose fidelity the most unlimited confidence could be placed. The young bey was lodged in the old seraglio at the foot of the acropolis. He received us very civilly, and expressed a wish of rendering us all the services in his power: there was nothing remarkable either in his person or his manners, but his disposition seemed more amiable and his mind more cultivated than that of his father. Though not nineteen years old he had been married two years, but as yet remained without any progeny. Before our departure he intimated that some ancient remains might be seen within the fortifications of the acropolis, and made an offer of sending us upon his own horses up the heights. This we accepted and orders were given for the steeds to be brought immediately out of the stables where they generally stand ready caparisoned. Before we mounted we adjourned to the apartments of Usuff-Araps, but were unable to see him, as the old gentleman was indisposed*. He was flattered however by our intention, for he sent us a magnificent turkey for dinner. In descending down the staircase we heard the prancing and neighing of the horses in the court, and observed two cream-coloured chargers, destined for Mr.

* This sanguinary character and faithful adherent to the vizir is since dead.

Parker and myself, plunging about with an appearance of ungovernable fury : they were the most picturesque animals I ever beheld, and in their broad haunches and chests, thick curved necks and waving manes, small heads and eyes of fire, finely illustrated that splendid oriental description of the war-horse in the book of Job. Our ride was not the most agreeable one that we had experienced ; nor was it very easy to sit these spirited animals upon a Turkish saddle, that precludes all pressure of the knee, which in our own style of riding contributes chiefly to a good seat. My steed became so ungovernable in ascending the acropolis, that if his groom had not ran and seized the bridle, I believe we should have both made a precipitate descent down a chasm many hundred feet in depth. when I dismounted, this vicious beast threw out his heels and then ran at me open-mouthed, when I only escaped by running up the staircase of the serai. Another source of alarm also occurred at this time : great repairs and augmentations being carried on in the fortress, the court was nearly filled with carts and sledges drawn by buffaloes : these animals have a decided antipathy to the colour of scarlet, in which Mr. Parker and myself, having just paid a visit of ceremony to the bey, were dressed. Pidcock's menagerie broke loose would give but a faint idea of the noise and tumult which ensued. Some of the beasts even upset their carriages and broke their yokes in the exertions which they used to get free. To quiet this affray we made a speedy retreat into the interior of the serai, where we were courteously received by Ismail Bey, a rich Turk of Ioannina, the father-in-law of Hussein Bey, who was now upon a visit to his daughter. After the usual refreshment of pipes and coffee, and a very interesting conversation with this polite and high bred Osmanli, he accompanied us through the seraglio and fortifications, pointing out a hill, about 500 yards distant, from whence Ali battered these works in the time of Ibrahim Pasha with four pieces of ordnance, and forced him to a capitulation. Ibrahim had not recourse to this measure before the balls began to penetrate into his own apartment, where we still saw the

vestiges, which are designedly preserved. In our egress from the grand entrance of the citadel, we observed some massive building of the ancient Greeks, which formed the lower part of its construction, and extended to some distance in the adjoining walls. It is a rough species of Isodomon, and the blocks employed are of immense size. From hence we made a circuit of the hill, to which the title of acropolis well applies, since a small town is contained between its lines of circumvallation, wherein are many Greek churches of the Lower Empire: indeed I entertain very little doubt but that anciently the whole city occupied this site, and that the lower town is an addition since the Turkish conquest*. What the ancient city was called, I confess myself unable to decide†; nor is it at all certain at what time it received its present appellation. It is mentioned by many of the Byzantine historians under the title of Balagrada and Balagrita, and is now called Arnaout Belgrade‡ to distinguish it from the celebrated city of this name upon the banks of the Danube. The Greek emperors sometimes made this their

* Indeed I find it asserted in the Life of Scanderbeg that the city was situated upon the top of the mountain. By Meletius it is called, πόλις τετελειωμένη ἐπὶ τῆς κορυφῆς τινὸς βουνῶν, με θρονον Ἐπισκόπου.

† Some have ascribed it to Eordea, erroneously, as I think, because Pliny places the Eordenses among the tribes of Pæonia (lib. iv. c. 10.), in which he is confirmed by Strabo, who, in describing the great Ignatian road, says it ran from Apollonia through the Candavian mountains of Illyricum to Lychnidus and Pylon, at which latter place were the conterminous borders of Illyricum and Macedonia: from thence it led through Heraclea to the country of the Lyncestæ, next that of the Eordi, and then Edessa and Pella, till it ended at Thessalonica. Polybius also places Eordea in Macedonia (lib. xxii.), and so does Thucydides (lib. ii. p. 164, ed. Duk.) Moreover I do not find any mention in ancient authors of a city called Eordea, but only a country (vid. Steph. Byz. in Voce.) Amongst the many uncertain names of the cities of this region, I should be inclined to fix upon Antipatria for the site of Berat, a city which was taken by Apustius, a lieutenant of Sulpicius, in the war between the Roman republic and Philip King of Macedonia; for Livy speaks of this place as being on the borders of Macedonia, as situated in faucibus angustis, and as inspiring confidence into its inhabitants by the strength of its walls and site, (magnitudine ac mœnibus situque urbis,) lib. xxxi. c. 27: but all the topography of this country is extremely obscure, and it is much easier to find fault with the conjectures of other people than to form a good one.

‡ Nomen habet hoc Albanæ vel Arbanæ (sicut vulgus Græcorum vocat) Beligradum, hoc est, arx Alba. Quippe conjuncta cum oppido arx est, quæ a Valona, celeberrima nunc etiam Epiri civitate (Leo Imperator Auloniam, veteres Aulonem dixerunt) unius itinere diei distat. Leunclavius, Pand. Hist. Turc. p. 444.

head-quarters when they came to chastise the revolted Albanians or other lawless tribes among these districts. It is a most important post, the key of all this part of the country. The great Scanderbeg himself failed in his attempts to recover it from the Turks, though he encamped against it with 8000 horse and 7000 foot, amongst which was reckoned a strong corps of Italians sent by Alfonso King of Naples, "men skilful," as the historian observes, "in the assaulting of walles and holdes." The defeat he suffered here from the Pasha Sebalias, wherein he lost nearly all his Neapolitan auxiliaries, was amongst the severest by which his almost uninterrupted career of success was checked*. The battle was most bloody: Musache de Thiopie, brother-in-law of Scanderbeg, being killed, with 3000 foot and 2000 horse; though Scanderbeg in some measure restored the fortune of the day by pouring down from the hill, on which he was encamped with a select corps, upon the rear of the victorious enemy, and slaying with his own hand two desperate Osmanli captains who had sworn his destruction. The bodies of the Christians slain in this battle were shamefully mutilated, and their heads carried in triumph to Constantinople. Berat was conquered by the great Sultan Amurath II., since whose time it has never been freed from the Ottoman yoke.

After having surveyed the fortifications of this citadel and enjoyed a view of the splendid scenery which it commands on all sides, we remounted our steeds at the door of the serai and descended down the acropolis: I own I had no great zest for mounting my Bucephalus, but amongst these people it is quite necessary to shew no signs of fear. When we had thanked Hussein Bey for his civilities, and distributed the customary presents amongst his retainers, we took a walk through the city, which is large and contains thirteen Turkish mosques: from thence we strolled through the beau-

* Knolles's Hist. of the Turks, p. 370, &c.

tiful cemetery represented in the annexed plate: beyond this are numerous and extensive gardens bordering on the great plain, which extends to Valona on the west and very near to Albassan and Kavaia on the north: we observed large droves of buffaloes cropping the herbage, or cooling themselves in the river, which is here about as broad as the Thames at Richmond.

On our return home we dined sumptuously upon old Usuff's turkey, and in the evening received visits from some respectable Greek gentlemen: they were the only persons we had met with who spoke with any degree of satisfaction at the government of Ali Pasha; but they contrasted it with the turbulent insecure state in which they existed, owing to his aggressions, during the latter years of Ibrahim's reign: besides which, it is certain that the despot's views still turn northward, and that he is very anxious to gain possession of the pashalic of Scutari; the advantages therefore of a good character in this part of the country are not to be overlooked. We retired to rest early, having a long journey to perform next day in the direction of Klissura, Premeti and Konizza, up the valley of the Voussa. I now gladly use the kind permission of my friend Mr. Jones, to take an extract from his MS. journal, feeling confident that in this I do but anticipate the wishes of my reader.

Berat, Oct. 2d, 1815.—The pasha having sent horses, according to his promise, we left Berat about nine o'clock in the morning for the ruins of Pollina, the ancient Apollonia. Below the hill, upon which stands the great fortress and seraglio, we passed through a Turkish cemetery, containing an astonishing number of tombs, under the shade of which the Albanians, employed upon the works, were eating their breakfast. Our road lay in a direction nearly N. W. until we crossed

the river, which is the Apsus of antiquity. After this we entered into an immense plain covered with all kinds of cattle, buffaloes, horses, sheep, and goats. At about the middle of this plain we again reached the banks of the Apsus, and followed its course till it took a sudden turn to the N. W. It was our intention to have reached the monastery of Payane, which lies close to the ruins, this evening, but night coming on, we took up our quarters in a wretched village called Shaek : our lodging, which was the best in the place, was a miserable hut built of the stalks of Indian corn, twigs, and mud ; three large openings in the wall serving for door, windows, and chimney. Early next morning we left these quarters and reached the monastery in two hours, where an old monk undertook to be our guide to the ruins of Apollonia.

