

Sultans, who, as in former times, took away all freedom in the election of the voïevodes, and exacted a tribute.

In the meantime, Bukharest, towards the end of the seventeenth century, had become the seat of government in Wallachia, and Bessarab, who reigned in 1710, had assumed an attitude sufficiently imposing to induce the surrounding powerful nations to seek an alliance with him. Intelligences with Austria, and with Peter the Great, conducted with too timid a hand, and acts of fatal irresolution, which cost him his head, signalised the reign of this prince. Shortly after the termination of his reign, the Sublime Porte united the two principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia under one government; abolished definitively the right of electing voïevodes, and sent them a sovereign of its own choosing, from among the Greek families of Constantinople, whose long habits of submission rendered them fitting instruments to carry out its sovereign wishes.

Nicolas Mavrocordato was the first voïevode who governed the two principalities. Under his successor, Constantine, whose rule commenced in 1740, the country enjoyed a few years of peace and stability. At the end of the century, war having broken out between the Porte and Russia, our army occupied the principalities and the places of strength on the Danube during four years,

at the end of which the celebrated treaty of perpetual peace was concluded at the camp of Koutchouk-Kainardji, July 10—22, 1774. This treaty, confirmed by subsequent conventions, stipulated in its 26th Article, that the principalities be restored to the Porte, which should resume possession of the fortresses; but, in consenting to this restitution, the Empress guaranteed to the inhabitants of Wallachia and Moldavia, the free exercise of their religion, the liberty of transporting their persons and their property to other lands, and an exemption from all taxes during a certain number of years. She obtained for the sovereigns of the principalities the favour of having Christian *chargés d'affaires* at the court of the Sultan, and reserved to the ministers and the consul of Russia the right of acting as representatives at the Sublime Porte, in the affairs of the principalities. In 1784, the Sultan Abdulhamid re-enacted, by a special rescript, all the clauses favourable to the principalities, renounced the right of establishing his subjects on their territories, and reduced the amount to be thenceforward exacted, whether in the shape of tribute money, or presents.

In a short time, however, the Ottoman cabinet paid but little regard to its solemn engagements, and when the French Revolution broke out, a fresh occupation by Russia and Austria was found necessary, the result of

which was the Treaty of Yassy, by which the condition of the principalities was fixed in accordance with the treaties of 1774 and 1784, before quoted.

At the beginning of the present century, the Ottoman government appearing to lean towards an alliance with the Emperor Napoleon, this symptom required a fresh occupation of the principalities. From 1806 to 1812, the Russians retained possession of the territory, and the treaty of Bukharest, which fixes the boundary of the empire at the Pruth, confirmed all the former guarantees secured to the principalities, alleviated their burdens, and limited to seven years the reign of each Hospodar. At this period, Wallachia was governed by Prince Caradja. Threatened by the Porte, this prince suddenly adopted the resolution of secretly quitting his states. He executed this project in 1818, leaving the cares of administration during his absence in the hands of the Boyards. The latter turned to the Sultan, and requested that the government of the principalities should henceforward lie with the divan, thus hoping to put an end to the calamities attending the administration of the Greek princes: but the Sultan gave no heed to the petition of the Boyards, and sent Prince Alexander Soutzo to Wallachia. The death of this prince, in 1821, was followed by some attempts at insurrection: moreover, on all sides, symptoms of commotion were manifested, whose distant echo

awakened, in the most remote provinces, ideas of emancipation. Spain, Italy and Egypt, were the scenes of important events; and the eyes of Europe were fixed upon them. It was at this period that these countries were occupied for the last time, and the long and bloody war which brought the Ottoman empire to the brink of its ruin, terminated in the treaty of Adrianople. The emancipation of the principalities dates from this treaty. While an organic law was being prepared for Wallachia and Moldavia, General Kisseleff, invested with the command of the troops in the two provinces, received the title of plenipotentiary president; and thus, in the hands of this illustrious chieftain (known, hitherto, as a skilful soldier) were vested all the necessary powers for directing the reform of this country according to the stipulations of the treaties of Ak-Kermann and Adrianople. The task was of immense difficulty, embracing in its scope all the important questions of social order, and presenting obstacles of every description. The genius of Kisseleff, urged by an unchangeable love of good, and strengthened by a firm will and indefatigable activity, brought this important reform to a successful issue, and substituted law and order to a monstrous despotism, which, for more than two centuries, had crushed these unfortunate people. Entering the principalities at the close of a ruinous war, the military legislator had, in the first instance, to

contend against the most cruel calamities—the plague, famine, every form of human misery, and, worse than all, the moral prostration of the people. But his strong will overcame every obstacle; it was powerful enough to effect a thorough reform, and to lay the foundation of future stability. To General Kisseleff, this country, previously so ill-governed, owes the whole of its present administration. He created its army, regulated its finances, established civil laws which it had never before possessed: he taught it at the same time order and obedience, and thus his name has become familiar in the mouths of the people; and he holds that place in the gratitude of the nation to which he is entitled. When, at last, his mission was accomplished, and the new Hospodars, recognised by the empire, entered upon their functions under the protection of a constitution prudently devised, General Kisseleff quitted the countries whose salvation he had effected, and in which he will for ever be respected.

Thus, then, by virtue of the last beneficial revolution which it has undergone, Wallachia is governed by a Hospodar elected for life by an extraordinary assembly of Boyards, with the investiture of the Porte, and the approval of Russia. The nationality of the country is respected; and no point of its territories can be occupied by a Turkish garrison. The General Assembly, which exercises

the legislative power conjointly with the Prince, is composed of forty-three members, including the president. The latter office is always filled by the Metropolitan of Bukharest; the remaining forty-two members are elected by a College of Boyards, who vote secretly. Ministers cannot be elected as deputies.

The following is an enumeration of offices and dignities in Wallachia; by the effect of circumstances common to all small states, the titles conferred on these offices are the more vain and pompous, as the wealth and extent of the principalities are limited.

The first rank in the state, after that of Hospodar, is that of *Bano*. This ancient title belonged to the sovereigns of that part of Wallachia which is called the Banat; and Craïova was the residence of the bano. This dignity now gives to its possessor the right of a seat in the council, or divan, as it is called, while in his government he is represented by a deputy, who is called *caïmacan*.

Four *vorniks*, chosen from the nobility, are members of the divan by birth, and, together with the bano and the metropolitan, exercise the judicial functions.

Two *logothetes* are also added to the council; their office is to signify the sentences pronounced by the court, and ratified by the prince.

The *spathar* is a member of the divan, and commands the whole of the armed forces.

The *vestiar* is the grand treasurer, and as such holds a seat in the divan.

The *postelnik* performs the office of secretary to the prince.

The *divan effendi* is secretary to the divan.

The public offices of the second order are :—

The *cloziar*, whose office is merely honorary ; the *aga*, charged with the direction of the general and municipal police of Bukharest ; and the *commisso*, or prince's equerry.

Among the offices held by the inferior nobility, are the *caminar* ; the *harmache*, who sees to the execution of criminal sentences, and superintends the Tsigan gold-gatherers ; the *paharnik*, or cup-bearer ; the *stolnik*, or steward.

Four ministers and a secretary of state manage the affairs of the principality. The different offices are :—home affairs, justice, public worship, and finance. A court of controul, a quarantine committee, and a prison commission, complete the administration.

The *spathar*, as before stated, commands the soldiery. There are three regiments under his orders, each of which consists of two battalions ; the whole military force of the principality being thus about five thousand men. Ten staff officers are attached to the person of the reigning prince.

Wallachia, which contains 22 cities, 15 towns, and 3,560 villages, presented, according to the census in 1837, a total of 339,322 houses. The territory is divided into seventeen districts, twelve on this side of the Alouta, and five beyond. Each of these districts is governed by two ispravniks, chosen from among the Boyards. A judge has recently been appointed to each district, and also a *samessi*—a superintendent of taxes, invested with a controllership over the administration of the ispravniks. The latter functionary is unremovable, while the rest are revocable annually. This arrangement, retained from the Turkish system, should be promptly abolished, if it be desired to establish the public administration on a just and proper basis.

The districts are themselves subdivided into *plaças*, each plaça having a separate collector of taxes.

The chief town of a district is governed by a municipal council, under the direction of a president or mayor, assisted by three members. The civil registers, which had no existence previous to the presidentship of General Kisseleff, are kept by the clergy, and are in duplicate. One of the registers is kept at the parish church; the other is sent to the record-office of the district tribunal.

