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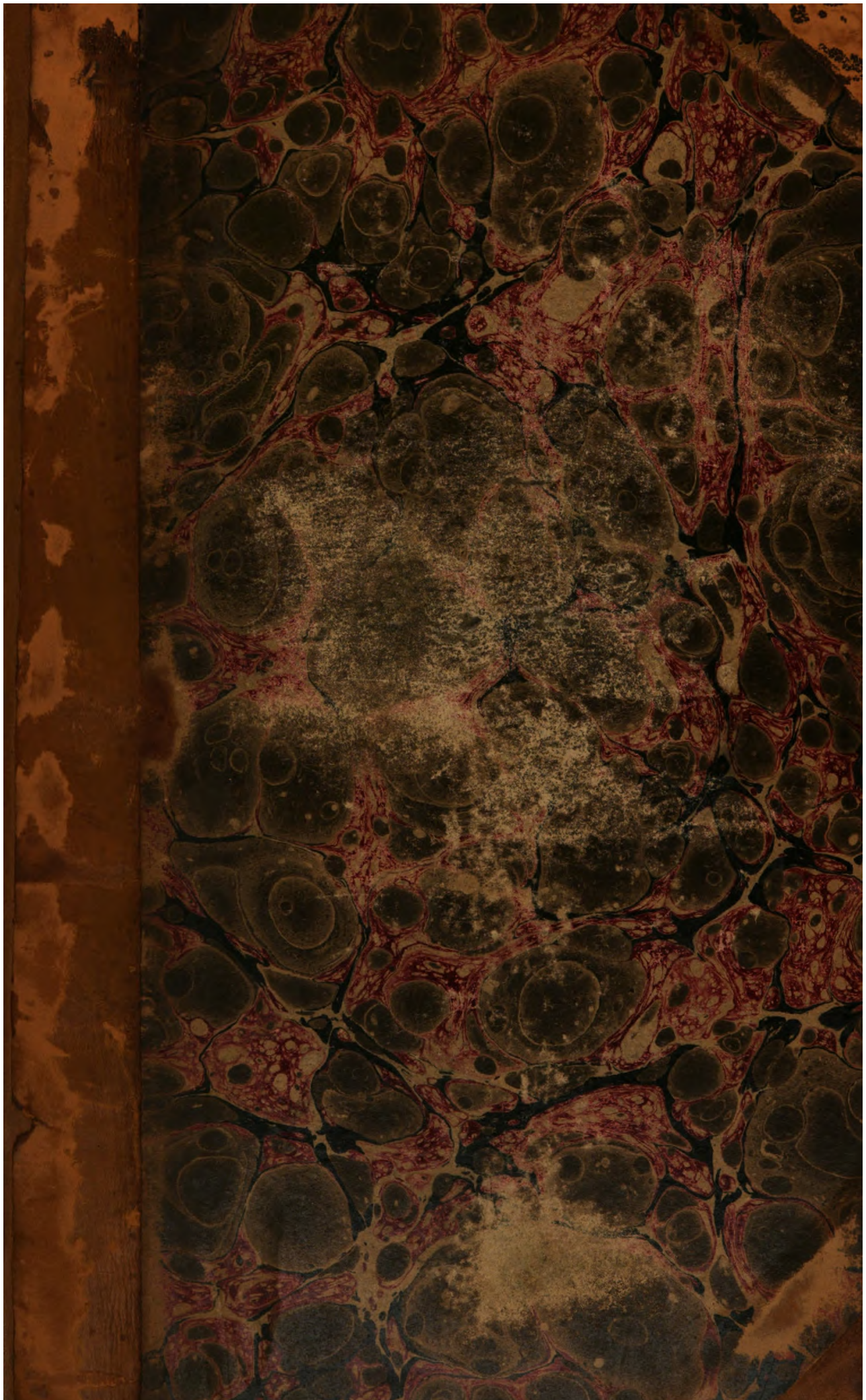
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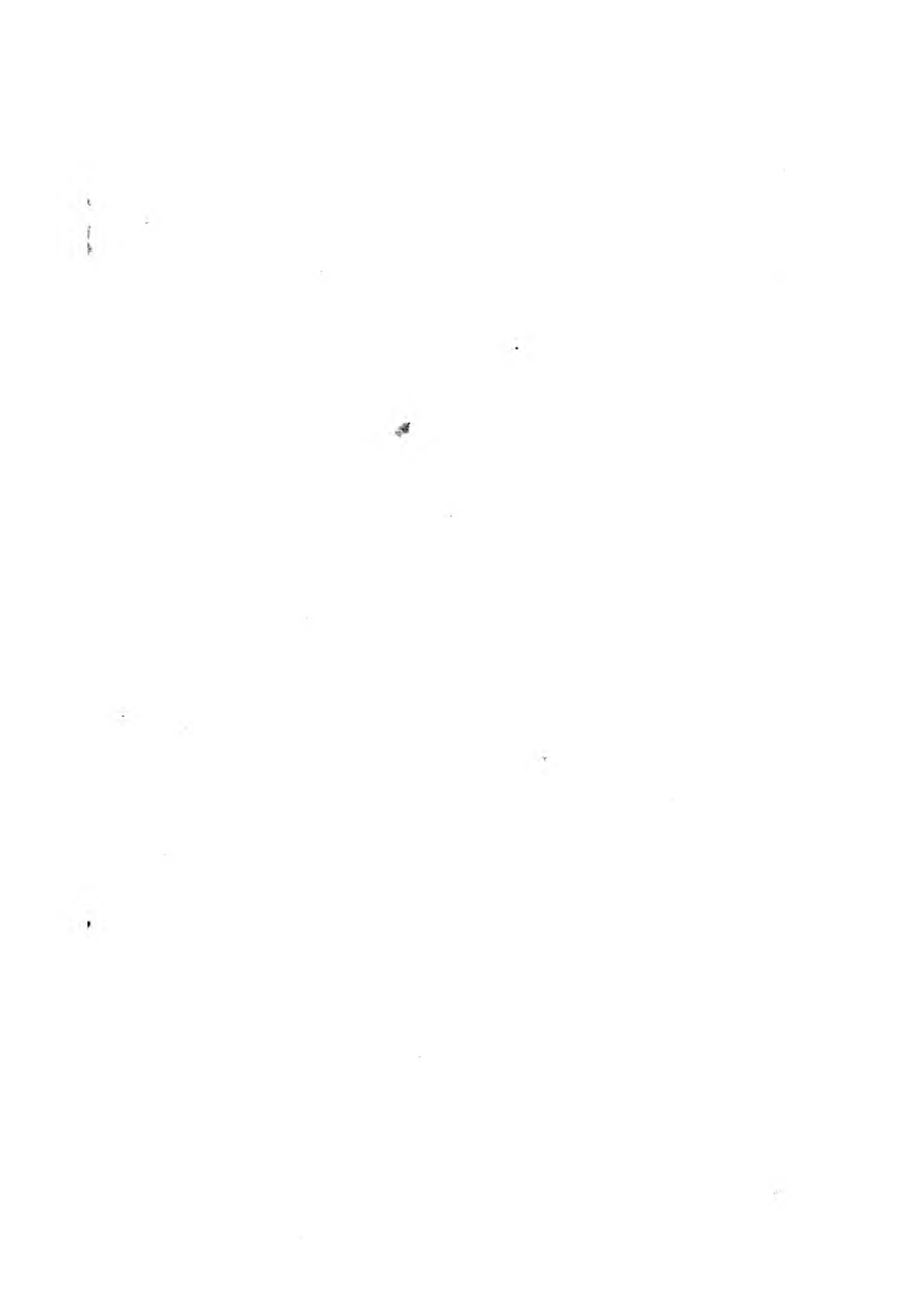
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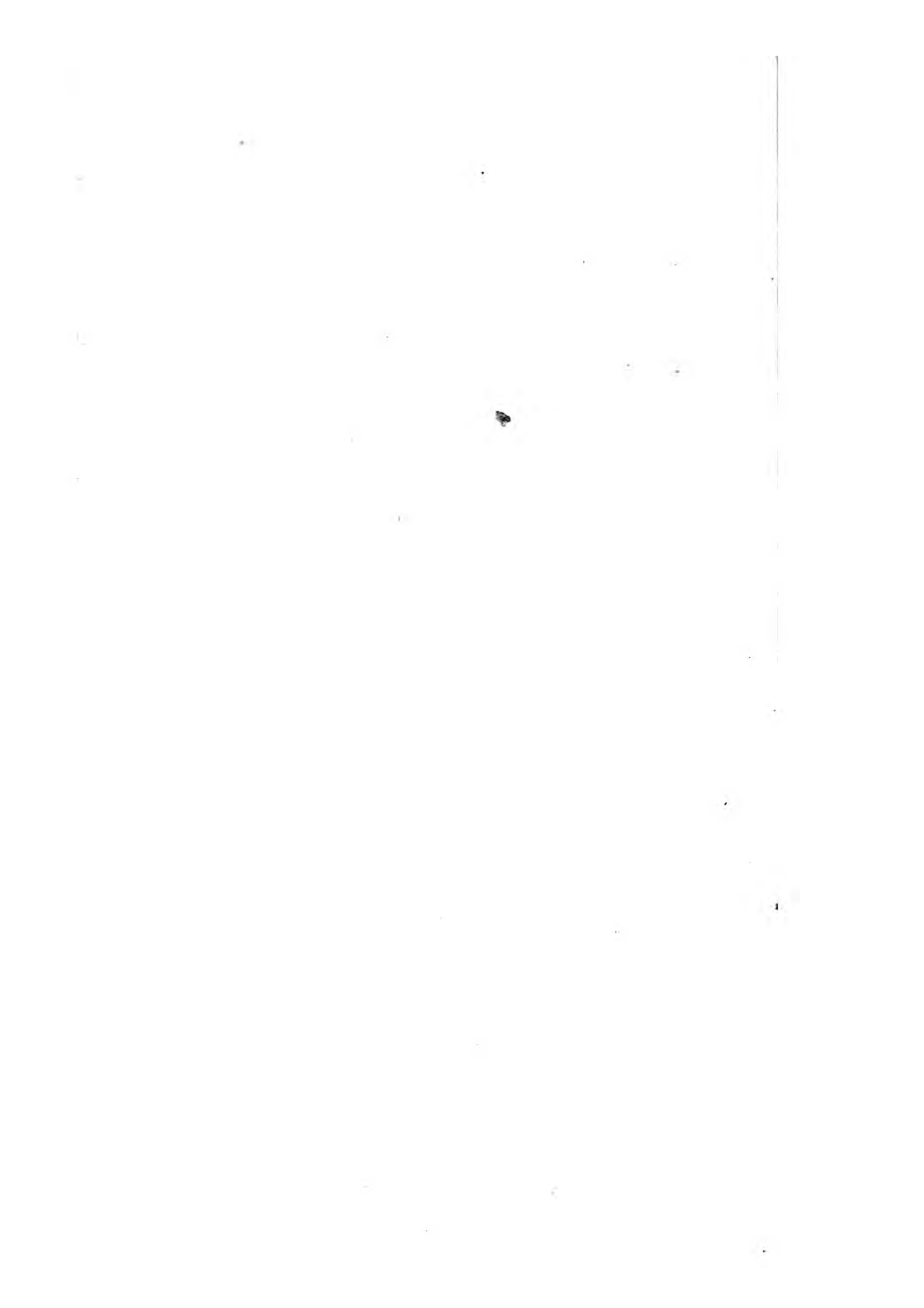
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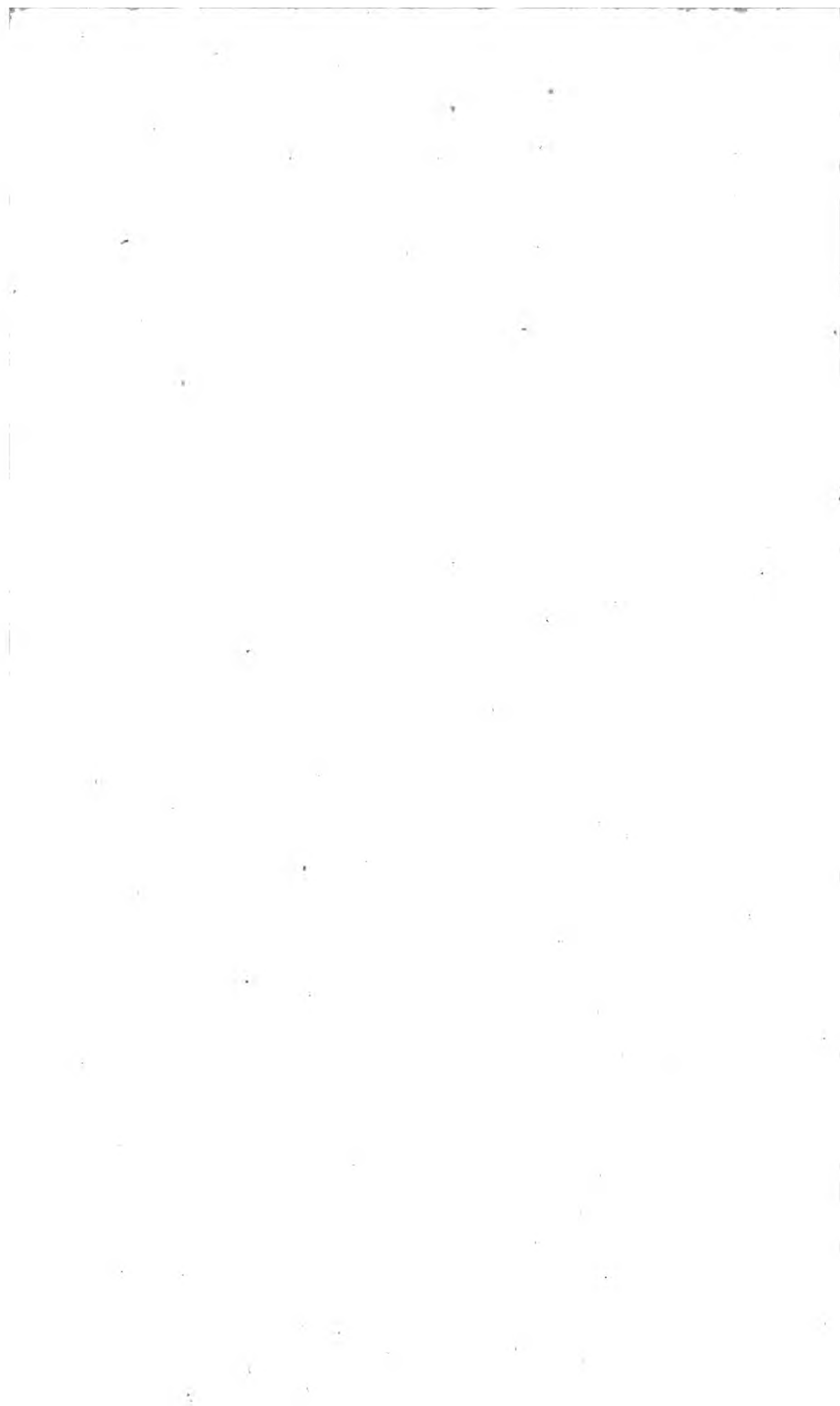
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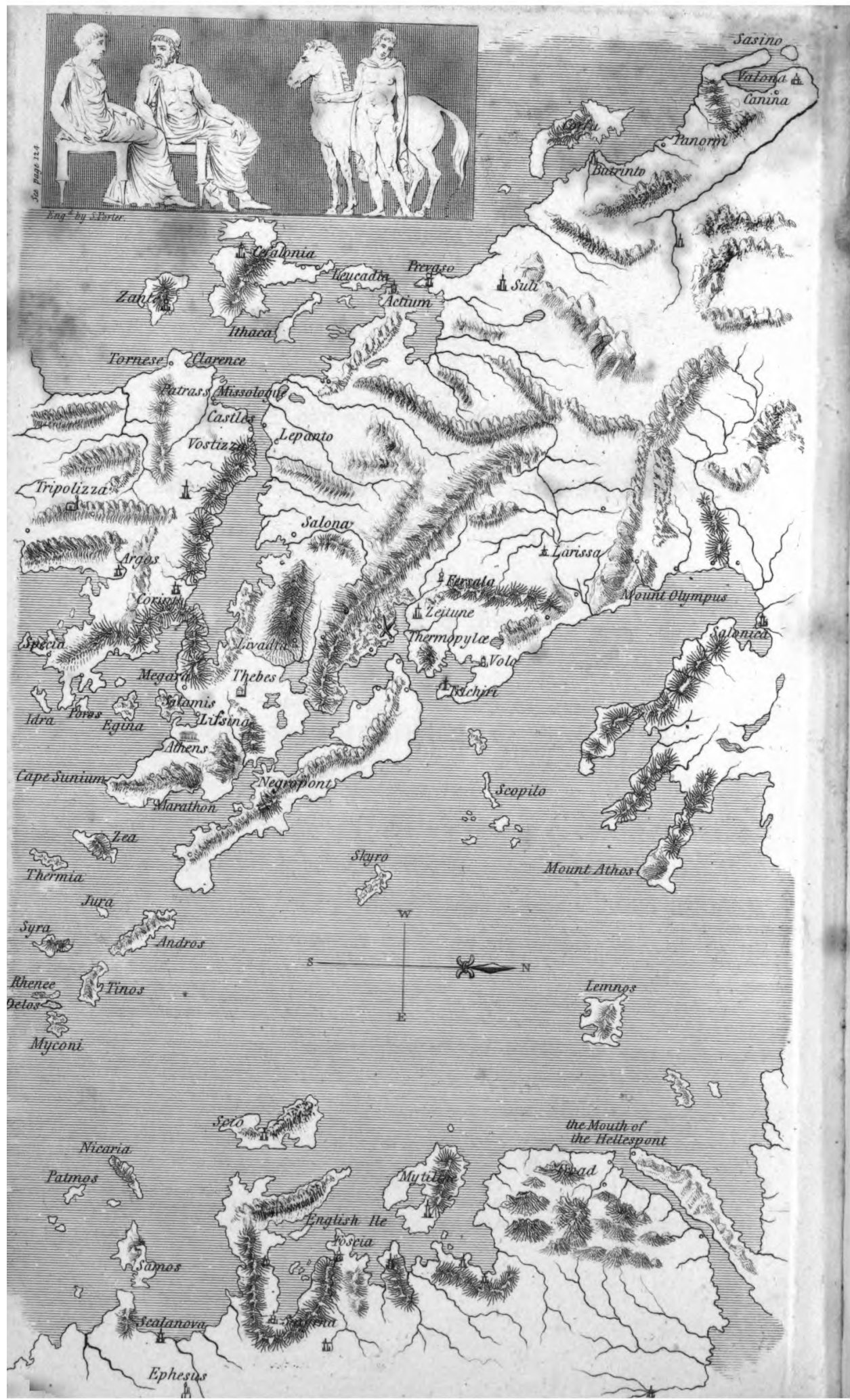






See page 127

Eng<sup>d</sup> by J. Fortia



LETTERS  
FROM  
THE LEVANT;

CONTAINING VIEWS OF THE  
STATE OF SOCIETY, MANNERS, OPINIONS,  
AND COMMERCE,  
IN  
GREECE,  
AND  
SEVERAL OF THE PRINCIPAL ISLANDS  
OF THE  
ARCHIPELAGO.

—  
INSCRIBED TO THE PRINCE KOSLOVSKY.  
—

By JOHN GALT.

---

LONDON:  
PRINTED FOR T. CADELL AND W. DAVIES, STRAND.  
1813.





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Printed by NICHOLS, SON, and BENTLEY,  
Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY  
**THE PRINCE PETER KOSLOVSKY,**  
MEMBER OF THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOUR;  
DOCTOR OF LAWS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD;  
COUNSELLOR OF STATE,  
CHAMBERLAIN TO THE EMPEROR,  
KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF ST. VOLODIMER,  
IN RUSSIA;  
AND RUSSIAN ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY  
AND MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY  
AT THE COURT OF SARDINIA.



---

**I WILL** explain the reasons which induce me to dedicate this work to your Excellency, and to emblazon so small a mark of my regard with so many of your titles.

Accident originally led you to offer me the honour of your acquaintance. Since that time many events have been developed, of which we then thought the seeds were discernible in the policy of France. Among the variety of their effects was your visit to England, in the course of which you had the condescension to seek me out, and to treat me with a degree of confidence that could

not fail to make a deep impression on a disposition which cherishes, with devout feelings, the remembrance of any kindness. It is therefore natural that I should be anxious to evince my sense of the honour done me, and in the opportunity of prefixing your titles, to inform the public how much it is indeed an honour which I ought to esteem.

It will surprise some of your friends in this country to learn that you are a member of the Legion of Honour, for it was characteristic of you to conceal a distinction conferred on account of your benevolence. It will surprise yourself, however, more that I should think of enumerating it, as constituting one of your rights to respect. But is there nothing extraordinary in that humanity to which the Emperor Napoleon felt himself obliged to do homage?

Your title of Doctor of Laws imposes upon me the necessity of adverting to some expressions in the subsequent pages, which may be deemed derogatory to the venerable University which bestowed on you that degree, although you are too intimately acquainted with my political sentiments to put on any loose expression such a con-

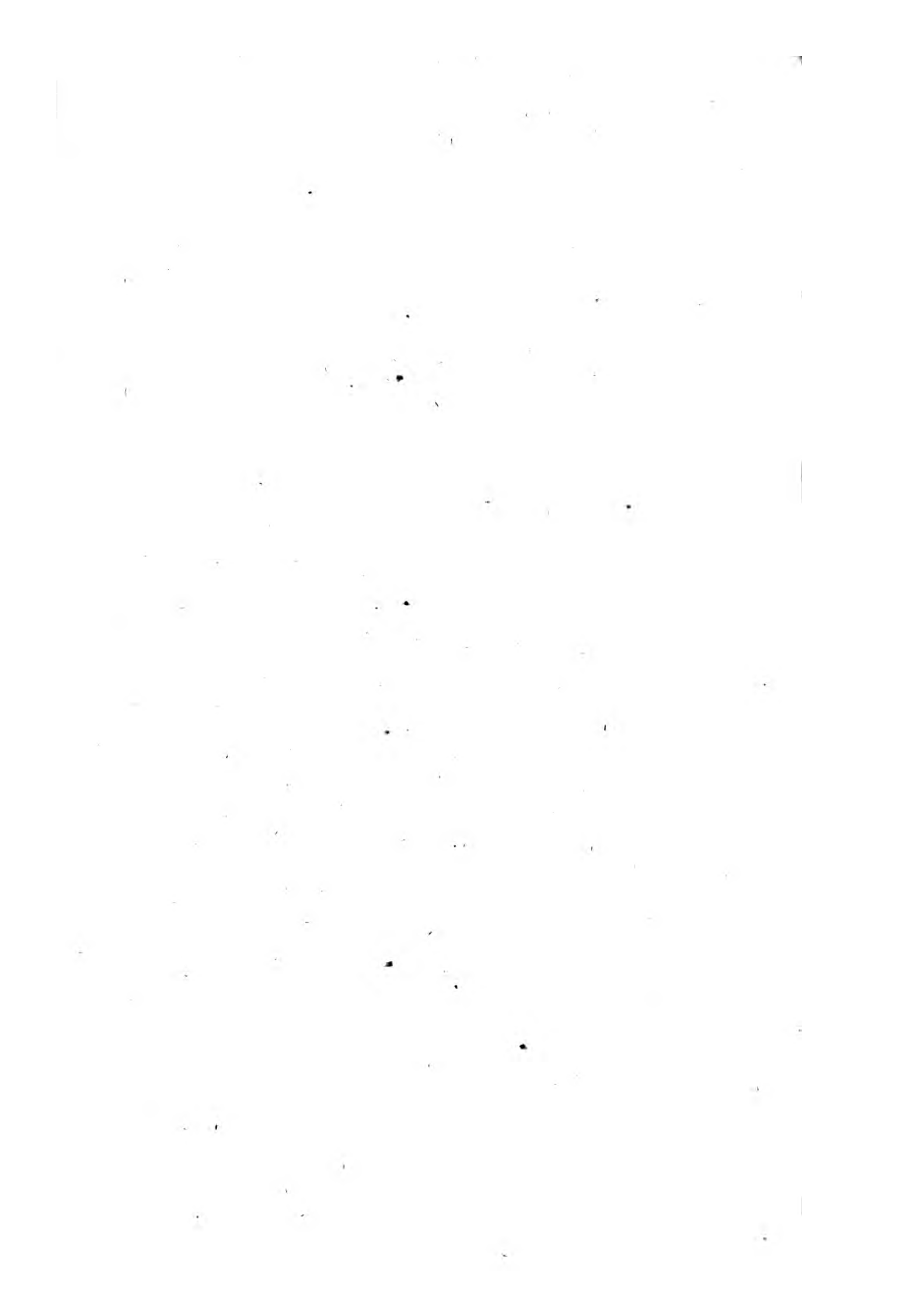
struction. And you already know that my sarcasms are not directed against the institution, but the system by which the current knowledge of the time, and millions of my fellow subjects, are excluded from Oxford and Cambridge.