A single Doric column forms the sole vestige of this once great and populous city, the theatre of Cæsar and Pompey's contests, and the place of Augustus's early education. A few other relics remain in the walls of the monastery, and in some Turkish sepulchres on the road from Berat there are several inscriptions, but all sepulchral. In every map which I have seen, Pollina is placed too far from the sea, and too near to the Voiussa. From hence we pursued our course in a southern direction through the small village of Lievano, crossed the Voiussa in a ferry-boat, and proceeding along a fertile plain, arrived at Avlona in the evening. This town contains about a thousand houses, almost all Turkish. From hence we crossed over the hills just behind the town, and proceeding in a S. E. direction, came to the river Susitza, a considerable stream, nearly as large as the Voiussa, into which it flows just below the village of Armen : this is probably the Celydnus of antiquity : it takes its rise in the mountains of Kimarra. From the village we proceeded nearly in an eastern direction, till we came near to the Voiussa, and then turning to the right, arrived at the village of Selenitza, about half a mile from which is the principal shaft

of the great pitch mines, which bring in a considerable revenue to the vizir*. Placed in the noose of a rope I descended down this shaft : it was about forty feet deep, and of recent formation. Advancing near two miles further up the Voïussa, I came to a spot of ground devoid of all vegetation, from whence proceeded a strong sulphureous smell. My servant struck a light with which I set fire to the gas that issued out of the crevices ; the flame spread rapidly in different directions, and burned with great fury at the time of my departure. I perceived a number of bees and reptiles lying dead upon the ground near these crevices. Close to the spot are three oblong blocks of stone worked with great nicety, which had been turned up out of the ground by people digging for sulphur : these probably are fragments of the ancient oracular Nymphæum†. From the village of Romous in this vicinity, we proceeded through Carbonara to the ferry of Lundra, for the purpose of crossing the Voïussa and visiting the ruins at Gradista on the right bank of that river. This ancient city surmounted the summit of a lofty hill, round which the outer wall may still easily be traced : a transverse one of later date runs across the site formed of small stones and mortar. In a westerly direction from this transverse wall are the remains of a temple, and on turning southward I found a long subterranean chamber of an oblong shape, but narrow in proportion to its length : at no great distance from the southern wall of the city stood evidently a theatre ; the angular corners of the proscenium are visible, and the ground is seen rising in a graduated manner.

* This pitch seems to have been celebrated in ancient times.

Fusca vocetur

Nignor ILLYRICA cui pice sanguis erit.

Ovid. de Arte Amandi. ii. 657.

† Concerning this spot Strabo thus writes. 'Εν δὲ τῇ χώρᾳ τῶν Ἀπολλωνιατῶν καλεῖται τι Νυμφᾶιον πέτρα δ' ἐστὶ πῦρ ἀναδιδῶσα· ὑπ' αὐτῇ δὲ κρῆναι ῥέουσι χλιαρᾷ ἀσφάλτι καιομένης ὡς εἰκὸς τῆς βύβλης τῆς ἀσφαλτίνιδος. L. vii. p. 316. A more full description may be found in Dion Cassius, who gives an account of the oracle, l. xli. § 45. See also liv. xlii. 36. Plin. iii. 26. Van Dale de Orac. p. 287, &c.

From Gradista I meant to have proceeded by the direct road to Tepeleni; but my Albanian guard had lately taken a wife, and as he had not seen her for some time, I indulged him by passing the night in his house at the village of Fratari, on the mountains which lie to the left of the road. The customs of the country did not permit me to see the lady who was the object of our visit.

In the course of the evening several of his Albanian friends came to see him, in their large shaggy capotes, with long pipes and white staves in their hands. Some of these were the wildest looking fellows I ever beheld. A wandering dervish passed the night with 'us. He was above eighty years of age, wore a very long white beard, and was extremely talkative till about the hour of going to rest: then he assumed a sudden seriousness preparatory to his prayers. I could not help feeling a degree of respect mingled with pity, when I saw this venerable old man go through his ablutions and prayers: he performed part in silence and part loud enough to be heard, repeating the name of Mohammed two or three times with great solemnity.

From Fratari we did not arrive at Tepeleni till the second day, as the roads became extremely bad on account of a heavy fall of rain. The vizir is fortifying this town and has already cut a deep trench at the back of it. The direct route from hence to Ioannina is through Argyro-Castro and Delvinaki; but as the plague was now raging at the former place, I deviated to the once beautiful city of Gardiki, now utterly overthrown or rendered desolate by the vizir, who has vowed that it shall never again become the habitation of man. From hence I continued my route between two high mountain ridges till I descended into the plain of Delvino; but here also I found the plague broken out and the city surrounded with troops to prevent all communication. The sick were in a kind of barrack on the hills behind the town. Being told there was a palαιο-castro or some ancient ruins at the village of Phenikè, about half an hour distant, I proceeded

thither, sending my guard forward to inquire if any symptoms of the plague were known to be in the place. Upon receiving assurance that all was right, I determined to take up my quarters there for the night. Soon after my arrival a large fire of wood was lighted at the foot of the hill, and a goat roasted whole to welcome me. The whole village formed a circle round the fire and I seated myself amongst them. It was a beautiful moonlight, and in spite of that unwelcome visiter the plague being so near, I could not help enjoying the singularity of the scene.

Early next morning, being told there was a curious fountain on the eastern side of the hill, I ascended thither; but found in it nothing extraordinary, though the inhabitants assured me that it had a regular increase and diminution daily during the summer. From hence I ascended the hill by a steep path covered with fern and briars to an ancient wall, which highly gratified my curiosity. I found it in a very perfect state to the distance of sixty yards in length, and twenty-three feet in height. The stones employed in its construction are immensely large. I measured one which was seven feet long, twenty-one feet high, and three feet two inches broad: another was nine feet eight inches in length by seven feet two inches in breadth; and in one spot three stones alone form a piece of wall thirteen feet in extent. These blocks are cut with great accuracy and seem as firm as if they had been placed here but a few days. In the interior, the ground is almost on a level with the top of the wall. I entered by what appears to have been the principal gateway, and soon observed two octagonal columns about ten yards distant from each other, the fragment of a fluted pillar, and some other relics. The area is covered with briars and herbage, and exhibits evident marks of its having been occupied at two distinct periods by more modern inhabitants than the ancient Hellenes. Thinking it probable, from the appearance of the stones, that some inscription might be discovered, I procured assistance from the peasants

in removing several, and discovered one inscribed with the following word in large characters:



Excavations here in all probability would be very successful. Not far distant I found two other octagonal columns standing, like the others, erect, and about two feet in height, with many other architectural fragments, and foundations of several edifices. There is also what I take to be the site of an immense theatre, facing the west, where the ground is seen to rise like a succession of steps one behind the other. The wall is most perfect on the eastern side of the hill along its brow: it appears also at intervals on the western side: the whole circumference seems about two miles: in some parts it is scarcely thirty yards in breadth, and is intersected in its sides by deep hollows: at its north-west extremity (for it runs north-west and south-east) it is lower and terminates almost in a point: towards the other end and on each side it is so steep as to make the ascent extremely difficult. The whole rises quite abruptly near the centre of the plain of Delvino; at the south-east end of which is the little village of Pheniké. This situation is assigned by Signore Psalida to the ancient oracle of Dodona; but the only features which appear to correspond with Strabo's account are the following:—1. The plain, very marshy, particularly towards the south, where two rivers lose themselves in a considerable lake, viz. the Bistritz, which flows from Mourzina five hours south-east from Pheniké, and the Kalesproti which runs on the west side of the hill.—2. The hill itself, surrounded on all sides by magnificent mountains, except towards the south where the sea and the island of Corfu are seen above the low eminences.—3. The fountain on the east side of the hill.

The epithets *δυσχέιμος* and *αἰπύνωτος*, which Homer and Æschylus apply to Dodona well accord with this situation: there are many trees, principally willows and poplars, on the plain; but I could discover no traces of the prophetic oaks*.

From Pheniké I went along the banks of the Bistritza to its source. I visited in my way an old Greek church, dedicated to Saint Nicolo, distant about one hour from the village; it is evidently constructed with materials brought from the ruins: the interior is supported by granite columns some of which are twenty inches in diameter, but others less: they are not more than seven feet in height: in the walls are several blocks sculptured in relief with figures of a lion, an eagle, &c. well executed. Amongst others I found one with an inscription defaced, but terminated by the word *ΧΑΙΡΕΤΕ* "Farewel!" The source of the river is just below the village of Mourzina. Half issues out of the rock in at least fifty streams of the sweetest and most transparent water: the other half proceeds from a pool, which appears very deep, as the surface is not ruffled by the least ebullition. I was shewn at another place a round hole in the rock, from which a few years ago water also flowed; but this is now dry. The rock appears of limestone: the water issues out in most places with great velocity and forms a stream as large as the Avon at Bath.