The administration of justice has especially benefitted by the new order of things in Wallachia. The law, it is true, still exhibits traces of its former despotic forms;

but it must be acknowledged, nevertheless, that marked ameliorations have been introduced in the dispensation of justice. The General Assembly are too firmly convinced of the necessity for a homogeneous code of laws, not to apply all its endeavours to harmonise the habits and requirements of the country with the legislation of European countries, where the law is strong because it is wise. The assembly will feel also that there can be no proper administration of justice without a judicial body, whose integrity should be universally acknowledged; and no one is in a better position to guide his colleagues in the direction of salutary reforms, than the skilful minister at the head of this important department at the time of our visit, Vornik Jean Stirbey.

Justice is administered in the name of the prince, its forms being laid down by the Wallachian code promulgated in 1818. This code is based upon the Roman law and the common law of the principality. The French commercial and criminal codes (with the exception of a few modifications, to suit the political and geographical situation of the country), were at this time being submitted to the General Assembly for their adoption. A portion of the former has been adopted; the remainder, with the criminal code, were deferred to the ensuing session. As regards the customs of the country, they are, with one or two differences, the same as in Moldavia.

There are in Wallachia three degrees of jurisdiction :—firstly, the tribunal of the district, or of the first resort ; secondly, the court of appeal, or of the second resort ; thirdly, the supreme divan, or of the third resort.

The tribunal of the district takes cognizance of all civil and commercial affairs ; with respect to criminal matters, their functions are limited to preliminary investigations.

The court of appeal is divided into three sections ; civil, commercial, and criminal, constituting so many separate courts.

The supreme court takes cognizance of judgments delivered by the courts of appeal, both in Greater and Lesser Wallachia.

The institution of the jury does not exist.

Up to the present time, judges are appointed for three years ; at the end of this period, they may be continued in their offices, if their services have given satisfaction. But, according to the constitutional law, dating from 1830, all magistrates chosen by the prince will be irremovable after ten years office, except in cases of forfeiture, voluntary resignation, or appointment to administrative duties.

All public functionaries, every noble or deputy, may be judicially proceeded against by any complainant, without

other formalities than are required for the proceeding against a private individual.

Actions at law are very frequent in Wallachia, the most common cause of litigation being encroachments on the boundaries of land ; a singular circumstance in a country where there is so much wild and uncultivated land open to the husbandman. A great number of contests arise in consequence of the preference accorded by the law, in the sale of lands and houses, to the relations of the seller, or to those holding property adjoining that which is for sale. It is to be desired that the provisions of the law with respect to the latter case should be abolished from the Wallachian code ; the General Assembly will probably have to consider their repeal on an early occasion.

Advocates are not constituted into a distinct order, and are without any council of discipline. When a defendant has not made choice of any counsel, and no advocate undertakes the defence, counsel is appointed by the court.

Pleadings in defence are unrestricted, and the proceedings are public, unless any public scandal attaching to the cause, or the honour of families, should necessitate the contrary. There is no law prohibiting the public journals from reporting judicial proceedings ; but up to the present time, they have never availed themselves of the privilege.

The laws punish murder with death; but capital punishment has fallen into disuse. Since the provisional administration of General Kisseleff, sentence of death has always been commuted to perpetual labour in the salt-works.

The prince possesses the right of pardon, in accordance with the recommendations addressed by the tribunals to the department of justice; in these cases, a commutation of punishment only can be granted. When, by his conduct, a prisoner has given evidence of moral amelioration, the vornik (superintendent) of the prisons addresses a report to the department of justice, which is transmitted to the prince, and the prince may grant a remission of a portion of the punishment incurred.

CRIMES AND OFFENCES, IN THE YEAR 1835.

Robberies and larcenies	457
Robberies by house-breaking, or on the highway . . .	24
Murders	56
Attempts at murder	26

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IN THE YEAR 1836.

Robberies and larcenies	331
Robberies by house-breaking, or on the highway . . .	23
Murders	66
Attempts at murder	8

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It should be observed that instances of premeditated murder very rarely occur; with but few exceptions this crime is committed in drunkenness; wine, in Wallachia, being very abundant and cheap, as it is free from any tax except a very moderate excise due on entering towns under municipal government.

The age of majority among the Wallachians is fixed at twenty-five, but the minor can be emancipated: 1stly, by marriage; 2ndly, by the consent of his parents on attaining his eighteenth year; 3rdly, by order of the tribunal of the first resort, at the request of the guardian, the parents, or of the minor himself, at the age of twenty-one, when deprived of his father and mother. This order is submitted to the minister of justice, and subject to the sanction of the prince. A minor, thus emancipated, cannot however contract any loan, make over real, or dispose of personal property, he has only free use of his revenue.

Divorce is permitted in certain cases laid down by the law; it carries with it the voidance of the religious contract, and the parties divorced may enter into a second marriage. Divorce may be sought on the ground of incompatibility of temper; but in this case, the parties are bound down to a trial of seven years; at the end of which period, when all religious and moral means have been exhausted, there is no further obstacle to the divorce.

The department of public worship embraces all ecclesiastical affairs, as well as the management of public instruction. Three bishops, those of Rimnik, Argech, and Bouzéo, have charge over as many dioceses, under the dependence of the metropolitan of Bukharest. Religion, which is here of the schismatic Greek creed, does not, properly speaking, hold any great empire over the minds of the Wallachian people, but they observe its outward forms, and particularly the austerities of fasting, with scrupulous exactitude. The people are seen to attend divine service with every sign of respect, and the great number of churches existing in Wallachia, bear witness to the ardent zeal with which outward worship is honoured. The municipality contains no less than 3,753 churches, of which 1,364 are built of stone. To these must be added 202 monasteries, of which 133 are dependent on churches. These establishments, to all appearance, furnish relief to the poor of the communes, as it is rare to see a Wallachian beggar, the Tsigans being almost the only people who practise this ignoble and importunate avocation. The Wallachians are naturally inclined to superstition; they yield ready credence to witchcraft and spells, without, however, allowing their belief, which, with them, is a kind of poetical tradition, to disturb their peace of mind.

The statistics of public education for the year 1847 are as follow :—

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Establishments supported by Government.

	Pupils.
<i>Bukharest.</i> School of St. Sava. Introductory Classes . .	456
Humanities . . .	262
Complementary studies . .	29
Schools in connection with St. Sava { Amza . . .	92
Introductory Classes. { St. George (the New) . .	114
Total . . .	953
Private schools, 22 in number	704
Three boarding schools for boys	49
Two do. do. for girls	39
Total of pupils in Bukharest . . .	1,745

Craïova. School supported by Government :—

Elementary Classes . .	146
Humanities	84
Private schools at Craïova. Holy Apostles	65
Boarding schools for boys	18
<i>Districts.</i> 26 schools, 12 of which supported by Government	1,724

General total of pupils 3,782

Independently of these establishments, the pope (chief of the parish) or the precentor of each village is bound, in return for some slight recompense, to teach reading and writing to the children of the peasantry, so that in

a few years there will be but few who cannot at least read and write.

The administration of the finances of the principality is entrusted, as before mentioned, to the agents, who collect the taxes in each canton, and pay them into the treasury. The fixed revenues of the state are thus composed:—

	Piastres.
Poll-tax on labourers	8,210,670
Poll-tax on masils (nobles of inferior degree) . .	121,645
Poll-tax on Tsigans	147,860
Produce of patents	438,970
Farming of salt-works	2,500,000
Farming of customs	1,405,050
Estimate of duty on brandy, spirits of wine, tobacco entering towns; duties on the exporta- tion of corn and cattle, not included in the customs' duties farmed out; duties on diplo- mas, &c., casual revenue	2,000,000
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	14,824,195
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This amount of taxes is paid by 296,286 families.

The peasantry are subject to an annual tax of thirty piastres a head, which is paid into the treasury through the collector: they have, moreover, to pay one-tenth of this sum to the communal treasury established in each village.

The expenditure of the state is as follows:—

	Piastres.
Annual tribute paid to the Porte	1,400,000
Civil list	1,600,000
Justice	2,158,440
Administration of home affairs	1,857,480
Police	360,540
Army	2,750,000
Dorobantz, or gendarmes	179,240
Postal establishments	1,107,418
Quarantines	600,000
Roads and bridges	200,000
Paving of Bukharest	48,000
Wood for firing	80,000
Prisons	70,000
Pensions	1,500,000
Poor and indigent	100,000
Hermitages	22,000
Public instruction	350,000
Foundlings	100,000
Hospitals	150,000
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	14,633,118
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* The last three items of expenditure are not paid out of the treasury, but are at the charge of the central treasury of the metropolitan diocese, which is supplied from the ecclesiastical revenue.

The surplus of the revenue over the expenditure, forms reserved fund, after having met the extraordinary expenses.

The monies current in Wallachia and Moldavia are the Russian silver rouble, the golden ducat, the Austrian zwanziger, and the Turkish piastre, aspre, and para.