The world will regard all your other dignities, except your hereditary rank, as proofs of the confidence of that illustrious sovereign, whom, in the enthusiasm of your loyalty, you have so often described to me as placed by the malice of Fortune in the midst of all the temptations of unbounded power, but demonstrating, by the graciousness of his own nature, that there is a limited monarch on the throne of All the Russias. It is due, however, as well to his as your character to publish, that the trusts which you enjoy were bestowed by himself alone, because you wished to abridge his imperial prerogatives.

Every one but yourself will regard it as presumption in me, that to a person so honoured and endowed I should subscribe myself a faithful friend,

JOHN GALT.

*Tunbridge Wells,*  
17 Sept. 1813.



## P R E F A C E.

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THESE Letters were written at the different places from which they are dated ; and they have undergone no alteration since, except in the suppression of a few local and personal allusions, amusing to the author and the friend to whom the Letters were addressed, but not in the slightest degree interesting to others. They contain a narrative of Voyages and Travels, undertaken after the visit to Malta, described in a former publication, and completed prior to the landing at Cerigo ; some account of which, and of a second journey through Greece, was given in the same volume.

If in this work the Author shall appear to be a still greater heretic in classical dogmas

than he was found in the other, the frequent acknowledgment of his ignorance ought to be treated as a symptom of a disposition that may be converted to a right way of thinking ; and his errors, with those who enjoy a clearer light, should move rather to compassion than anger.

An apology may be expected for the opinions occasionally alluded to, and delivered, relative to the Fine Arts. It is frankly confessed, that they have been printed in consequence of the approbation with which Mr. West, unquestionably the greatest artist of the age, was pleased to notice a few observations on the same subject, which the Author has elsewhere published.

*Tunbridge Wells,*

17 Sept. 1813.

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### ERRATA.

- Page 13. line 13. omit "*all.*"—Page 31. line 8. read "*blandishment.*"  
 Page 46. line 4. omit "*that.*"—Page 47. line 14. omit "*and.*"  
 Page 53. line 20. read "*were in the.*"  
 Page 56. line 11. read "*Septinsular.*"—l. 22. read "*pretend to have.*"  
 Page 61. line 16. omit "*rather.*"—P. 66. l. 5. read "*two or three.*"  
 Page 75. line 15. omit "*to be.*"—P. 77. l. 21. read "*remarkably.*"  
 Page 113. line 19. for "*them*" read "*the gates.*"  
 Page 121. line 6. for "*to*" read "*in.*"  
 Page 135. line 24. for "*making*" read "*giving.*"  
 Page 137. line 11. for "*of*" read "*to.*"—P. 151. l. 10. read "*cherub.*"  
 Page 179. line 18. the comma after servant should be omitted.  
 Page 194. line 6. omit "*that.*"  
 Page 244. line 10. read "*have not,*" *want*, in the sense there used being a Scotticism.  
 Page 267. l. 9. read *acquired.*—l. 23. read *should.*—l. 24. omit *own.*  
 Page 280. line 14. read "*eaten.*"  
 Page 283. line 17. omit "*or antipathy.*"  
 Page 340. line 15. read "*have passed.*"

\*\*\* The dates of some of the letters are incorrect.

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LETTERS  
FROM  
THE LEVANT.

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LETTER I.

MALTA, *Jan. 2, 1810.*

MY DEAR FRIEND,

HAVING satisfied myself with Sicily, I have now resolved to visit some parts of the Archipelago. In this excursion I shall be guided chiefly by chance, as my object is less to examine the remnants of antiquity, than to see the existing condition of the islands, the disposition of the inhabitants, and the products of their industry.

Since my determination to undertake this voyage has been known, my friends here have been, I may say, solicitously kind in furnishing me with introductory letters. Besides several to



natives, I have got a great many to French and Italian merchants; but I have not been able to learn that there is a single British subject settled in the Archipelago. This is surely somewhat extraordinary, considering the enterprising character of our countrymen, and the necessity that has been imposed upon them to seek new commercial haunts.

I have engaged a Greek interpreter, who in appearance is the short and fat image of Sancho. He has a great deal to say, and wears formidable whiskers, which, in spite of the naïveté of a pair of duck eyes, give him a very redoubtable aspect. As he has happened to be occasionally employed by other English travellers, he conceives himself related to the nation, and boasts of having served it ten years.

I have ever found an inexhaustible fund of amusement in oddities of Nature's making; and I expect not a little, in the course of my voyage, from Jacomo. In all the minor requisites for our excursion, I find that I must submit wholly to his directions.

The vessel in which I have taken my passage belongs to the Island of Specia. She is a very

fine polacca; and, besides arms and thirty-six men, has a Madonna in the cabin, with a lamp constantly burning before her; so that you may consider us very efficiently protected.

I pay fifty dollars for a state-room, and the use of half of the cabin; our provisions will cost thirty more, making altogether an enormous charge for a passage that is commonly performed in less than eight days. Jacomo comforts me, however, by saying, that if we have a quick run, we shall have provisions enough left for a great part of the remainder of our voyage; and, if we are long at sea, we shall have got over so many days of our lives without any more expense. There is something like philosophy in this.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER II.

VALONA, *Jan. 23.*

YOU cannot but look twice, and rub your eyes at the very least once, when you observe the name of the place from which I am now writing. On the 18th, I embarked at Malta. The wind was barely favourable when we left the harbour. Next forenoon a Levantine sciroc arose, and continued to increase for four-and-twenty hours: still, however, we worked onward. On the morning of the 21st, it blew a perfect hurricane. I assure you that I received no consolation in reflecting that Ulysses and Æneas had encountered similar tempests in the same sea, and that even St. Paul had fared no better. Nor did I find any pleasure in observing that Virgil's description of a storm, which Scaliger says is enough to make a man vomit, was in all respects faithful and just. For vomit read sea-sick; but it is quite the same thing. -

By way of comfort, I suppose, the Captain

told me, that he had come to the resolution of bearing-away, before the wind, for a port in the Adriatic; in other words, into an enemy's harbour, where I should have the satisfaction of finding myself committed to prison. Jacomo, in the mean time, was frequently uttering the most pious ejaculations; and he recounted, with the most circumstantial minuteness, a shipwreck which he had once experienced; but I was so overpowered with sickness, that I could pay no attention to his narrative.

About noon the violence of my sufferings abated, and I was able to crawl on deck. The sky appeared to be involved with a thick tumultuous smoke; the ship was suspended, as it were, fantastically, on the curl of a vast wave; and although there was only as little of the foresail spread as possible, we were driving at a most prodigious rate. The situation, however, in which I found the sailors, gave me a more lively conviction of our danger and helpless condition than all the terrors of the storm!

As the Greek vessels commonly belong to small communities, the crews are almost generally relations. In the *St. Nicolo* we have a father and

two sons, three brothers of one family, and two little boys belonging to another. Nothing could be done to the vessel. The crew were all collected under the lee of the quarter-deck bulwarks, and, apparently without design, the three families were sitting in as many different groupes: the three brothers in one corner; the father, with his two sons, under the same watchcoat, near them; and the two little boys disconsolately by themselves. Not a word was passing.

When we arrived in sight of Corfu, the wind veered into another quarter, and the Captain resolved to go into Panorm, a harbour on the coast of Albania; but after several tacks, we were constrained to bear away for Valona, where we anchored this morning. You will see by the map, that it is directly east from Cape Otranto, the castle of which is the scene of Horace Walpole's Romance, and nearly opposite to Brindisi, where your old schoolfellow Virgil died.

The port of Valona is a beautiful bason about twelve miles across from North to South, and ten from East to West. The island of Sasino shuts it in from the Adriatic, leaving two entrances, and affording, in its lee, protection from

the only wind that can disturb the anchorage. The depth of the water in no part exceeds twenty-three fathoms: in general, it is about fifteen. The surrounding country is mountainous; but the appearance is beautifully diversified by extensive olive-plantations and cultivated fields.

On the top of a lofty hill stands the town of Canina; which, from the vessel's deck, appears to be but an inconsiderable place, with a castle in ruins. The city of Valona is situated at the foot of the mountains, about half an hour's walk from the shore, and six or seven miles from where the ship lies. It is not in view; but, as the wind is still against us, I am in hopes that I shall have an opportunity of visiting it.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER III.

VALONA, *Jan.* 24.

**JUST** as I had finished my last letter, the Captain informed me that I might go on shore; I availed myself gladly of the permission; and I now hasten to give you some account of an excursion, which afforded me a perfectly new scene, and some amusement, as well as information.

I landed, with Jacomo, near an old infirm fortress, evidently not of Turkish origin. The remains of a wooden mole, that once projected a considerable way into the sea, still serve to assist the boatmen in landing; for the water there is so shallow, that boats cannot approach within many yards of the beach. From the fortress, a paved road reaches nearly to the town. In passing along, I observed several Turkish sepulchres, the tomb-stones surmounted with turbans, and shaded with cypress.

Valona is a wretched place. It may probably

contain four or five thousand souls; but, from some accidental cause, it exhibited the appearance of a more considerable population. A number of Albanians, inhabitants of the adjacent country, were in the streets, seated round the doors of the gunsmiths' shops, and a sort of warlike bustle was every where visible.

I was much pleased with the frank and military air of the Albanians. Their form is more athletic, and their stature more commanding, than I had expected to find in the people of these latitudes, having formed an erroneous opinion from the slender and loquacious Sicilians.

Their dress, also, is very handsome and becoming. It consists of a loose cloak or toga, made of shaggy woollen cloth; an embroidered waistcoat, commonly of velvet; and they wear their shirt-tails on the outside of their drawers, somewhat in the style of a philabeg. Instead of stockings, they make use of gaiters, neatly ornamented. Few of them wear turbans, but cover the top of the head with a little red cap, decorated with a tassel, which, half worn on some of them, reminded me of the nipple of a highlander's bonnet. They had all sashes, and a



leathern belt, in which were stuck two large pistols, a sword, &c. The belts were fastened with silver clasps, considerably broader than a dollar; and many wore ornaments, resembling cymbals, at their knees and ancles. At their right side hung a small embroidered bag, in which they carried their tobacco; and I think, without a single exception, each had a long Turkish pipe in his hand, or at his mouth. One of them had on his vest a double row of non-descripts, which I believe must be called buttons: they were, however, as large as lemons, of the same shape, and made of silver wire neatly interwoven.

As we walked through the town, Jacomo began to execrate the place, and to undervalue the inhabitants. "They are no better than Turks, and have never seen Franks, or they would not stare and laugh at you in the way they are doing," said he; "but, when we get to Athens, there we shall find other sort of people."

Soon after a puppy Turk, not more than sixteen, who had apparently just assumed the manly pistol, followed us, and began to talk very pompously to Jacomo. In order to get rid of his impertinence, I quickened my pace, but he only

became more obstreperous. Jacomo called out to me to halt, and at the same instant the Turk presented his pistol at my head. It seems that two women, under the protection of this youth, happened to be then in the street, and he thought I was hurrying towards them. Being assured of the contrary, he left us; and Jacomo, who had grown pale at the menace by the pistol, recovering his colour and garrulity, resumed his abuse of the inhabitants, calling them all the ill names that a Greek imagination could muster; and inserting, between every other malediction, a parenthesis containing something in praise of Athens.

Happening to pass a fountain, where a number of Albanians were watering their horses, I stopped to look at them. One of them, observing me, left the fountain, and approaching respectfully, addressed himself to Jacomo. The manner in which he came forward convinced me that his enquiries related to some particular subject in which he was personally concerned; and presently, by Jacomo's interjections of surprise and expressions of satisfaction, I saw that he too was much interested in the business. Without,

however, affecting to notice them, I returned towards the shore, and they followed in very earnest conversation. In the course of a little time we fell in with a lad, who had a turkey in his hand for sale, and which Jacomo bought, in order to repair the dilapidation of our stores. The price was half a dollar; but the merchant not having change, Jacomo left me, carrying the *fragocotos*, as the Albanian called it, in his arms; for he would not trust the horseman with it, nor the seller with the dollar. While he was gone, another impudent Turkish boy came up, and began to make mouths at me, but the Albanian drove him away.

Jacomo having returned, and resumed his conversation, we proceeded to the place where we had landed. As the Albanian was taking leave, I wished to make some enquiries relative to the interior of the country. "O," cried Jacomo, "he does not know any thing about such matters. He is a soldier of the mountains, and has fifty men under his command; and he has been telling me, that as soon as the English take Corfu, he and eleven others, who have each as many men, intend to go to Zante, to offer them-

selves to serve against the French. His father commands a hundred soldiers in Buonaparte's service, but he likes the English better." "Why does he like the English better?" said I. "Because," replied Giacomo, "they are richer, and pay better. The Maltese have grown rich and proud since they came among them, and wear a great many silver buttons; and the Messinese are growing rich and proud, and getting silver buttons too; so therefore he prefers the English service."

The Albanians, correctly speaking, were lately all, and are perhaps still, nothing more than banditti. To express myself more guardedly, they are devoted to war, and unacquainted with the arts of comfort; nor, in the exercise of their hardy occupation, do they require them. They possess elevating traditions of the antient grandeur of the Macedonian name; for they regard themselves as descendants, but improperly, of the conquerors of Asia; and their love of war has been revived by the comparatively recent exploits of their fathers, under Scanderbeg, the Bruce of this part of the world.

As the Captain of fifty turned to go away, I

desired Jacomo to give him the half dollar which remained from the purchase of the turkey, and walked on. I had not, however, gone above two or three steps, when I heard Jacomo higgling; and turning round, saw the Albanian untying his sash, in the corner of which he appeared to have four or five small coins. "What are you about, Jacomo?" said I. "Sir, I am only getting the change." "What change? I told you to give him the half dollar." "It is too much," answered he.—The captain received it with a most idolatrous prostration; and I, walking on, was beginning to think that a man might yet set up as a God among the Greeks, and do very well, when I was joined again by Jacomo. "These savages," said he, as he came up, "are terrible thieves; they would not scruple to kill a man for ten shillings." "How so?" "Because," replied Jacomo, "they can charge their pistols with powder and ball for a few farthings; so you see it is worth their while to shoot a man who has ten shillings upon him!"

When we reached the landing-place, a boatman pointed out to Jacomo a sail in the offing. I left them together in conversation, and walked

along the beach by myself, till the supercargo of our vessel, who was also on shore, should come to the boat. I had not gone above four or five hundred yards, when I heard Jacomo calling out, in a tone of the utmost alarm. Turning round, I beheld him running towards me with all his might. He was carrying the turkey in his arms, like a child; and it was flapping its wings about his head, also, seemingly, in great terror. "O Sir," cried he, as he approached, panting with fear and haste, "O Sir! it is a French privateer, and by G— we are taken! What shall we do?" "What shall we do, indeed?" exclaimed I, participating in his alarm, and looking alternately at the privateer, as she was entering the port, and at our vessel idling at anchor. Perceiving that the wind was rather against the privateer, as she came on the inner side of Sasino, I thought we had time to get on board, and to return on shore with my baggage, before the Frenchman could be alongside. Having resolved to make the attempt, and trusting that chance would afford us, in a short time, an opportunity of getting afterwards to Zante or Patrass, I returned quickly towards the landing-place for a

boat. Before I had reached it, however, a friendly squall interfered, and compelled the privateer to cast anchor at an agreeable distance from the St. Nicolo.—You will be surprized that I should have felt any apprehension of being captured in a neutral port; but I had learnt, before, that the neutrality of this harbour is very little respected by either of the two great Belligerents.

On arriving on board, I found the ship in such a satisfactory state of preparation for action, that I changed my resolution, and will now wait the result of the night, in the course of which it is probable some attack will be made; of the consequences, I entertain no fear. Giacomo is sanguine of victory, triumphantly talkative, and has more to do with his tongue, hands, and feet, than he can well manage.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER IV.

VALONA, *Jan. 25.*

THE French privateer, instead of being able to attack us, has got into a scrape herself. The night was so boisterous, that she could have done nothing had she attempted it; and at day-break a Maltese corsair, under the British flag, came into the harbour, and anchored within hail of her. This event, I assure you, has given us all sincere satisfaction, though we are as boastful of our valour as if we had gained a great victory.

Jacomo, to whom dangers are very expensive affairs, is not the least joyous. It seems, in the storm, he promised to St. Nicolo, in the event of escaping, a wax candle of seven pounds weight, and a silver coronet; it would therefore have been rather hard to have been obliged so soon to make another vow. The coronet, I can predict, will be as slim as possible; but, as he has rashly mentioned the weight of the candle, I do not



well see how he can get off otherwise than honourably. I have advised him, in future, never to specify any particular size or value in his votive offerings; but only to vow, in general terms, a fine crown, a large candle, &c.

The conduct of the young man who presented his pistol at me is, I find, likely to become a subject of investigation. This morning three old Turks, and a youth, whom I recognized to be no other than the gallant in question, with a Georgian slave belonging to the Pashaw, paid the ship a visit. They were regaled with pipes and coffee. As one of the Turks, an antient, acute, facetious creature, spoke Italian, I was really very much amused. They pretended that they had come for the purpose of buying coffee, but it was evident that they were actuated by some other motive. The young man, who was so impertinent yesterday, sat, during the whole time of their visit, with downcast eyes, and did not utter a syllable. The Georgian slave, one of the handsomest lads I ever saw, was so richly dressed in the Albanian style, that I supposed he was a young chieftain; but the old Turk, with a significant nod, informed me of his real condition,

When they had taken their leave, the Greek Secretary of the Pashaw and another officer came on board, and enquired very particularly about the pistol adventure. I made as light of it as I could. It seems, that when Jacomo went in search of change to pay for the turkey, he had mentioned the affair, and it reached the ears of his Highness with all due exaggeration. The Pashaw understanding that I was a British traveller, was surprized I had not paid him a visit, and was much exasperated against the offender. The Secretary informed me that he has gone this morning to the country; but, should he return before the vessel sails, it will be proper for me to assure him myself that I do not consider the insult as of any consequence; or, in plainer terms, he will expect me to make him a present.

The government of this part of the Ottoman dominions is entrusted to Ibrahim Pashaw, who has two daughters married to sons of the famous Ali Pashaw, by whom an extensive monarchy, in every thing but the name, has been established over the greatest part of the antient Macedonia. At present there is a considerable

degree of hostility between the two fathers-in-law.

The province of Valona, according to the Secretary's information, contains about twenty-five thousand Greeks subject to the capitation-tax, and about half as many Turks. It possesses an inconsiderable manufacture of woollen cloth, and the arms made in the town of Valona are much esteemed. There is no foreign trade carried on by the inhabitants themselves; but vessels belonging to the islands of the Archipelago, to Malta, and to Sicily, come for the purpose of bartering or purchasing.

All the natural productions are esteemed excellent of their kind. The wines are high-flavoured, and are said to resemble those of France, but the quantity made is trifling. The chief produce of the agriculture is grain and oil. The tobacco is not inferior in quality to any raised in the Turkish dominions; indeed I can say, from what I saw in the shops yesterday, that it is very fine.

The Secretary has given me a newspaper printed at Corfu in Greek and Italian. He men-

tioned to me that his name was Nicolo Papalazarus, and said that it was a general custom, in this part of Greece, for children to add to their baptismal names a surname formed by combining the profession with the Christian name of their father. The name of his father was Lazarus; who being a priest, Nicolo was called Papalazarus, which implies the son of Lazarus the priest. He also mentioned that he received no pay for his service, but had a small district allowed to him, out of the rental of which he paid the Pashaw a certain sum: the remainder was considered as his own pay. This mode of reimbursing service is the ordinary practice of the Ottoman Government, and indeed of all military governments. As it is indicative of the state of society, it may be said that the fiefs have not yet become hereditary here.

To-day there has not been a breath of wind. Instead of going again to the town, I went to a pastoral village, which stands on a point of land, about four or five miles south-east of the fortress. The boat had been there in the morning; and as the mountains abound with game, of almost every description, one of the

men had bargained with the shepherds to shoot a wild boar for us. When I landed, I found they had fulfilled their engagement, and were sitting with the carcase on the beach, to the number of seventeen, waiting to receive the stipulated price, which was two dollars.

Leaving the boat, I went towards the hills, unaccompanied, and had advanced about half a mile from the shore, when I was addressed by a Turk, who appeared to be the precursor of a band of fifty or sixty in number. My first sensation, at this unexpected encounter, was not very pleasant; but, on going towards him, I saw there was no occasion to be under any apprehension. He could speak that barbarous jargon, the *lingua Franca*, which serves to render Italian so useful in every part of the Mediterranean; and his purpose was to caution me from going alone, as he said the people of the country were bad, and robbers. In the course of a few minutes, the band approached and surrounded us. A young man, who appeared to be the leader, having enquired how I came there alone, and being satisfied when I pointed to the boat and vessel, went away about his own business. An

old man, whom I had observed eying me very particularly, the moment that his leader had passed on, pulled a purse from his bosom, and pointing to the silk handkerchief round my neck, offered to buy it. I was not, however, prepared to deal with him; but having another in my pocket, I presented it, and he took his leave highly contented. While this was transacting, a wag stole slyly behind me, and gave a loud disorderly bellow, no doubt to frighten me. He then made a great many ludicrous bows and grimaces, in mockery, as I conceive, of our modes of asking pardon for unintentional offences—an effort of humour which was apparently much relished by his companions.

On returning to the shore I desired the captain, who had come with me in the boat, but who had remained in conversation with the shepherds, to enquire the price of cattle and sheep. Oxen, they informed us, are at present worth about seven dollars a head, and the best of a flock of sheep fifteen shillings. This, some of our friends would think very cheap, but money here is proportionably dear. Cattle are not numerous. The sheep which I saw were large, and their wool very coarse.

Near the spot where we embarked to return to the ship, there is a vast spring of fresh water. The fountain of Arethusa, at Syracuse, is but a dribble in comparison. It issues from under the rocks, in a stream sufficient to form at once a respectable river; but the greatest effusion is within the salt-water mark; and you may form some notion of its magnitude, when I mention, that at one place, where the sea is not less than ten feet deep, it rises with such force, that the water may be taken up perfectly fresh. I tasted it myself, and found it not in the least brackish. The Captain tells me that there are five similar fountains, which flow into the harbour, and that this one is not the largest. There is no need, on so remarkable a phenomenon, for conjecture: these springs must be the vents and outlets of some lake beyond the mountains.—Was it not somewhere hereabout that the Chimæra had her abode? If her history were not wrapped up in an allegory as thick as the hide of her son and heir, the Nemean lion, I dare say it would turn out that she was only a wicked old woman.

Your's, &c.

## LETTER V.

*Off the Island of CORFU, Jan. 28.*

ABOUT day-break on the morning of the 26th, a light breeze sprang up, and the two privateers having got under way, we also took our departure from Valona. I left it with some reluctance, disappointed at not having an opportunity of seeing Ibrahim Pashaw, for public characters are to me the most interesting kind of curiosities. We might just as well have staid; for we made scarcely ten miles in the course of the whole day. It was not till after dark that we had any thing that could properly be called wind, nor did it last long.

After we came out of the port, we were boarded by the boats of a British frigate. The French privateer they had not seen: a proof, in some measure, of the inutility of large vessels in these seas. The number of men necessary for a frigate would man a squadron of luggers; which, in the



Adriatic especially, would prove a more effectual species of predatory force than any single ship.

On the 27th, we had a perfect calm. The sea was like oil; and, about noon, when the ship was sitting

“ As steady as a painted ship  
Upon a painted ocean,”

a Tripoline cruizer, an ugly black dishonest-looking galley, was discovered rowing towards us. We prepared to welcome her as she deserved; and you will no doubt prick up your classical ears to hear, that our men shewed a spirit and activity worthy of the Grecian name;— but Jacomo was nowhere to be seen. When all was in readiness, and the Greeks were waiting at the guns, I felt excessively provoked at not being able to discover what had become of the fellow. The galley was still beyond the range of shot, and I was leaning over the railing of the quarter-deck, looking at the glancing of her oars as she came towards us. All was silence in the ship, when presently a clear and cheerful whistling was heard aloft. Every eye looked up. It was Jacomo, sitting on the yard-arm, as jocund

as a bird on a bough. He was soon, however, ordered to descend from his exalted situation, and in the course of a few minutes the action commenced. The Corsair's shot cut some of our rigging; but in the end she was beat off and went away, crawling, with her oars, along the smooth sea, like a centipede on a plate of glass.