From hence, passing through Mourzina, we proceeded between two immense ridges of mountains branching off from that which forms the western boundary of the great vale of Deropuli, whose scenery soon

* From this accurate account of Mr. Jones, the classical reader will, I think, agree with me in what I have before observed regarding the fallibility of Signora Psalida's opinion regarding the site of Dodona. In fact, the ruins above mentioned belong to the ancient city of Phœnice, whose very name is still preserved in the modern village: it was the strongest and richest city of all Epirus; (*πολύ ἡ Φοινίκη διέφερε τότε τῶν κατὰ τὴν Ἠπείρου πόλεων ἐνδαιμονία* Polyb. l. ii.): it was betrayed by some Gaulish mercenaries to the Illyrians in the reign of Queen Teuta, a circumstance which Polybius says struck terror into the Grecian cities when they saw *τὴν οχυρωτάτην ἄμα καὶ δυνατωτάτην πόλιν τῶν ἐν τῇ Ἠπείρῳ παραλόγως ἔτιωε ἐξηνδραποδιζομένην* (l. ii.) and from hence he takes occasion to blame the Epirotes for relying on such a faithless crew as the Gauls, and hints at the danger of trusting an opulent city to the protection of mercenaries.

burst upon our view, exhibiting a prospect of unparalleled magnificence in its noble mountains and its numerous towns and villages. We passed across it to a village on its eastern side, but the inhabitants would not receive us when they heard we came from the neighbourhood of Delvino: we were obliged therefore to keep on our course, and as it was a fine moonlight night, and we were travelling under a Grecian sky, we scarcely regretted our disappointment. We rested at Pondicatis, and next day reached Zitza, a place celebrated in the stanzas of Childe Harold, though I think his encomium is much too lavish. The view is certainly fine, but far inferior to the vale of Deropuli and many others of Epirus. Here is made the best wine in Greece, and this was the time of vintage. All the wine is made out in the fields, where the grapes are put into large casks and trod upon by men bare-footed, till the juice is quite expressed: it is then carried in goat skins to the village, put into barrels, and left to ferment and settle: it is removed in this manner four or five times before it is put into the cask for drinking.

In my way from Zitza to Ioannina I passed through the village of Protopapas, which some consider as the site of Dodona: I made diligent inquiries for ruins, but could find none. The approach to Ioannina from the north appeared to me much finer than that from the south, its grand seraglio, fortress, minarets, and cypress groves being seen from this quarter to great advantage. The last few days I passed in Ioannina were rendered melancholy to me, from a very distressing circumstance. On my arrival, October 12th, I was informed that two English gentlemen were in the city, one of whom lay dangerously ill. I went immediately to visit them and found the sick person to be a Mr. King whom I had known at Corfu, and from whom I experienced many civilities. He was chaplain to the Ionian forces, and had come with his friend Captain Scriven of the Royal Artillery, to see Ioannina and pay a visit to Ali Pasha. Great alarms were expressed, for fear his disorder might be the plague, and I was earnestly requested to leave the place; this however I could not consent to do, especially as I per-

ceived Mr. King's illness was the malaria fever, which he, as well as his servant, had caught at Prevesa. He was apparently about forty years of age, and possessed of as strong and robust a constitution as I ever met with ; but he died in my arms on the 15th, and I buried him next evening in the cemetery of the Greek church of St. Nicolo. On the following day I procured a stone slab, which, after I had inscribed upon it the name and titles of the deceased, I placed at the head of his grave. The day before I quitted Ioannina I visited the vizir in company with Captain Scriven. The chief subject of our conversation related to the unfortunate death of Mr. King : he appeared affected by the event ; but whether this proceeded from humanity I will not pretend to say. The same day we also paid a visit to Salee Pasha, the vizir's youngest son. He had lately received two tails from the Porte and been created Pasha. He received us sitting like his father, and asked us several pertinent questions respecting our own country and our opinion of Albania. Next day I departed for Athens over the mountain barrier of the Pindus.



Fortified Rock in the Suburbs of Premeti—Turkish Burial Ground, and Bridge over the Voiussa.

CHAPTER XI.

Departure from Berat—Route to Klissura—Description of the Town and Fortress—Fauces Antigoneæ—Route to Premeti—Lustral Eggs—Town of Premeti, Serai, and curious Rock on the Bank of the Voiussa—Interesting Route to Ostanitza—Castra-Pyrrhi—Ostanitza—Route to Konitza—Picturesque Situation of that City—Mountain of Papingo—Albanian Governor's Hospitality—Ascent to the ancient Fortress—Beautiful Crystals found on the Hill—Route to Mavro-vouni, and from thence to Ioannina—Ceremonies of Easter—Greek Fasts—Visit to the Vizir, Mouchtar and Mahmet Pashas—Money Affairs at Ioannina, Rate of Interest, &c.—Visit to Signore Logotheti of Livadia—Excursion to the Island in search of MSS.—Dinner with Mouchtar Pasha—Vizir sends his Chaoushes for us—Translation of his Papers—Interesting Conversation with Ali—Sudden Change of Weather—Visit to the Convent of Saint George, on Occasion of its Festival—Moonlight Scene from the Heights of Mitzikeli—Anecdote of Mustafà—Scene with the Hegumenos—Greek Convents and Caloyers—Last Interview with Ali Pasha, &c.—Departure from Ioannina.

APRIL 6.—This morning we started on our return. For a short distance we ascended up the fine valley of the Apsus, terminated far off by the huge Tomour*, and then turning to the right proceeded in a southerly direction through a valley of two hours in length, bounded by moderate hills covered with evergreens, and interspersed with many cultivated spots, but few habitations. We then ascended upon higher ground and had not only a noble prospect in front of the dark mountains of Kolonia, but a very fine retrospective view of Berat with its fortified citadel, and the gigantic Tomour. For the next three hours we proceeded in a general descent of country through valleys and beds of torrents, and found the country exhibiting signs of greater population: at the end of five hours we passed the large Turkish village of Tojar, upon the side of a mountain on the right, where about fifteen years before Ali and Ibrahim had fought several sanguinary battles; about two miles further appeared a small fort built by the vizir upon the summit of a hill, at the bottom of which stood a spacious han called the Han of Ali; we had passed another called the Han of Ibrahim near an hour before. For the next four hours the road was generally uninteresting, up and down hills and in the beds of torrents; only a few houses were scattered about, and each of those generally occupied the summit of an eminence, isolated as it were for the sake of security. We crossed at least as many as thirty streams, and two of those nearly thirty times. At the end of these last four hours we arrived at a han, but so disgustingly filthy and miserable that we determined to proceed to another about two hours further on. The latter part of this

* This mountain is called by Strabo *Τόμαρος* or *Τμάρος*; but Eustathius ad Od. π. gives it an appellation much nearer its modern sound, *Τόμπος*. It is often mentioned by the Byzantine historians, and seems to have had a strong citadel or fortress in its vicinity. *Τίμωρον Φρύγιον τι καὶ ἀντὶ τοσούτων περὶ Βαλάνγωνα φησιν* (Cantacuz Hist. p. 301.) If the Tomarus of Dodona be confined to this spot it will upset all the theories yet formed upon the subject: but as this latter place is always reckoned in Epirus, and Tomour is far beyond its limits, some other range of hills must have had this appellation: in fact the mountains of Kolonia and Zagori appear to be but branches of this enormous trunk.

route lay through a lovely plain under a magnificent mountain on the right called Trebesheena, opposite to which we found the han destined for our resting place, situated in one of the most picturesque sites that can be imagined.

* Next morning we resumed our journey for one hour through a beautiful valley, under Mount Trebesheena to Klissura, which is situated on a tremendous precipice of that mountain, where the Voïussa pours its foaming waters through the great defile, anciently known by the name of "Stena Aoi," or "Fauces Antigoneæ."

The situation of this town is singular in the extreme.* It lies at a considerable height up the mountain, which is a rock totally bare of vegetation, and beyond it appears a large fortress, built by Ali, to curb the spirit of this district, upon the very edge of a precipice more than a thousand feet in perpendicular height. We rode up to the town, which contains about two hundred inhabited houses, which are certainly amongst the most miserable tenements we beheld in all our travels, and their occupants exhibited such a picture of misery as was frightful to the imagination. A few dirty rags served as an apology for clothing to the adults, and the children absolutely went stark naked; though the thick coating of dirt with which their bodies were lined might almost be said to stand in the stead of garments. A large colony of gypsies still more wretched in appearance, if possible, were mingled with the inhabitants. In ascending to the fortress we observed a great number of ruined habitations, amounting to between three and four hundred, which gave a still more desolate appearance to the view of this arid rock*. The castle is large, though not built for long duration; artillery could with difficulty be brought to bear against it. Near the foundation of the first entrance are

* A very extensive cemetery in the plain below Klissura, where a large Tekè or Turkish monastery was just erected, denotes the former population of this place. The people are said to have emigrated about half a century ago to the mountains of Kolonia.

several layers of Greek masonry, which shew that this important post was not neglected by the ancient masters in the art of war. If a city ever existed in their time upon this spot, it was probably Antigonea. Before we entered into the castle we ventured as near as safety allowed to the giddy height upon which it stands. Looking down we beheld the Aous still chafing its channel between two tremendous walls of rock, which scarcely leave room for the river and the narrow road which winds along its side*. The noise of the foaming torrent at this height is heard only in gentle murmurs. Beyond the Trebesheena, upon which Klissura is situated, another lofty mountain runs parallel to it from north to south called Mesgourani, both of which form one side of this contracted defile. The opposite heights are called Melchiov, and are branches of the vast chain of Mertzika. From this advantageous position the Roman Consul Flaminius drove Philip King of Macedon by means of treachery, and thus gained an inlet into the interior of his territories. We were received into the fortress by its governor, and conducted over the fortifications. To this place Ali frequently sends his state prisoners as to one of complete security. We observed several of these wretched victims of his tyranny and suspicion: one of them was a poor Greek of Lepanto, who had been seized at the dead of night in his bed, and hurried away instantly to Ioannina, from whence, after having been detained in a noisome dungeon eighteen months he was banished to this dreadful prison, where he had remained two years without even knowing the crime for which he suffered: the poor man could attribute his misfortunes only to having procured a protection from the French ambassador at the Porte. Another prisoner was a young black eunuch, sent hither for having struck with a knife and wounded one of the vizir's pages: this appeared a malicious urchin, and could scarcely be restrained by manual correction from his savage propensities.