The piastre, which is the monetary unit of the principalities, does not represent absolutely the same value as the Turkish piastre: it has not yet suffered the same depreciation, although its value has greatly fallen within the last twenty years.

Towards 1822, the piastre was worth in Wallachia as much as from seventy-five to eighty centimes; but it has lost considerably since, and its average value in 1837 may be deduced from the following calculation. Let us first state, that this coin has two different current values; that recognised by the government, and that adopted by trade and private individuals.

In the Government treasury:

	fr.	c.
The silver rouble, worth exactly 4 fr. French, is exchanged for 10 piastres and a half, which brings the piastre to	0,	38 ..
The Austrian golden ducat, which is worth 11 fr. 85 c., is worth $31\frac{1}{2}$ piastres; the value of the piastre, according to this, is . . .	0,	37, 42
The Austrian zwanziger, equivalent to 86 c., passes in Wallachia for $2\frac{1}{2}$ piastres, which brings the piastre to	0,	38, 23
The average value of the piastre, as regards the public treasury, therefore is	0,	37, 82

In private transactions :

	fr. c.
The silver ruble is exchanged for 12 piastres,	
bringing the piastre to	0, 33, 33
The golden ducat is valued at from 35 to 36	
piastres, which for one piastre is	0, 33, 86
Or	0, 32, 92
The Austrian zwanziger, representing $2\frac{1}{2}$ piastres,	
brings the piastre to	0, 34, 80
Average value of the piastre in trade	0, 33, 86
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Mean between the official and trade value	
of the piastre	0, 35, 84

This unit, already very small, is subdivided again into 40 paras and 120 aspres.

The import trade of Wallachia consists principally of foreign manufactures; oil, soap, and coffee, are principally brought from Turkey. The principality exports grain, hemp, skins, cattle, timber, honey, wax, some small quantities of wine, salt, wool, and a little silk, the production of which is beginning to develop itself.

The total average amount of imports for the period from 1831 to 1835, amounted to about 31,848,076; the average of the exports for the same period amounted to 49,159,585.

The industrial arts, it must be confessed, are as yet at zero; scarcely till now, did Wallachia possess a few

manufactories of hats, and handkerchiefs of printed stuff, far behind the wants of the country.

It is easy to understand, however, that the deficiency of hands, and the little progress in industry and agriculture unfortunately resulting therefrom, is to be attributed to the languishing state of the country during so many years of destructive war, and the continual apprehension of incursions from the Turks. To the same cause must be assigned the absence of all trade, for the unfortunate inhabitants could only sell to the Turks, who fixed an arbitrary price on their purchases. The administration of affairs, as we have said, was indeed deplorable. All has altered since the last reform; and there is now the hope of a more prosperous future for the commercial and industrial enterprise which is now dawning.

Within the last four years, 631 manufactories have been established, namely :—

1 Wax taper manufactory.	22 Handkerchief manufactories.
32 Candle manufactories.	15 Manufactories of woollen
184 Tan yards.	cording.
28 Soap manufactories.	180 Distilleries.
69 Potteries.	4 Glass-works.
91 Linen manufactories.	1 China manufactory.
4 Hat manufactories.	<hr/>
	631

There are in Wallachia 2,299 water-mills, 6 windmills, and 9 mills moved by horses.

Up to the present time, salt has been the only mineral product profitably worked in Wallachia. We have already stated the amount derived from the salt-works. There is, however, every ground for believing that Wallachia possesses mineral riches in sufficient abundance, and that, with a continuance of peace, and a more intelligent application of capital, they may be worked by safer and more productive means than hitherto. We are enabled to enumerate, according to information which we believe to be correct, the different mineral substances which are known to exist in the Wallachian soil.

Gold.—The streams which bring down gold are those from the Oltez to the Yalomnitza, inclusively; but this metal is to be found more abundantly in the first of these rivers, from the village of Binzeni, to a distance of five leagues from that place; within this space are found the richest sands in Wallachia; they are of a blackish red colour, mixed with clay and particles of quartz and jasper, and are remarkable for the quantity of garnets to be found in them. Fragments of gold of considerable size have sometimes been found beneath large rocks in the middle of the river, at the season when the waters subside. Auriferous sands are also met with near the village of Oësti, on the Argechi, two leagues from Kourté; a league and a quarter from the village of Ioupanesti, on the river Chouptane; near the

village of Magaleo-Maloulouï, in the river Valea Kacelor ; and lastly, on the river Yalomniza, near the village of Bronesti, two leagues and a half from Firgovist.

Copper.—In the district of Mehédintzi, in Lesser Wallachia, carbonate of copper is found on the river Bourba, at a league from the burgh of Baja de Arama. This ore was formerly worked in these regions, as is shown by the traces of furnaces, the excavations in the mountains, and coppery scorïæ scattered here and there over the soil.

Copper pyrites is found at Baja de Arama, and lately it has begun to be worked ; but until the furnaces are completed, no exact data can be given as to the percentage yielded by the ore ; according to the analysis made of several specimens collected from the remains of former works, lying on the surface, it is to be presumed that the ore is a very rich one.

There is another bed of copper ore three quarters of a league from the same spot.

Native Mercury.—Mercury has been discovered near the town of Pelesti, in the district of Argech ; it was disseminated in globules in a horizontal stratum of sand and clay. It presented itself over only a small tract, and excavations have been made in the vicinity, but without success.

Coal.—Several points in Wallachia present beds of

coal; the best is in the district of Bouzéo, in the canton of Peskovoulouï, four leagues from Bouzéo, to the left of the river Saratzeni, between the villages of Berka and Jossina.

This coal burns with a flame, and emits a sulphureous and bituminous smell. The combustion of 100 parts leaves a residue of eighteen, which is of a dark red colour. This coal lies in twelve layers of about a metre in thickness, in an argilaceous soil, and all these layers occur within a depth of 200 metres.

Lignite.—This combustible is found in several spots, and principally in Lesser Wallachia, in the district of Voutza Plaïou, canton of Montagne, near the village of Armachesti, on the river Tzernichoara; it occurs in large agglomerations, covered by only a slight layer of earth. It contains sixteen per cent. of earthy matter, burns with a flame, and leaves a dark red ash. It would not be difficult to work it, and one man could extract nearly three tons in a day.

Rock Salt.—This mineral forms, as we have already stated, the chief mineral wealth of Wallachia. It is found at the distance of a league from Rimnik; and in Greater Wallachia, near the village of Slanik, district of Saboueni, and also near the village of Fellega, district of Prahova, canton of Kempina. The bed occurs at a depth of from six to fifty-five metres below the surface, and presents a thickness of forty-eight metres. These

mines annually yield thirty-eight millions of kilogrammes, and produce in value one-fourth of the revenues of the principality. The salt of Slanik, which has a crystalline appearance, is reckoned the best in Wallachia.

Liquid Bitumen.—Several localities* produce this substance. The richest deposit is in the district of Sakouini, near the village of Pukouretza; it produces annually about twenty-two thousand five hundred kilogrammes. The richest wells may yield as much as eighty kilogrammes a day, and the least rich from five to fifteen. The working of this mineral deposit requires but little trouble.

Native sulphur.—It is met with in the district of Dombovitza, canton of Dialoulouï, near the village of Schiatingo; it lies in a bed of green clay, occurring in the form of yellow globules.

Garnets.—These are found in the district of Argechi, on the mountain of Tchokan; they are generally incrustated in micaceous schist. Scattered on the sides of the mountain, and carried away by the waters, they are found in the gravel on the banks of some of the rivers, as before stated.

Succinum, or Yellow Amber.—This is found in the canton of Despré-Bouzéo, near the villages of Koltza and Boilor, in the canton of Koviskova. Its extreme fragility renders it little susceptible of useful application.

Besides these mineral deposits there are abundance of mineral waters in Wallachia; the principal springs are:

Bobotzi, district of Dombovitz	a Sulphurous spring.
Sfintzesti, id.	Sulphurous.
Pibitchin	Chalybeate.
Another in the same village	Sulphurous.
Ditto	Saline.
De Braza, district of Prahova	Sulphurous.
Pontchoussa, district of Dombovitz	Sulphurous.
Rozia, near the monastery	Sulphuro-saline.
Kalimanesti	Sulphurous.
Olanesti	Sulphuro-saline.
Monastery of Glogova	Sulphurous.

We have only now to add, in conclusion of our series of observations and data, a few remarks on the physical constitution of the interesting country under our notice.