Next morning, conversing on the subject of this attack with the supercargo, who is a shrewd well-informed old man, and from whom I have received a great deal of detail knowledge relative to the state of the insular Greeks, I led him to communicate fully his views, which are those of his countrymen in general, with regard to the different foreign powers to which their attention has been for some time directed. He began with asking me how it happened that the British permit the Barbary cruizers and the other pirates to rove so freely. "It surely would not be difficult," he remarked, "to clear the seas of them. The Greeks are all devoted to trade; and to us, more than to any other nation, is Malta indebted for its supplies. I have been three years a regular trader to that island, and I have never seen a Tripoline

mercantile vessel there. Surely the British, for their own sakes, might think of obtaining a little security for the helpless Greeks. But you consider only the Turks, a people who despise all the rest of mankind as their inferiors, and who are so devoid of reflexion, as still to deem themselves the same sort of beings as their ancestors, who destroyed the Greek Empire. Were the British to turn their attention to the Greeks, who are more numerous in Europe than the Turks, in the proportion of three to one, they would receive their gratitude and secure their co-operation against the period when the Ottoman Government shall be driven from Constantinople. The Greeks are well inclined towards the British, and would give them a decided preference over either the French or the Russians. But the French and the Russians openly court us, and the English do not seem to know that we are a separate people from the Turks.

“The intelligent Greeks do not think that their condition would be much ameliorated by the Russians; because, from what we have known and experienced of them, they appear to be as

great barbarians as the Turks themselves. They boast that they are of the same religion as the Greeks, but the Turks do not molest us in the exercise of our worship. It is their system of political government that has sunk us to our present degraded condition.

“ It is not the re-establishment of a Christian king in Constantinople that will raise the fallen Greeks: we are not well formed for enduring kings. We know that our country lost its glory when it became an empire; and we do not find that the great Christian nations have attained, under their monarchs, such excellence as our ancestors did in the time of their little republics. We have still less confidence in the promises held out to us by the French. They will come to make war against the Turks, and, according to their usual practice, they will bring neither money nor supplies with their troops. The poverty which we already suffer they will only increase, and a French army in Greece will prove but a doubtful prelude to the blessings with which they endeavour to allure us. Whoever would effectually serve us must allow us to take our own

way, and this the British are more likely to do than any other nation.

“ During the late interruption of intercourse between the British and the French, we had some experience of the value of that protection which your Government has it in its power to bestow on the Greeks. Sir Alexander Ball granted us licences to trade with Malta. Had he not adopted this measure, we should have been obliged to make privateers of our vessels, in which case we should have extirpated every British merchantman from the Mediterranean ; for, in the islands alone, we can muster five hundred sail of more than a hundred tons each, and the French ports were open to us for the sale of our prizes.”

I have given you here the substance of what he stated. It is perhaps rather a particular than a comprehensive or a satisfactory view of the subject ; yet the dispositions of a people are always worthy of attention ; and certainly those of the insular Greeks towards us, at the present moment, deserve notice and consideration.

Your's, &c.

## LETTER VI.

*Off ITHACA, Jan. 30.*

THE weather, since we left Valona, has been so calm, that we have yet only got alongside of Leucadia, and in sight of Ithaca. With you Winter is still in full possession of his bleak dominion; but, in this delightful climate, he appears to-day to be gone, and the time of the singing of birds arrived. The air has all the genial warmth and blandishments of the English May; and the snow on the tops of the neighbouring mountains of Greece serves rather to give picturesque variety to the prospects, than to remind the traveller that it is still the month of January.

Since our action with the corsair, the sailors have been employed in repairing the rigging and in making sails. Instead of canvas, these last are made of cotton cloth, which is generally used for this purpose in the Levant. To-day the men,

having nothing to do, diverted themselves in different ways; and I, being equally at a loss for employment, amused myself in observing their proceedings.

Some of them were at cards. I will describe their game to you, for it is very simple. The pack being cut, the dealer desired his neighbour to draw a card, the suit of which was declared trumps. Three were then dealt to each of the party, and the remainder of the pack laid over the half of the shown card. Before playing, the eldest hand lifted a card, and either played it, or one from the three which had been dealt to him. The next in order did the same, and so on till the whole pack was exhausted. A new dealing then took place, and they played *da capo*, till one of the party reckoned a hundred tricks, which terminated the game. Excepting the trumps, all the other cards are considered as of the same suit. The ace has no political privilege, but holds its natural rank of one; kings command queens, and knaves of course govern kings. Before beginning your nightly Whist, I beg you to try how far this description of Scambili is intelligible, by endeavouring to play the game.

The boys appeared to be all literary characters. One of them read aloud, and the rest listened with the most delighted attention; when any one happened to be called away, he returned as soon as possible, and interrupted the reader until he was informed of the circumstances that had been narrated in his absence. I did not wonder at their earnestness, when I was informed that their book was a Romaic translation of the Arabian Nights' Entertainment. I was much gratified to find, upon enquiry, that almost all the Greeks of the islands can read and write. Besides the *Arabian Nights*, and a *Polite Letter Writer*, the sailor-boys have a *Telemachus*, translated by one Athanasio Care, and published at Venice in 1742.

But the gaming clubs and the literary societies afforded no amusement compared with another species of entertainment. Put yourself in order, I pray you, to hear this. We have no less than a player on the lyre, an Orion, on board. Modern musicians have often, in vain, attempted to draw from an instrument, made according to the form of that with which Apollo is commonly represented, some of those notes to



which such wonders have of old been ascribed; but they have never been able to obtain any thing superior to the tinkling of an ordinary guitar, or the prattle of that paralytic chattel, a spinnet. I feel something like an antiquarian extasy, in being enabled to throw a spark of light on this interesting and important subject. But, alas! for the picturesque flying fingers of Dryden's Timotheus, you must substitute flying elbows; for the lyre is played upon with a bow, in the same manner as a vulgar fiddle. It is a hollow three-stringed instrument, somewhat like the body of a violin, clumsily formed; but, notwithstanding the rudeness of the workmanship, the sound was so sweet and vocal, that I have no doubt, that one better constructed and more skillfully played, might produce some degree of pleasurable sensation. Now the question to be decided is, whether the lyre, with bow and catgut, or that kind commonly placed in the hands of the effigies of Apollo, is the instrument to which such miraculous effects have been ascribed.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER VII.

ZANTE, *Feb. 6.*

ON the evening when I wrote to you last, a light breeze sprang up, and brought us to the north end of this island, where it made a full stop. All the next day we remained disconsolately idle. Our water was nearly exhausted, and Jacomo began to fear that our provisions would be insufficient for the voyage. Towards night, however, the breeze returned, and carried us to a creek in the south of Zante, where we cast anchor. In the morning the boat was sent to fill the water-casks, and I went to a small island which lies about four or five hundred yards off the shore. The weather was still delightfully fine, and the view of Zante, from the summit of the little island, was beautiful and inviting. The islet itself is rendered rather interesting, by the romantic circumstance of being at present inhabited by two hoary hermits. One of them was sitting on the rocks, in the Apostolical occupation

of fishing ; and the other was lounging along the sandy beach with his dog, an old creature.

Their habitation is a square tower, situated in the middle of a rude garden, in which the almond trees are already in blossom. They have a little chapel decorated with caricatures of saints and of the Virgin, before which a silver lamp emits a feeble and ineffectual flame. Their dominions are tolerably well cultivated. The face of the hill being steep, is formed into terraces sown with grain, and here and there planted with olives. Among the rocks I observed many curious plants and flowers. A botanist, I am sure, would find, in this little retired spot, amusement for more than a summer's day. Our crew are great simplers, and collected several herbs for healing wounds and bruises. They also gathered a species of balm, which next morning furnished me with a fragrant and pleasant substitute for tea.

In the evening a fresh breeze arose, and before midnight we had passed the flat island of Strophadia, famous in these seas for the abundance of its springs, and for an extensive ecclesiastical rookery.

As the morning dawned, the wind again left us. This was exceedingly vexatious. The men, who for two days before had only bread and water, began to grow impatient; and it was resolved unanimously, that a religious ceremony, which one of them had seen performed in a former voyage with the happiest success, should be tried on this occasion. Thirty-eight pieces of paper were accordingly prepared, each inscribed with a holy name, and put into a new night-cap. These billets represented the persons on board; and each of the thirty-six Greeks drew one out of the cap, paying a shilling to the mate, to be delivered to a priest, on their arrival in port, for the behoof of the saints. Jacomo being a Catholic, and his master they knew not what, we were of course not "called to bear a part" in the conjuration, but billets were also drawn for us.

The sailors, as they drew their papers, went to the stern of the ship, and making the sign of the cross, kissed the billet, blew it into the sea, and prayed to the power, whose name it bore, to send a wind in poop. During the invocation, Jacomo assured the sailors that the Saints care nothing at all about the Greeks; and really so it

appeared, for the last billet was not a minute in the water, when a smart breeze came directly against us.

It may amuse you to see the names of the saints invoked. The order in which they stood on the list may probably be taken as the degree of estimation in which they are respectively held. The Trinity, the Virgin of Augusto, St. Michael, Jesus Christ, the Angel of the Annunciation, St. Anthony, St. Spiridion, St. John, St. Haralabow, St. Demetrius, St. Nicholo, St. George, St. Andrew, St. Vassilius, St. Vagilistro, the Saintess Passandi, St. Theodosius, St. Pando (this means all the Saints collectively), St. Anagiro, St. Leo, St. Lucas, the Saintess Parastivi, St. Pandalemonos, St. Constantine, St. Nistow, St. Humphrey, the Saintess Marianne, St. Savas, St. Athanasius, St. Gregory, the mother of St. Constantine, St. Thomas, St. Costo, St. Peter, St. Jerom, St. Paul, St. Legorius, and the Holy Cross.

Being obliged to put back to Zante, I resolved to visit the town, and was accordingly put ashore near a brook where about twenty old women were washing clothes. I believe it is a settled

point that it was not in this island, but in Cephalonia, that Ulysses met with the washerwomen, so that there is no occasion for me to make any comparison upon the similarity of our fates.

The place where I landed is about twelve miles from the city. After much altercation, I succeeded in persuading one of the old women to lend the ass on which she had brought her clothes from the village where she resides, to carry my portmanteau here. The road lay along the beach for at least ten miles, and the rain falling copiously the whole time, I need not say that I had any thing but a pleasant walk along with the stately equipage of the ass and Jacomo. Since my arrival I have received much hospitable attention from Mr. Forresti, who was formerly our Consul in this island, and who, since the formation of the Septinsular Republic, has been promoted to the rank of Resident Minister.

Yours, &c.

I find that I have got into a dilemma. The vessel in which I have sailed all this time is without a firman, in other words is a smuggler. This explains the cause of the attack by the Tripoline.

The Tripolines act in the capacity of revenue cruizers to the Porte, and at present there are several off Cerigo. I have therefore determined to go across the Morea instead of returning to the ship. So that I run some hazard of losing my baggage by this adventure.

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### LETTER VIII.

ZANTE, 8 *Feb.*

THE appearance of the interior of this island from the fortress above the city is uncommonly beautiful;—a large fertile valley richly cultivated, and studded with neat lodges and villages embosomed in olive plantations, presents a prospect rarely to be excelled. The produce of the country consists of wine, currants, cotton, a little silk and grain, but not enough of the latter to support the inhabitants for more than two months. The vicinity,

however, of the Morea, renders it still a very cheap residence, for a superabundance of every species of provisions generally prevails in that country.

It is the custom of the peasants of Zante to go over to the Morea in harvest-time to assist in reaping the corn. One year with another about five thousand persons annually migrate, and being paid in grain for their work, return, it is supposed, with not less than fifty thousand bushels.

The population is estimated at forty thousand; and from the great number of very old people, I imagine the air must be in general salubrious. Ninety and even a whole century of years is a common age in Zante. My landlady is above a hundred and four, and still retains all her faculties in venerable preservation. Every day she is early and constantly at her distaff, and it is only in her limbs that she feels the effects of old age. But here is something for you to ponder on. Families in Zante are remarked to be less numerous than on the Continent.

The greatest natural curiosity in the island is a bituminous spring, the matter of which is fit for all the purposes that pitch is usually applied to. It is near the place where I landed, and I regret that



I did not visit it on my way hither. There is also, I am told, another curious natural issue of a soapy nature. Like all the adjacent countries Zante is greatly subject to earthquakes; but they seldom do much damage, although several of the buildings in the town exhibit marks of their violence.

The city of Zante, which is supposed to contain about seventeen thousand inhabitants, is for its extent entitled to the epithet of handsome. The principal street is pretty well built, and many of the houses have arched piazzas, which in this climate cannot but prove a great convenience during the rains of winter and the heats of summer. With respect both to appearance and to the condition of the inhabitants, it may be described as a substantial place in which comfort is more studied than elegance. It has no public amusements if you except billiard-tables. The churches are not in any respect remarkable. The clergy, being of the Greek persuasion, are of course neither so numerous, so arrogant, nor so opulent as those of the Roman catholic countries. They are here under a proper degree of subordination to the civil power. During the time that the islands

of the Septinsular Republic belonged to the Venetians, the church of Zante was in a state similar to that of Ireland at present. Although by far the majority of the people were of the Greek church ; nevertheless, as the established and state religion was the Roman Catholic, the revenues of the Roman church were duly levied, while the people by voluntary contributions maintained their own priesthood. In the period of the Republic a judicious alteration was made in this oppressive system. The papal clergy became pensioners of the state, and would of course in time have become nearly extinct, while the people were allowed to act towards their own pastors as they thought proper themselves. This arrangement prepared for the gradual abrogation of one order, and gave free scope for the progress of knowledge on the other. At present all is necessarily in some degree of confusion.

The state of public instruction here has, from various causes, very much declined. During the time of the Republic, the monasteries, which were properly the only schools in the island, were in a great degree deserted, and the education of youth accordingly suffered. I am however informed by

General Oswald that as the revenues of the monasteries are still unappropriated, it is in contemplation to restore them in such a manner as to render them equivalent to public schools. It is so seldom that one hears of our military countrymen bestowing their attention on objects of this kind, that I felt no small degree of satisfaction at receiving this information.

The air and appearance of these islanders is greatly superior to those of the Sicilians. They have a chearful confidence in their looks, which to me is always agreeable. In their persons they are stouter, and in their complexions much fairer than the Maltese. The women are more like those of our own country in the cast of their features than any I have seen since leaving home. If I may judge by the number of butchers' stalls, and the show of provisions in the shops, the inhabitants of Zante live as much more liberally than the Maltese and Sicilians, as they excel them in corporeal appearance. To the praise of being industrious they are well intitled. Every female appears to be employed either in spinning with the distaff, knitting, or weaving; and I have nowhere observed those chattering

groupes of idle loungers with night-caps so often met with in Sicily.

These few brief notices contain the substance of all the general observations which I have been enabled to make on this island; but I have collected a few pocket-book memoranda, which, for lack of more amusing information, I will give you.

There is in Zante a public Pawn Bank, one of those institutions for affording temporary aid to individuals, by which the Italian Republics were enabled during the fifteenth century to acquire so much national power and private opulence. The principle of this excellent contrivance was similar to that on which the British Government has occasionally relieved the embarrassments of the commercial body. Property was assigned and deposited as a pledge with the Bank for the amount of the loan, and which, if not redeemed within a certain specified time, was sold, and the proceeds applied to the payment of the debt. But within that time it remained, though in possession of the Bank, at the disposal of the original proprietors, in the same manner, as under the bonding system, our West Indian Merchants are allowed to regulate the sales of their goods.

It is somewhat extraordinary that during the present war, in which so much merchantable property of all kinds has so often lain long dead in the hands of the merchants, that some plan of the nature of the Italian Banks has not been set a-going in London, especially since the admirable security provided by the warehouse system rendered it so practicable. Surely it would be a much more commodious way of affording relief than by those public legislative measures which have been before resorted to. For it might differ in nothing from the ordinary system of the Bank of England, except in depositing a transferrable right to property in bond instead of discounting bills of exchange. Indeed it would have some advantages over the bill system, as the transfer documents would really represent property, which it is well known bills do not always do.

There was also a public granary here, which always contained a quantity of corn adequate for the support of the inhabitants for some time in case of any interruption happening in the usual channels of supply; but the Russians ate up its contents, and the French, who succeeded them, took no care to replenish it.

Land in the best parts of the island is worth about thirty years purchase. There are several building-yards along the shore, and at present three or four small vessels are on the stocks. The timber is brought from the Morea and Dalmatia.

The Jews here live in a street by themselves, which is defended by a gate regularly closed at night. This custom and privilege originated in a wish on the part of the Venetian Republic to protect them from ill usage at a time when they were generally persecuted by the Christians.

The common people seem to be great players at quoits; and the peasants have a practice of steeping their cheese in oil, which otherwise, as it is made of sheep and goat milk, would be very hard.

I have been shewn a small burying-ground which for upwards of two centuries has belonged to the English nation. It contains tombs of several Consuls who died here; and I understand that a small tax was levied on every English vessel that formerly came to Zante, for the purpose of keeping the walls in repair.

The town is abundantly supplied with fine

spring water from draw wells open in the streets, but which are inclosed with a parapet in order to prevent children and other heedless creatures from tumbling in.

Yours, &c.

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LETTER IX.

ZANTE, *Feb.* 11.

SINCE writing to you the other day, the wind has continued against my departure; but I have found in the society here an agreeable check to my restlessness.

Of our countrymen it is needless to speak; but I must ever feel much indebted for the attentions that I have received from General Oswald. Prince Camuto, who was formerly at the head of the Septinsular Republic, resides here. In his manners he is an excellent specimen of the old

school, and he is also a man of superior talents with a highly cultivated mind. He appears to possess an extensive knowledge of our most celebrated authors, and prefers them to those of France. He does not speak English, but he reads it perfectly well. At present he is engaged with Mr. Fox's History, of which he has expressed himself in terms of the highest approbation. Some passages of the introductory chapter he particularly admires; and he pointed out to me that paragraph in which the author speaks of the theoretical perfection which the English Constitution had attained in the reign of Charles the Second, alleging that the character of rulers, more than the measures of Governments, affects the happiness of subjects. The prince took occasion to remark from the text that he thought the opinion well founded, for this reason:—that he was not able to perceive those perfections in the system of the British Constitution which are commonly ascribed to it; but he had uniformly observed a superiority of conduct and manner in the native English, which he thought more than any other cause the spring of our national greatness.



This was rather a singular observation for a Sovereign, as it might be supposed to imply a right in himself to treat his subjects in a way which he would not dare to do if they were a little more turbulent. If it be allowed that princes may stretch their prerogatives as far as their people will endure, it is very clear that there is no other check upon them but what is in their own dispositions; and yet Camuto ought to have known, both as a senator of Venice, and as the head of a Republic, that governments are as much bound by the laws as subjects, and advance their power quite as much by observing the spirit of the laws, as individuals prosper by assisting in their steady execution. Something, undoubtedly, must be allowed for that difference of temperament which is in many instances the distinguishing characteristic of nations. But the simultaneous progression of the British nation is surely more owing to the means by which our individual *fierté* is coalesced and brought into operation, than to our disposition to act independently. The British constitution is in the eyes of theoretical foreigners a very clumsy machine, because they have no conception of the constant presence of that spirit

of popular opinion, which presides both at the generation of new laws, and in the execution of old. They have no idea of the continual effect arising from the nature of that multifarious tendency to revolution observed in the frame of our government,—that which is continually repairing what is decaying, and supplying by suitable expedients whatever deficiency is found. The British constitution is expediency reduced into a system, and therefore in its operations provides rather for circumstances as they occur, than adheres to a settled plan, at all hazards, in order to obtain some future good. It adapts itself to the immediate occasions of the people, and obtains their veneration by supplying their wants, and gratifying their wishes, without thinking too much about posterity. It is a contrivance to promote practically the happiness of mankind; and the good that results from it to the present generation, arises from the means which it affords to postpone the arrival of that time, when the British name shall be classed with the Roman and the dead, and all the comforts of England shall have become exchanged for a desolation as mournful as that which prevails in the famous region immediately before me,

But I forget that it is not a panegyric on the British constitution that you expect from me, but some account of what I see and hear, and therefore I must resume the subject to which I intended to devote this letter. The princess Camuto is a daughter of Mr. Foresti. She is a woman of considerable personal beauty, though a little too political in her conversation: this, however, is excusable in the daughter of a plenipotentiary, and the wife of a man who has been a ruler. She is much younger than the prince, who indeed is perhaps a little too well stricken in years for any woman. Her father I really deem myself fortunate in knowing, both on account of the attention which I have received from him, and the peculiarities of his own character. At the same time I doubt very much, if he be exactly the kind of man that ought to be employed by such a government as ours, in such a place as this. We are here among the ruins of nations, and the rubbish on which we are attempting to rebuild is, probably, in many places too hollow and unsafe for the new superstructures. Without presumption, therefore, I may perhaps be allowed to think that our ends would be better

attained were a person of more austere political notions employed ; at the same time I know not where we should be able to find a man with more of the symptoms of a zealous spirit than Mr. Foresti.

On my arrival here, it afforded me some satisfaction to find that the General had been induced to avail himself of the disposition of the Greeks to enter into our service, and had formed a regiment of eight hundred men. It is called the Greek light infantry. The dress is the Albanian, except in one company, which, being entirely composed of Mainotes, is clothed in what may be called the Spartan uniform. I dined at the officers' mess on the occasion of General Oswald's first visit to them, and was not a little amused. The appearance of the scene was somewhat like the theatrical exhibition of the Hall of Fingal in Oscar and Malvina. We had several Albanian songs—odes I should call them, as they were the language of the Greeks. The style of the airs resembled the Highland pibrochs. Indeed in their manners these mountaineers are not unlike our highland countrymen. They have the same skinless sense of honour, and between them and

their followers the same kind of attachment, and in many cases the same relationship exists, which constituted the peculiar cement of the Scottish clans. One of the Greek officers sung an old set of *the blue bells of Scotland*, not the least extraordinary incident in the entertainment I think you must allow.

But although I certainly do feel much pleasure in seeing these hardy and military characters employed in our service, I doubt if policy, and the due respect which one government ought to have for the rights of another, will justify the measure. For the men are properly subjects of the Turks, and without the permission of the Sultan we surely had no right to enlist them. It may be very true that such is the system of Ottoman rule, that in doing this we have not apparently done so much wrong as if we had acted in the same way towards any of the western nations; but the principle of wrong is every where the same, and the degree of impunity with which it may be used cannot alter its nature.

Prior to the French revolution Zante was one of the few fragments that remained to the Venetians of their antient maritime dominions. Af-

terwards it formed a part of the Septinsular Republic, which by the treaty of Amiens was placed under the protection of Russia, and finally by the consent of the emperor Alexander it was annexed to the French empire. In consequence of this annexation, according to the usages of states, when the British took possession of Zante and the neighbouring islands, they were in no degree bound to consider them otherwise than as belonging to France. The expedition however being undertaken without orders from home, it was thought expedient to revive the Republic; and a Provisional Government has therefore in the mean time been formed, which consists of four native counsellors, with a British officer as president for the executive, and a senate of forty members, which may be considered as the legislative and controuling part of the Constitution. The four Counsellors have, in the first instance, been appointed by General Oswald, but in future they are to be chosen annually by ballot in the senate. The laws are the old Venetian code, and require little amendment. The measures of the General respecting them have, therefore, been confined to ensuring their regular and faithful execution. As  
far

far as I am capable of judging, the whole proceedings in Zante since the arrival of the British have been eminently judicious. The wishes of the inhabitants have been temperately indulged in the new modification of the public institutions; and, whatever may be the opinion of the Government at home on this subject, the national character has been fully upheld by the measures of General Oswald.

There are some politicians who will think that, the Septinsurla Republic having been destroyed, we ought to have considered these islands at once as British conquests. I own myself rather inclined to this opinion; but, since my arrival here, I have found some reason to doubt its justness; because Napoleon has declared them a part of his dominions, and it is therefore likely that, in subsequent negotiations, he might stipulate for their restitution. While we consider them as still constituting the property of a separate state, the right which the French may pretend remains disputable.

The tendency of the measures of the Provisional Government is, to render the islands, as far as circumstances will permit, capable of

defending themselves. A militia of four thousand men has been raised in Zante, and the public revenue is placed on a better and more productive footing. It will amuse the mathematician \* to hear, that the tax on snuff is appropriated for making the public roads, and keeping them in repair. Q. E. D.

I have hitherto forgot to mention, that the language of the inhabitants is Greek; or rather, it is that modern dialect which is called by themselves the Romaica.

Yours, &c.