* Is inter montes quorum alterum *Æropum*, alterum *Asnaum* incolæ vocant, angusta valle fluit, iter exiguum super ripam præbens. Liv. l. xxxii. c. 5.

Having satisfied our curiosity, we descended into the town to satisfy our appetites with some coarse calamboci bread and eggs, and then set forward again up the valley of Aous, taking the same road as that by which Philip fled from the Roman legions. At the outskirts of the town we met a poor dervish in ragged apparel, who beckoned me from the party and begged alms in a most piteous tone: after I had satisfied his request, he whispered in my ear the following sentence: *Εἶναι ὁ Πασιὰ κακὸς ἄνθρωπος· χαλάζει τὰς Τούρκας*—"The vizir is a bad man, for he ruins the Turks." A curious character for a Turkish pasha in a district of Greece! The torrent of the river, which is always rapid and impetuous, was now greatly augmented by the melting snows: the bridges thrown across its channel are numerous and handsome, many having been erected by the Byzantine emperors, and distinguished by marks of the Greek cross. The distance from Klissura to Premeti is about five hours: we crossed the Voïussa to enter this town by a handsome bridge, upon which a Turk of some distinction had been hanged a week before, for having shot a poor Greek in a brawl at a tavern. The gallows was erected over the centre arch, and the criminal hung for several days, a warning to all who came in or out of the city, that the vizir has no respect for persons in the punishment of delinquents.

Premeti is situated in a beautiful recess under some of the loftiest crags of Mertzika, which here rise perpendicularly from their bases, shooting their spiry forms into the sky with all the varieties of Alpine scenery. The snow at this time lay deep on their summits, and is contained in cavities during the whole of the year. Numerous wolves infest this district, against whose ravages the fierce race of Molossian dogs is the only security. We found Antonietti with our luggage safely lodged in the house of an elderly widow lady, which, like all the other houses in this place, stands separate and distinct from its neighbours. After dinner our hostess came into the room with much ceremony, and having kissed our hands, presented us with some boiled eggs dyed in various colours; an offering very general amongst the

Greeks in the season of Passion-week. For these lustral eggs there seems to be good classical authority.

Et veniat quæ lustrat anus lectumque locumque
Præferat et tremula sulphur & ova manu*.

Being tired with our journey we repaired early to rest; next morning we paid a visit to the governor, who resided in a large serai above the town, which Salee Bey inhabited before he was removed to Argyro-Castro. This building was fitted up with greater splendour than any we had seen except that of Tepeleni: it contained very fine baths and a beautiful kiosk, paved with marble, in the midst of which was a fountain: the serai is situated in a kind of paddock, to which extensive gardens are annexed; it is also surrounded by strong works, but no cannon are yet mounted. The governor, attended by his guards, escorted us in our return to the city, the only curiosity of which, worthy description†, is a large isolated rock on the left bank of the river, apparently about sixty feet high, and three hundred in circuit at its base, (see the vignette.) On the top of this appear the ruins of ancient edifices; but though we were anxious to ascend and satisfy our curiosity, not a rope nor a ladder could be procured for this purpose. At length a young Albanian boy, about twelve years old, undertook to climb up the steep side with no assistance but his hands and feet, and this task he accomplished with apparent ease, by clinging to the rock, and supporting himself with a few roots and twigs that grew within the interstices. From his description the whole summit is surrounded by a dilapidated wall, in the interior of which is a ruined chapel and a

* Ovid de Arte Am. ii. 329. See also Juvenal Sat. vi. 516.

—— nisi se centum lustraverit ovis.

Lucian also makes mention of the ὄν τε καθαρὸν.

Dial. Mort. i. § 1.

† Premeti is celebrated in the following Albanian proverb—"Premeti, jeineti, pach bouk, cahum eyes"—or "Premeti, l'inferno, poco pane, molt' acqua."

tank or cistern of water. It is in all probability a small fortress, built during the times of the Eastern Empire*.

Having mounted our horses at this spot, and taken leave of our courteous guide, we advanced for about two hours up the left bank of the Voïussa, then crossed it by a noble bridge of three arches, and soon came into some of the most magnificent scenery which nature can present to the traveller. The richness of vegetation in these concave valleys, covered with every species of beautiful shrub and the most luxuriant verdure, was finely contrasted with the snowy ridges of their mountain barriers: sometimes the defiles became contracted, and the road closed up as it were by two walls, paining the eye to scan their inaccessible summits: at other times impending rocks and precipices on the one side, served only to set off the fine curvilinear sweep of the hills on the other, and for many miles we had an alternate succession of these grand natural theatres, the semicircular coilon being alternately on the right hand and on the left, whilst the impetuous Aous dashed from rock to rock as it were in a series of continual cascades. Here and there a fine picturesque bridge added a new feature to these romantic scenes, a mountain cataract came foaming across the path, and villages appeared upon craggy heights that seemed to defy every hand but his that wields the thunder. Some of these were at this time deserted

* The following is the account given of this rock by Mr. Jones. "Near the river is a curious perpendicular rock, at least sixty feet high, on which are ruins. I procured a ladder which reached half way to the summit, and climbed up the other half with great difficulty, by putting the sash of my guide round the roots of a tree which grows from the side. Round the edge of the rock I found a wall about six feet high, with battlements at equal distances, and on the north side where I ascended there is a small tower. Towards the south are two rooms, and the foundation of a third: the middle one is exactly similar to a bath in the old Moorish castle of Cintra in Portugal, but rather smaller in dimensions: it contained clear water about three feet in depth; but it was evident from the marks on the wall, that the water sometimes rose higher. My guide, who was the didascalos and most learned man of the place, told me it never was without water, and that when some of the inhabitants once endeavoured to empty it, they could not succeed. It is fifteen feet long, nine wide, and seven high, from the water to the centre of the arched roof. This, as well as the room adjoining, was coated with cement or stucco. The account of the people here refers the whole to a religious establishment; but I should rather conceive it to have been a fortress. At the distance of a few hundred yards down the river is another rock similar to this in shape and size, on which are also a few remains of building."

by their inhabitants, on account of the plague, which was spreading itself in the district, having been introduced by some wandering gypsies. In several instances we saw the people who had descended into the plains and left the sick in their villages: these were guarded by a cordon to prevent communication, whilst the rest were encamped in tents and huts made of the boughs of trees.

After a ride of seven hours we came near the once populous town of Ostanitza. At the distance of about two miles we crossed a considerable river called the Sarandaporos, by a bridge of a single arch, so highly pitched, that we thought it prudent to descend from our steeds. This stream flows into the Voiussa, and near its junction forms with that river a beautiful peninsula, which in all probability is the ancient *Castra-Pyrrhi*, at which Philip arrived in his first day's retreat from *Flaminius*, after his unfortunate defeat in the straits of *Klissura**. This peninsula is a fine eminence washed by each of these rivers, and on the summit are remains of what appear to be ancient fortifications. Nothing can exceed the beauty of the prospect from hence, down the valley of the *Aous*; though the fine rocky scenery above, clothed in rich wood is scarcely inferior. The terraces of this ancient fortress were covered with a turf as soft as silk, and enamelled with a thousand wild flowers, intermingling their various hues.

Having next crossed the *Voiussa* we passed the picturesque ruin of an old Greek church half covered with ivy, and ascended the steep hill upon which *Ostanitza* is situated. It is now a poor town, scarcely containing 300 houses; but the site is superb. It must once have been extremely populous and large, for I counted near twenty churches which appear to have been ruined and deserted for some centuries. We

* *Rex primo die ad Castra Pyrrhi pervenit; locus, quem ita vocant, est in Triphylia terræ Melotidis; inde postro die (ingens iter agminis, sed metus urgebat) in Montem Langon perrexit: ipsi montes Epiri sunt, interjecti Macedoniae Thessaliaeque. Latus quod vergit in Thessaliam, oriens spectat; septentrio à Macedonia objicitur. Liv. l. xxxii. c. 13.*

found from the inhabitants of this village more incivility than we had experienced in all the rest of our journey, and it was with difficulty that we could procure a lodging. It was pretended that the *codgià-bashee* was absent, and after riding about for near half an hour, we procured a miserable hut some degrees worse than an Irish cabin. We ascended to our loft by a broken ladder, and Mr. Parker had very near broken his leg by slipping through its decayed floor into the stable below: it was with the utmost difficulty we could find two sound places to spread out our beds. Other travellers also have complained of similar ill usage in this place: Mr. Jones was refused admittance altogether, and learnt that four soldiers belonging to the vizir had been murdered but a few days before his arrival.

As there was nothing here to tempt our stay, we started by sunrise next morning and proceeded through a very picturesque and beautiful country into the great plain of Konitza, which city lies about four hours north-east of Ostanitza. It is situated on the roots of a magnificent crag, which forms one side of a deep defile, through which a foaming torrent called *Voidomati*, or the “*ox-eye*,” pours its tribute into the *Voïussa*. The mountains on the other side this chasm are on a still grander scale, and form a noble curvature exactly similar to the exterior of an enormous Greek theatre: this resemblance at a distance is remarkably striking, and constantly attracted our attention during yesterday’s ride*.