Bathed throughout the extent of its western and southern frontiers by the Danube, Wallachia is bounded on the north by the Karpethian mountains, which separate it from Transylvania. Its extent from east to west is one hundred leagues; its breadth, in the direction of the meridian, is about fifty leagues. Half of this space, which expands towards its eastern portion, presents a succession of plains, watered by streams of considerable magnitude: the other half, namely, the northern, rises up towards the high mountains in an amphitheatre of hills, amidst which, a great abundance of water, and a most fertile vegetation, contribute to form the most agreeable sites.

Wallachia is not traversed by any navigable river. The swelling of the waters of the Bouzéo, the Rimnik,

and other torrents, often, as we ourselves experienced, suddenly inundate the plains through which they flow, but this uncertain and irregular force could never be applied to the necessities of trade. Streams of clear water flow down from the mountains of Wallachia, but they are not all equally salubrious, if we may judge so from the goitres by which the inhabitants of certain districts are disfigured. We have already observed, that in the open portion of the country, epidemic fevers are frequent; they are rarely, however, of a pernicious character. 4

The climate of Wallachia is of the most temperate kind; the winters are severe during only two months; and spring makes its appearance early, too early frequently, for it is accompanied with terrible inundations. The south-easterly winds, which bring with them the vapours of the Black Sea, prevail during the month of June, and the atmosphere is frequently disturbed by periodical storms. It was under such circumstances that we found ourselves in the midst of the vast steppes, which become utterly impassable, when the waters have remained long upon the land.

To the inexhaustible kindness of Prince Alexander Ghika we owe the following data, the accuracy of which cannot be doubted, the professors of the college in which the observations were made, being of acknowledged skill.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS MADE AT THE
COLLEGE OF ST. SAVA,

DURING THE YEARS 1834, 1835, AND 1836.

TEMPERATURE.

RÉAUMER'S THERMOMETER.

<i>Jan.</i> 1st fortnight, — 18° once.	<i>June</i> from +14° to +22°
Gen. Temp. from —10° to —15°	<i>July</i> „ +17° to +23°
2nd fortnight „ — 1° to —3°	<i>Aug.</i> „ +20° to +13°
<i>Feb.</i> 1st fortnight „ — 1° to —7°	<i>Sep.</i> „ +17° to +10°
2nd fortnight „ +1° to +13°	<i>Oct.</i> „ +14° to + 1°
<i>Mar.</i> „ +5° to +14°	<i>Nov.</i> „ + 8° to + 0°
<i>April</i> „ +4° to +17°	<i>Dec.</i> „ + 1° to + 9°
<i>May</i> „ +4° to +21°	

Barometer.—The height of the mercury varied throughout the year from 28 inches, 4 lines, French measure, to 21 inches, 11 lines. Once, in March, it stood at 29 inches; in September, at 29 and 3 lines; and in October at 29 inches.

DIRECTION OF THE WINDS DURING THE YEAR.

	Days.
North	7
North-east	5
East	121
South-east	12
South	46
South-east	19
West	56
North-west	37
Calm	62

The year presents :

IN WINTER.		IN SPRING.	
	Days.		Days.
Cloudy	16	Cloudy	17
Overcast	13	Overcast	8
Snow	16	Rain	12
Fog	4	Hoar Frost	2
Moist	3	Violent Winds	8
Hoar Frost	1	Fine	45
Fine	37		—
	90		92
	==		==

IN SUMMER.		IN AUTUMN.	
	Days.		Days.
Cloudy	8	Cloudy	6
Overcast	6	Overcast	16
Rain	8	Rain	12
Fog	2	Snow	7
Violent Winds	11	Violent Winds	3
Fine	57	Fine	45
	92		91
	==		==

It has been observed that meteors, especially in the level country, are not so common or so destructive as in other parts of Europe situated in the same latitudes. Every year the soil of Wallachia receives two or three shocks of earthquake, of greater or less violence, and every ten years really disastrous effects unfortunately occur from this visitation. The earthquake of 1802,

which overthrew the monastery of Koltza, is still remembered, as well as that of 1829, which violently shook the majority of buildings in Bukharest.

Since this was written, a more violent shock than any yet remembered with sorrow in the country, very nearly destroyed Bukharest. On the evening of the 23rd of January, 1838, the city shook, the most solid monuments tottered, several houses fell to ruins; all were damaged, and several individuals lost their lives. On this fearful occasion, when everything around was rocking or overthrown, surrounded by the wounded and dying, Prince Ghika, by dint of coolness, humanity, and courage, succeeded in restoring a feeling of security and hope among the despairing inhabitants.

The population of Wallachia, for so long a space uncertain and fluctuating, is daily growing more fixed and stable. This is the case with all communities in progress of civilization; their development awaits only the occurrence of favorable circumstances. We have already stated that the various castes composing the population, are divided into three classes: the Boyards, the Wallachian husbandmen, and the Tsigans. We need not repeat what we have before observed relative to the characteristics of each of these distinct classes; we will only add a few additional traits, which will complete our sketch of these people,

so various in character, yet destined to live under the same laws.

The Boyards, whose name is traced by some to a Slavonian word, signifying warrior, while others derive it from the Latin *bos*, an ox, referring the origin of this title to the time of the ancient Roman colonies, — the Boyards, we say, are the possessors of the territory; but they are far from deriving as much revenue as they might by a wise management from so rich a country, where the land requires but slight cultivation to be rendered productive. Exclusive masters of all public offices, exempt from all the burthens of the state, these proud noblemen, careless of the future, and great partizans of the past, have hitherto given themselves up to a life of sterile luxury. This luxury has undermined the fortunes of the whole class; it has perpetuated debt in establishments, which, by a wiser administration, should have laid the foundations of a solid wealth, that would have flowed through the entire mass of inhabitants.

The Boyards of the present day—more enlightened as to their true interests—are beginning sufficiently to take part in public affairs, to excite the hope that they will one day see the question of domestic economy in its right light, so nearly connected as it is with all wise management of public affairs. The superior

education given to the young nobility, is the guarantee of a better state of things in future ; but up to this time, the lives of the privileged class have remained impressed with that improvident fatalism which oriental customs, and an order of things so long precarious, had instilled into their habits. Nothing can be more elegant than their personal state and retinue, which is always somewhat theatrical; but if we remove from the presence of the chief of the house, and throw a glance at his tribe of tattered and idle retainers, at his equipages, too numerous to be elegant, at his vast and dilapidated mansion, we are struck with the melancholy and wretchedness lying beneath this appearance of luxury. The refined manners of the master, the gracious air and talents of the women of his family, the facility and correctness with which the languages of Central Europe are spoken by them ; the taste, the tact, the very frivolity of the conversation—everything combines to show that this society is equal to the most distinguished in Europe ; but, beyond the door of the drawing room, a filthy and repulsive crowd of idle servants and gipsies scattered about the ante-rooms, and sleeping on the very staircases, remind you that you are in Wallachia, and that all this civilization has not shaken off the muddy crust which envelops it, and deprives it of all its lustre.

The very appearance of the Wallachian peasant interests one in his favour; nor is this pre-possession ill-founded, when we reflect on the long series of misfortunes which have afflicted this pastoral people for so many centuries. There is much to be done for the improvement of the manners of this robust race of peasants, who seem to have been expressly created for the labours of the field. Like Virgil's husbandmen, they would be happy did they but know the benefits which Heaven has showered upon this beautiful Roman land, the object of their pride, but which can continue noble and truly Roman, only on condition of being rendered fertile and productive. *Magna parens frugum*. The Danube only awaits the grain of the Wallachian plains to pour fresh stores into the granaries of the Black Sea, and the Wallachians would produce much, and cheaply, could they rid themselves of their habits of idleness and intemperance, and their love of holidays, too frequent in the religious observances of the rustic population. To eradicate these deplorable habits, is the noblest task which an enlightened government can propose to itself.

We now come to the Gipsies, or Tsigans, as their Wallachian hosts call them—those wandering tribes known by as many names as there are countries in

Europe ; everywhere rejected, yet everywhere tolerated. Idlers and shameless thieves, haughty beggars, wrapt in ostentatious rags ; these unfortunate wretches exhibit, nevertheless, beneath the filth and brutish degradation of vice, the noblest and most refined physiognomies which the beautiful Caucasian type can present. The Tsigans of Wallachia, where they are very numerous, seemed to us to corroborate the opinion that they have been driven into Europe from the beautiful climate of India. There is a vast difference between the outward features of this race, and those which characterise the Gitanas of Spain, in whom the admixture of Moorish blood is manifest.