\* Mr. Spence, author of the Essay on Logarithmic Transcendents. My old schoolfellow and friend will pardon me for allowing an allusion to be published, which only serves to gratify my vanity, by showing our intimacy.



## LETTER X.

ARGOS, *Feb.* 15.

ALTHOUGH I have come a long way, and seen a great deal of country; traversed, indeed, many states and kingdoms, since I wrote to you last, I foresee that this will not be a very interesting letter.—On the morning of the 11th of the present month—it is necessary to be thus particular, that you may not fancy it was of the 11th of February last year I was speaking, considering that I have since passed through many nations—on that day the wind became fair, and I left Zante in a small sloop for Patrass. We had not, however, sailed above an hour, when it fell calm, which obliged the boatmen to have recourse to their oars. Rowing is laborious work; the boatmen grew tired; the evening began to close, and we were still only opposite Castle Tornesé, an old Venetian fortress on the Morea. It was therefore resolved

that we should come to anchor in a small creek under the castle.

My fellow-passengers, besides Jacomo, consisted of two Greek merchants, who had been at Zante on business, and were returning home;— a Corsican, who was going to Tripolizza, to sell Tonkin beans to the Turks; that kind of beans which some of your snuff-takers are so foolish as to buy, although woodruffe, a weed common enough in their own neighbourhood, has the same perfume, and even more delicately. There was also a poor boy, who had emigrated from Greece to be a clerk in Zante: his mother had been taken ill; and, conceiving herself dying, had sent for him to receive her last advice and blessing. We had likewise a Janissary, a strange, simple, yet cunning animal, a native of Cyprus. He was called Mustapha, and could say, “ Damnation! it rains!”—an English prayer, which he had learnt from a milordos, whom he had once served with unimpeachable canine fidelity.

The Corsican, and one of the Greeks, tormented Mustapha in a most merciless manner. They told him that the coffin of Mahomet, which was to continue suspended in the air as long as the

Turks had dominion, was now on the ground ; a sure sign that the end of their power was approaching. Mustapha denied the fact, though he acknowledged that the reigning Sultan was the last of the holy race. I enquired what the Turks would do if he died without an heir? Mustapha answered, that he supposed they would make a republic. This profound conjecture only excited my fellow-passengers, more and more, to vex poor Mustapha. They told him that the English were going to take possession of the Morea. He appealed to me if the English were not the very brothers of the Turks. The Greek and Corsican then sang a song, the burden of which was, that the power of the Ottomans was expiring, and the restoration of the Greeks in Constantinople at hand. Mustapha became furious. His tongue went with incredible velocity ; but the Christians only laughed the louder. At length he lay down at full length on the deck, shut his eyes as closely as he could purse his eyelids over them, and began to snore as in a dead sleep. I wondered greatly, all the time, how he happened to forget that he had pistols.

In the creek where we came to anchor, two boats were lying, and the men belonging to them had gathered a large pile of sticks, with which they were preparing to make a fire on the shore. We bought a part of their stock for the same purpose, and having ordered our provisions to be laid out on the ground, I wanted only friends, when the fires were lighted, to make the evening pass cheerfully. The night was calm, the sky clear, and the moon shone so beautifully, that she made the heart glad in looking at her.

But it is better to pass the night with moonlighted precipices, boats in the shadow of the rocks, fires on the shore, and groupes of figures in picturesque dresses around them, when they are delineated by the pencil of genius, rather than when exhibited by the hand of Nature. And I should have admired the scene before me more, had it been viewed in a carpeted room, and surrounded by the handywork of the carver and gilder.

When the night was pretty far advanced, I returned on board, and wrapping myself up in my cloak, soon after fell asleep. In the morn-

ing, when I awoke, the boat was again under sail, and shortly after we reached Chiarenza, or Clarence; a place from which I have somewhere heard or read, our Dukes of Clarence derive their title. But as this is an antiquarian point, which can only be settled in a library, I must leave your curiosity, if you have any on the subject, to be satisfied by some of those travellers who write their journals in their studies, and can tell more about what they read than what they see. At present Chiarenza consists only of a custom-house and two cottages, in the vicinity of which are the remains of a fortress, and the shapeless ruins of other buildings. Having staid about an hour at this place, we again proceeded on our voyage. As we sailed along the coast, I could not but frequently lament that vicissitude in human affairs, which has laid so fine a country as the Morea in a state of desolation more awful than the original wildness of uncultivated nature. The sentiment, indeed, with which I feel myself most constantly affected, since I came within sight of Greece, and particularly since I landed, has a strong resemblance to that which I have often experienced in walking over a country church-

yard. Every thing reminds me of the departed. The works of the living serve only to inform us of the virtues and excellence of the dead.

About noon the slight breeze that we had enjoyed all the morning deserted us, and the boatmen resolved to wait till the evening, in a small fresh water lake which communicates with the sea, by a channel not above a hundred paces in length. We accordingly rowed into the lake, and landed. The Corsican, having a gun, went to filch the grey duck; but he was not so fortunate as the youth of fair Irelonde, for he neither saw nor caught any thing.

In the evening we again got under way, and reached Patrass about six o'clock in the morning.

Patrass is at present but a wretched Turkish town, and the fortress is equally despicable. The only curiosities that I saw in it were four or five little Turks spinning tops in a wonderful Christian-like manner, the trunk of an antient statue built into the wall of the castle, and a barber-lad dressed in crimson velvet, richly gilt, industriously reaping a beard.

The environs of Patrass appear to be cultivated with some care; but, so early in the spring, they

are necessarily not in a state to excite much pleasure in the contemplation. Oranges, olives, and currants, are exported in considerable quantities, particularly the latter article, but I have already had reason to be on my guard in receiving accounts of the extent of the commercial funds of these parts. I was told that Patrass yearly sends off eight or nine cargoes of corn, two of wool, five or six of oil, one or two of silk, and several more of other articles. This appeared to me a great deal for so mean a place, my ideas of a cargo being connected with large ships; and had it not been for the negligent way in which the quantity of so precious a commodity as silk was mentioned, I certainly should have given you some very important reflections on the great advantage to us of the acquisition of Zante, arising from the contiguity of its situation to a place of commercial resources so vast as Patrass. It turned out, however, that the cargoes here spoken of are, in reality, but boat-loads; and that, excepting currants and grain, the exports of this town are very trifling. The cargoes of silk resolve themselves into a few bales. Nevertheless, as *every pickle helps to make a mickle*, something beneficial to

the trade of England may, no doubt, arise by the facility which the possession of the Septinsular Islands affords to the opening of an intercourse with the inhabitants of Greece.

The Consul having advised me, as the wind was very fair, to sail to Corinth rather than to go over land to Tripolizza, I agreed with the boatman, who had brought me from Zante, to take me on. The Austrian Consul very politely invited me to dine with him; and, after spending a day tolerably enough at Patrass, I embarked in the evening, and we soon after got under weigh. As we passed the castles in the dark, you cannot expect me to describe them, for I have no traveller's journal to steal from. By way of letting you know, however, what advantage it is to the world that travellers should not write their journals until they have leisure to rummage as many books as possible, I confess, that all the time of my passage to Patrass, I quite forgot that somewhere in the same waters Cervantes lost his hand. The circumstance stands in my mind so much alone, that I scarcely remember any thing more about the famous battle of Lepanto than what relates to the author of *Don Quixote*; and I doubt, whether,



if the accidental resemblance of *Jacomo* to *Sancho* had not, a few minutes ago, affected the associations in my recollection, I should have remembered it at all. What a strange thing is glory! Little more than three hundred years ago all Christendom rang with the battle of Lepanto; and yet there seems to be a probability that it will be interesting to posterity only as forming an occurrence in the life of one of the privates engaged in it. This is certainly no very melancholy reflection; to me, indeed, it is an agreeable one; for I have begun to be of opinion, that there is no permanent fame but that which is obtained by adding to the comforts of mankind; and military transactions do not otherwise produce any thing in this way, but as furnishing topics which authors may manage in such a manner as to afford, in the perusal, the most interesting of all pastimes. Not that I think less of military virtues; on the contrary, I am the more convinced of their value and essentiality to the dignity of the human character. *Burke* has unguardedly said, that vice loses half its malignity by losing its grossness; but public virtue unquestionably ceases to be useful when it sickens at the neces-

sary calamities of war. The moment that a nation becomes confident of security, it gives way to corruption; and the evils and dangers of war seem as requisite for the preservation of public morals as the laws themselves. At least, this is the melancholy moral of history,—when nations resolve to be peaceful with respect to their neighbours, they begin to be vicious with respect to themselves.

At sunrise we had reached Vostitza, which stands on the scite of Ægium. I landed, but saw nothing to induce me to stop; for all that I might have to say about the Achaian league may be as well thought any where else, certainly much better when I shall have returned home; for one of the main advantages of travelling consists in being able, in reading afterwards, to give locality to the descriptions of authors, and to furnish, from recollection, distinct and particular ideas to expressions that would otherwise have only a general signification.

While I was walking on the beach at Vostitza, I met with an adventure, which, like the behaviour of the boys at Valona, served to give me some foretaste of the treatment that I may expect

from the populace in Turkey. A crabbed old Turk, who was leading an obstinate horse, would have had me to lead the horse for him; and because I also chose to be stubborn, he spat at me with the malignant antipathy of an exasperated toad.

The country of the Morea, along the Gulph of Corinth, presents a varied mountainous aspect, here and there patched with cultivated fields, which, with a few hamlets, serve to show that it is not entirely deserted by the rural population. As we approached Corinth, the ground between the base of the hills and the sea gradually expanded to an inclined plain of two or three miles in breadth. I fancy that the most humble idea you ever entertained of the Achaian territory was something greatly beyond so mere a selvage of land.

At sun-set we were still four or five miles distant from Corinth, when the wind, which had blown a steady breeze all day, and had enabled us to run about a hundred miles in little more time than twelve hours, suddenly fell quite calm. It was consequently too late, before we reached the shore, to think of going to the town, which

stands at a distance of more than a mile from the beach. I was therefore obliged to pass another night in the boat.

At day-break Jacomo was dispatched to procure horses. He came back highly contented with an arrangement which he had made with an Argos postman, for four horses. Without saying that his master was an English traveller, he engaged the horses for a sum of about eight shillings. When we arrived at the khan, the man discovered the fact, and refused to fulfil the agreement. Jacomo scolded: the man insisted that he ought to have been told that the horses were for a milordos. To end the dispute, I was obliged to double the amount agreed on; nor will you think sixteen shillings an extravagant hire for four horses and a journey of thirty miles.

The existing city of Corinth has a mean and ruinous appearance. A few columns of a temple, and two or three masses of mason-work, are the only visible relics of its antient grandeur. The population cannot, I think, exceed three or four thousand souls. The mansion of the Governor is a very respectable edifice, situated on a delightful eminence, which commands a noble pro-

spect of the gulph and isthmus, with Parnassus, and other mountains of Romalia.

After leaving Corinth, the road to Argos proceeds along the breast of the hills, parallel to the sea, for about a couple of miles, when it turns into the interior. It is tolerably good for horses, but the valley through which it lies is very dreary. Indeed it was not till we had almost approached the half-way stage to this place that I saw any cultivated soil, or land that could be cultivated.

At the half-way house we fell in with two Turkish travellers, very civil persons; and soon after, two Mahomedan women, from Argos, also stopped to refresh their horses. They had no other protectors than their veils; and yet, if I might judge by their dress, they must have been persons in good circumstances. With the curiosity of the sex, they made many enquiries of Giacomo about me; which he appeared to answer with a surprising minuteness of detail, and many incidents that evidently filled them with great wonder.

The beauty of landscapes may not be dependant on the state of the weather; but, undoubtedly, the weather materially affects the senti-

ments with which we behold them. When I reached the public-house, which stands on the high road, at a short distance from the ruins of Mycenæ, not a breath of wind was stirring; and the sun, which was sinking behind the mountains, was surrounded with clouds that resembled vast masses of solid fire; the effect of which produced a slight sensation of awe, in addition to the other feelings which the tranquillity and beauty of the scene had awakened. Before me lay the gulph of Argos; on the West side of which several promontories, like the side-scenes of a theatre, extended, in successive perspective, to a great distance; and on the East the city of Napoli Romania, with the abrupt cliffs near it, all glittering and vividly tinted with the setting sun, appeared a striking and magnificent spectacle. The plain immediately before me, with several ploughs in motion, and interspersed with hamlets and country-houses, presented the cheerful images of industry and homes; but the sublime aspect of the heavens, and the consideration of being in a country where the moral change was still more mournful than the desolation that I had all day witnessed, gave a degree of solem-

nity to my reflections that I have rarely experienced. An intelligent and proud-hearted people are the slaves of a race who scorn to regard them as beings of the same species. The soil is sullenly tilled, and the produce is niggardly. The population of the superb peninsula of the Morea, once estimated at many millions, is now not supposed to exceed four hundred thousand souls. Such is the pestiferous influence of oppression. It is not, however, the oppressors, but the oppressed, that are to blame for the decay of nations. That kind of tyranny, whether arising from laws or from men, which overwhelms the liberty of civilized communities, is but the embodied vices of the people.

We reached Argos in good time to have procured every thing I required; but the inn or khan being full of travellers, I have been obliged to take up my abode for the night in an apartment without bedstead, table, or chair. I am sitting on the ground, a portmanteau is my writing-desk, and Giacomo is both the candlestick and inkstand.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER XI.

TRIPOLIZZA, 18 *Feb.*

HAVING passed at Argos, notwithstanding the filthiness of the hovel in which I was obliged to sleep, what a physician would call a good night, I got up at break of day. As the inn, or more properly the hostel, like that of Corinth, provides no other entertainment than house room, I took my breakfast in a shop, the master of which, in addition to his special profession of barber, exercised the miscellaneous functions of haberdasher and coffee-house keeper.

The city of Argos is airy and chearful, though the houses are little better than sheds. The streets are wide, and the inhabitants appear to be cleanly and well-dressed. The population is probably about four thousand souls, of whom by far the greatest number are christians; indeed, except among the soldiers attached to the office of the



governor, there is scarcely a Turk in the town, and I understand that even many of the soldiers are Albanian Christians.

The most remarkable object that I observed in Argos, was a large building belonging to the post, and which, considering the tendency of events, is probably destined to be converted into barracks. There is also a very handsome structure, for a town of so small a population, appropriated as schools for the education of the youth. I have not yet had an opportunity of learning whether these schools are wholly for the instruction of Turkish boys, or whether they have been instituted also for the pious purpose of bringing up any neglected Christian children in the gospel according to Mahomet.

It is of very little use, I imagine, to be at the trouble of ascertaining the truth of this, as all the youths brought up at the academy prove Mahomedans just in the same manner as all the students in the English universities become members of the Church of England. There is, however, some difference between the Turkish system and the English, if it embrace the conversion of youth to the tenets of the state religion. For at

Oxford and Cambridge, where the youth are sent to be taught the true doctrines of the church, which are supposed not to be well taught any where else, it is very wisely required that they shall have not only pre-resolved to become members of the church, but that they shall actually be members — an arrangement which cannot be too much admired, as it has the effect, by excluding dissenters and catholics, of preserving the emoluments of the colleges to a much smaller number of persons. This system in the present age is the more worthy of being allowed to remain unaltered; for the number of dissenters is rapidly increasing, and if they were to be allowed to enter the universities, they might turn out the dealers in advowsons and fellowships, as the money-changers were of old expelled from the temple.

On the top of a precipitous hill stand the remains of a castle built by the Venetians on the scite of a still more antient fortress. At present it has no garrison, and Argos, like Corinth, is ready for any power who may chuse to take it. At the foot of this hill, the old city seems to have been situated; for several broken columns and frag-

ments of edifices are still to be seen in the fields, and the ruins of a theatre may also be traced. The aspect of beauty in decay, or of grandeur overthrown, is certainly interesting; but mere situations, however famous, unless they present visible objects to excite the mind, do not produce any of that kind of enthusiasm which Dr. Johnson felt in the Island of Iona. Without something to apprise me that I tread on holy ground, I feel very little inclination to reverence the divinity which is poetically thought to be always present in such places.

After leaving Argos about a mile or two behind, I passed the vast fountain of Erasinus, which is supposed to be the vent of the Stymphalian lake. It flows from a cave at the base of a rocky hill so copiously, as to form at once a considerable river. Within the cave are the ruins of a Christian chapel, where very probably a heathen temple not more idolatrous formerly stood.

You will recollect that in the days of Hercules the Stymphalian lake was prodigiously infested by harpies, which he dispersed and destroyed. Who Hercules was seems to be by the learned in words, that is by those who understand the

Greek and Latin names of things without knowing any thing of things themselves, not yet ascertained ; but according to Bryant, if I recollect right, the harpies were priests: so that in addition to the locusts of Horapollo, of the Egyptians, and of St. John the theologian, whenever you stand in need of a metaphorical expression to describe ecclesiastics, you have classical authority to use that of harpies.

Crossing the stream of Erasinus, the road presently winds up among the mountains, when the appearance of the country is in every respect as wild, and more barren, than that of the highlands of Scotland. Here and there I passed a few cattle, and saw two or three straggling flocks of sheep. The shepherds were commonly seated near the road ; and in one or two instances brought a pitcher of water, which they offered me to drink, in the expectation of being rewarded with a para, a small coin, equal in value to about the fortieth part of a shilling. They had all a remarkable grave and melancholy look, doubtless the effect of their lonely mode of life ; and they were armed with muskets to protect their sheep from the wolves and vultures. The time may come when

this class of men shall be induced to turn their weapons against their oppressors. What are they to the Turks but as sheep, and what are the Turks to them but as wolves and vultures? It is impossible to witness the degraded state of the Greeks, and to remember their antient elevation and glory, without feelings of indignation ; and yet, if they had not themselves fallen from their former greatness, they would not have been in the miserable situation which they now hold. It is useless to grieve for their condition. Nations, like individuals, must die ; the enterprizing and speculating spirit must depart from them, and the carcase become rotten, and moulder away. The Greeks of these times, as seen among the ruins of the antient temples, are but as the vermin that inhabit the skeleton of a deceased hero.

Half way between Argos and Tripolizza, there is a sort of inn, with a shed for travellers to rest in while their horses are refreshing. The view of the landscape from that spot is strikingly savage. It appears as if a stormy ocean, when the waves were raging in their greatest turbulence, had been suddenly converted into solid matter.

In the course of a few minutes after quitting

the inn, I arrived in sight of a small but well cultivated valley. It lay so far below me that the little inequalities of the bottom were not perceptible, so that it had exactly the appearance of being covered with a carpet. The road passes down into this sequestered hollow, and again ascends among the mountains, where in several places it is carried along the edge of frightful precipices. It has lately undergone a substantial repair, and if not fit for coaches, is sufficient for cannon, considering the retinue that generally attends them. The late rains having in several places washed down the parapet, I observed a Greek lad repairing it, and on enquiring how he was paid for his labour, found that he depended on the bounty of travellers, who seldom gave him more than a single para, for which he kept a fire to light their pipes, and a jar of water to wash their mouths. About an hour before we had passed, a Turk had carried off his jar.

Immediately after gaining the summit of the mountains, the plain of Tripolizza is discovered at a short distance below. It is one of the most elevated in the peninsula, and at this time has a bare and wintry aspect. The road after quitting

the hills is not bad, running in several places between hedges and inclosed fields. The distant appearance of the town is rendered respectable by the minarets of the moschs; but the town itself fails to realize the expectation which the distant appearance creates.

Jacomo, who has been here several times before, conducted me to a large inn, where he procured me a decent apartment. The yard of the building presented a singular and amusing scene. A spacious covered gallery runs round it, in which a great number of tailors and shoemakers were at work, and in the area below a crowd of strangers were bawling and squabbling among horses and luggage. I conceive that this is one of those Turkish public houses which are properly entitled to the epithet of Khans.

Having a packet for Dr. Teriano, the Vizier's physician, I dispatched Jacomo with it, and entered into conversation with a Greek merchant who spoke Italian, and who by way of welcome had treated me with a cup of coffee. From him I learnt that Vilhi Pashaw the Vizier has prohibited the Turks from striking the Greeks, and that the administration of justice in the Morea is

at present so prompt and severe that outrages are rarely now heard of. He also informed me that the whole number of Turks in the Morea is not supposed to exceed twenty thousand souls. I have indeed hitherto seen few; in the course of my journey certainly not a hundred.

Jacomo returned with a message from the Doctor, requesting me to stay with him, and I gladly availed myself of the invitation. It was dark before I reached the house, and when I entered his room, I found him immersed in study. On the table before him lay many books with marks in them. On his head was a white night-cap; and being dressed in black, his appearance was becomingly philosophical. Beside him sat a lively-looking young man disconsolately playing on the guitar.

The first salutations and welcomings were scarcely finished, when the two gentlemen began to bewail to me their total want of all society. The Doctor is a sensible and ingenious man. He has published a small work in Italian, at Malta, on the Brunonian system, which he has professedly adopted. Had he belonged to any other medical sect, I should have felt a want of excitability for conversation; but possessing some notion



of the Brunonian doctrine, I made the most I could of it to help us into acquaintance.

The Doctor having occasion to go to the Seraglio, I mentioned that I had a recommendatory letter for the Vizier, and begged to be informed of the proper way of sending it. He said that it would be as well that he should take it; and I delivered it to him. When he returned, he brought me the Vizier's compliments, and a request to know whether I would choose to make a public or a private visit, for, if public, the officers of the palace and horses would be ready in the morning. I explained to the Doctor, that being but a private traveller accidentally passing through the country, I would pay my respects to his Highness in the ordinary way of my countrymen. Not but that I should have liked well enough for once in my life to have, Aladdin-like, bestrode a horse caparisoned with gold and velvet; but having no one who knew me to mortify by the sight, I thought it unnecessary to trouble the Vizier's officers.

Feeling myself rather tired, I went to bed immediately after supper, but I had scarcely laid my head on the pillow when the whole house began to tremble. It was an earthquake. I instantly

started up, and made for the door. Before I had half crossed the room, a second shock much more violent than the first made the whole building rattle.

“ The very principals did seem to rend,  
And all to topple.”

I ran back to bed, and for some time after felt that the motions of the house had communicated a sympathetic tremor to my nerves of a very dishonourable kind. However, as none of the inhabitants of the house thought it worth their while to enquire what I thought of the affair, my fears were fortunately concealed, till I could laugh at them myself.

In the morning, Dr. Teriano informed me that earthquakes are very common at Tripolizza, but they are seldom so violent as to do much damage. They are severest after warm wet weather, especially if the wind happens to change suddenly to the north, and to blow unusually cold. While we were at dinner to-day, another slight motion was felt, but it passed off in a moment, and excited no alarm. These three visits, however, have quite satisfied me, and I desire no further acquaintance with such phænomena.

In the afternoon, about four o'clock, I set out for the Seraglio, with the Doctor and the Vizier's Italian secretary. The gate of this palace is not unlike the entrance to some of the closes in Edinburgh, and the court within reminded me of Smithfield in London, but it is not surrounded by such lofty buildings, nor in any degree of comparison so well built.

We ascended a ruinous staircase which led to an open gallery, where three or four hundred of the Vizier's Albanian guards were lounging. In an antichamber, which opened from the gallery, a number of officers were smoking; and in the middle, on the floor, two old Turks were seriously engaged at chess.

My name being sent in to the Vizier, a guard of ceremony was called, and after they had arranged themselves in the presence-chamber, I was admitted. The doctor and the secretary having in the mean time taken off their shoes, accompanied me in order to act as interpreters.

The presence-chamber is about forty feet square, and is certainly showy and handsome. Round the walls were placed sofas, which, from being covered with scarlet, reminded me of the

woolsacks in the House of Lords. In the farthest corner of the room, elevated on a crimson velvet cushion, sat the Vizier, wrapped in a superb pelisse. On his head was a vast turban; in his belt a dagger, incrustated with jewels; and on the little finger of his right hand he wore a diamond as big as the nob on the stopper of a vinegar-cruet. In his left hand he held a string of small coral beads, which he twirled backwards and forwards during the greatest part of the visit. On the sofa, beside him, lay a pair of richly-ornamented London-made pistols. At some distance, on the same sofa, but not on a cushion, sat Memet, the Pashaw of Napoli Romania, whose son is contracted in marriage to the Vizier's daughter. On the floor, at the feet of this Pashaw, and opposite to the Vizier, a secretary was writing dispatches. These were the only persons in the room who had the honour of being seated; for, according to the etiquette of this viceregal court, those who receive the Vizier's pay are not allowed to sit down in his presence.