Konitza stands at the north-east end of its large triangular plain, being beautifully situated upon the declivity of a mountain whose summit is crowned with the remains of a ruined castle: to the south of this acropolis is a deep chasm amidst rocks which scarcely yield even to that of *Klissura* in the dark terrors of the abyss: this defile is bounded on the other side by that noble mountain range, curved in a

* Pliny, speaking of the great mountains between Thessaly and those interposed between it and Epirus, says they are all curved like a theatre! “*Omnes theatri modo inflexi.*” Lib. iv. c. 8.

theatroidal form, which had so strongly attracted our attention yesterday. Its modern name is Papingo; it is difficult to determine its ancient appellation: perhaps it may be that Mount Lignon over which, according to Livy, King Philip retreated into Thessaly, when he fled before the Roman consul. The Macedonian monarch is much blamed by that historian for this precipitate retreat, since, had he opposed but a few hundred men to the pursuing enemy, amidst the terrific defiles of these mountainous regions, he might not only have prevented his advance, but probably annihilated the greatest part of his army.

Konitza is one of the best specimens of an Albanian city that we saw: its houses stand for the most part separate, and the courts being planted with trees, a very pretty effect is thus given to its external aspect. It contains 5000 inhabitants, about two-thirds of which are Mahometans. It is a bishopric, but the bishop takes his title from Vellas, as that of Argyro-Castro does from Drinopolis. The bazar is particularly neat, and the habitations in general extremely good, being built of stone, with handsome shelving roofs. We rode at once up to the grand serai of the vizir, and paid our respects to its Albanian governor, a fine man, in a green old age, the intimate and confidential friend of Ali. We found him at his dinner-table with a Turkish dervish and six other Albanian friends, clothed in their sheep-skins, and eating a thick rice soup with wooden spoons. They received us with great cordiality, and were so urgent with us to dip into their mess, that common politeness forced us to gulp down a few spoonfuls of this horrid pottage. As we expressed a desire to visit the ruins of the ancient fortress, the agà sent three of his guards to conduct us up the hill. We ascended by a winding path, and as we went along picked up many of those beautiful crystals of quartz, for which this mountain is celebrated: they are found in greatest abundance after heavy rains, detached from the matrix, and as they lie mixed with the gravelly particles may easily be distinguished by their brilliancy. They are

highly diaphanous and perfect, surpassing even the famous Alençon diamonds in splendour and resembling them in form.

Upon a rocky height, just before we arrived at the summit of the mountain, we observed an ancient Greek church, dedicated to St. Barbara; but the ruined fortress itself contained nothing worthy of observation: it is probably one of those with which Justinian covered the face of this country for defence against the Huns and Slavonic tribes which in his days began to ravage the Eastern Empire; but neither here nor in the town itself could we discover the least vestige of any ancient Hellenic building. We were however amply recompensed for the trouble of ascent by the splendid panoramic prospect which this mountain enabled us to scan.

We mounted our horses at the foot of the hill, and proceeded across the deep ravine by a large but rudely constructed wooden bridge thrown over the torrent. In a little less than three hours we recrossed the Voïussa, and proceeding in a south-west direction over a hilly country, arrived late in the evening at Mavro-Vouni, or the Black Mountain, whose appellation is derived from the nature of its soil, which gives it a very dark and gloomy appearance. On the summit stands a little village, where we slept, but started again next morning before the sun arose. We were gratified by a lovely moonlight, and the songs of nightingales resounded charmingly in the silence of the night. After the lapse of one hour we passed between two small lakes, and soon afterwards arrived at the fine plain of Kalibachi, in which are numerous villages and a new han built by the vizir. In this vicinity are the ruins of the city of Vellas, the metropolis of Konitza. At about one mile from the lake of Ioannina a noble prospect of that fine expanse of water comes into view. By the side of the road is a beautiful fountain beneath a neat cupola, which contains seats for the accommodation of travellers. Here we opened our wallets, and made an excellent breakfast, for which the keen air of the mountains had given us an excellent appetite. We sat a considerable time after our

meal to enjoy the beauty of the scenery, and then descended to the upper lake, whose eastern side we skirted till we arrived at a han which is the station of the ferry-boats. Here, as we crossed the water, we saw, under its transparent surface, the remains of many pilasters that once supported a causeway by which a passage was effected on foot across the lake. We reached the opposite bank just below the hill of Dodona, and having left the baggage to proceed leisurely, we put our horses into a gallop and arrived at Ioannina before our usual time of breakfast.

It was Easter Sunday, and we observed the Greeks in the streets greeting each other with the holy kiss and customary salutation of *Χριστὸς ἀνέστη*, or "Christ is risen." A solemn piece of mummary is on this day performed in the churches, where a wooden image, representing the body of our Saviour, which had been buried in a kind of sepulchre on the preceding Good Friday with many mournful lamentations, is now raised up and shewn by the papas to the people, who view it with every demonstration of joy and salute it with long continued exclamations of, *Χριστὸς ἀνέστη—Ἰναὶ ἀλήθεια, ὅτι Χριστὸς ἀνέστη*. "Christ is risen—it is true that Christ is risen."

On this day every Greek family that can afford it eats the paschal lamb, and, as an old author has observed*, "the severity of their Lent is more easily supported by the expected enjoyment of the following festival, at which time they run into such excesses of mirth and riot, agreeable to the light and vain humour of the people, that they seem to be avenged of their late sobriety, and to make compensation to the devil for their late temperance and mortification towards God." Indeed one would suppose that the Greek church endeavoured either to push the epicurean system to the utmost by affording the highest luxury of frequent contrast, or to render life a scene of morti-

* Paul Ricaut's *Present State of the Greek Church*, p. 136.

fication by supporting the human frame during a small part of the year, that it may just be enabled to endure penance all the rest. More than half the year is dedicated to the most rigorous abstinence. The four grand fasts are as follow; that of Lent—that of the Holy Apostles, which begins the week after Whitsuntide—that of the Panagia, preparatory to the great festival of the Assumption—and that of the birth of Christ, which continues forty days before Christmas. There are besides these numerous others of minor consequence, as well as every Wednesday and Friday throughout the year. In most of these seasons not only is meat forbidden, but fish, butter, eggs, and oil: nothing but vegetables and a little shell-fish is allowed, and not always the latter. The priests are very zealous in recommending the rigid observance of such austerities and launching forth the thunders of excommunication against those vile offenders who presume to slight them; whilst the crime of eating flesh in Lent is that against which the highest price of absolution is fixed: adultery and murder may be compounded for at a much lower rate. “In the observation of these fasts,” says the author above quoted, “they are so rigid and superstitiously strict, that they hold no case of necessity may or can claim a dispensation; and that the patriarch hath not power and authority sufficient to give a licence to eat flesh where the church hath commanded abstinence. For suppose a person sick to death, who with broth made of flesh, or with an egg, may be recovered to life, they say it were better he should die, than eat and sin. Howsoever perhaps the Ghostly Father will be so far concerned in the other’s health, as to advise the sick penitent in such cases to eat flesh, and afterwards confessing the sin, he promises to grant absolution.” Times have been when this power of granting absolution was a great source of gain; but times are now altered, and very few of those who can afford to pay for absolution, think they stand in need of it: the women are the only part of the community who rigidly adhere to these ordinances, to the ruin of their constitution and the torment of their lives.

How far such a system of deprivation may tend to the debasement of their progeny and the deterioration of the species, I leave to the determination of better physiologists than myself.

As soon as we had undergone the restorative process of the bath after the fatigues of our long journey, we paid a visit to the vizir in his serai of Litaritza. We thought there was an evident alteration in his manner of receiving us, and we attributed this probably to its true cause, the failure of his designs upon Parga, in which he no doubt expected British co-operation. While we sat in the room with Ali, Mouchtar Pasha was announced, who came to consult the vizir upon affairs of state: as their conversation was carried on in the Turkish language our presence was immaterial, and Ali prevented us from retiring. Mouchtar remained about twenty minutes, during which time he stood at a little distance from his father, with his hands resting upon his gold-mounted pistols, nor would he have presumed to take a seat, or been asked to do so, had the conference lasted as many hours: such is the filial reverence expected and paid to parental authority in Turkey! After Mouchtar had retired Ali conversed with us about our expedition and expressed his satisfaction that we had been at Tepeleni: he shewed us a few brass coins which had been dug up at Apollonia, but they were all Roman and devoid of interest. We soon took our leave and adjourned to the serai of Mouchtar Pasha, who was anxious to hear news of his son as well as our opinion of Berat: he told us a long story respecting the palαιο-castro at Jarresi near Tepeleni, saying that it belonged to a daughter of King Pyrrhus, being given as her dowry in marriage to an Illyrian prince: where he found this legend I am unable to tell. After this visit we adjourned to eat the paschal lamb with our friend M. Pouqueville, and spent a very agreeable day in comparing notes respecting what we had seen and heard during our Albanian excursion. The next morning was dedicated to paying and receiving visits from our Greek acquaintance, and pro-

curing money for our bills upon Constantinople: in this latter negotiation we had no difficulty, for it happened to be the time when Mouchtar Pasha received his revenue, and as he was obliged to forward money to Constantinople he found our bills a great accommodation. We procured cash chiefly in gold, for convenience in travelling, though we were obliged to pay a premium for this. The gold coin highest in esteem throughout Turkey is the Venetian sequin, executed with as much deficiency in point of taste as the ancient Athenian tetradrachm*; but like it equally valued on account of its superior purity and freedom from alloy. The elementary or lowest degree of Turkish money is the asper†, of which three make one. parà: forty paràs are equal to one piastre, and the piastre may be reckoned equivalent to a French franc. There are also pieces of twenty, sixty, eighty, and one hundred paràs, which last is the largest silver coin. The Ottoman gold coins are rare: the largest are equal to five piastres and the smallest to half that sum. Gold always fetches a premium in the south of Europe, but more especially in Turkey, where the despotic nature of its government imposes the necessity of hoarding upon its people: moreover the silver coin is extremely debased, and is now little better than plated copper, which is soon made apparent after the parà has been carried a week in the pocket. Every piece of coin, both gold and silver, is stamped with sentences from the Koran, for the Turks carry their prejudices against image-worship so far that they will not allow even their favourite idol to be figured with the resemblance of man or beast. No laws being established respecting usury in Turkey, the rate of in-

* For a most ingenious and interesting Dissertation upon Athenian Coinage by Lord Aberdeen, see Mr. Walpole's Memoirs, p. 425.