However the case may be, this exiled people are enabled to subsist in Wallachia more readily than in any other country, as it presents them the means of reconciling their natural indolence with the conditions necessary to ensure them the protection of the law. A portion of the Tsigan population live by labour ; to these is assigned the task of washing the auriferous sands borne down by the current of certain rivers, and it is with the produce of their patient toil at this employment, that they are enabled to pay the poll-tax. In the second class are found masons, blacksmiths, cooks, and locksmiths ; occupations which the Wallachian population disdain to follow ; but the greater portion

are consigned to servitude, and swell with their useless and mischievous numbers, the household of the Boyards. Lastly, the third class of this people, without a name, from having received so many, live in a state of vagabondage and mendicancy. Half clad, and exposed to the inclemency of the seasons, men and women encamp in the open air with a troop of hideous children, in whom it would be difficult to anticipate the handsome youths of both sexes, whom we see so graceful in form, and with so proud a deportment as soon as their precocious maturity is developed.

An article in the organic law of the principality ordains, however, that a fund shall be established for redeeming the Tsigans from vagrancy, and obliging them to build houses and dwell in them. This measure is beginning to be put in force.

We cannot more appropriately conclude these observations, than by a table of the census of the Wallachian population, drawn up at the end of 1837. It will show into what categories the various classes we have passed in review may be subdivided, and the proportions they bear to each other.

POPULATION.

NON TAX-PAYING FAMILIES.

	Families.
Boyards	944
Niamours and Postelnitzi, or inferior nobility . . .	4,195

	Families.
Priests of the Greek Church, almost all married	6,820
Deacons ditto	2,710
Persons connected with church establishments	2,920
Gipsies, servants of private individuals	14,158
Widows and infirm persons	13,127
Exempted for services rendered	1,078
Exempted by enlisting	3,436
Foreign subjects, the greater portion Catholics, Protestants, and Jews	3,729
The Jews are few in number; except in Bukharest, few or none are found in the districts.	
Total non tax-paying families	53,117

FAMILIES PAYING POLL-TAX, OR PATENT-RIGHT.

Agriculturists	272,974
Bulgarian emigrants	5,179
Mazils, (a species of privileged class)	3,258
Merchants and traders	4,810
Artisans	1,430
Gipsies belonging to the state (gold-gatherers)	5,635
Total population in families	349,403

At the rate of five to each family, the total popula- tion would be	1,747,015
Add to this—monks	2,648
Persons without fixed domicile	1,519
Grand total of the population	1,751,182

The agricultural resources of Wallachia would be immense, were there a sufficient population, and had its political education reached that point which it will one day attain, when it will have learned that the true sources of prosperity are labour and perseverance. As a portion of the agricultural statistics, it will perhaps not be without interest to give the result of the recent census of domestic animals, taken in 1837. It forms a starting point which, in a few years, probably, will be left far behind.

DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

Horses	96,885
Stallions* and mares	105,533
Oxen	310,948
Bulls	15,542
Cows	280,017
Mules	230
Asses	798
Tsigan sheep, with fine wool	93,332
Common sheep	704,840
Tsigan ewes	924,976
Common ewes	360,096
Goats	213,377
Pigs	345,428

The Wallachians bring up a race of magnificent and intelligent dogs, to assist them in tending their flocks; but the valuable qualities of these animals scarcely counterbalance the inconveniences which the unlimited

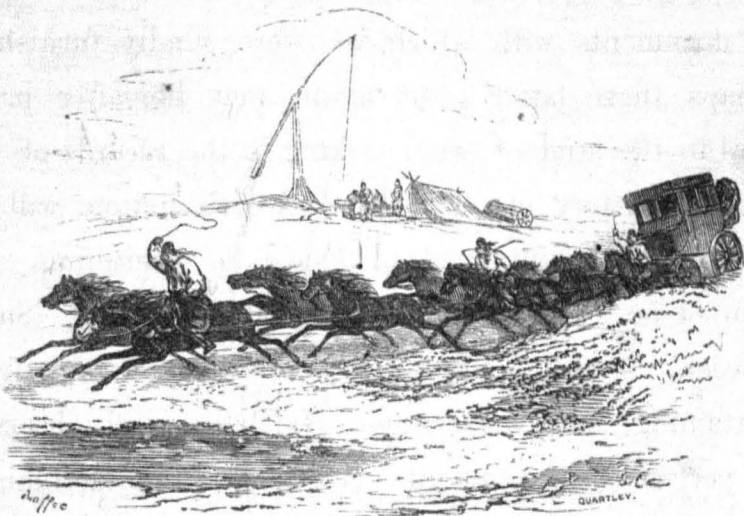
propagation of the canine race produces in the cities. Without mentioning the martyrdom of hearing, at the approach of night, the doleful howlings and angry growlings of the pack of dogs which invade the streets perfectly unmolested, there is real danger in finding one's-self alone, and without the defence of a good cudgel, exposed to become the object of a chase, from which, even with the nimbleness of a stag, it would be impossible to escape in safety. The safest plan, if you are armed with a cudgel, is, on the first demonstration of hostile intentions, to deal a good sounding blow on the nearest orator of the band. The remainder continue barking, but do not approach near enough to bite.

To bring this long enumeration to a close, with a fact having reference also to noxious animals, we will remind the reader that Wallachia is often invaded by clouds of grass-hoppers, laying waste in a few hours the richest lands. When the principality is afflicted with this visitation, the agricultural population is thrown into a state of despair, and premiums are offered by the government for the destruction of these devouring insects. During our stay at Bukharest, while I was in the closet of the minister of the interior, he communicated a report to us, announcing the capture, in one district, of two thousand eight hundred and thirty-one bushels of these destructive creatures.

We have now reached the extent of the notes collected by us during our few days' travel. Should they prove interesting, it will be due to the entirely new documents with which we were kindly furnished. Perhaps these latter observations may hereafter prove useful to the student, who, seeking in the records of the past the history of a happy and rich nation, will be astonished to find in so modest a beginning, the origin of an extended and influential prosperity. Such, at least, is the wish which none can refrain from entertaining, who have seen Wallachia, and observed the perfect fitness of its soil for all undertakings calculated to reward human labour.

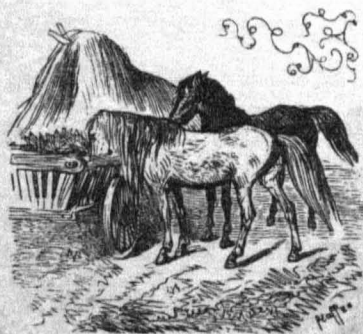
• After a few hours' repose at Fokschany, we crossed the little bridge which separated us from the Moldavian territory.





CHAPTER IV.

YASSY.—MOLDAVIA.—BESSARABIA.



MELANCHOLY as was the spectacle presented by the inundated plains of Wallachia, the valleys of Moldavia, bounded in the distance by rounded hills, presented neither more level roads or firmer ground. Hardly had we passed the frontier, than the rain redoubled in violence, so that on arriving at the shores of the Sereth, which runs a few

versts beyond Fokschany, we found a torrent very difficult to cross.

The Sereth rises in the mountains which bound Moldavia on the west, and descends to mingle its waters with those of the Barlat, which, in its turn, falls into the Danube, between Brahiloff and Galatz. At the same spot, the great branches of the German stream, the mouths of the Pruth, the lakes of Kagoul and of Yalpoutch, convert the whole country, as far as the Black Sea, into one immense marsh, intersected by a hundred rivers. These parallel streams invariably run from the north, and are finally lost in that labyrinth of waters, prairies, and sands, which make the navigation of the lower Danube, from Galatz to the sea, so difficult.

But to return to the Sereth. Its shores were inundated to such an extent that the approach to the bridge of boats was flooded to a great height, while the waters still continued rising rapidly. A train of about a hundred cars, heavily laden, and drawn by oxen, had already renounced the passage, and we had to make short work of it. During the crossing, which took us some time, on so narrow and unsteady a bridge, a number of half-naked men pressed on either side of our vehicles, acting as a support to them. Having at length reached *terra firma*, we were greeted by a

detachment of Moldavian gendarmerie, armed with lances, and headed by an officer; this little troop divided for the purpose of escorting us, and at each relay we found a fresh detachment. We owed this considerate attention to the recommendation which the estafettes of the Hospodar of Wallachia had, with great expedition, conveyed to the capital of Moldavia.