On my entrance, his Highness motioned to me to sit beside him; and through the medium of the interpreters, began with some common-

place courtly insignificances, to make a prelude to a more interesting conversation. In his manners I found him free and affable, with a considerable tincture of humour and drollery. Among other questions, he enquired if I had a wife; and being answered in the negative, he replied to me himself, in Italian, that I was a happy man, for he found his very troublesome: considering their probable number, this is not unlikely.

Pipes and coffee were in the mean time served. The pipe presented to the Vizier was at least twelve feet long. The mouth-piece was formed of a single block of amber, as large as an ordinary-sized cucumber, and fastened to the shaft by a broad hoop of gold, decorated with jewels. While the pipes and coffee were distributing, a musical clock, which stood in a niche, began to play, and continued doing so until this ceremony was over. The coffee was literally a drop of dregs, in a very small china cup, placed in a golden socket. His Highness was served with his coffee by Pashaw-Bey, his generalissimo—a giant, with the tall crown of a dun-coloured beaver-hat on his head. In returning the cup to him, the Vizier elegantly

belched in his face. After the regale of the pipes and coffee, the attendants withdrew, and his Highness began a kind of political discussion; in which, though making use of an interpreter, he managed to convey his questions with delicacy and address. In speaking of the Albanians who have been taken into our service, he observed that General Oswald would not find them steady troops, nor fitted for European warfare; an inadvertent confession, that the power of his father, Ali Pashaw, of Albania, is not capable of making that resistance to an invasion from the West, which is commonly supposed.

On my rising to retire, his Highness informed me, with more polite condescension than a Christian of a thousandth part of his authority would have done, that during my stay at Tripolizza, horses were at my command, and guards, who would accompany me to any part of the country I might choose to visit.

The impression left on my mind, of the character of this man, is, that he possesses much natural good sense and sagacity, with an affability of manners, which has the appearance of frankness, but is not of that quality. His per-

son is small, his features are well formed, and his eyes are exceedingly intelligent. He has all the easy self-possession of a person of high rank, and seems to have some knowledge of the antient history of Greece. How and where he has acquired it, I cannot conceive. I think he may be about thirty-five: he is certainly not older.

Yours, &c.

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## LETTER XII.

ATHENS, *Feb. 22.*

**DURING** the remainder of my stay in Tripolizza, I had no leisure to write; and meeting with no inducements in the course of my journey to stop, I only made pocket-book memoranda of the occurrences subsequent to my visit at the palace. Next morning the Vizier sent his compliments, and to say, that he had

ordered dinner to be prepared at the Doctor's for me and two of his officers. In the course of the forenoon, the Doctor carried me to visit the Primate of the Morea, an uncommonly intelligent old Greek, with whom we staid a considerable time, and were regaled with hot punch, in addition to the essential civilities of pipes and coffee. The situation of this gentleman may be described as that of a public minister for the affairs of the Greeks, under the jurisdiction of the Vizier. I was indeed rather surprised at the explanation which he gave me of the present state of the Government of the Morea. In every town and district there is a chief primate, with others subordinate, who are properly the civil magistrates. At the head of these primates is placed this public officer; and through him all appeals from the Greeks to the Vizier are made, and by him the will of the Vizier to the Greeks is communicated; so that, in fact and practice, there is at once a Grecian and an Ottoman Government: the Turks have only military possession of the Morea—a possession similar to what we have of India or Malta.

We then walked through several streets of the



town, not one of which is half so well built as the worst village that I remember to have met with in England. The buildings are constructed with large unburnt bricks; and many of the walls being rent by earthquakes, the general features of the city are ruinous and slovenly. The people, however, seemed vastly better dressed than one might have expected from the condition of their houses. Here and there wretched spectacles of squalor and beggary were seen; but, on the whole, the appearance of the inhabitants was respectable.

There is no place of public amusement in Tripolizza, except a small pavilion, which the Vizier has constructed near the fortress, where Turks and strangers go to lounge and drink coffee. The Vizier himself frequently dines there. We walked to see it; but when we arrived at the gate, a number of his attendants were in waiting, and his Highness was at dinner within; on which account we did not enter, but proceeded to look at the fortress. Castles I have always regarded as very grave and dignified edifices; but the fortress of Tripolizza has convinced me, that there are exceptions to the rule, and varie-

ties in the species. The castle of Tripolizza had no garrison, nor other guard or sentinel than a prodigious rusty iron padlock, which as effectually secured the gate as the largest-whiskered grenadier of Christendom.

In returning to the Doctor's, a number of school-boys, who were sitting on an old wall, waiting the hour of attendance, saluted us in passing with a poetical address beginning with

Frango Marango

Pitchi Cacarrango;

which, the Doctor's friend said, was to the following effect: "Franks who sit at the table, who ring the bell, who wear the hat, and eat macaroni with a gold fork." Some of our countrymen have taken this salutation in high dudgeon, deeming it just and necessary to make a public complaint thereof, thereby thinking that they upheld the dignity of the British character.

When we arrived at the house, I found a present of a lamb and wine sent from the Primate's, the Vizier's two officers waiting, and dinner ready. The two officers were lively fellows; one of them, in particular, seemed to have acquired, by instinct, a large share of the urbanity and po-

liteness of Christendom. For the dinner, it surpassed all count and reckoning; dish followed dish, till I began to suspect that the cook either expected that I would honour his Highness's entertainment as Cæsar did the supper of Cicero, or supposed that I was not a finite being. During the course of this amazing service, the principal singer and musicians of the Seraglio arrived, and sung and played several pieces of very sweet Turkish music. Among others was a song, composed by the late unfortunate Sultan Selim, the air of which was pleasingly simple and pathetic. I had heard of the Sultan's poetry before, a small collection of which has been published, and it is said to be interesting and tender. It consists chiefly of little sonnets, written after he was deposed, in which he contrasts the serenity of his retirement with the perils and anxieties of his former grandeur. It is somewhat curious, that the other great superior of the Mahomedans, the King of Persia, should at the same time have also been addicted to poetry. In the library of the India House, I have seen a very splendid copy of his effusions, which had been sent to Mrs. Company — no doubt for her critical opinion.

After the songs, the servants of the officers, who were Albanians, danced a Macedonian reel, in which they exhibited several furious specimens of highland agility. The officers then took their leave, and I went to bed equally gratified by the hospitality of the Vizier, and the incidents of the entertainment.

In the morning, when the Doctor went to the Seraglio, I desired him to mention, that I meant to set off in the course of the day. His Highness, in reply, said that horses were ordered to carry me to Athens; and a Tartar to attend me, with a special recommendation to the different Governors of the towns, for my entertainment. Soon after the postman arrived for instructions, and the Tartar came and lighted his pipe at the fire; touching his breast, lips, and forehead, and seating himself cross-legged on the floor, he waited in profound silence the arrival of the horses which were to carry us to Argos.

Julio, the Tartar, is a great oddity, a simple warm-hearted creature, abounding in the most amusing Oriental extravagances of speech. He informed Giacomo, that he was a great favourite of Vilhi Pashaw, who had given him a beautiful

Circassian slave for a wife; and that when his Highness goes a hunting, Julio accompanies him, to sing. In the course of the journey he amused me with several excellent new songs, ditties, and garlands, each a long Border-ballad's length and more, all of the most pitiful kind, about love and murder. When we were within half an hour's ride of Argos, I sent him forward to provide our supper; for, although the Vizier had munificently given orders both respecting lodging and eating, I was aware that they would be but reluctantly obeyed by the family on whom we should be billeted. On arriving at the skirts of the town, I was met by Julio, accompanied by an officer of the Governor on horseback, sent to pay the compliments of his master, and to enquire what I might want for the evening. This officer conducted me to the house of the Primate, who was to have the honour of being obliged to lodge us for the night.

Soon after, another message came from the Governor to say, that in consequence of the Vizier's orders, he was desirous of having it in his power to show his respect in some way or other, and therefore proposed to accompany me out of the

city in the morning with a guard of cavalry. This intelligence was truly alarming, but fortunately I had given orders for our departure before the break of day, and could decline the offer without giving offence. At supper, I was much pleased with the conversation of a brother of the Primate, who had studied physic at Padua. He seemed to have formed a very just idea of the relative political condition of the different European Powers, and particularly as to the tendency of the current of events with respect to the Ottoman Government. Like all the Greeks, however, his ideas of the innate superiority of his countrymen were, I think, excessive. At the same time I must acknowledge, that the uncommon proportion of intelligent men, whom I have met with among them, has somewhat inclined me to be of the same opinion. One thing I could not refrain from wondering at — the correct and minute information which this person possessed, of the different events that had recently occurred, both in Germany and Spain, and even of the state of the dispute between us and the Americans. This knowledge, he assured me, he had obtained, by conversing with the strangers who occasionally

came to the town, particularly with those from Idra; for the Idriots maintain an intimate intercourse with the blockaded as well as the open ports of the enemy, notwithstanding the vigilance of the British cruizers.

The two earthquakes were felt here about the same time as at Tripolizza, but one of the shocks seems to have been more violent.

At day-break I left Argos; and, after riding about six or seven miles, struck off the road to visit the ruins of Mycenæ, and the tomb of Agamemnon, as the great mausoleum in that neighbourhood is called. Within the bounds of the ancient city, not a house or building of any kind exists, but the walls may be traced without much difficulty; and the Cyclopean gateway is still standing, and likely to do so for many ages.

The mausoleum is certainly a curiosity worth going a couple of miles out of one's way to see. It is a hollow subterranean cone, about thirty feet in diameter, and as many in height, built of hewn stones, laid together without cement. The ornaments of the portal are entirely defaced. The only thing that remains to indicate what

they probably were, is a fragment of the base of a pillar, which is too well carved to have been executed in the same age in which Agamemnon died. Observing the Tartar greatly amazed when he understood it was a tomb, I desired Jacomo to enquire what he thought of it. "He thinks," said Jacomo, translating his answer, "that the men of old must have been as high as the building." "But why does he think so?" "Because," said Jacomo, again giving his answer, "they would not otherwise have made so large a door, nor have been able to place so huge a stone over it, nor have had occasion for so vast a tomb."

We returned to the high road, and riding smartly, got to Corinth about noon. Here, as at Argos, the Governor was anxious to show the alacrity with which he obeyed the commands of Vilhi Pashaw. In fact, I began to be teased with a useless and expensive parade; and was so glad to make my escape towards Athens, that scarcely any treat less than the Isthmian Games, I think, would have detained me for the night in so wretched a place as Corinth.

Looking back from the heights of the Isthmus, I had a view of the heads of the two



gulphs of Egina and Corinth. The land between them, at the narrowest part, does not appear to be more than three English miles in breadth, and may be described as uneven rather than as hilly or broken. The road over the heights is very well trodden out; and I have never seen more picturesque scenery than appeared at every turning, till we reached the Dervent, a pass-house, where a guard, under the command of an officer, is stationed to examine the passports of travellers from the Morea. The Governor of Corinth having given the Tartar an order for my accommodation, if I chose to stay at the Dervent all night, I resolved to remain; but I had scarcely alighted, when a violent altercation arose between Julio and the officer. The Captain had killed a lamb the day before; and the half remaining undressed, he proposed to cook it for our supper. Julio, however, conceived, that as the lamb had not been purposely put to death for us, it would be derogatory to our dignity to accept it, and accordingly vehemently insisted that another should be slain. The Officer in vain endeavoured to convince him of the difficulty of catching one in time; and the

Tartar was but half contented to compromise the matter, by accepting, at the suggestion of Jacomo, a fowl in addition to the two quarters of lamb. This fracas was the more diverting, as the gallant captain was all the time aware that the present which he expected to receive would amply repay any trouble and expense which we could occasion. The inhabitants of these parts are apparently very hospitable; but I doubt much if their hospitality would be more free than that of any innkeeper, if they did not reckon on being largely rewarded by the presents which are customarily given.

Before day-light I again mounted. The road after leaving the Dervent is, without reference to the roads of any other country, very good. As the morning brightened, the pleasures arising from picturesque beauty were enhanced by those of contrast; and to form a correct notion of the gratification which I received from the sight of the plain of Megara, you must come from the melancholy valleys and desolate hills of the Morea, and see it in a fine morning of the spring, when the sun is newly risen, the ploughs are just beginning to move, the flocks are all a-foot, and the chearful-

ness of the sky harmonizes with the gaiety of the earth and the general hilarity of animated nature.

I did not stop at Megara, being anxious to get on to Athens.

Beyond the beautiful little plain of Megara, the road, for a mile or two, lies along the side of barren hills. It then descends upon the plain of Lifina, the Eleusis of the ancients, a country only less beautiful in consequence of having fewer trees. I stopped at the village, to breakfast, and to view the ruins.

To a cursory traveller the difficulty of tracing the outlines of the scites of edifices is greater than any pleasure which might arise from the most successful attempt. It is needless therefore for me to tell you, when I mention that the forms of the ancient buildings at Eleusis are no longer visible, that the ruins were very little to my taste, and afforded me no satisfaction.

Among a number of fluted fragments and Ionic capitals of white marble, I discovered a colossal bust in bas relief of a man in armour. Over the left breast a handsomely folded drapery hangs from the shoulder, and on the breast-plate of the

right, the form of a warrior may still be discerned; but the whole is much defaced, and the head is broken off, so that it was not worth the sin of coveting.

An old man who happened to observe me looking at the ruins, invited me into his cottage, and shewed me under the floor a flight of steps, which he had only a short time before discovered. It is evident on the slightest inspection, that the soil has accumulated above the ruins, and that without the aid of a band of *Scafiers* no idea of the exact situation of the temples can now be obtained.

The plain, to a considerable distance round the modern village of Lifšina, is covered with piles of ruins; and the broken arches of an aqueduct are seen extending towards the mountains. Two wells near the high road are still frequented by the village damsels; and at one of them three Albanian girls were washing clothes. On their heads they had each a cap made of silver coins, overlapping each other like scales, and at the ends of their hair, which was very long and plaited into three tails, hung tassels also formed of money. This exhibition of their dowry is after marriage laid

aside, and the coins applied to the support of their families.

From Lifsina to Athens, the road for several miles lies along the shore. I passed a small salt-water lake, which serves to turn a mill, and soon after another, which is equally thriftily employed. Rivers there are none at present on the Eleusinian plain; and I suspect that the issues of the two mill-ponds are no less than the renowned streams of the Rhiti.

The plain is about seven or eight miles in length, and from the base of the hills to the sea, perhaps at the broadest part, it may measure four. It is well cultivated, and appears fertile. The peasants are Greeks and Albanians, and they have the reputation of being honest and industrious. Not a robbery has been committed within their district in the course of many years, and the road at all hours may be travelled in perfect safety.

After passing the second mill, the road is conducted along the foot of the mountains on the margin of the sea, and still retains traces of having been partly excavated, and partly built. At the corner where it turns in upon the land, in a

hollow between the hills, I observed a fluted column of white marble lying in a box, one of the remains of Grecian art of which Lord Elgin has taken possession. The bottom of this hollow, or glen, as it might be called were it watered by a stream, is at this time literally covered with full-blown anemonies : It is scarcely possible to conceive any thing more rich and glowing. Proceeding a short distance through this embroidered valley, we came in sight of the monastery of Daphné. The appearance and situation of the building seemed to be in agreeable unison. The monastery itself is fast verging into that state of uninhabitable elegance which excites the admiration of painters and young ladies, and the pines which wave on the adjacent mountain are heard to hiss as they toss their branches ; and somehow, such is the look of the place, that their hissing may be thought directed against the pretensions of human vanity.

Near the gate of this sequestered mansion there is a well of excellent water ; and on the neighbouring rising ground I saw an antient sepulchre. The view of the country from that spot gradually expands, and a fertile and extensive prospect

opens to the sight, and the top of mount Hymettus presently appears ; the Acropolis of Athens is soon after discovered, on which the eye of the traveller rests with avidity until he sees the temple of Theseus, situated on a swelling ground below. A variety of indistinct and miscellaneous objects then press upon the attention, and the sentiments awakened at the first view of this celebrated city, are nourished by the solemnity of the dark grove of olives, into which the road descends before he reaches the town.

I have taken up my lodgings in the Capuchin Convent, belonging to the Propaganda of Rome. The choragic monument of Lysicrates, which has been nick-named the lantern of Demosthenes, is attached to it, and serves as a closet to the friar who has charge of the house. He has given me the use of it, and I have no less a pleasure, at this moment, than writing in one of the oldest and most elegant buildings in Europe. If you wish to see what it is like, look at Stuart's Views of the Athenian Antiquities.

My reception here, in consequence of the recommendation of Vilhi Pashaw, has been embarrassingly distinguished. The Governor sent me

a couple of lambs and a dozen of fowls immediately on my arrival, and an offer of every thing in his power during my stay in Athens.

Yours, &c.

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LETTER XIII.

ATHENS, *Feb.* 28.

OF all the miseries of travelling, I do think that one of the greatest is to be obliged to visit those things which other travellers have happened to visit and describe. The marble quarry of mount Pentelicus, from which the materials for the principal edifices of Athens are supposed to have been brought, has become, it seems, one of the standing curiosities of Greece. This quarry is a large hole in the side of the hill; and a drapery of woodbine, which hangs fantastically like a curtain over the entrance, is the only thing



worth looking at about it. The interior is just like that of any other cavern.

Knowing before-hand the sort of amusement which I had to expect, it is probable that I should not have been at the trouble of riding three hours over a vile break-neck road to see this curiosity; but Lord Byron and Mr. Hobhouse, with whom I happened to come from Gibraltar to Malta, being at present in Athens, and having chosen this as the object of one of their excursions, I was induced to accompany them.

We halted at a monastery at the foot of the mountain, where we got a guide, and ate fried eggs and olives. Dr. Chandler says, that the monks of this house are summoned to prayers by a tune which is played on a piece of an iron hoop, and on the outside of the church we saw a piece of crooked iron suspended, by which the hour of prayer is announced. What sort of a tune could be played upon this instrument, the Doctor has judiciously left his readers to imagine.

When we reached the mouth of the cavern by the "very bad track," which the learned personage above-mentioned clambered up before us, we saw the little house which he made some use

of — in his description. This building the Doctor at first thought was possibly a hermit's cell, but upon more deliberate reflection he became of opinion that "it was designed perhaps for a sentinel to look out, and regulate, by signals, the approach of the men and teams employed in carrying marble to the city." This is a very sagacious notion. It is highly probable indeed that sentinels were appointed to regulate by signals the manœuvres of carts coming to fetch away stones. But for a description of all the crooks and corners in the quarry, I must refer you to Mr. Hobhouse, who intends to publish a full, true, and particular account of every thing about Greece, and many things, as well as this, not interesting to me.

Having looked at the outside of the quarry, and the guide having lighted candles, we entered and saw what doctor Chandler saw, "chippings of marble." We then descended into a hole, just wide enough to let a man pass through it, and when we had descended far enough, we stopped, and, like many others who had been there before us, engraved our names, and crawled back again into the blessed sunshine. If you have any desire to make an excursion equally instructive,

find out an old dry subterraneous drain, then take half an ell of wax taper in your hand, and lying down on your belly like a worm, crawl into the drain. When you have got to a place where you have elbow-room, take out your pen-knife, with which scratch your name upon a stone. If in this operation the blade should snap, or, by shutting suddenly, should cut your finger, continue the work with the stump, or suck the wound, as the case may require. Having finished the inscription, turn your head a little askew to the left, if the place is large enough to allow you, and look at the engraving from the right corner of your dexter eye, for that is the proper position to admire such performances. This done, endeavour to get away from the scrape in the best manner you can. One word more by way of advice: if you happen to have a companion in the descent, and he goes out first, there is great reason to apprehend that he may give you a kick in the face. If he is behind, the chance is equal that you will kick him, which is the most agreeable way of the two for the accident to fall out. Therefore be sure to get out first, if at all possible.

We returned to Athens by the village of Cal-

landris, and after dinner, as there happened to be a contract of marriage performing in the neighbourhood, we went to witness the ceremony. Between the contract and espousal generally two years are permitted to elapse, in the course of which the bride, according to the circumstances of her relations, prepares domestic chattels for her future family. The affections are rarely consulted on either side. The mother of the bridegroom chooses a suitable match for her son. In this case, the choice had been made evidently on the same economical principle by which Mrs. Primrose chose her wedding-gown, namely, for the qualities that would wear well. The bride's face was painted with the most glaring colours, and she was arrayed in uncouth embroidered garments, like lady Macbeth in a barn. Unfortunately, we were disappointed of seeing the ceremony, as it was over before we arrived.

On returning to my lodgings, and telling the friar what I had seen, he mentioned to me a curious practice of the young girls here when they become anxious to get husbands. On the first evening of the new-moon, they put a little honey, a little salt, and a piece of bread on a plate, which

they leave at a particular spot, on the bank of the Ilissus, near the Stadium, and muttering some antient words, of which the meaning has been forgotten, but which are to the effect that fate may send them "a pretty young man," they return home, and long for the fulfilment of the charm. Above the spot where these offerings are made, a statue of Venus, according to Pausanias, formerly stood. It is therefore highly probable, that what is now a superstitious, was antiently a religious rite.

Since I have happened to mention the Ilissus, I ought to inform you that it would puzzle even a poet, with all the aids of his fancy, to find it out. At this time, no rain having lately fallen, the channel is as dry as a high-way in the dog-days. The only water which can be considered as the capital stock of the river, is a small trickling rill that runs underground. I was not aware of the subterranean course of this famous occasional torrent, till I happened to stumble upon an aperture in a field near the Museum hill. If ever you come to Athens, go out at the gate between the arch of Hadrian and the ruins of the theatre; and passing a fountain, which spouts from a

garden wall, walk along the road that leads to the Piræus. In the course of five or six minutes look across the fields to the left,

“Ye fields that fam’d Ilissus laves,”

and you shall see something like the ruins of an old wall, but it is no such thing, being only a rock: near this spot the earth has tumbled in, and the river of Athens is at the bottom of the hole, really perceptible to the naked eye.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER XIV.

ATHENS, *March 1.*

IN consequence of finding the antiquities, with the exception of the Parthenon, pretty much in the state in which they have been often enough described, I have resolved not to trouble you with any other account of them, than as they become essential to the illustration of what may occur to me. At first, as every traveller who now comes to Athens must be, I was greatly vexed and disappointed by the dilapidation of the temple of Minerva; but I am consoled by the reflection, that the spoils are destined to ornament our own land, and that, if they had not been taken possession of by Lord Elgin, they would probably have been carried away by the French.

I cannot describe the modern city of Athens in fewer words, than by saying, that it looks as if two or three ill-built villages had been rudely swept together at the foot of the north side of the

Acropolis, and enclosed by a garden wall, three or four miles in circumference. The buildings occupy about four-fifths of the inclosure; the remainder is ploughed, and sown with barley at present.

The distant appearance of the Acropolis somewhat resembles that of Stirling Castle, but it is inferior in altitude and general effect. As a fortress, it is incapable at present of resisting any rational attack; the Turks, however, consider it a mighty redoubtable place; nay, for that matter, they even think old frail Athens herself capable of assuming a warlike attitude. At the proclamation of the present war against the Russians, they closed her paralytic gates in a most energetic manner. The following morning, father Paul of the convent went at day-break to take the air among the pillars of the temple of Olympian Jove, and arriving at the arch of Hadrian, found them still shut; whereupon he gave them a kick, and the gates of Athens flew open at the first touch of his reverence's toe.

The common estimate of the population of the city is ten thousand souls, and I think it is not far from the truth. What I am going to add



will certainly surprise you. To have given it full effect, I ought to have stated it before mentioning the population. The town contains no less than thirty-nine parish churches, besides the metropolitan, and upwards of eighty chapels. The metropolitan is sometimes spoken of as a parish church, and it is usual to say, in consequence, that there are forty parishes. Athens is the seat of an archbishop. Do not imagine, however, that I mean the archiepiscopal province, when I speak of the thirty-nine parishes : I speak only of the ecclesiastical division of the town. The province is extensive, comprehending all on this side of Salona and Zeitun, and reaching to Cape Colonna.

In order to give you as full a notion as possible of the present state of the Greek clergy, I will begin with the parish in which I reside. It is that of the *Panagia Candili*, or the Virgin of a Candle, or with a Candle, I cannot tell you which, and in it there are no less than ten chapels. The present incumbent bought the living on the condition of paying to the archbishop seven pounds ten shillings yearly. The ways and means for raising this sum, and what is over for his own subsistence,

consist of certain customary gifts at births, marriages, sicknesses, and deaths, thanksgiving for escapes, &c. &c. In cases of extreme danger, the high and efficient prayers of his Grace the Archbishop may be obtained for the felonious sum of forty shillings.

The parochial pastors are removeable at the will of the archbishop, and the offer of a better bonus is a good and valid reason for discarding any clergyman in Athens.