† This also, though the lowest coin, is used by the Greeks and Turks as the general expression for wealth; thus when they wish to denote a very rich man they say he has many aspers—"ἔχει πολλὰ ἀσπρα." The expression in St. Mark's Gospel, c. vi. v. 8, is somewhat similar to this—"μή τις τὴν ζώνην χαλκὴν"—The zone or girdle, is used in Turkey and all other parts of the East, in which the purse is carried.

terest is very fluctuating: it varies generally from ten to thirty per cent.*; but when the rate is very exorbitant the security is proportionably slight: some money-holders prefer the safe, others the speculating plan, according as their prudence or their cupidity preponderates. Ali Pasha employs a curious method of gaining a per-centage upon money in his dominions. When the time approaches for paying his troops or otherwise disposing of any large sums, he buys up the gold coin at the rate which it bears in Constantinople, pays it out at the high price to which this very circumstance has advanced it, and then, when his own payment has by a plentiful circulation reduced its value again, he orders all his revenues and other dues to be paid in gold.

Next day we resumed our visits amongst the Greek families of our acquaintance, and found our old friend the Archon Logotheti of Livadia, who had arrived at Ioannina during our absence. He was lodged with three or four companions in a smoky miserable tenement, a perfect contrast to the elegant and luxurious mansion wherein we had visited him at his native place. His residence at Ioannina was the result of Ali's policy, who obliges the primates and other officers of the Greek cities in his dominions to reside a portion of the year in the capital. This circumstance, together with the quartering of his troops upon the city, has more than quadrupled the expenses of house-rent, board, and lodging, since his accession to the sovereignty of Epirus. We brought Signore Logotheti home to dine with us, and were happy in this and other opportunities of returning the civilities that we had formerly received from him.

April 13.—This morning I set out in a caique, accompanied by Signore Nicolo, and visited the island, for the purpose of searching the monasteries for manuscripts. In this investigation however we were

* The rate of usury was sometimes very high amongst the ancients. In "the Feast" of Lucian Zenothenis is railled at by Cleodemus for his avarice in taking four per cent. per month, or forty-eight per annum.

ὁδ' ἐπὶ τέτρατοι δραχμαῖς δανείζω. § 32.

completely disappointed: not a book beyond those necessary for the service of the church, a few folios of miracles or lives of saints; not a MS. except a copy of the psalter and a collection of hymns. We searched diligently six convents: the seventh was prohibited to us, being at this time the prison of the two unfortunate sons of Mustafà Pasha, and the cells of the monks occupied by Albanian soldiers: as all these *religious houses* have at various times undergone a similar conversion, the reader will not be surprised at the failure of our enterprise. As we returned home across the lake about noon, our ears caught the tinkling sound of distant music, and on looking to the quarter from whence it proceeded, we observed two monoxyla rowing towards us very swiftly: presently we heard our names called out in a loud harsh tone, and then discovered how the boats were freighted. In the first was Mouchtar Pasha with his chief physician for a companion, whilst the second carrying his major-domo and his cook, was loaded with large stores of eatables and a household fiddler, like the ancient bard, that invariable concomitant of the feast*, stretching his lungs to the tortured catgut and celebrating in wild Albanian music the deeds of Ali and his valiant sons. Mouchtar was in high spirits, but all his boisterous exclamations could not discompose a muscle in the face of this modern Phenius, or disarrange a note of his inharmious strains. The pasha insisted upon our returning to dine with him on the island; an invitation which needed not a repetition either to Nicolo or myself.

At landing we were met by a concourse of people who accompanied us to a neat well-furnished house, where a considerable number both of men and women staid in the room laughing and joking with the pasha as if they had been his equals. Indeed the manners of the prince ap-

* 'Οὐ γὰρ ἔγω γέ τι φημι τέλει χαριεστερον εἶναι
 "Ἢ ὅταν εὐφροσύνη μὲν ἔχη, καπότητος ἀπέσης,
 Δαιτυμόνες δ' ἀνὰ δώματ' ἀκυάζονται ἀοιδῶ.

peared but little superior to those of his retainers, whilst his coarse and boisterous mirth seemed admirably adapted to the meridian of their capacities. In the mean time the cook and people of the house were busily employed in heating and preparing the viands, and in a short time about twenty as neat and piquant dishes were set before us in regular succession as ever graced a pasha's table. Mouchtar just took off the edge of his appetite with four hard eggs and a proper quantity of bread! and at dinner when I affirm that he eat as much as two English ploughmen I believe I am within the line of truth. We made a *partic quarrée*, consisting of the pasha and his physician, Signore Nicolo and myself, and we dispatched the meal in little less than one hour and a half. Two or three women stood in the room nearly all this time, with whom Mouchtar laughed and joked between courses: he also rallied poor Nicolo, asking him whether this was not better fare than what he met with at Rustschuk? Nicolo shook his head mournfully at the mention of that dire abode, where, during a long siege, he had frequently been glad to make one meal a-day, though that was upon horse-flesh, and rarely stirred out of a subterranean cavern which he had dug for himself as a defence against the shells of the Russian artillery. The recollection of these privations however did not diminish his appetite, which seemed rather inclined towards the compensatory system of things. We drank the best wine which this part of the country produces, though it cannot boast of many positive good qualities. When an hour had elapsed after dinner, we left Mouchtar to enjoy his siesta, while we perambulated this beautiful little island and admired the charming scenery which its whole circuit displays. I could not help making a remark upon the voracity of the grandee we had just left, to his physician, and requested to know how it was possible for a person to indulge such an inordinate appetite with impunity. The doctor replied that he was as much astonished as I was, "but those Turks, they are used to it." After our walk we took a pipe and some coffee, and as Mouchtar Pasha intended to sleep on the island for the

purpose of an early shooting excursion next morning, we returned in the cool of the evening to the city. Next morning it being understood that I had been to search for manuscripts on the island, a person brought to me for sale an unedited treatise upon astronomy by Meletius the Archbishop of Athens: it consisted of about 400 pages in 4to., and the figures as well as the text were executed with remarkable neatness; but I had had too much experience of this worthy prelate's blunders upon earth in his incomparable geography, to fancy that he would be found more accurate in his delineation of the heavens. I therefore left this treasure in the possession of its proprietor.

Scarcely a week had elapsed since our Albanian expedition, when the whole city of Ioannina was thrown into alarm on our account. This happened whilst we were spending an evening accidentally at Mons. Pouqueville's, when the vizir suddenly sent for us to his serai: as we were not found at home, and no one knew where we had gone, at least a score kaivasis and chaushes, with their gold and silver sticks, were dispatched over the town and environs to find us. Rumour stretched out all her wings, and opened all her mouths upon the occasion, and amidst the thousand reports afloat concerning us, the prevalent opinion was that the *buldrun* was to be our habitation in revenge for the vizir's disappointed ambition at Parga. Even Mons. Pouqueville himself was infected with the alarm, and with a characteristic trait of generosity offered us the asylum of his consular dwelling, which he assured us Ali dare not violate.

However, neither Mr. Parker nor myself felt any alarm, but followed the chaushes with great tranquillity through the streets to the serai of Litaritza. There we found the vizir in the highest state of good humour possible, and his reception of us more cordial than any we had before received. We were his dear friends, the natives of a country which he entirely loved—coffee, sweetmeats, and pipes, were brought to us by wholesale, and the fine arms in the Albanian room taken down for our inspection. The grand secret of all this soon came out.

He had just received notice that his frigate, which he had sent to Malta for the purpose of being rigged, copper bottomed, mounted with guns, and supplied with stores, had arrived in the harbour of Prevesa, and the good humour now exhibited seemed as if it was occasioned by this sop thrown to the Epirotic Cerberus. A list of all the articles furnished from the British arsenals had been forwarded by the port-admiral; but that important document being written in English, had put all the scholars of the seraglio to their wits end, though many of them before this had boasted not a little of their attainments in our northern language. When all had tried and failed, Ali bethought himself of our assistance, and for this purpose sent his chaoushes to escort us to the seraglio.

The papers being put into our hands we adjourned to the little justice-parlour in the court of the serai, where our first introduction to the vizir took place; and with the help of Signore Colovo transferred their meaning into Romaic, through the medium of the Italian, though in many instances we were sadly puzzled by the nautical terms for various unknown instruments: by the help however of blanks, asterisks, and a few good guesses, we made out a tolerable translation, though we spent three hours in the labour.