The day dragged on slowly, nothing happening to enliven its gloomy monotony, and the carriages moving with little speed. Our guides, in order to avoid the beaten roads, whose slippery surface would have proved an insurmountable obstacle, led us across the plains, where we could only make our way by trampling down the beautiful wild plants, whose stems, thick and tufted, grew to the height of a man. When the first excitement is over, nothing is more disheartening than a journey of this sort, in such unfavourable weather. The rain, like a thick cloud, prevented our enjoying any view of the country; our entire horizon being limited to about fifty steps round us. Unutterable dreariness! Nothing to divert the sight, but an eternal strip of green, intersected by ruts, to which the rain gave the appearance of miniature canals; and nothing to charm the ear, weary of silence, but the perpetual splashing of the horses' feet in the liquid mud. The post-houses were exactly like those in Wallachia: an enclosure

of brushwood, in the midst of which was erected a hut of a sugar-loaf form, a species of oven, always heated in rainy weather, the only issue for the smoke being through the door. In the enclosure were fifty or sixty horses, huddled closely together, motionless, with drooping ears, and receiving with true philosophy the rain, which fell in streams upon their shining backs. Our road followed, though at a distance, the course of the river Barlat, of which I have spoken already, flowing from the north in a direct line to unite itself to the Danube. Between the Barlat and the first western mountains, a vast plain extends in a series of green strips; and across it any path may be chosen, according to one's fancy. As we came near any village, we occasionally met with well cultivated fields; but it was impossible to see or study anything properly amidst the deluge of rain, which threw its own gloomy tinge over everything. Our station that night was Birlatou, chief town of the district, and apparently purposing to become a city, if we judge from the large plan on which its streets are laid out, complete in everything but houses and inhabitants. Birlatou may be pictured as a huge bog of clay, in which our horses sunk up to their stomachs! Our arrival at the portico of the Ispravnitzia, the residence of the chief of the district, was a regular disembarkation. The orders concerning us having

reached during the absence of that functionary, it was one of the subordinates, who, with a graciousness worthy of the master, did the honours of the house; a hospitality of which we stood much in need, after being so long deprived of both rest and sleep. To say the best of it, however, the establishment of the Ispravnik contained no other beds than two long canopies; but it would have ill become travellers in such a country to show themselves fastidious, and the floor of a room in which the greatest cleanliness shone, was soon converted by us into a very enduring bed.

On the 19th of July the sky cleared up, the roads became less impracticable, and we performed the various stages with great speed. Everywhere in Moldavia we met with young and active postillions, full of vigour and intrepidity. These horsemen, who vie with each other in swiftness, are dressed in linen, with a belt and cap of two contrasted colours. With one arm uplifted, body bent forward, and flowing hair, they never cease to send forth piercing cries, which they pique themselves in prolonging to the extent of their powerful lungs. There are three of them; and no sooner does one voice cease, than the other takes it up, each of the three voices relieving the other in turn. These wild cries, fully equivalent to the cracking of the whip, cease only at the post-house. Up hill or down hill, over plain or through

ravine, they clear all at the same speed, and we had immense trouble to get them to stop one of our carriages, when, having seen some birds at a convenient distance, we were prompted with a murderous intent. Moldavia is not wanting in birds of prey. These tyrants of the air hover incessantly in search of victims over the plains overgrown with high grass. In the neighbourhood of a few scattered clumps of trees we met with a bird which is called the rollier: it is in form like a small jay, and its plumage is entirely of a superb blue, reflecting many brilliant colours. This bird is extremely wild, and is not easily approached: its capture would have cost us too much time. What consoled us, however, for not having the bird was, that we already possessed its plumage, having procured it in Wallachia.

The country through which we now travelled was incomparably more beautiful than any we had seen passing through Wallachia. Moldavia does not present the same barren and naked aspect as the plains of Giourjévo. The country is not without variety; and though trees are only rarely met with, the ground is so clad with verdure, so abundantly watered by springs, and, above all, so well adapted for every kind of produce, that it is a matter of regret a spot so favoured by nature, should not be fertilized by the labour of man.

When it is considered how many countries in Europe there are in which the agriculturist has to contend against the encroachments of mountain, rock, and marsh, to secure a soil which can only be rendered fruitful by painful toil and persevering industry, it becomes a source of deep regret that such vast regions, prepared by nature for the work of the ploughshare only, should remain barren for want of hands. From Pesth the Danube waters, one may say, nothing but a succession of abandoned plains. The stream, in the first place, whose frequent inundations overwhelm this devastated land, then war, more terrible still, and more insensible, and lastly, oppression, more odious than war itself, have brought ruin to these countries. Hence is it, that such excellent germs of prosperity have been hitherto miserably blighted. As you traverse these deserts, where neither ploughed land nor crops are seen, you are tempted to pity the people who dwell on such a soil, and to wonder from what source they draw their subsistence. Nevertheless, the inhabitants of Wallachia and of Moldavia find their harvest amply sufficient for the supply of all their wants, and frequently beyond them; for the population is so scanty that many of the lands must remain waste. When this country shall have labourers to make it bear, and men to consume its produce, then, only, will cultivation spread itself and fertilize this vast territory, which

for so many centuries has not felt the ploughshare. From this source would arise many other branches of industry. In the present day, when the legal regulations of the principalities hold out protection to all modes of existence, and to all producers, some good colonies of agriculturists would prove an essential benefit to Moldavia. The new system of organization, which confers the same rights on emigrants as on natives, except those of a political nature, which can be purchased on certain conditions only, appeared to us well calculated to encourage enterprises tending to further the future welfare and prosperity of these lands. The chief obstacle to the agricultural progress of this country will be found, most decidedly, in the wretched condition of the roads, and in the difficulty of remedying this evil. Considering that leagues are travelled over without a sign of the smallest pebble, the construction of roads, solid and firm in all seasons, is no easy matter. So long as dry weather continues, nothing checks the communications, which are as rapid as they are active. The plain is wide, and open for all to choose a pathway. The *caroussi*, carried away by the swiftness of their horses, cross it in a direct line, whilst the heavy waggons with their oxen file off in long trains upon a more secure and already beaten road: let but a few showers, however, fall upon it, the boggy earth, so deep and rich, becomes

suddenly liquified, and the greatest lightness and celerity are necessary to get over the surface. No equipage of a moderate weight can have a chance of moving but at an extremely slow pace.

We were, meanwhile, approaching the capital of Moldavia. We not only cleared the last two stages with wonderful speed, but the harnessing of our horses was now performed with marvellous expedition—thanks to a courier who went in estafette before us, and whose authority seemed to command about him a very unusual degree of activity. Our eyes now feasted at last on a lofty mountain, whose sandy soil abounded with beautiful trees; and as we were ascending with much toil, a storm burst impetuously over us. From the summit of this mountain Yassy could be discovered in the plain beneath, as yet unveiled by the gathering clouds, and lit up by a sunbeam. The aspect of this town from afar is very agreeable, situated as it is in the plain, and surrounded by verdant hillocks. Yassy occupies a large space, with its white houses in the midst of gardens, its shining spires and high buildings with green roofs. The storm was still raging furiously during our slow and perilous descent, and throughout our last stage, until we entered Yassy, which we found in a state of inundation. An escort of twelve horsemen awaited us at the gate of the capital, and we made our entry by a long street

rudely paved with thick planks. The water in this street was a foot deep; but the shops are, with a view to this, prudently raised above the ground by steps or a raised footway. The doors and windows were thronged with an inquisitive crowd, principally Jews. These worthy merchants thought themselves bound respectfully to salute our equipages, streaming with rain and mud. It was a question, whether we owed this general politeness to our escort, bearing witness to the honourable attentions of the Hospodar; or whether these good Israelites, seeing the extent of our party, hailed in us a fortunate arrival, from which some profit might be drawn.

. After crossing many streets, which in truth were so many running streams, we arrived at length at the hotel of St. Petersburg, where we met with every proof of the most obliging consideration. Several officers received us; a guard of gendarmes was placed at our disposal, to keep watch over our carriages. Added to this, a visit from the Aga himself, in his rich oriental costume, offering us his services, proved that at Yassy, as at Bukharest, we were protected by the most hospitable kindness. The sumptuous style of the hotel we now occupied was more than needful for its purposes; but with all the grandeur and splendid arrangement of the rooms, and the paintings which so profusely cover their

walls, it offers none of the requisites for repairing the fatigues and disorder of a long journey. In these fine saloons, we had no other bed than a billiard table, which fell to the lot of four of our party; the rest had to put up with couches scantily furnished with straw. No accessory comforts alleviated the hardships of this truly Spartan encampment. On beholding the handsome uniforms of many of our numerous circle occupying this saloon, it might have passed for part of a palace; and one would certainly never have suspected that its occupants were vainly pining for the necessaries which the humblest traveller meets with in the most miserable village inn. Nevertheless, we were soon doing the honours of this splendid misery to the highest individuals of the town of Yassy. While still in the thorough disorder of a recent arrival, we were visited by the Prince Soutzo, logothetes of the Interior, whose talents and distinguished manners are justly appreciated in Moldavia. During the few moments I was able to converse with this high functionary, I gathered from him so much information on the condition of the country, that I would not allow him to go, until he had promised to forward to me authentic documents of the actual position of affairs in Moldavia, compared with the previous order of things terminated by the treaty of Adrianople. These valuable notes were effectually

sent to me, with a punctuality and liberality deserving my sincere gratitude. The extract which I have inserted further on was curtailed with regret, to meet the proportions of our chapters; nevertheless it presents an exact summary of the regulations of this principality under its two different phases:—the tyranny of the subaltern agents of the Porte, and the emancipation beneath the protecting shield of enlightened laws and governors.