Considering the extent of the diocese, and the credulity of the people, the archbishopric of Athens should be a tolerable living; but the simony and corruptions of the Greek church are not limited to the inferior priesthood. Corruption, indeed, physical, moral, and political, always works upwards; and in Greece, as every where else, the general law prevails. The diocese is purchased for an annual stipend from the Patriarch of Constantinople, and the patriarchate itself is bought in a similar manner from the Divan: the Greek church being in this respect little better than an excise on Christian souls for the emolument of the Ottoman state. The nett income of the present archbishop of Athens may possibly exceed

three hundred pounds sterling. His palace would, in Scotland, rank as a manse of the first class, and in England as a respectable parsonage. But the primate of all England does not exact a tithe of the reverence which is levied by this prelate.

In the immediate neighbourhood of the city, there are twelve monasteries, which, if not extravagantly, are at least comfortably endowed, for the kind of people who inhabit them. The Greek friars are not held, like those of the Roman church, to be perpetually devoted. In the monasteries, only the superior, who is always a priest, and the officiating priest, are required to be of this description. The remainder of the brotherhood is composed of students and others who assist in cultivating the domain attached to the house. These may change their life, but such an act is viewed as so reprobate, that few have the courage to attempt it.

Among my notes I find the following abridged extract from Tournefort. As the information of that diligent traveller is still unquestioned, I take the liberty of introducing it, in order to place

before you a more circumstantial account of the Greek church than I could otherwise furnish.

“ After the conquest of Constantinople, the church fell into great disorders, although Mahomet II. honoured the first Patriarch elected in his reign with the same presents which the emperors used to make on such occasions, and in no way molested the Christians in their worship. The cause of the decline of the church was the emigration of the learned from Constantinople into Christendom. In 1700, the patriarchate was first sold. Before that time the officers of the Porte only demanded a fee at the issuing of the firmans, and the Patriarch was nominated by the Sultan.

“ The hierarchy of the Greek church consists of three patriarchs, who acknowledge the patriarch of Constantinople as their head. 1. The patriarch of Jerusalem, who rules the churches in Palestine, and on the confines of Arabia; 2. That of Antioch, who resides at Damascus, and has charge of the churches in Syria, Mesopotamia, and Caramania; and 3. That of Africa, who resides in Grand Cairo: all the other Greek

churches in the Ottoman dominions are under the patriarch of Constantinople.

“ The archbishops are next in rank to the patriarchs; then the bishops, and next the arch-priests: after them follow the curates and friars: from the friars the prelates are taken. The curates are secular priests, and are never elevated above the rank of arch-priests.

“ The first situation of those who devote themselves to the church is that of reader of the gospels to the people; successively they become chanters of the service, sub-deacons, and deacons. When this course of probation and discipline is finished, they are admitted into the priesthood.

“ The sub-deacon takes care of the sacred ornaments and vessels, prepares the bread for the mass, lays it on the altar, receives the offerings, dresses the priest, gives him the water to wash, and the towel. The deacon holds the stole, and a fan to drive away the flies. Priests are allowed to marry once, provided they have engaged themselves before their ordination. If they have had knowledge of woman, they cannot be ordained. The monks are divided into two classes, those who are of the priesthood, and those who are not.”

The famous university of Athens has dwindled into two pitiful colleges, where classic Greek is professedly taught. The students are few, and their proficiency is small. Degrees are not conferred, and literary honours are no longer known at Athens. There are several private schools, and I understand that commonly all the Christian males can read and write. Father Paul has about half a dozen students in Italian. Few of the Greeks can afford to educate their children beyond the mere rudiments of instruction, and books are not to be purchased here.

The Turks have five moschs with minarets, which are analogous to parish churches, and six tikays, which are of the nature of chapels. They have also three public schools, where their youth are instructed, even more slenderly than the Greeks.

The only provision for the Athenian poor consists in two or three little apartments, adjoining to the parish churches, which are granted free to helpless women: infirm and needy men retire into the monasteries, and for their sakes I regard the Greek monks as really of some use.

The baths and coffee-houses are the only places

of public amusement which the Athenians of the nineteenth Christian century enjoy. Some time ago, a Savoyard, with a magic lantern, arrived in the town, and procured leave to exhibit. The exhibition excited the utmost amazement, for the showman also played hocus pocus tricks, and vomited fire. Nothing was heard among the Turks but of the Magos; and the Greeks, little less astonished, abandoned themselves to the most mythological conjectures.

In the person of the governor, the supreme secular as well as military authority is vested. His guard, which is also the garrison, takes cognizance of those offences which in Christian countries fall under the special jurisdiction of the police. After dark, every body who has occasion to go abroad must carry, or be accompanied with, a light. If found by the patrole without this flaming minister, the culprit is immediately taken to the guard-house, and whipt on the soles before he is examined—the penalty for wanting the light.

A set of Greek civil magistrates have succeeded to the office of the antient archons. They are called primates, and their duty is to adjust the

litigations of the Christians, and to regulate the imposition of the tribute, which they always take care shall fall as light as possible on themselves and their friends.

To the mere antiquary, this celebrated city cannot but long continue interesting ; and to the classic enthusiast just liberated from the cloisters of his college, the scenery and ruins may often awaken admiration, and inspire delight. Philosophy may here point the moral apophthegm with stronger emphasis ; Virtue receive new incitements to perseverance, by reflecting on the honour which still attends the memory of the antient Great ; and Patriotism here more pathetically deplore the inevitable effects of individual corruption on public glory ; but to the traveller who rests for recreation, or who seeks a solace for misfortune, how wretched, how solitary, how empty is Athens !

Yours, &c.



## LETTER XV.

ATHENS, *March 3.*

THE genii who p̄side over famous places, have less influence on the imagination than the memory ; at least I feel myself here more disposed to brighten afresh my slight knowledge of the Athenian history, than to indulge in conjectures. But I can obtain no books, and I am almost sorry to have come to Athens, since I have come so ignorant. What I chiefly regret, is the want of that precise and circumstantial information, which is not only necessary to speak with confidence, but to think with pleasure. I am often quite stupified with my vain endeavours to discover the extent and authenticity of the faint reminiscences which I sometimes perceive in my recollection, when any of the ruins particularly attract my attention. A traveller who would write about the antient Greeks, should carry a library along with him, or should postpone

the account of what he sees, till he has access to one.

An opinion is prevalent here, that the sculptures in the temple of Minerva were executed by Phidias. But little as I know of the Athenian antiquities, I am sure that this notion is not correct. Nor do I remember to have heard before that Phidias did any thing else for the edifice than the statue of the goddess.— If I might venture to hold an opinion on the subject, I should ascribe the sculptures to Polycletus, who is said to have excelled in representations of the human figure, but could not express the majesty of the Gods. On account of the peculiar delicacy of his chisel, he was employed in carving youths; and in the battles of the Centaurs the human figures are all naked youths. Phidias, on the contrary, was famous for the majesty of his Gods; and his statues of mortals are said to have been so strongly impressed with the sublimity of his imagination that they had an awful and supernatural air. All the remains of the bas reliefs on the metopes and friezes of the Parthenon consist of human figures, chiefly youths, and so far

are any of them from having the majestic mien ascribed to the works of Phidias, that they shew only the simplicity and variety of beautiful portraits of men and women.

The subjects of the metopes, perhaps, gave rise to the opinion of the sculptures having been executed by Phidias. They represent the battles of the Centaurs and Lapithæ, which Phidias also carved on the buskins of Minerva. Had he indeed executed any part of the external decorations of the temple, there would have been no doubt on the subject. It is only because the point is not settled that I am inclined to reject the assertion altogether.

But whoever the artist was that executed these idolatries, it is very evident, notwithstanding the beauty of his figures, that he was either as stupid as a statue himself, or a very singular admirer of completeness. For his sitting figures fill the breadth of the frieze, and the standing ones do no more. A stout athletic fellow on a rearing horse, horse and all, appears of the same height as the most delicate young damsel. The artist has studied to fill the whole breadth, and the collective result is only not ludicrous be-

cause the power of individual beauty overcomes the effect of such a flagrant disregard of referable proportion.

Yours, &c.

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## LETTER XVI.

ATHENS, *March 8.*

HAVING resolved to alter the course of my voyage in consequence of a number of piratical cruisers being in the neighbourhood of Cape Colonna, the Sunium of the antients, I ordered Jacomo to take places for us in one of the passage-boats, which ply between Athens and the islands of Egina, Poros, and Idra. At the time appointed, we went to the Piræus to embark. When we arrived there, the boatman was still in the city, and I employed the time which we were obliged to wait, in looking at the ports, which, like every thing else belonging to the Greeks, owing

to the importance attached to them in their romances, and magnified through squabbles, are impressed on the juvenile mind as objects of great extent and grandeur.

Sometimes I think that I ought to make an apology to you for paying so little attention to the localities of this country; but I have not conscience enough to pretend to any other interest in the objects around me, than that vague awakening of the imagination which is inspired by my belief of the appearance of things having been once very different. Greece has been so long ruined, that even her desolation is in a state of decay, and, like her fields after winter, the frame of her society begins to show symptoms of revival.

The Piræus, which you know was the great port, is a small gulph about half as large on the surface as one of the London Docks. A very few relics of the antient works about it are still visible. The remains of two beacons, which marked the channel into the inner harbour, are still above the water. Antiently, I believe, there were four; two, however, only remain, and one of them is much dilapidated. Perhaps I should mytho-

logically observe, that Neptune, in revenge for being so long neglected by the Athenians, has knocked the beacons down with his trident.

The Piræus, as all the world knows, was the Wapping of Athens. It had a theatre for the sailors and their sweethearts; and, no doubt, it was a dirty blackguard place. The town no longer exists. A monastery, dedicated to St. Spiridion, and inhabited by three or four friars; a summer retreat and warehouses belonging to a Frenchman, who resides in the city in the double capacity of physician and merchant; and a custom-house, the collector belonging to which is a dealer in fruit and Greekish spirits; constitute the small beginnings of a new town. Poor states cannot afford to maintain their revenue officers independent of other employment: it is therefore expedient to let the revenue, as in this instance, to farmers. A few ports only, in all Turkey, can afford to pay their custom-house officers; but the commercial poverty is so extended, as not to admit of altering the general system of the empire for a few exceptions.

In the harbour, two ships were at anchor. One of them was destined to receive the spoils of

the Parthenon ; and the other had lately arrived, with a cargo of human beings, from the coast of Africa. The Athenians were always great slave-mongers ; and, at present, there are between two and three hundred in the city : they are chiefly females, the servants of the Turks, who have the reputation of being indulgent and kind-hearted masters. About a week ago, a black girl brought a duck to our convent for sale, and the friar asked her how she came to be made a slave. She gave a shrill ludicrous laugh, and said that she was taken by the catchers while she was at the well for water. She was born in Egypt, and caught in the neighbourhood of Alexandria.

The only trade at the Piræus, besides the little that is done in the human commodity, is the exportation of the productions of the Athenian territory, the principal article of which is oil. Attica, according to the fable of Minerva, is the native country of the inestimable olive, and the trees in the environs of Athens are certainly very fine. They are much larger than those of Sicily, and the oil is better : the cultivation here is also, perhaps, more judicious and methodical. The low grounds, which are easily wa-

tered, seem to be uniformly preferred; but, in Sicily, situation did not appear to me to be so generally studied; and it is perhaps owing to many of the Sicilian olives being planted in dry and hilly situations, that the oil of that country has almost universally a resinous flavour.

Leaving the Piræus, and passing behind the monastery of St. Spiridion, I walked to the heights of Munychia, where I saw the ruins of a temple, and two granaries excavated in the rock. On the shore, below them, another of the three ports of Athens is seen — and such a port! But it was large enough for the wherries and pinnaces of the Greeks—those boats, which the inhabitants of colleges translate ships of the line, to the confusion of all the means of forming distinct ideas of the real achievements of the ancients. This port is a circular bason, about fifty yards in diameter: I am not perfectly satisfied that it is actually so large; and as I did not think it worth my while to look for the other little harbour, I cannot tell you whether this was the Phalerum or the Munychia. Chandler seems to have been as much tired of the research as I was; for on applying to him, in the hope of getting off by his



assistance without being obliged to make this confession, I find him so perplexingly obscure, that I will bet ten to one he never examined them. As to the tomb of Themistocles, and the farm of Aristides, which were near this spot, I did not trouble my head about them. If any thing like the problem by which Cicero discovered the grave of Archimedes were to have recompensed a search for the one; or if I should have ascertained that the ostracism of the Athenians was not a universal law of human nature, by discovering the exact limits of the other; perhaps I might have written to you, at this time, a more literary-looking letter. But the conviction that no such result would have crowned my labour, withheld me from making any attempt.

Although I am very willing to allow the ancients to have been very extraordinary persons, yet you know that I have always thought but little of their great affairs, and particularly of their famous characters, compared to the great affairs and the famous characters of the moderns. Aristides and Pericles, I own, were very able and respectable magistrates, and they may have been endowed by Nature with virtues and talents

which would have fitted them for the rule of kingdoms, equal, in all the complexity of interests, to those of France or Britain; but the petty circumstances in which they were placed, surely render them, in a comparative estimate, but of moderate rank; otherwise, we do injustice to those whom we value, only by what they actually have done, without regarding what they might have performed, had their circumstances been more fortunate. However, with respect to the Grecian mind in general, I confess myself puzzled. By no hypothesis within my power of framing, can I account for that extraordinary excellence, in art and literature, which the Greeks so unquestionably attained, except by embracing the notion that the world has its stages of age like man; and supposing that the ancients lived in the youth of the world, when all things were more fresh and beautiful than in the state in which we see them. We have the unquestionable authority of Homer, for the decline of human strength; and the reveries of Plato, and the other philosophers of Greece, are evidences of the juvenility, in their time, of the reason of man!

Yours, &c.

## LETTER XVII.

ATHENS, *March 8.*

**EITHER** you or I were in good luck, by the occurrence of an interruption, which obliged me to terminate my last letter abruptly. I found myself beginning to speculate; and God knows what nonsense you might have been obliged to read, had I been permitted to go on. As I cannot re-unite the spider-thread of theoretical reflection, which was then broken, I must soberly resume my narrative.

When I returned to the Custom-house of the Piræus, the boatman had arrived, and with him were two other passengers. One of them was an old Turk, the only one, that I have yet met with, who is not a soldier. He was going to Idra with a little adventure of herbs, and three skins of oil. It is the custom, in these parts, to carry the oil in sacks, made of the entire skins of sheep or hogs.

In the course of a slow, but pleasant sail of three hours, to Egina, I had a satisfactory view of the ruins of the Temple of Jupiter, on Mount Panhellenius. Finding myself, on my arrival at the port, owing to the effects of a slight cold, and occasional returns of my old indisposition, feverish and uneasy, I procured lodgings, and resolved to go no farther. As the people of the house proved obliging, I ventured to send Giacomo on to Idra, to procure the requisite information for regulating my future movements, determining to return next day to Athens. In the morning I felt so much better, that I was encouraged to visit the interior of the island, and obtained a guide to go with me.

My memorandum-book says, on the authority of Chandler and somebody else, that the circumference of Egina is about twenty-two miles and a half of our measure. The soil of the valleys and the plain is stony but fertile. The hills are for the most part naked rocks, scarcely affording rooting or nourishment to any shrubs. In the vicinity of the port, and indeed in general, the island is very well cultivated. The valley, above which the main town is situated, presented an

uncommonly beautiful appearance, owing to the fresh green of the rising corn. The sides of the hills being very steep, the farmers have been obliged to form them into terraces, which resemble so many rows of seats, in a colossal amphitheatre.

The capital contains, I should think, about fifteen hundred souls. As I know no place at home so bad as to be likened to it, you must be content with my using a standard of comparison on this occasion, of which you can have no correct notion. Assuming that the most despicable borough in all Scotland is Zero in the scale of towns, I conceive that a Sicilian town of equal quantities must be many degrees lower. Castro, in the Isle of Egina, is about as much inferior to a Sicilian town of equal quantities as such a Sicilian town is inferior to the most despicable borough in all Scotland. It is situated on a high mountain, and looks better at a distance, than, *à priori*, you would think it possible for such a collection of hovels to appear. On entering it, I found one huxtry-shop, the keeper of which sold spirits, and kept a school. He had but little to sell, and only five scholars.

The chief produce of the Island of Egina is grain. It has a few olive, almond, and fig trees: it also yields a small quantity of wine, but not enough for the inhabitants. The cultivation of the madder plant has been introduced, and succeeds very well, but the product is still trifling. Cotton is also cultivated, but the crop is inadequate to supply the home consumption. The population is estimated at four thousand souls.

It is evident that Egina never could possibly have been an island of any consequence, according to our notions of political importance. The battle of Salamis, in which the inhabitants had an honourable share, was in fact but a battle of boats; and as the words *glory* and *grandeur* have now-a-days a very extensive signification, it is ridiculous to apply them, without qualification, to such petty exploits. A multitude of minute circumstances in description is very apt to give an impression of greatness to small affairs. The circumstantiality with which the Greek historians have narrated all the little events, and even scandal, of their respective towns, has had the effect of making a magnified idea of every thing concerning them. When a Sicilian Lo-

candieré would shear a British traveller, he enumerates every individual and elementary atom of the particle of food which he calls a dinner, until the traveller is half persuaded that his landlord is, after all, a very reasonable and conscientious soul. The Greek historians are something like the Sicilian innkeepers.

The remains of the antient moles of the port of Egina are still, in many places, above the water, and the wharfs might easily be repaired. The inhabitants of the island, being entirely Greeks, or, to speak more distinctly, Christians, and left to trade according to their means and dispositions, have lately begun to get the better of the misery to which they have been so long reduced. The inland capital, which I have already described, is on the decline; but a new town is rising on the scite of the antient city, that shews the improved resources and views of the inhabitants.

When the Christians abandoned the crusades, the Mahomedans acquired the command of the Grecian seas; but the insular Greeks were never all actually subdued. In Candia, and even in the Morea, there are districts which refuse obe-

dience to the firmans of the Sultan. In the latter country, the Mainotes boast the freedom and military spirit of their Lacedemonian ancestors; nor is the laconic brevity of language, nor the influence of the institutions of Lycurgus, yet wholly lost among them. But as I mean to visit this singular people, notwithstanding the bad character which they have, both from Turks and Christians, I shall have occasion to say more about them again. Those of the Greeks, who continued their resistance of the general subjugation of the Eastern Empire by the Sultans, carried on a wild and irregular warfare, in which the Eginians were participators and sufferers. The buccaneer period of their history is now past, and the severity of the Ottoman principles of government has been relaxed. Events, which have occurred in the contest between us and the French, have brought their seas under the immediate dominion of one great naval power, and the effect has proved beneficial to the morals and condition of the inhabitants of the Archipelago. The Eginians, profiting by the security that has resulted from this state of things, are leaving their upland strong-holds, and settling again on the



shore. The new town presents a prosperous appearance, and the buildings are superior to those of any other that I have yet seen in the Turkish dominions. In digging the foundations, many antient sepulchres have been discovered, and several pieces of respectable sculpture found in them.

On the whole, I have been much gratified with my excursion to Egina. It is the first place I have yet visited, where the Greeks are seen to advantage; the first where those sentiments which they all freely utter are seen in something like the process of taking effect. When I returned here, the ruins and columns which seemed to me before only the tomb-stones of a departed nation, appeared as venerable monitors, serving to perpetuate recollections which may yet minister to the restoration of a degraded, but not an insensible people.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER XVIII.

ATHENS, *March 10.*

CHANDLER mentions, that during his residence in the Levant, a rumour was current, that a cross of shining light had been seen at Constantinople, pendant in the air, over the St. Sophia, and that the sign was interpreted to portend the exaltation of the Christians above the Mahomedans. By such arts as these (adds the Doctor) are the wretched Greeks preserved from despondency, rouzed to expectation, and consoled beneath the yoke of bondage. Unfortunately, it did not fall within the province of his researches, to examine the existing sentiments and moral condition of the Greeks, so much as the remains of their national customs, and the monuments of their ancestors; otherwise, by his opportunities and remarkable talent for collecting details, we should have been made fully acquainted

with a subject that is still in a great measure untouched.

The perfect separation of the Greeks and Turks is certainly not the least interesting circumstance that one meets with in this interesting country. The Turks bear no proportion, in number, to the Greeks. In Athens, the former do not amount to a thousand, and the latter are more than seven times that number. In all the rest of Attica, a Mahomedan is rarely to be seen. In point of capacity, the Greeks are no less superior to the Turks. The habits which they respectively acquire produce an intellectual result, that is of the same effect as an innate difference of endowment. The Turks here may be considered as domiciliated military: they are idle and insolent. The young, from their earliest years, imitate the practices of the old. A Turkish lad, just entering his teens, carries his pipe, tobacco-pouch, and pistols, with all the gravity of his father; frequents the coffee-houses and the baths with the same arrogance, and passes the time in reveries equally mystical and useless. The Greeks, on the contrary, are all activity and industry. The oppression and injustice with which they are treated by the

Turks at once sharpen their spirits and stimulate their address. They are the slaves of the Turks. It is not, however, the slavery of individual servitude, but the degradation of an inferior cast. All handicraft labour, in this part of the country, is performed by them; and, except in those instances where state necessity requires a few persons to be respected, in order to ensure the obedience of the commonalty, they are not permitted to accumulate wealth with impunity, to wear arms, or to resent the injuries of their lordly masters. Examples may be adduced in contradiction to this statement, but they can only be regarded as exceptions against its universality; as a general fact, it is indisputable.

The Greeks, in what relates to their common interests, appear to have the most perfect confidence in one another. They consider their oppressors as having only a temporary possession; and, to the most careless observer, it must be evident, that the opportunity only is wanting to combine them, as one man, against the Turks.

The Athenians, from time immemorial, have been a superstitious people. The history of their ancient public transactions is full of the special

interposition of the celestial powers; and they are, at this moment, as strongly persuaded that Providence is operating for their emancipation, as ever their ancestors were of the particular patronage of Minerva. As credulous as the Roman Catholics, they seem to consider the power of the Saints, as confined to local and particular objects, or rather that the saints have succeeded to the jurisdictions and partialities of the Gods of their fathers. The knowledge which they have obtained of "the unknown Deity" is only something superadded. In all general affairs, their views of Providence are sensible enough; but, in what concerns individuals, their notions are as narrow and absurd as those of their pagan ancestors. If you speak to them of the changes which are taking place in the world, though they consider them all as having reference to that chosen and peculiar people the Greeks, they will still express themselves in a rational way, and even with a degree of philosophical comprehension of thought; but the instant a child totters into the room, and you inquire the use of the bit of coloured leather hanging at the silver chain round

its neck, you are amazed at the depth of superstition into which they are sunk.

If I were called upon to give a general opinion of the Greeks, as they are at this moment, I should find myself obliged to declare, notwithstanding all my partiality for my own countrymen, that in point of capacity they are the first people I have had an opportunity of observing. They have generally more acuteness and talent than I can well describe. I do not mean information or wisdom; but only this, that their actions are, to a surprizing degree of minuteness, guided by judgment. They do nothing without having reflected on the consequences. They have the fear of the Turks constantly before their eyes, and their whole study is to elude their tyranny and rapacity. It is owing, no doubt, to the perpetual operation of this fear, that they have incurred the charge of matchless perfidy and cunning. With all their genius and ability, however, there is nothing noble in the character of the Greeks. They are invidious, to a degree, which even their degraded and oppressed condition is scarcely sufficient to account for.

At this time they are all astir with the expect-

tation of the speedy fulfilment of a prophecy which is said to have been inscribed on the tomb of Constantine the Great. I have succeeded in procuring a copy from a priest of the first edition of the book in which the prediction is recorded.

It consists of a chronicle compiled by Theodore bishop of Monovasia, at the command of Pietro, Governor of the Island of Zea, and printed at the incitation of one Zingara, of the same island. The title-page is wanting, but the internal evidence of the typography, and the style of the cuts, show that it is not older than the last century; not older, probably, than the first conception of the Russians to take possession of Constantinople. The narrative of the work closes with the death of Paleologos, and the ruin of the empire. The prophecy is given first, as it is said to have been found on the tomb of Constantine; that is, in a number of initial letters; and then with the words supplied, as they are said to have been, by Giennario, a patriarch of Constantinople—the same Giennario who attended at the Council of Florence.

I am indebted to an intelligent Greek here for the following translation. He also pointed out to

me several curious expedients which the Patriarch has had recourse to, if the Patriarch actually did supply the words; such as employing Romaic expressions, accepted into the language long after the time of Constantine.