Next morning, Mr. Parker feeling indisposed, I waited alone upon the vizir, to know if he was satisfied with our performance, and if we could render him any further assistance. I found him in a room very magnificently furnished, and according to his common custom, smoking the houka. He appeared much elated by his acquisition, thanked me in a courteous manner for the trouble we had taken, and expressed his intention of going immediately to Salagora to review his fleet. He then entered into conversation with me respecting our late tour, asked many questions respecting my opinion of the country, and of his son Salee, and appeared pleased with the answers which I gave him respecting the latter: he asked me also if we had discovered any silver

mines in his country ; but I assured him that neither my friend nor myself had studied mineralogy : he said he thought there were some in the neighbourhood of Tepeleni, and many persons had told him so. Who these could be I am unable to conjecture ; but if one ever did discover any it would be the height of cruelty to make them known to him, and thus condemn hundreds of his unfortunate subjects to perpetual imprisonment in the noxious bowels of the earth. When we arrived at the neighbourhood of Tepeleni, I expected he would have touched upon the massacre of Gardiki : but in this I was disappointed, for he was silent upon that subject, and I did not dare to introduce it. He then requested some information respecting the nations that in ancient times possessed the districts over which he had extended his dominion : at the same time he paid a handsome compliment to the generality of English travellers, for the knowledge they acquired upon such subjects. With a much more limited range of information than the vizir gave me credit for, and still having to struggle with peculiar difficulties in the language that formed the medium of communication, I endeavoured to satisfy his curiosity by giving him a succinct account of the early settlers in these regions, of their colonization by the Greeks, and their subjection to the Romans. He listened with great attention and apparent interest, but made me dwell particularly upon the exploits of Pyrrhus, of whose character he never before had any distinct notion : he inquired with a certain air of mistrust about the elephants which that monarch employed in his military operations, and asked, with a laugh, whether I thought elephants would be of any use against his Albanian palikars : to this I answered, that the mode of warfare was entirely altered since the days of Pyrrhus, owing to the invention of fire-arms ; but that even now those animals were employed in great numbers by our military men in the East Indies. We then passed on to the Roman conquerors, and he seemed not a little elated when I told him that the empire of the

world had been twice contested within the limits of his dominion, *once* by land on the Pharsalian plains, and once by sea in the Gulf of Actium: he said he had heard that the palaio-castro, near Prevesa, was the record of a great victory, but did not know before that it was one of such great consequence.

My tobacco being now consumed, and being afraid of intruding upon the vizir's time, I made a motion to depart; but he requested me to remain, and ordered one of his pages to bring another pipe. In the mean time he turned the conversation upon Great Britain; but his inquiries tended more to the satisfaction of curiosity upon trifling subjects, than to the acquisition of knowledge upon those of greater interest; for instance, he asked me if King George could cut off a subject's head, and seemed quite astounded when I assured him that he had no more power than the subject had to cut off his, unless the latter had forfeited his life to the law. He laughed outright when I told him that a member of the royal family or the king himself might be sued in a court of justice. He then asked me how the king procured his revenue, and when I answered from the voluntary imposts of his people, he shook his head, as if he thought he should starve if he had to depend upon so precarious an income. Amongst other topics, of which it was impossible to remember *half*, he asked me *what induced my countrymen to undergo so many hardships and run so many dangers by land and sea for the sake of visiting countries which were devoid of nearly all the comforts of life.* In reply I endeavoured to give him some idea of our mode of education and that general cultivation of Greek literature which is apt so strongly to influence the imagination and generate enthusiasm; which impels us to visit the land that nurtured and matured those ancient prodigies of talent, and to contemplate the scenes where so many important historical events took place. The vizir mused for a short time upon what I observed and then said, that he had not himself had the advantage of education. I confess my dissimulation; but I could not help replying that I thought his highness had made a higher

use of his faculties in the study of mankind, and that in England his character was in greater repute on the score of talent, than if he had been dignified with the title of a philosopher. The compliment evidently pleased him, for his eyes brightened and his face assumed a peculiar expression of good humour. I took this opportunity of turning the discourse upon his own warlike achievements, and he related to me several particulars which I have interwoven into the memoir of his life: he seemed to take a pleasure in dwelling upon the early incidents of his eventful history, which probably arose from the satisfaction he now receives at looking down from the height of security upon those periods when he was involved in perils and had scarcely a place where to lay his head. I longed to put a few political questions to him relative to some more recent occurrences; but every oblique attempt was eluded, and direct inquiries were out of the question.

My second pipe was now finished, and when I arose to go Ali no longer detained me: he said he hoped we should not leave Ioannina before his return from Salagora, for I had informed him that the winter being now past and travelling practicable, it was our intention no longer to obtrude ourselves upon his hospitality. Thus ended the longest and most interesting conversation I ever held with this extraordinary character: I took down as many items of it as I could recollect immediately on my arrival at home, but regret that my memory did not serve me to recollect half his observations.

Just about this time we had a sudden change of weather, and winter seemed again anxious to resume its sway: snow appeared upon the summits of the mountains, and for several days the thermometer stood at 46° of Fahrenheit. This melancholy aspect of nature however was transient, and the Grecian sky soon resumed those brilliant tints and that harmonious colouring which during greatest part of the year adds such a charm to the beauty of its scenery.

— ἔτ' ἀνέμοισι τινάσσεται, ἔτι ποτ' ὕμβρῳ
 Δείχεται, ἔτε χιὼν ἐπιπίλναται· ἀλλὰ μάλ' αἰθρῇ
 ΠΕΠΤΑΤΑΙ ΑΝΝΕΦΕΛΟΣ, ΛΕΥΚΗ Δ' ΕΠΙΔΕΔΡΟΜΕΝ ΑΙΓΛΗ.

During this short gloom I occupied myself in taking extracts from certain documents relating to Albania and its capital, which were very kindly submitted to my inspection by several persons of our acquaintance. We afterwards resumed our excursions either alone or in the company of friends, and visited the beautiful monasteries on the borders of the lake, taking provisions with us, and spending the day amidst their shady recesses. The people of Ioannina are very partial to these expeditions, and at many of the convents which we passed, were seen large family parties of men, women and children, reclining indolently under the shelving porticos, enjoying the luxuries of the table, and listening to the discordant tones of a violin or mandoline, or accompanying the instrument in loud strains of nasal melody. These scenes brought strongly to our imagination the picture of ancient times, when the joys of life appeared to centre in similar amusements.

Ὡς τότε μὲν πρόπαν ἡμαρ ἐς ἥλιον καταδύντα
 Ἡμεῖα δαινύμενοι κρέα τ' ἄσπετα καὶ μέθυ ἡδύ·
 Ἥμος δ' ἥλιος κατέδυ, καὶ ἐπὶ κνέφας ἦλθεν,
 Ὅι μὲν κοιμήσαντο κατὰ μέγαρα σκιώεντα*.

Od. κ. 476.

It is to be expected that the habits, manners and customs of a people will always bear a certain resemblance to each other in the early stages of their social existence and in their decline; that is, before refinement, which tends greatly to confound all peculiarities, is far advanced, and when it is almost extinguished. The amusements indeed which engage the minds of the modern Greeks are scarcely exceeded in simplicity by

* Such was even supposed to be the chief amusement of their Gods.

Ὡς τότε μὲν πρόπαν ἡμαρ ἐς ἥλιον καταδύντα
 Δαίνωντ', ὃδ' ἔτι θυμὸς ἐδέετο δαιτὸς ἑίσσης,
 Ὅν μὲν φόρμιγγος περικαλλέος, ἦν ἔχ' Ἀπόλλων,
 Μουσῶν δ' αἰ ἀειδόν, ἀμειβόμεναι ὅππῃ καλῇ

Od. α. in fin.

those of the heroic ages. The reader will however be astonished to learn, as I was myself to hear, that since our departure, theatrical exhibitions have been displayed at Ioannina under the patronage of the vizir, a temporary theatre being erected, and the whole corps de ballet imported from Corfu: such a scene, I will venture to say, was never exhibited in a Mahometan city since the era of the Hegira. The occasion of all these festivities was the marriage of our young friend Mahmet Pasha to the daughter of a rich bey of Larissa, at which his father Vely was present.

May 4.—On this day we observed a bustle in Ioannina and a great number of monoxyla skimming over the surface of the lake. Upon inquiry we found that a grand festival was to be held on the morrow at the convent of St. George which is situated near the summit of Mount Mitzikeli. On the festival of our national Saint it would have been very unpatriotic in us to have been absent, and we determined to join the throng of pilgrims. Having sent Antonietti forward with our beds and provision we embarked about noon in a caique, with Signore Nicolo for a companion, passed over the lake, and mounted our asses, of which great numbers were ready for hire at the other side: the ascent occupied about two hours, and was sufficiently amusing from the ludicrous scenes exhibited amongst the various parties through the obstinacy of their beasts. The hegumenos with several of his caloyers met us at the gates of the convent, which stands in a rocky recess, probably two thousand feet above the level of the lake below, and immediately under the craggy summits of the mountain, where the snow lay at this time in deep ridges. The best room in the convent was allotted for our reception and the superior did us the honour to sit at table, though his laws did not allow him to partake of our fare. He exulted much when he learned that his tutelary saint was the guardian of our native island, and assured us there was not a better or a more powerful one in the whole calendar. In the evening we sat in the balcony and amused ourselves

in seeing the pilgrims arrive, who deposited their stores in the courtyard, and were accommodated in a long range of low rooms on the north side of the area; the apartments of the monks occupy that on the south, and between them on the eastern side stands the chapel. Fires were lighted in the court to dress the victuals, round which the different parties sat feasting and singing to their discordant instruments: in some places various feats of strength were exhibited, in others the Romaika was danced, groups of women and children were seen scattered about the mountain, and the whole scene was full of interest and animation. Here the Greek character shewed itself in its more light and airy cast, whilst the poor people, raised for a time above the reach of tyranny and forgetting their miseries, gave way to their feelings and indulged in all their native vivacity. At night a lovely moon, which was now in the full, shed her silvery light upon the surrounding scenery, and her rays, which were reflected in the lake below, rendered Ioannina with all the villages and hills around its plain distinctly though faintly visible. We adjourned from the convent to the edge of a noble precipice, a few hundred yards distant, where the mountain rises almost perpendicularly from the water's edge: upon its top Antonietti had pitched our tent in the centre of a large circular threshing-floor (similar to the ancient *εὐτρόχος αλωνή*) where the honest caloyers tread out their corn by means of horses and oxen. Here we sat to enjoy the luxury of the pipe and to contemplate the delightful prospect, whilst the night breeze threw its plaintive murmurs over the surrounding rocks, and the sounds of distant merriment in the court of the convent broke upon our ears through the general silence. The moon in these delightful climates seems almost to emulate the solar orb in brilliancy, and whilst I viewed her beams playing upon the surface of the water as upon a mirror, throwing into light and shade all the rocks and promontories of the lake, and bringing into full view the fine wavy undulation of Mount Olitzika, I felt that the mighty bard, the glory of Greece and of the human race,

must have painted from nature that noble scene, whose beauties it is scarcely possible to transfuse into any foreign dialect.