Early on the morrow, July 20th, we paid a visit to the Hospodar, or Sovereign of Moldavia. Prince Stourdza, who owes his eminent position to election, is the first who was called to exercise sovereignty by virtue of the new organisation, and to put into practice the laws of government so happily originated by Gen. Count Kisseleff. The dwelling of the Hospodar is not an imposing building. The ancient palace, destroyed in 1827 by a dreadful fire, which burnt down two-thirds of the town, covers with its ruins a long hill which commands Yassy. In the absence of any architectural beauties, the sovereign surrounds himself with military display, and the palace is guarded by numerous sentinels. We met with the kindest reception from the prince; and pipes having been introduced, the indispensable preliminary of every interview which the Hospodar intends to prolong, a conversation ensued, in which Prince

Stourdza exhibited a considerable command of language, and an uncommon degree of instruction. The present condition of the regenerated principalities, the working of the regulative government, as the present form of administration is called, the remarkable progress already observable in the public welfare, and the exertions yet to be made in order to attain the desired state of prosperity, were the topics touched upon in our conference, which proved extremely instructive to us as strangers. The prince manifested, more than once, sentiments of the deepest devotion to his people, whom he sees, with sincere sorrow, still subjected to an annual tribute exacted from the principality by Turkey. If the Porte, he said, should ever consent to liberate Moldavia from this heavy burden, he would be prepared to sacrifice his own fortune in order to expedite the advancement of this wretched people, whose sufferings have been so prolonged. Assuredly, such intentions are as honorable as they are rare, and presage a better future for this people. The Hospodar devotes himself with activity and perseverance to public business, and although his health is not always adequate to the noble task he has undertaken, he still perseveres with courage in fulfilling the arduous mission which the election of his fellow-countrymen has imposed upon him. The personal appearance of the prince manifests the effects of his physical

sufferings, kept under by the determination of his character; scarcely forty years of age, he yet bears in his countenance the traces of his heavy cares. The Hospodar is married to a Greek princess of Constantinople, and is the father of two sons, who are being educated at Berlin.

We intended to stay so short a time at Yassy, that we scarcely had the opportunity of receiving all the visits we were honoured with.

Prince Stourdza, however, was kind enough to come in person to our own hotel; and during our sojourn, we were overwhelmed with every mark of kindness and attention; to such an extent, that our meals were more than once enlivened by the Hungarian band of the mining corps. The frugality of our fare was in accordance with the rules of the most rigorous diet, for it might not be that the luxury of our entertainments should war with the simplicity of the furniture.

We were close to the Russian frontier, and we knew that in crossing it, we could not escape quarantine. Fourteen days is the prescribed period: as, however, a fate one cannot avoid should be borne with good grace, we unanimously resolved to enter the lazaretto within the shortest possible time. The twenty-first was at once fixed for the accomplishment of this indispensable and philanthropic incarceration. We had, therefore, only a

few hours to dispose of, to gain an idea of the Moldavian capital. Yassy, as before said, covers a considerable space with its streets and houses, abounding in gardens to a greater extent even than Bukharest. The general appearance of this city is pleasing; the modern constructions recommend themselves by their tasteful style and clean exterior, not exhibited by any of the more ancient buildings. Some of the streets are wide and long, and in certain quarters a pavement has been substituted for the expensive and uncomfortable boarding with which the public road was formerly covered. Here, as in Wallachia, the scarcity of material renders it almost impossible to build monuments of any importance; and yet Yassy possesses several remarkable churches, and some houses belonging to rich Boyards, which present the appearance of complete mansions, in perfect order. The external aspect of this city offers much fewer traces of the oriental style than that of Bukharest. True, the fire in 1829, by destroying the ancient edifices, made way for modern architecture, which in its forms has adopted the style prevalent in the neighbouring cities of New Russia. This capital had scarcely risen from its ashes, when, in 1829, it was desolated by contagious disease. Two years after, the cholera, that horrible rival of the plague, fell upon Yassy, decimating its population; and yet it was under these trying circumstances, amidst

death and destruction, that the seeds of political and social regeneration were emplanté in the Moldavian soil. But when such obstacles have been overcome, to what glory is not the conqueror entitled! and when we see this flourishing town, with its streets daily growing more numerous, filled with intelligent and busy traders, we cannot fail to feel gratitude and respect for the author of so many benefits.

The principal street in this city is inhabited by a tribe of merchants, money-changers, brokers, and business people of all sorts—all children of Israel. These indefatigable traders are at Yassy, what they are everywhere else, insensible to insult, and ardent in the pursuit of gain. In the ancient portion of the street a gallery, supported by slight wooden pillars, serves to shelter the shops; here we see the Jews, seated at the threshold of their doors, eyeing wistfully the passing customer, and chinking a handful of rubles, to announce their vocation of money-changers. Stuffs, woollen goods, and German and English hardware, furnish the shelves of these shops; and, strange to say, a French library and reading-room have somehow strayed beneath this colonnade, so entirely usurped by the commerce of Israel. Yassy is not rich in churches, like Bukharest; whether it be owing to the fact that the boyards of ancient times had fewer ill deeds to atone for than those of Wallachia, or from

a deficiency of faith, the capital of Moldavia does not reckon a large number of religious edifices; however, among those it does possess, there is one of remarkable elegance, and altogether too curious a monument to be passed over by the traveller. According to the custom of the country, it is surrounded by a spacious monastery, formerly fortified, and dedicated to three saints—St. Basil, St. John Chrysostom, and St. Gregory the Theosophist. The church is constructed of fine stone, and surmounted by two slender turrets; the entire face of the edifice is studded with arabesques, sculptured in relief upon each layer of stones, and admirably varied. Its narrow windows scarcely allow a few feeble gleams of light to penetrate into the interior, where they struggle for mastery with the sacred lamps burning night and day beneath the arches of its three naves. The gloomy walls of the sanctuary are covered with frescoes, remarkably primitive in style. This rich chapel, which was founded by the Voïevode Basil, about the year 1622, was once entirely gilt in the interior; but in the time of the Tatar and barbarian incursions, it was three times subjected to fire and pillage; added to which, in 1802, an earthquake reduced it almost entirely to ruins. The church of the three saints, Tresphetitili, as it is called in Yassy, formerly possessed a valuable treasure, some relics of which are still extant. One of the most curious of

these is, without gainsay, the collection of pictures embroidered by the Princess Theodosia, the wife of Basil, the pious founder of the church. Among these works, executed with wonderful perfection, is a portrait, the size of life, of the princess herself, the skilful artist who has thrown so life-like an air over these pictures wrought in gold, silk and velvet. Next to her is her son, the first-born of her twenty-seven children. The Boyard costume which appears in this naïf performance is much more akin to the Hungarian dress than the oriental. Within the rich basilica of this church, the portrait of the voïevode was formerly preserved, but was removed by an unknown hand twenty years ago; if, however, this portrait of Prince Basil, owing to its intrinsic value, fell a victim to an impious thief, there fortunately still remains intact a fresco, upon which the features of the voïevode may be contemplated in the midst of one of his most triumphant acts of devotion—when, his church being finished, he holds up the whole building in his left hand, presenting it to its three patrons, who are showering down their blessings from the arch of Heaven. Nor is this all; the temple once completed, Basil, in the ardour of his Christian zeal, resolved to sanctify it a second time. For a long period, the relics of San Veneranda had been in the profane possession of the Turks; but Basil found the means of rescuing

them from the hands of the infidels, and these venerated remains were brought in triumph into Christian land; the Sultan himself condescending to escort them to the confines of the empire. Such, at least, is the pious legend illustrated by a painting in two compartments, hanging above the remarkably splendid shrine in which the relics are exposed to the faithful.

What more can be said of Yassy, where we passed so few and such fleeting hours! It did not befall us, as in Bukharest, to be present at any of those private *réunions*, in which the true character of a society may be seized in the freedom of general intercourse. As far as we could judge from the persons who honoured us with visits, knowledge and education are not despised among them. The college, attended by young people of good family, is daily progressing. There are three printing establishments in Yassy, employing eleven presses, three of which are applied to the printing of Russian, French, and modern Greek. Within the last few years, a society of natural philosophy and medical science has been established, and its labours have already produced a favourable effect on the intellectual advancement of the public. And, as though it had been generally concerted to show us every mark of kindness and attention, this learned society, taking into consideration the scientific object of our expedition, did us the honour to present my

companions and myself with diplomas of foreign associates. A zoological collection, as yet not much advanced, is the object of the enlightened attention of the Government; and it is proposed to add to it a menagerie, so that there is every hope that Yassy will in a few years furnish its contingent to the great scientific association of Europe, and devote itself in turn to those noble studies which find in the countries of the East a subject of daily growing interest.