## INSCRIPTION.

“ The power of Ismael, that is called Mahomet, shall give battle, vanquish, and extirpate, the race of Paleologos, possess the City of the Seven Hills, reign there, rule many nations oppressively, desolate the isles to the borders of the Black Sea, all the nations of the Danube being subdued. In the eighth domineer in the Peloponnesus, and in the day of the ninth go to war in the North, and in the tenth advance to subdue the Dalmatians; afterwards return for a time; when again going forth powerfully, they shall be brought near to ruin. The nations gathered together, with those of Epirus, by sea and land, will vanquish Ismael, whose descendants will yet reign a little while. The Muscovians, united with others that sent tribute, will subdue Ismael, and will rest masters of the Seven Hills and their



privileges. Then shall be an obstinate civil war, as till the fifth sign, and a voice crying three times, ‘Tremble! Tremble! Tremble!—Rouse yourselves! On the right you will find a man, strong, wonderful, and great! He shall be your master, for he is my friend; and in receiving him, you execute my will.’”

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Besides the Greeks and Turks, the Albanians form, in Greece, a third cast, distinct in their language, manners, customs, and dress. In the country of Attica they outnumber the Greeks, but in Athens they are not numerous. They are found here in a more domesticated state than at Valona. They are a much more simple people than the Greeks; and in all the honest durable qualities of good citizens, their superiors. They differ also from the Greeks in this respect, that they are a rising people; and the history of the Greek nation has long since been closed. The Greeks, in speaking of their bondage, do not consider the Albanians as fellow-sufferers; but, in estimating the means of obtaining emancipation, they have a great reliance on their courage and aid. There

is always something like presumption in giving an opinion on a prospective probability ; and I know you are very apt to make a grave face when you hear political predictions. Nevertheless, considering the number of the Albanians, and their undebauched qualities, and comparing them with the handful of Turks, and the invidious Greeks, I think the new nation, about to arise in these parts, will be Albanian. The Turks have a number of good military capabilities, and the Greeks may excel in political intrigues, but the Albanians alone possess the solid qualities essential to the founding of a state. Here they have hitherto been known only as husbandmen and shepherds, and in Attica they exhibit many traits of primitive simplicity. Their dress, except in wanting the military cloak, is the same as that which is worn in the neighbourhood of Valona, but in Attica they do not aspire to the dignity of arms. They have, almost universally, both men and women, blue eyes and high cheek-bones, with an air of frankness and contentment in their countenances. The Greeks sometimes marry Albanian women, but an Albanian man is rarely thought noble enough to be connected with a Gre-

cian family. Their children never associate with the young Greeks, and have diversions and amusements peculiar to themselves. Being from the earliest moment possible accustomed to assist their fathers and brothers in their agricultural and pastoral employments, it is only on the Sundays that they appear to enjoy any leisure, and then they are commonly seen in little bands at the gates of the town, with whistles formed of reeds, upon which they play alternately, dancing to the sounds, or laughing at the imperfect efforts of their younger companions. Chandler has described the Albanians in Attica, I think correctly. "It is chiefly their business to plough, sow, and reap; dig, fence, plant, and prune the vineyard; attend the watering of the olive-tree, and gather in the harvest; going forth before the dawn of day, and returning contented on the close of their labour. If shepherds, they live in the mountains, in the vale, or the plain, as the varying seasons require, under arbours or sheds covered with boughs, tending their flocks abroad, or milking the ewes and she-goats at the fold, and making cheese and butter to supply the city. Inured early to fatigue and the

sun, they are hardy and robust, of a manly carriage, very different from that of the fawning obsequious Greek."

Yours, &c.

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## LETTER XIX.

ATHENS, *March 12.*

**J**ACOMO not having returned from Idra, I procured a Greek who speaks Italian, to accompany me to Salamis. At sunrise we left Athens, and, after an easy walk of about two hours, passing through the olive grounds, and along the bottom of the hill on which Xerxes sat to view the naval engagement in the straits below, we came to a cove where the ferry-boat is usually found. On our arrival, the boat was at the island; and you may form some notion of what mighty men of war were engaged in that same battle of Salamis, when I tell you that the strait is so

narrow, that we hailed the boat. It was employed in transporting cattle, and could not come to us for some time: we therefore entreated a priest, who was gathering shell-fish, to transport us in his boat, which he readily did. He was a cheerful old man, with a contented countenance, and a hoary beard, of an Aaron-like longitude and affluence. The Salamian frigate was suitable to the commander: it seemed of little less antiquity than Charon's, and was of the self-same form in which that far-famed wherry is represented on an antient earthenware utensil, in the possession of the French Consul here. It had, however, one thing, which, I think, must be considered as unique in nautical implements—a wooden anchor. Two pieces of timber, shaped somewhat like a bow, and crossing each other, the extremities projecting for the flukes, formed a bottom to a pyramidal basket, in which was inclosed a stone.—The priest having landed us in safety, I requited him with a few loose paras, amounting to about a groat, and he was very well satisfied with my liberality. Ecclesiastics, in this part of the world, are humble and ignorant creatures.

We walked to the village of Ambelaki, which

is prettily situated in the midst of fertile fields, having on the one side the creek where we landed; and in front, towards the East, a more extensive but shallow port. An Antiquarian may find amusement, in the environs of the village, for an hour or two. I saw a piece of a marble leg in the churchyard; and in the floor of the church itself a tombstone belonging to one of the antients, with a figure carved on it, almost as well as a presbyterian cherubim. Some time ago a band of the villagers discovered, by chance, a solid marble urn, of uncommon beauty. Finding it very heavy, seeing no aperture, and understanding that the English Milords gave a great price for such things, they concluded that it contained gold, which only the Milords knew how to get out. With this notion, they proceeded immediately as the heathen did, according to King David of the kirk of Scotland;

And all at once with axes now  
And hammers they do go,  
And down the carved work thereof  
They break and quite undo.

The island is inhabited altogether by Christian

Albanians, and to that people the destruction of many admirable remains of Grecian art must be ascribed. Being constantly in the fields where probably the villas of the antients were situated, they frequently discover pieces of sculpture, which they seldom fail religiously to destroy; believing them to be works of the devil, framed in order to tempt mankind to return again to idolatry. With all her absurdities, the Greek church has a very laudable antipathy to idols; and her abominations are therefore less gross than those of the Roman harlot, in so much as pictures are less palpably idolatrous than statues. The second commandment, you know, only forbids the making of graven images, and says nothing of paintings; for "the likeness of any thing," there spoken of, has a matrimonial relationship to the adjective, which may be regarded as the husband of the images; at least the Greek priests are of this opinion; and I have no inclination to dispute so innocent an interpretation of any passage of the Scriptures.

After viewing the environs of the village we went into a house, and passed a short time, as the king is supposed, according to nursery legends,

to pass his in the parlour, namely, in eating bread and honey; we then walked to Coluris, the capital of the island.

The situation of Coluris is still more beautiful than that of Ambelaki. It stands at the bottom of a gulph several miles in length, and generally about half a mile in breadth; forming a safe harbour, capable of accommodating vessels of every size. The town is built at the foot of a bare conical hill; and being interspersed with trees, and surrounded with little inclosures, it has a rural and very picturesque appearance. The sun was setting when we approached it, the sea was perfectly calm, and the villagers, having finished their work, were returning from the fields. There is no inn in this retired city, but only a small coffee-house; however, I obtained, in the house of a Doctor, better lodgings than I thought the island could afford. Our landlord was one of those curiosities from the Island of Zante, who practise physic on the Greeks, and proved exceedingly diverting; not from any effort on his part, but in consequence of a peculiar drollery of nature, strangely compounded with eccentric habits and manners. He was bare-legged, and



had on a calico dressing-gown, tied round the waist with an old red handkerchief. Over this he wore a flowing pelisse, that had once been of imperial purple, and his head was adorned with a light blue silk cap, trimmed with grey fur. At the first view, he appeared, to my astonished perceptions, like a tarnished Roman emperor; but, upon closer inspection, I found him only comparable to a Bedlam king. He informed me that he had lived some time in Smyrna; had then removed to Corinth, where he also grew weary; but that he was now at rest in the elysium of Coluris, where he had an angel for his wife, and a sucking cherub of four years old for his son. It seems to be a very general custom in these countries not to wean the children till they are able, like kittens and puppies, to serve themselves.

I awoke in the morning, soon after sunrise, and the Greek having ordered breakfast from the coffee-house, while it was getting ready I went to see a relic of antiquity, that is stuck upon the outside of one of the churches. The churches in this part of the world are very small; but what is wanting in the size, is amply supplied by the number. In the little town of Coluris, there are

probably not fewer than ten or a dozen. The piece of antiquity is a groupe of the Graces, hand in hand, with their sitting parts against a pillar; but they are so much defaced that it is difficult to make out their sex or their figure. The outline of the only one of them that is in a tolerable state of preservation is, however, sufficient to show that they must have been designed and executed with some felicity of taste.

In returning from the church, I extended my walk to a short distance from the village, in order to get a view of the harbour, and to form some idea of its extent. While I was thus taking a sketch of it on my memory, I was agreeably surprised by the pious sound of a bell knolling to prayers: not clamouring, by having its tongue pulled to and fro with a string, according to the idolatrous and popish practice of the Maltese and Sicilians; but ringing in a protestant and godly manner, the body orthodoxly striking against the clapper.

After breakfasting, having procured two animals, which, after some examination, I discovered to be horses, we set out for the ferry that crosses to Megara, not far from which is a monastery,

one of the most considerable in all Greece. It is called the monastery of the Panagia Fani Romani, and has the fattest man for an abbot that I have seen out of Sicily in canonicals. Who this maiden Fanny was, I can no more tell you than the abbot himself, except that she was a saint. The chapel is in my opinion a great curiosity, and almost worth the trouble of going from Athens purposely to see it. The interior is entirely covered with paintings in the Greek style; and being only newly finished, is perhaps one of the best specimens of the present state of the arts in Greece any where to be met with. Among others, there is a picture of the Last Judgment, which has every mark of originality; certainly it is not a copy of Michael Angelo's, but it is much more entertaining. In the court of the monastery, there are several broken marble columns and pedestals, satisfactory evidences that either on the same spot, or near it, a Pagan temple had once stood. The front of the church is decorated with several old plates of porcelain or earthenware.

The population of the whole island of Salamis is supposed not to exceed five thousand souls. It produces very little oil, and but a few almonds.

At present there is scarcely a vine raised in the island for the purpose of making wine. The staple commodity is grain. The inclosures are dry walls, with turf laid across the top, exactly of the same form and structure as the ordinary dikes in the highlands of Scotland. The inhabitants are chiefly Albanians, and the young men generally emigrate to the neighbourhood of Livadia, and sometimes even to the country round Smyrna. Some of them, after an absence of several years, return with a long Turkish pipe, and a little money; and smoke and talk till their money is spent. They then again leave their friends, and return no more.

The Albanians may be regarded as a race of mountaineers; and it has been often remarked that mountaineers, more than any other people, are attached to their native land. At the same time, it may be justly said, that no other people have so strong a thirst of adventure; even the affection which they feel for the scenes of their youth, tends, perhaps, to excite their migratory spirit: for the motive of their adventures is to procure the means of subsisting in ease at home, and to possess, without care, that contemplative

enjoyment, in the reveries of which, the warmth of youthful hope first engendered the desire of going abroad. You political economists ascribe their adventurous disposition to the difficulty of finding the means of subsistence at home—and your hypothesis accounts for their rambling; but if there be not some other reason more interesting to the heart than the pursuit of gain, tell us why they return? Why the natives of your opposite mountains, after participating in all the blandishments of oriental luxury and unclouded sunshine, renounce avarice, and seek with delight the humid valleys, the misty hills, and the smoky roofs of their fathers? Explain to me why at this moment my eye should dim, as my remembrance compares my long and solitary wandering, with those social excursions in which we were wont to find so much pleasure? It is the weight of the same chain which I drag at each remove, that obliges the mountaineer of every country to return home.—In Lisbon, prior to the present war, a bold, hardy, and athletic class, apparently a different race from the Portuguese, and distinguished by their decorum and integrity,

were seen plying in the streets, and on the wharfs, as porters. They were natives of Galicia in Spain; and whenever they had accumulated means sufficient to stock a small farm, they returned to their native hills. The Switz are famous all over Europe for their migratory life. Both as soldiers and as servants, they have acquired honour by their fidelity; and the motive of their universal constancy in this virtue, was to obtain the means of quitting the licentious camps and luxurious capitals of the greater nations, in order to enjoy the pleasures and tranquillity of their native valleys. Their neighbours, the Savoyards, though less celebrated, are equally adventurous, and are actuated in all their wanderings by the same feelings,—by the wish and view of returning back to the society and haunts of their youth. They are known over all the continent, as well as in the British dominions, as itinerant musicians, and the exhibitors of those little slights of hand which every where attract vulgar admiration. In France, they are however sometimes met with in the more respectable walks of industry, as watermen, porters, and menial servants.

The Tyrolese are a people of the same disposition, and they are found throughout Germany in the capacity of labourers and pedlars; and, like all the others, they regularly return to spend their old age among their friends. From the earliest authentic periods of the history of Scotland, our countrymen have made themselves conspicuous in other nations. In France they enjoyed particular privileges and special trusts, the reward of services performed to the state; and, I presume it may be said of them still, as much as of any other mountaineers, that their good conduct abroad, is in no small degree owing to their hope of being afterwards respected at home. In Turkey, the Albanians are as much distinguished for the frugality of their habits, the sobriety of their sentiments, and the permanency of their partialities, as the Scotch, the Switz, or any other mountaineers. In Constantinople, I am told that there is a class of Albanian labourers, who have formed themselves into a kind of corporation, by which one half of their number is enabled alternately to re-visit their families, on the shores of the Adriatic, and the environs of Joannina and Valona.

But I must suspend these reflections, and the course of my narrative, as I hear somebody enquiring for me at the convent gate.

Yours, &c.

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LETTER XX.

ATHENS, *March 13.*

I NOW resume the narrative of my excursion. Leaving our horses at the monastery, we crossed the ferry to Megara, in order to view the antiquities there. I have already taken notice of the beauty of the plain; and the fields between the town and the shore are not inferior.

Megara is entirely inhabited by Greeks, who wear the Albanian dress, but have neither the simplicity nor the integrity commonly found under it.—Among other things, we were informed



that two bas reliefs had lately been found by one of the inhabitants, and we went to his house to see them. The husband was not at home, but the wife told us, that a priest, in going his rounds the other day, had blessed the house, and sprinkled it with holy water ; and that for this they had given him the two marbles. A schoolmaster, who, like an antient philosopher under a portico, was giving lessons in an open shed to a dozen or twenty boys, overhearing our conversation, advanced, and said that to his knowledge the sculptures were still in the house. After some altercation, it was at length agreed that we should be favoured with at least a sight of the antiques.—

On making enquiry into the cause of this singular attempt, as it appeared to me, at useless concealment, I was informed that the governor of Corinth is building a fountain, and that, if he heard of the bas reliefs, he would oblige the possessor to deliver them to him at Corinth, or, if he sold them, to pay him the money. The story of giving them to the priest had been invented in order to preserve them, because the Turks respect what belongs to the church, and regard whatever is set apart for its decoration or service with dread

and veneration. Give me leave to tell you an anecdote by way of illustrating this tolerative superstition of the Turks. Their indolence renders them hypochondriacal, and they are often ill of diseases of the imagination. An officer belonging to the garrison of Athens had lately a severe attack of this malady, and sent for a physician, a Frenchman of some humour. The doctor amused him with one dose of harmless trash after another, but without success. One morning happening to observe the head of a statue applied to some derogatory purpose in the Turk's house, both in order to get possession of the marble, and to divert the mind of the patient, he said to him, "I have at last found out the cause of your disease, and I am only surprised that you are not worse." "And what is it, doctor?" said the patient pathetically. "Nothing less," answered the doctor severely, "than a castigation of Heaven for the ignominy with which you treat one of our saints." "I!" exclaimed the Turk, "I certainly use no saint ignominiously, doctor." "Nay; but you do," answered the physician; "the saint is there on the floor before you; Jesu Maria! in what a condition!" "Oh!" replied the Turk, "how

could I know that such a figure was a saint? but," he added in a penitent tone, "I will order him to be washed, and immediately sent to church." "There is no need for you to take that trouble," said the wily Frenchman, "I will carry him with me; and you will swallow this composing draught, and go to sleep comfortably." The officer obeyed with alacrity, slept soundly, and awoke perfectly recovered. The physician carried off the head, which, upon examination, proved of excellent workmanship, and a valuable fee. This story father Paul had from the doctor himself.

In Megara there are many inscriptions of no more value than the *mortifications* in your parish church. I observed in the street the trunk of a Venus, which, though terribly mutilated, still retained some traces of beautiful workmanship. I know not whether it is the effect of accident or design, that all the imperfect statues I have met with in Greece want the head, apparently not broken off, but neatly cut. Pray is it quite ascertained that the Greeks were in the practice of making such tasteless things as busts? Possibly in many cases the statue may have been sacrificed, in order to render the bust part easily transported.

The present town of Megara contains about one thousand inhabitants, who are chiefly employed in agriculture. A few of the cottages are neat ; but the place on the whole is much inferior to the metropolis of Salamis. Being the midway stage between Athens and Corinth, it is often greatly harassed by the Turks and their horses. The citizens have, however, adopted an effectual plan to relieve themselves from accommodating the latter : they have made the doors of their cottages so low, that no ordinary-sized horse can enter them.

The inhabitants of the country round Megara are more military than those of Attica. They are in fact an organized militia, or rather I believe they are domiciliated soldiers, appointed to guard the passes of the isthmus—and since they were settled there, Megara, which had become almost extinct, has risen to be again a very respectable village.

The house in which I procured lodgings was afflictingly infested with fleas, and a garrulous old man, who held with me a very edifying conversation to himself of several hours, but of which I did not literally understand one word : a few nods

and winks, however, answered every purpose of speech on my side of the question ; and he seemed to think me exceedingly conversible and jocosse. When he went away, I should soon after have fallen asleep, but for the skipping multitudes that assailed me with beak and fang. Fleas, you know, like lions and tigers, and other bloody-minded beasts, are always most active during the night.

Next morning there was a great religious ceremony in the village ; in its object pious and affecting, but rendered ludicrous by the circumstances which attended it. For a long time no rain has fallen, and the ground is quite parched. Last year the crop was deficient, and throughout the whole Ottoman empire a great scarcity prevails at this moment. Another failure of the hopes of the husbandman must produce absolute famine. It is not therefore surprising that the people are alarmed, and seek to avert the calamity with which they are threatened.

At day-break the whole town was a-foot, men, women, and children, together with the inhabitants of several adjacent hamlets ; forming in all upwards of two thousand persons. Being divided

into three bands, they walked hand in hand towards the sea-shore, headed by the priests, and chaunting a prayer suitable to the occasion. The first was called the company of God the Father, and carried a picture in which he is supposed to be delineated; the second was the company of God the Son; and the last that of the Holy Ghost; each bearing suitable pictures. On arriving at the sea, the pictures were successively dipped in the water; and the procession then went back to the village.

On my return to Athens, I found the price of corn rapidly advancing, and already higher than it has been remembered for many years. The alarm with regard to the crop is becoming general, and some of the pious Turks are every morning heard praying at the dawn of day, among the ruins of the temple of Jupiter Olympius, where they usually assemble for this purpose when the droughts happen to continue long.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER XXI.

ATHENS, *March 14.*

AMONG the wonders of the east usually related by travellers, the charming of serpents, and rendering them harmless and familiar, is none of the least. If the art has not been before explained to you, I have it now in my power to communicate the secret, and you may make the experiment when you will. This morning a number of Albanian boys came to the gate of the convent, enquiring if the Inglesos would be pleased to see a tame viper, and having received permission to present themselves, they came up stairs with their show. It was a snake upwards of three feet long, twining round the arm of one of them in the true Laocoon gusto. The boy held it by the neck, between his finger and thumb. After exhibiting it for some time in this situation, he laid it down, and the others tormented it with their sticks to

make it show off. Desiring Jacomo to enquire particularly how they reduced the serpent to so great a state of docility, I received the following account. They found it asleep, placed a cleft stick across its neck, and giving it a bit of rag to bite, in order to exhaust its poison, they then dug out its teeth with a knife. Afterwards, in the way that Frederick the Great made stupid fellows alert soldiers, namely, by castigation, they reduced it to a proper state to be reviewed. The whole art seems to be no more than this: the vipers are deprived of their teeth, and rendered weak by a good hearty beating. The movements they exhibit are evidently only their natural motions languidly performed.

The friar was not in the convent during the exhibition; but returning soon after, I mentioned to him what had taken place, and the explanation that I had received of the mystery. He informed me, that in Piedmont, his native country, the art of the serpent-charmers is well understood; that he had a brother, who, when a boy, was very dextrous at it; and that he had often seen him drawing the teeth of the vipers pretty much in the same way in which the Albanians described



their operation. He likewise mentioned that the saliva of the serpents is excessively cold; that he had experienced the sensation of it on his own hand; and that the boys considered this saliva as the venom, which, entering the wounds made by the teeth, produced the effects ascribed to the bite.

Of the efficacy of viper broth in restoring debilitated patients, we have all heard; but I have been informed of another effect of this medicine, which, for the benefit of our countrymen, ought certainly to be made as public as possible. When father Paul was at college, the itch broke out among the students, to such a violent degree that they were obliged to disperse. On returning home, Paul infected his brothers, and ointments of the oldest and most approved composition were found unavailing. A mountaineer one day happened to come into the house; and the Piedmontese highlanders, like those of other countries, having great experience of the malady, he was consulted on the occasion. He readily undertook the case, and promised to effect a cure in the course of a single night. Next morning he returned with a large living viper in a bag, and ordered an earthen vessel to be placed on

the fire, filled with water and charcoal. In the moment when the water was on the point of boiling, he plunged in the serpent, and boiled it until the bones only were to be seen. When the process was finished, the broth was left to cool; and when cold, the shirts of the patients were dipped in it, and dried in the shade. At night, when the patients went to bed, the shirts were put on, and next morning the pleasing pain of their irritability had entirely subsided.

From the hills round the valley of Soana, in the department of Delladora, the Piedmontese apothecaries procure their vipers. Every year the professed charmers come round with cages to collect the serpents, the holes of which, the shepherds and boys of the valley are at pains to discover beforehand, as they are rewarded for their trouble. The charmers place a stick, covered with a serpent's skin, in an upright position, near the places which the shepherds and boys point out; and when the vipers, attracted by the smell of the skin, make their appearance, the charmers seize them with a pair of wooden tongs. Father Paul tells me that he has frequently enjoyed the pleasure of being a spectator of this sport. To this

worthy man, who, though a friar, is really liberal-minded, pious, and charitable, I am indebted for many curious and laughable anecdotes of the practice of his brethren to gain popularity with the old women of their neighbourhood. Women are the pillars of the church in all countries. I am also obliged to him for some information relative to the superstitions of the modern Athenians that I think will interest you.

One day he happened to take a child into his arms from its mother, as she passed the gate of the convent, and began to caress it, observing that he thought it the prettiest in all the town. The mother instantly, spitting in the poor child's face, snatched it out of his arms in great terror, exclaiming, that what he had said was enough to cause the death of her baby. I fancy the English of this is, that such praises might make herself so proud, that Heaven would send the angel of Parnell's Hermit to nip the life of the child, in order to humble the pride of the parent.

When the Athenian women wash clothes, they are particularly careful to guard them from the moonshine, which they say never fails to produce sickness and melancholy to the wearers. If by

accident the wet clothes fall within the glimpses of the moon, the washerwomen must spit three times over them, to neutralize the malignant property which it is supposed they have acquired. The rationale of this I cannot even conjecture.

The friar tells me that it is quite in vain to attempt to obtain a light or any fire from the houses of the Albanians after sun-set, if the husband or head of the house be still a-field. This freat seems to be a police regulation of Nature's enactment, in order to obviate a plausible pretext for entering the cottages in the obscurity of twilight, when the women are defenceless by the absence of the men.

The Albanians have another custom, which I do not remember to have heard of before, nor indeed am I acquainted with any thing similar to it. Four or five days after the baptism of a child, the midwife comes to the house, and prepares with her own mystical hands certain savoury messes, spreads a table, and places them on it. She then departs, and all the house in silence retire to sleep, leaving the door open. This table is covered for the *Miri* of the child, an invisible being, that is supposed to have the care of its

destiny. In the course of the night, the *Miri* generally comes in the shape of a cat, or some other creature; and if contented with its charge, or, in other words, if the child is to be fortunate, partakes of the feast. If the *Miri* does not arrive, or does not taste the food, the child is considered as devoted to misfortune and misery, and, no doubt, the treatment it afterwards receives is conformable to this unlucky predestination.