As when the moon, refulgent lamp of night,
O'er heaven's clear azure spreads her sacred light ;
When not a breath disturbs the deep serene,
And not a cloud o'ercasts the solemn scene ;
Around her throne the vivid planets roll,
And stars unnumber'd gild the glowing pole,
O'er the dark trees a yellower verdure shed,
And tip with silver ev'ry mountain's head ;
Then shine the vales, the rocks in prospect rise,
A flood of glory bursts from all the skies :
The conscious swains rejoicing in the sight
Eye the blue vault and bless the useful light*.

Il. viii. Pope's Transl.

As the time approached for retiring to rest we returned to the convent ; but before we went to bed were induced by the beauty of the scene to stand for a few minutes in the balcony. There we perceived our kaivasi stretched out upon his mat, his head resting upon a hard pillow and his upper garment taken off and thrown over him ; for the custom is very general in modern, as it was in ancient times, to sleep under the open portico (*ὕπ' αἰθέσῃ ἐριδύπω*. Od. γ. 399). Mr. Parker, who was in his night-cap and bed-gown, went up to Mustafà and gently awoke him : the sleeper just cast his eyes upon him and turned himself on his pillow with a groan : Mr. Parker then awoke him again, and again Mustafà turned himself and uttered a still deeper groan than before. As he slept with his ataghan and pistols in his belt I cautioned my friend against

* How much more simple and grand is the original of this splendid passage !

Ὡς δ' ὅτ' ἐν ὥρανῳ ἄστρα φαεινὰ ἀμφὶ σελήνην
Φαίνετ' ἀριπρεπέα, ὅτε τ' ἐπλετο νήνεμος αἰθήρ,
Ἐκ τ' ἔφανον πᾶσαι σκοπιαὶ καὶ πρόωγες ἄκροι,
Καὶ νάπαι· ὁρανόθεν δ' ἄρ' ὑπερβάγη ἄσπετος αἰθήρ,
Πάντα δὲ τ' αἰδεταὶ ἄστρα, γέγηθε δὲ τε φρένα ποιμήν.

interfering any further with his rest and we went to bed. Next day however he appeared unusually dull and melancholy, and continued so for near a week, when Antonietti observing the change, wormed out the secret by dint of intreaties, and learned to his great horror that Mustafà had seen a spectre at the convent, the ghost of the very Gardikiote whom he had cut down with his ataghan at the han of Valiarè. As soon as I knew this I immediately explained the whole circumstance to the poor fellow, and made some excuse for awaking him. He appeared satisfied with the explanation, but said it was not the first time he had seen that fellow, that *κεφατὰς* of a Gardikiote, and he informed Antonietti that nothing should ever induce him to pay another visit to the convent of St. George.

On the morning after this adventure I arose very early and attended the caloyers in chapel at their orisons. This attention pleased the good fathers, and they sang in their best style. Yet how much did their mummeries diminish the effect of those sensations which the act of adoring the beneficent Author of the universe upon this lofty pinnacle of his own creation, was calculated to inspire! After service, the hegumenos accompanied me to the precipice where our tent was fixed: there we enjoyed the view of Ioannina, with its mountain scenery, illuminated by the rising sun, which had already absorbed the tints of morning in one broad blaze of brilliant light. How animated does the face of nature appear at this time, and how nobly has the bard described it—

Night wanes, the vapours round the mountain curl'd
Melt into morn, and light awakes the world:
Man has another day to swell the past
And lead him near to little but his last.
But mighty nature bounds as from her birth;
The sun is in the heavens, and life on earth;
Flowers in the valley, splendour in the beam,
Health on the gale, and freshness in the stream.

The hegumenos, out of pure compliment to his English guest, had brought with him from the convent library, an old Romaic history, containing the life of Saint George. When we were seated in the tent he opened this repository, put on his spectacles, and edified me for the space of nearly two hours with the miraculous feats of that great champion of the Christian faith. I then heard of his undaunted conduct before the Emperor Diocletian in reproving idolatry, of his being struck through the body with a lance by the executioner without injury to the said body, of his walking bare-footed upon planks studded with nails as if they had been boiled-peas, of his remaining unhurt amidst flames, of his destroying a fiery dragon which infested the banks of the Euphrates, and a thousand other miracles, which have rendered his name so illustrious throughout the world. The nasal tones of the hegumenos, aided by my early rising, had lulled me into a gentle slumber, when Mr. Parker and Nicolo arrived, with Antonietti carrying provision for breakfast, and put a stop to the worthy monk's recitation. Having made this early meal in one of the most superb sites that the world can afford, we took a range over the summit of the mountain, and returned to the monastery for attendance upon grand mass, at which time we added our mites, to those of the other pilgrims, in support of this religious establishment.

The Greek monks or caloyers have only one order, which is that of Saint Basil. Their habit is a long cassock of coarse cloth girt round with a belt, a felt or woollen cap, and a black cowl. Their government is, or is intended to be very austere, as they are enjoined chastity, obedience, and abstinence from flesh, during the whole of their lives : bread and fruit is their chief food during greatest part of the year, and at their feasts only do they eat oil, eggs, or fish. Greatest part of their time is occupied in their choirs, in rehearsing the psalter, in singing hymns in honour of the Virgin and their patron saints, and in making their bows

or *μετάνοια* as they are called, which, during the great fasts, every caloyer is obliged to repeat 300 times in the twenty-four hours: as for the great Lent before Easter, they begin it with three days of absolute fasting, not even indulging themselves in the luxuries of bread and water, and on the eves or vigils of feasts, the whole night is nearly taken up in the ceremonies of devotion: according to their rule, they ought to spend the greatest part of every other night within their cells in reading homilies and the lives of saints. Yet even all this severity does not content some superstitious devotees, who enter into a more strict rule, and confine themselves to bread and water, and almost constant watching during the whole of their lives. In the Greek, as in the Latin church, there are lay brothers, who take the habit and adhere to the rule of the order, called *μετανοούμενοι* or converts, men weary of the vanities of the world, or who wish by penance and mortification to wash away the stain of mortal sins. These undertake the management of domestic affairs, tend the flocks of the convent, and press the wine of which both lay and regular brethren are permitted to partake.

Like all other such institutions, the severities of the monastic order among the Greeks are considerably relaxed; the progress of intellectual knowledge begins to make men ashamed of those follies to which superstition had bound them, but it is long ere reason herself can entirely overthrow the fabric which is propped up by prejudice and habit.

We returned to Ioannina for dinner, and in a few days afterwards, when I had completed my extracts, we began to make preparations for quitting this place which had afforded us so interesting and agreeable a sojourn. Two days were fully occupied in bidding adieu to our numerous friends and acquaintance: on the 10th of May we paid our last visit to the vizir in one of his little tenements near the palace of Vely Pasha, where he was administering *justice*. We staid but a short time, and when we were about to quit for ever on this side the grave, an eminent

personage with whom we had been so long acquainted and by whom we had been treated with so much civility, it was impossible not to feel certain melancholy sensations, in spite of that horror which the knowledge of his crimes and the sight of his tyranny was calculated to inspire. He begged us to carry a letter to General Campbell at Zante, in which he said he had expressed to him the satisfaction he had received from our visit. Having thanked his highness for the hospitality we had met with in his dominions, and recommended Mustafâ and Nicolo very earnestly to his favour, we arose and made our obeisance: this he courteously returned by bowing his head and placing his right hand upon his breast; after which we left the apartment and saw him no more.

Being close to the habitation of Mahmet Pasha, we took an affectionate leave of that engaging youth, who desired us to think of him as a friend highly interested in our welfare, and with great cordiality wished us a safe arrival at our native land. We finished our visits with Mouchtar Pasha, to whose youngest son, a fine little fellow about seven years old, we presented a pair of beautiful English pistols, as a slight acknowledgment of the attentions shewn us by his father. Mouchtar gave us a bouyourdee for our journey, in addition to that of the vizir, and promised to send with us through the extent of his possessions a young Albanian in his own service, son of the governor of Paramithia. We spent the evening, which was rather a mournful one, with our kind friends the Messrs. Pouqueville, and then retired to sleep for the last time in Ioannina.