But we had soon taken leave of this city; and after having crossed several steep hills, we perceived the sinuous course of the Pruth, and the twofold village of Skoulani—one Moldavian, the other Russian—divided into two by the stream, which now separates the principality from the territories of the empire. In this very spot, a few years since, was enacted a scene as touching as it was solemn: an entire people escorted General Kisseleff, amidst their blessings, back to the confines of Moldavia, of which he had been the guardian and saviour. When the temporary president left the Moldavian shore, he was followed by farewell benedictions, mingled with tears; nor could he, as he gazed for the last time on the country whose welfare he had ensured, refrain from weeping. Precious tears were those! springing from an honest and devoted heart;—touching adieu of the soldier and the legislator, to the country of his

adoption, which he had served with his arm and with his counsels !

The authorities directing the quarantine had been apprised beforehand of our approach, and had prepared lodgings for us in the most melancholy of lazarettos. The sanitary establishment of Skoulani occupies a large space, on a low and damp tract, the level of which barely rises above that of the waters of the Pruth, flowing at no great distance from its walls. At the least rise in the waters, the quarantine is inundated ; and this had occurred a very few days before our arrival. Nine small buildings of clay, covered with cane, compose this lazaretto ; they are ranged round a spacious courtyard, in which a few cherry trees have been planted. Each house has a separate enclosure ; and the entrance is secured by a gate, made of planks : here the carriages are left in the open air, the horses remaining also without shelter. The houses consist only of one floor, which is damp and sandy ; they are divided into two or three small apartments, and are under the inspection of a keeper, an old soldier. We were quartered in three of these dens ; and each resigned himself, as best he could, to this hermit-like discipline.

Nothing is more favourable than this life of solitude, or rather of tedium, to labours which require some concentration of mind. Accordingly, it was impossible

any of us could be better disposed for study; and we began to collect together our notes. The result of these labours, it appeared to me, would be most fittingly introduced at the time when we were leaving Moldavia, and entering the territory of the empire. Let us give a glance, therefore, at the country we have left behind; at its history, its condition—past, present, and (what shall prevent it?) to come.

The early history of Moldavia is linked in the closest manner with that of Wallachia, of which a few words were said in the foregoing chapter. Scythian, Sarmatian, Dacian, Roman, Barbarian, and lastly, Slavonian, by turns, Moldavia long shared the fate of the neighbouring province. For a long time forming but one body, they did not become twin sisters until the twelfth century. It will be remembered that a number of Tatar hordes, obedient to no law save pillage and devastation, had descended upon these countries, whose inhabitants had emigrated in thousands to Hungary, leaving the soil in the hands of the depredators. Two large colonies were formed by the fugitives, at Fagaratch, and at Mamaroch. The first was composed of the people who afterwards formed Wallachia; the second consisted of emigrants from the eastern portion of the country, who subsequently became Moldavians. When the torrent of Tatars, sweeping over the principalities, had converted them into

a wilderness, they withdrew, and left the wasted fields at the disposal of their former possessors. These, however, would never have contemplated returning to their lost country, had not a fresh invasion, directed this time upon Hungary, driven them from their settlements. Batou-Khan and his Tatars, having fallen upon this kingdom, the dismayed colonists bethought them of their native land—the mountains of their forefathers; and thither they bent their steps. While Rodolf the Black led back the settlers of Fagaratch into Wallachia, Bogdan, chief of the settlement at Mamaroch, directed his march to the country adjoining the Pruth; and both taking the title of voievode, which they submitted to the suzerainty of Hungary—following a policy commonly adopted by the oppressed—founded the two states, which since then have almost always remained separate one from the other.

About this period, Moldavia received its name from the river which flows through it—the Moldau: subsequently, it was also designated by the name of Bogdania, in memory of Bogdan, its founder; and even to this day it is thus called by the Turks.

For a long time the principalities struggled—now against Hungary, whose suzerainty weighed heavily sometimes on certain adventurous voievodes; now against the Porte, whose increasing pretensions roused their indignation. But when, in 1526, the celebrated

battle of Mohacs delivered Hungary to the Mussulman yoke, Moldavia, enveloped in the same disaster, became tributary to the Sultan, and was forced into a treaty similar to that by which Wallachia was bound.

Towards the end of the sixteenth century, Moldavia, freed for a while from the dominion of the Porte, fell beneath the oppressive hand of Sigismund of Transylvania. This prince, then powerful and formidable, appointed voievodes, and levied tributes. But Moldavia was soon forced to bend once more beneath the yoke of the Sultan, who punished her imprudent rebellion by exactions more extortionate than before. From this date commenced, for both the principalities, an era of indolence, uncertainty and discouragement. Although the voievodes continued to be named by the boyards with a vain form of election, it was in reality by the Divan of Constantinople that these princes, the obedient vassals of the Porte, were chosen, and frequently, at its caprice, deprived of power and of life. This state of things long continued to prevail, and it was not till a comparatively recent period that a voievode of Wallachia, Bessarab, a man of enterprise, but wanting in courage and perseverance, formed a league with Austria in the first instance, and subsequently with Russia, with the object of making war on the Turks. Bessarab, exposed to the vengeance of the Sultan, was on the point of

being drawn into a snare by a voïevode of Moldavia whom the Divan had sent to Yassy on a mission of death, when it fell out that this voïevode himself, by name Demetrius Cantimir, followed the example of Bessarab, and even exceeded it; for, less irresolute than that prince, he delivered up the capital of Moldavia to Peter the Great. This might, perhaps, have proved a decisive blow to the Ottoman power, but the Russians were obliged to desist from their designs. Bessarab, by a fresh act of treason; suddenly yielded submission to the Sultan, and, as we had occasion to mention elsewhere, forfeited his life to his ill-timed wavering. The other voïevode had found time to fly from the fate which awaited him, and had sought a refuge in Russia.

From this time, Moldavia shared in every respect the destiny of the neighbouring principality. In common with Wallachia, and to a greater extent perhaps, she was exposed to the oppression of Turkey, and to the ill-usage of its pashas. Subsequently, to the end of the last century, however, the protection of Russia effected by degrees some amendment of this deplorable state of things. Each new treaty signed by our Empire with the Porte ensured some fresh guarantee favourable to the condition of the principalities.

The progress was slow, it is true; for it was dependent on political events, and impeded by misadventures of

every kind which several times threw the question back to its original conditions. But notwithstanding so many calamities, despite the fatal insurrection of Ypsilanti, who had taken up arms in the very church of the Tresphetitili, which we have described—an insurrection the consequences of which were incalculably fatal to Moldavia—there was yet a sensible amelioration up to the Treaty of Adrianople, which gave a decided impulse to the present and future improvement of these countries.

What Moldavia was previous to this epoch, and what she is in the present day under her new legitimate government—such is the interesting picture which the useful documents I have mentioned enable me to trace.

Long before the campaign of 1822, Moldavia was still subject to a system of rule in which nothing was regular, nothing stable, and which exhibited the recklessness and rapacity ever accompanying an ill-established government. The unavoidable ascendancy of the suzerain power, and the influence of the neighbouring pashas manifested themselves through the vain forms of a Christian administration. Moldavia was bound to supply the capital of the Ottoman Empire with timber for building purposes, live stock and corn, at prices little better than arbitrary. It was the master himself who stated beforehand at what price these contributions

should be supplied, and having once fixed the price according to its gracious pleasure and rapacity, the Porte let loose its commissaries, who forcibly purchased all the merchandise subject to the tariff.

The maintenance of order in the interior was confided to the Turkish guards (*bechlis*) stationed in all the towns, to the great injury of the unfortunate people whom they were supposed to protect. The fortresses occupied by the Ottoman garrisons on the left bank of the Danube, exercised their influence exclusively over a more or less extended a circle, and overwhelmed the inhabitants with their extortions. The internal government was animated by no principles of protection and guardianship; a temporary Hospodar, foreign to the manners and usages of the country, ruled it according to his gracious pleasure. The necessity of propitiating, by numerous presents, the good-will of the Porte, and of its pashas, and the uncertain tenure of their power, imposed upon these princes the necessity of taking every possible advantage of their ephemeral authority. It is astonishing, that even under the degrading influence of such a position, they should from time to time have founded the few durable institutions which honour the memory of some among them. But with the exception of these rare benefits, their absolute authority was only tempered by the participation of the boyards in public affairs, an impotent counterpoise, for these almost always, for the