Before mentioning the after-birth ceremonies of the midwife, I ought to have told you of those which precede and accompany the bringing forth; but the Genius of Shandean humour has an interest in the subject, and no doubt on this occasion purposely inverted my recollection. When the mother feels the fulness of time at hand, the priestess of *Lucina* is summoned. She arrives, an antient sibylline form, bearing in her hand a tripod. This is as a classic would describe her, for she is commonly such a figure as you may some time or another chance to see depicted on an old Etruscan pitcher. But I, who have no pretensions to the classical character, must in plainer terms say, that the Athenian priestess of *Lucina*, of the present as well as of the past

time, is perhaps just such another personage as the midwife who happened to help yourself into the world — an old woman with a notable countenance. When called to the mysteries, she brings a three-footed stool in her hand, the uses of which the friar cannot well tell me, as they are known only to the initiated. The midwife having arrived, and being received by the matronly friends of the mother, proceeds, as the first part of the rites, to open every lock and lid in the house. At this ceremony, all the females who have not found keys for themselves are, on analogical principles, excluded from the room. When this is done, those who remain must wait the conclusion, and none of them after the birth may be touched with impunity, as they are considered unclean, and requiring the purification of a sprinkling of holy water, and the benediction of an ecclesiastic.

These singular notions and practices induced me to be more particular in my enquiries; and the friar having heard of others among the Albanians no less curious, we sent for an old woman, who is famous in the neighbourhood for her knowledge of simples, and the

prognostications of disease, conceiving that the same sagacity which had enabled her to make the observations on which her skill is founded, had also probably made her acquainted with the vulgar superstitions. By her we were informed that the Albanians think that mankind after death (observe I am not speaking of their religious opinions, but only of their vulgar notions) become Voorthoolakases, and often pay visits to their friends, for the same reasons and in the same way that our country-ghosts go abroad. Their fashionable visiting-hour is also the same, viz. midnight. A Voorthoolakas comes to reveal hidden treasures, to accuse murderers, and to admonish reprobates; to enforce the practice of honesty, justice, and good-conduct, and, like our ghosts, the Voorthoolakases uniformly vanish with a flash of fire. But the Collyvillory of the Albanians is another sort of personage. He is one of your Pucks that delight in mischief and pranks, and is besides a lewd and foul spirit, and therefore is very properly detested. Colly is supposed to be let loose on the night of the Nativity, with licence for twelve nights to plague men, or rather men's wives: at which time some one of

the family must keep wakeful vigil all the live-long night, beside a clear and chearful fire, otherwise this nasty abominable devil would make such an aqueous evacuation on the hearth, that never fire could be kindled there again.

The Albanians are also pestered with another species of infernal creatures, which seem to be of the self-same disposition as the Scottish witches and warlocks. These are men and women whose gifts are followed by misfortunes, whose eyes glimpse evil, and by whose touch the most prosperous affairs are blasted.—They work their malicious sorceries in the dark, collect herbs of baleful influence, by the help of which they strike their enemies with palsy, and cattle with distemper. The males are called Maissi, and the females Maissa. When they have resolved to bewitch a house or village with their spells, one of the Maissi rides three times round the fated place, screaming a prayer, the meaning of which is only known to the initiated, and the God Beelzebub.

These are undoubtedly curious national peculiarities; but there is another still more singular, and which interested me the more, as it resembles



the well-known mountaineer faculty of the second sight. The Albanians have among them persons who pretend to know the character of approaching events, by hearing sounds which resemble those that will accompany the actual occurrence.—Whoever attempts to account for this on natural principles is liable to incur as much ridicule as if he himself really credited such predictions; and yet it ought not to be so, because neither the prejudices, nor the superstitions, nor even any peculiarity of manner among mankind, have arisen without an adequate cause. The second sight of the Highlanders, and the second hearing of the Albanians, probably had their beginning not in the natural credulity of man, for that would only fit them to receive the faith; but in those presentiments which we all so often affect to experience. There are authenticated accounts of savages who possess a reach of vision, a nicety of smell, and an acuteness of hearing, scarcely less wonderful than the supernatural pretensions of the Scottish and Greek mountaineers.

If in the older time, before reason had superseded instinct, a person happened to possess any extraordinary powers of sight, it might chance

that his perceptions would, among his unphilosophical neighbours, come to be esteemed as supernatural impressions, and their fancies would supply circumstances and colouring to give the report of his anticipations due effect and importance. Might the belief in the second sight arise in this way?

The notion once admitted that such a faculty did exist, our presentiments would furnish it with a suitable class of objects; or rather what was only a presentiment might, affected by the belief, furnish the imagination with notions that an enthusiastic mind might afterwards conceive had arisen from sensations on the organ of vision. In a similar manner, the origin of a belief in second hearing, may have been raised and propagated. -I was once told by an English lady, of a servant, who sometime before a death happened in her family, complained of smelling a corpse in the house, so that, if the Scots pretend to the second sight, and the Albanians to second hearing, the English are not free from a strange smell!

But the most interesting of all the unexplained magnetisms of our species is that which has given

rise to the proverb of *Like draws to like* ; that secret sense by which men of similar dispositions become so immediately intimate, as to make us think like the Pythagoreans, that their souls must in other bodies have been formerly acquainted. I remember to have read an account of a conspiracy which was formed in London, about the year 1755, by which several police-officers induced men to commit crimes for the purpose of afterwards convicting them, in order to obtain the rewards which are offered for apprehending offenders. One of these accursed wretches possessed the diabolical sagacity of discovering the kind of persons naturally predisposed for the crimes ; and as tamed elephants assist to ensnare their fellows, he used to ply about the streets and markets in quest of youths, whom he thought by their physical appearance morally fitted to undertake his guilty enterprises. Several of those whom he and his atrocious gang brought to the gallows, had not before his fiend-like seduction, committed any crime :

“ There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,  
Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.”

Yours, &c.

## LETTER XXII.

ATHENS, *March 15.*

THE pleasure of minute recollection is undoubtedly very great in a place so full of historical interest as Athens; but there is also a state of mind, induced by general remembrance, which is sometimes more pleasing than even the satisfaction arising from recollecting things distinctly. In this state, the imagination and the memory work together, and their united endeavour to supply what has been forgotten, begets reflections with a character of truth about them, such as the offspring of fancy never possesses; and with more beauty, no less interesting than the hard features of veteran and serviceable facts. I have frequently enjoyed this placid intellectual motion while sitting in this little lodge, and reflecting on the events which have occurred in the course of the many hundred years that have passed away since it was constructed.

Sometimes I am disposed to consider what was going on in the world generally while Greece was in her glory; at others, I fall into the contemplation of the history of Athens alone; and, without being sensible of how much I furnish myself from conjecture, I obtain a sort of satisfaction, which, in all probability, the sight of a chronological table would turn into disappointment. I have just been roused from one of these historical reveries.

If it be indisputable, as I think it is, that the geographical circumstances of Greece contributed to divide the country into so many little states, it is no less certain, then, that climate, and the local peculiarities of countries, have an influence on the moral character of men. Nor will it be denied, that it is in the nature of all small states, necessarily to grow republican, and of great ones, to become despotic.

The first period in the history of nations is that in which fortifications are not constructed, but in which the inhabitants seek occasions for war, prompted by the hostile instinct peculiar to man. Over this period oblivion has drawn an impenetrable veil, with respect to the nations of

antiquity; and, but for the discovery of the world of Columbus, we should in vain have attempted to form distinct notions of what was the state of mankind in a ruder age than that which has been described by Homer. Antiquity furnishes no view of man, such as we have obtained since the discovery of America; and therefore, when we reason about the barbarity of the Greeks in ages prior to the Trojan war, I suspect that the ideas on which we build our theories are derived from the observations of modern voyagers. The philosophers of antiquity had no conception of a state of society so rude as that which was found by Captain Cook in New Holland. If the Commentaries of Cæsar were not read by boys only, and commented upon by pedants, we should not continue to think, that in his day the inhabitants of Britain were at the same time naked, and yet cultivators of the soil; for it is the very nature of man, especially in cold and humid climates, to clothe himself before he breaks bread.

The second period in the history of nations is when valour comes to be an admired quality, and when men fight for renown as well as for spoil. It is in this period that the memory of exploits

begins to be preserved, and that feelings of veneration are excited for the spots on which great actions were performed. Ferocity becomes elevated into a virtue by the influence of applause; and the habitual affection for home is expanded into patriotism, by the moral effect of the courage exerted in defence of what was only an accidental domiciliation.

The third period embraces all the circumstances of the former; but the wants of society, increased by civilization, give rise to new modes of public action, and policy comes to be cultivated by communities. In this period, the authentic history of nations commonly begins. When the Greeks had reached this epoch, they produced Homer, and laid the foundations of that deliberative confederacy, which afterwards became so famous, by the name of the Amphictyonic Council—an institution which, in its essence, was a tribunal of appeal to the States of Greece, in their own disputes, and a congress of representatives for preserving the balance of power among themselves, as well as to arrange the means of collectively resisting the aggressions of those who reigned beyond its jurisdiction.

As the authority of the Amphictyonic Council was extended, that of the Kings should have been contracted; and the period in which this famous assembly reached the summit of its power and consideration, must have been, in my opinion, about the time that royalty was abolished in Athens.

The artifices of ambitious men, consequent on the establishment of republics, always tend to corrupt public morals, and to weaken that instinct which leads mankind to delight in war; an instinct which cannot be impaired without inducing evils more destructive, in the end, than the calamities of war. For no war, undertaken either for renown or conquest, ever afflicted any nation with a ruin so dreadful as that which now covers Greece.

Athens owed her superiority in the arts to the rivalry of candidates for public favour. The vices of Athens, in particular, were obviously so incurable in the days of Pericles, that it is impossible to look on the beautiful edifices, of which he was the author, without considering them as the sepulchral monuments of the Religion and Virtue of his country. As the Arts, in Greece, were chiefly fostered by men seeking public employments, they should have attained



their greatest degree of excellence when the country was in a state the most likely to be subdued. In the age of Alexander they had reached their meridian; by him the Grecian States were deprived of their independence; and the Greeks have ever since continued to sink, till they can fall no lower.

Yours, &c.

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LETTER XXIII.

ATHENS, *March 16.*

IT is almost impossible to live eight days in Athens, without being smitten with antiquarianism. The distemper awaits all visitors, as assuredly as the button does at Aleppo. In some cases it manifests itself in a raving repetition of heathen words, applying them to men and things; in others, it appears in a propensity to quote

books which boys only read. But the most common symptom of the malady is an insane passion for old halfpence, headless images, and handleless jugs, which the patient calls medals, statues, and vases. It was in this way that I was affected.

As the Athenians of old buried their dead along the sides of the highways, the first step, in proceeding to examine a tomb, is to discover the track of an antient highway. Where the ground has not been obviously lately moved, or is, according to the slang of the Italian scifiers, still in a virgin state, you may begin to dig. In my first search, the broken side of a large urn, in a water-course, induced me to commence; and I found, in less than an hour, at least thirty earthen vessels, of different shapes and sizes; such of them as are worth the trouble of packing, you shall in due time, I hope, see, and will becomingly admire.

In my second attempt I met with a large earthenware coffin, but it was broken into many pieces. Within it the remains of the body were still visible. The skull in particular was so thick, that it appeared, indeed, capable of still enduring the fall of many ages. I found, also, in the

coffin, a glass tear-bottle. Antiquaries think, that when the antients died, their friends, making loud lament, and sobbing grievously, sat with their elbows on their knees, holding a bottle to each eye, into which their tears flowed; and it is supposed that the bottles, being afterwards corked, were deposited with the body. Be this as it may, I am quite convinced that a modern white cambric handkerchief will absorb ten times more grief and sorrow than it is possible for my little lachrymal to contain; — a clear proof that the antients were not, after all, very tender-hearted.

In my third experiment, I scafiated long and patiently. At length I came to a stone, which, being removed, another was brought to light. Reasoning analogically, from the position of the two stones, I concluded that this belonged to a sepulchre; and, in the end, the sagacious conjecture was confirmed, but the coffin was empty. The diggers, on such occasions, usually abandon the research, but having heard that vases are frequently found under the sarcophagus, I raised this one up, and there was a treasure! four of the most beautiful specimens of the Athenian undertaker's art and taste. To such exquisite utensils

permit me to apply the classical eulogium which Chandler bestows on the edifices constructed during the mayoralty of Periclēs, a bad translation of an idea pilfered from Plutarch. "A certain freshness bloomed upon them, and preserved their faces uninjured; as if they possessed a never-fading spirit, and had a soul insensible to age!" Did you know, before, that buildings had souls. I have been told, that even when the Speaker, the clerks, and forty members, were present, that there was not a soul in a certain public house.

I do not well know to what blooming freshness the Doctor particularly alludes; but, when I visited the Acropolis, I observed that one of the pieces of the entablatures of the Parthenon was stained with colour; and mentioning the circumstance to Monsieur Fauvelle, the French Consul, who is both an artist and an antiquary, he informed me that he had particularly noticed the same thing, and was convinced, not only that the sculptures of that temple had been painted, but that it was a common custom of the ancients to paint their statues. Among other things, in confirmation of this opinion, he mentioned that there is at Paris an antique bronze statue, in

which the paint is still visible in the corners of the eyes, and among the folds of the drapery. As the ancients used only water-colours, it is not surprising that the evidence on this point is so trifling.

Whether Theseus, who, you know, was both a demi-god and a dancing-master, invented the dance which I have seen to-day, I confess myself unable to determine, but I will give you an account of it. Hearing a disorderly kind of singing approaching in the streets, I opened one of the windows of the lantern of Demosthenes, and looking out, saw a crowd of boys. Immediately two tambourine players, with mad actions, emerged from behind the intercepting corner of our garden-wall. After them came two scrapers on the lyre, followed by a wretch, who tormented a poor fiddle to such a degree, that my very heart thrilled at its shrieks; and presently about twenty young fellows, drunk, holding each other by the hand, made their appearance. These were the dancers. The leader was shaking a handkerchief over his head, admiring at the same time his feet, which were cutting strange capers. Then came a train of

melancholious singers; and then they all went away. Whether this was the crane-dance of Theseus, or a choral dance, I have not been able to decide, nor would it be of the smallest consequence if I could.

Yours, &c.

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#### LETTER XXIV.

ATHENS, *March 17.*

WHEN I had finished my letter, last night, taken my supper and retired to bed, Fancy, as usual, when any thing new has occurred, began to theorize, endeavouring to persuade Reason, that there is as great an universality of resemblance in the manners and customs of mankind, as there is in their features and forms. Dancing being the subject of their discussion, Reason said that it was a barbarous amusement, which ceased as mankind advanced in civilization and knowledge—

observing that we never heard of sages being addicted to dancing; and therefore, as sages are the wisest and most enlightened of mankind, all who approximate to them in wisdom must, of course, like them, despise the ridiculous exercise of dancing. Fancy replied, that she had no doubt of the soundness of the opinion; and it would follow, that society, in its progress towards perfection (for Fancy, you know, is as staunch a perfectibilian as Madam de Stael or even the late Mrs. Godwin herself), "It would follow," said she, "that at equal degrees of civilization, there must be similar habits of dancing acquired; and therefore, according to my idea of a universal similarity in human manners, there must be also a corresponding resemblance in human dances." Memory, who had all this time sat seemingly asleep, but in fact deeply attentive to the discussion, opened her eyes, and after looking at Reason and then at Fancy, as if in doubt to which she ought to address herself, cautiously stated, that "The dance which Mr. Galt saw, from the window of the lantern of Demosthenes, was performed by Albanians; and Dr. Chandler mentions, in his book, that Albanian women, once a

year, trip hand in hand, in a very classical style, before the Temple of Theseus; which led the Doctor to be of opinion, that they practised some mutilated measure of the dance invented by that demi-god, after his return from Crete." Reason pursed up his mouth somewhat queerly at this, and taking a snuff rather emphatically, observed to Memory, that "Dr. Chandler must be mistaken; for, in order to justify his conjecture, he ought to have shown that the dance was practised by Grecian, instead of Albanian women. In short, Madam, that very dance, as you have often heard, is an aboriginal Albanian dance; and it is performed before the Temple of Theseus, only because the ground there is one of the most pleasant spots in all Athens for the purpose." Memory made no answer, but, turning towards Fancy, who, by several quick flourishes of her beautifully-painted fan, and other fidgety movements, evinced great impatience to speak, smiled on her with eyes that sparkled with the consciousness of pleasure and expectation. "What you observe, Sir," said that elegant young lady to the philosopher, "sanctions my theory; for the Albanians are now probably in the same state of



civilization in which the Athenians were during the time of Theseus, and therefore their dance resembles the one which he invented. Indeed I have no doubt, that as the islands of the Archipelago resemble, in hills and mountains, those of the Hebrides, that my learned friend Mr. Galt, if he would be at the trouble of investigating this important matter, would find the war-dance of the antients was very like the Highland-reel, which, in my opinion, is the Pyrrhic dance of the Scottish Celts. You recollect, Mrs. Memory, in what way the Highland-reel is performed. The dancers arrange themselves in opposite parties; and the music commencing with a chearful strain, they mutually advance, eying each other askance, as they pass to opposite sides. After a few innocent movements, a change in the measure instructs them to cross each other again, which they do briskly, looking more resolutely than before. The music growing more and more impetuous, the rage of the dancers kindles into fury. They snap their fingers in one another's faces; they spurn at the earth; their hands are tossed towards the heavens: they wheel, and howl the war-whoop of the Celts; and they jostle

with such violence backward, that, as Milton says of the fighting of the archangel Michael and Satan, it is unsafe to come

“ within the wind of such concussion.”

Reason could endure this no longer, but, partaking of the same spirit with which Fancy seemed to be animated, took off his wig, and threw it in her face. Memory, quite shocked at such extravagance, lifted her muff, and rising with solemnity, made a low and impressive curtsey, and wished them both good night.

Yours, &c.



## LETTER XXV.

ATHENS, *March 17.*

I HAVE been a light to you in the Lantern of Demosthenes so long, that I think you must be anxious to receive some account of the lantern itself. In Stuart's Antiquities, every thing about Athens is so well represented, that it is unnecessary for me to attempt to convey, by words, what is so effectually done already by visible representation: therefore, both for the antient and present state of this edifice, as well as of every other relic in the town, I cannot do better than refer you to Stuart.

The proper name of the building is, The monument of Lysicrates. It was erected to perpetuate the applause with which a theatrical entertainment, given by him, had been received by the Athenian people. The subject of the entertainment, probably, related to the story of Bacchus, as the frieze exhibits a series of figures which are

supposed to represent the adventures of the God among the Tyrrhenian pirates.

The story is certainly not very perspicuously told; but, as the work was executed long before the days of Ovid, it would be absurd to expect, that the sculptures should tally with the description in the *Metamorphoses*; unless, indeed, the Poet had only copied from the Sculptor. However, it is surely reasonable to believe, that the adventures, exhibited on the monument, formed the subject of the spectacle in the theatre.

It seems a very strange thing, that any person should ever, in any age, have thought of constructing so beautiful and so permanent an edifice as this, merely to commemorate the success of a dramatic performance. But in the days of Lysicrates the theatre was in some respects scarcely less hallowed than the temple; and the exhibitions given there, were in honour of the Gods, particularly of Bacchus. This monument ought, therefore, to be considered as manifesting the piety of Lysicrates. It is as much a work of religion as any of the votive chapels, monasteries,

and hospitals, reared by the moderns in honour of the Saints.

The drama is supposed to owe its origin to the worship of Bacchus, and the principal theatre in Athens was dedicated to him : a few fragments of the building serve to verify the historical descriptions of its extent and magnificence. The cheerful character of the religion of the antients contributed to make much of the ritual of its service merely amusement; and it is certain that their dramatic performances had the same sort of religious quality as the monkish operas, which, before the Reformation, were so common throughout Europe. It is possibly owing to this that the pathos of the Greek tragedy appears to us, in general, so very obtuse. Every event was thought, by the antients, to proceed so immediately from the interposition of the Gods, that the poet must have been in some hazard of being regarded as irreligious, who would have ventured to represent human suffering in such a manner as to impair, by implicating blame, the respect due to the celestial powers; which must have been the case if the subjects of the Greek tragedians had been repre-

sented in any other manner than that in which we find them.

With us the drama is purely a source of amusement. It has no other aim than to please and interest; for the instruction that it may convey must always be subordinate to the pleasure arising from the interest of the story. Religion is, indeed, justly excluded from the modern theatre; which originated, in fact, from an opposition to the exhibitions of the monks. It was not until the ecclesiastical shews were beginning to fall into contempt, that what is called the stage began to be formed, particularly in England: the outcry which the monks raised at seeing their monopoly invaded, is the source from whence all those pious imprecations on the playhouse are derived. The public growing tired of the absurd and blasphemous dramas of the monasteries, began to encourage those performers who exhibited the actions of men, many of which were certainly as little consonant to good morals as the exhibitions of the monks were to religion, but they suited the altered taste of the people, and the monks therefore joined in reprobating them as stimulating the vices and inflaming the passions of youth.

It is generally thought that the development of passion forms the proper theme of Tragedy, and the effect of manners that of Comedy. I am not sure that this is correct. Passions and manners appear to me common to both provinces of the drama ; and the circumstances with which they are connected, constitute all the difference between a tragedy and a comedy. It is impossible to conceive men in any state without passions, and it is no less so to discriminate characters without manners. Every class of mankind has something professional peculiar to itself ; and it would be just as unnatural to represent soldiers with the manners of priests, as to express, if it were possible, an impassioned state of the mind by ceremonious forms of speech. The comedies of the ancients, being founded on particular manners, have never been regarded as works of interest, however much they may have been esteemed as models of composition. As we cannot feel that kind of piety which their tragedies once excited, so we are insensible to the force of that humour, which, no doubt, was seen and felt by them in their comedies. There was a local and temporal interest in the Grecian drama, which

distance and the lapse of ages has destroyed. But as this is a subject requiring illustration, and I have no books, you must wait till I am in circumstances to do it justice.

Yours, &c.

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LETTER XXVI.

ATHENS, *March 22.*

SINCE I have not given you any description of the antiquities of Athens, because I think the engravings in Stuart's Work infinitely more intelligible than any description, I will treat you with a discourse on the Fine Arts. When I was at Trapani, one of the Censors of the Academy gave me a publication, in two small volumes quarto, of four orations by the President, in which he has mentioned all the authorities for his opinions relative to the arts. The Work is curious, on



account of the display of reading in it; but as the details were too minute for my taste, I endeavoured to extract the marrow of those passages in which the author has indulged in didactic observations; and having interwoven a few of my own notions, in order to render the translation somewhat coherent, I propose to deliver it to you. If you are in readiness, I will now begin.

#### A DISCOURSE ON THE FINE ARTS.

THE Fine Arts are the study and delight of all polished nations. They disarm the spirit of man of its natural ferocity, and they elevate the mind while they soften the heart. Ignorance is but another name for barbarity, and the want of knowledge sharpens the appetite of violence. It was indeed a strange paradox of Rousseau, to maintain that mankind were happier when they resembled wild beasts than with all the enjoyments of civilized life; and that the cultivation of their intellectual faculties had tended to degrade their virtues. There can be no virtue but what is founded on a comprehensive estimate of the effects of human actions; and an animal

under the guidance of instinct cannot form any such estimate.

The chief object of science is the discovery of Truth, and of art the developement of Beauty. In the former we trust to reason, and in the latter to imagination. But judgment and fancy are of mutual assistance in both studies. Science clears the obstructions which impede the progress of Art, and Art adorns and smooths the path of Science. No discovery is made without some previous conjectural effort of the mind, some exertion of the imagination; nor is any beauty unfolded where there has not been some pre-consideration of probable effects, some exertion of the reasoning faculties.

As the human mind is pleased with the contemplation of what is true, and delighted with the appearance of what is beautiful, it may be assumed that the cultivation of science, and the improvement of art, originate in our love of pleasure. We commonly divide the objects of the two pursuits into distinct classes; and we think, when we call scientific studies useful, and the productions of art only ornamental, that there is something intrinsically different in their respective

natures. But if we examine our own feelings, and judge of science by its influence on ourselves, we shall be obliged to confess that although less obviously, it is, in fact, as much recommended to us by the pleasures to which it ministers, as those arts that we regard as entirely devoted to the excitement of agreeable emotions.

Of all the arts, the art of building is that which most voluminously attracts attention. Invented in the country, and brought to perfection in the town, it owes its origin, like every other human contrivance, to Necessity. Man, naked at his birth, thrown upon the earth, exposed to the cold, the wet, and the heat, and to the concussion of other bodies, was constrained to seek artificial means of protection. The rain obliged him to fly for shelter to trees and caverns, the only habitations with which nature has provided her favourite; for in the improvable faculties bestowed on his mind, she has furnished him with the means of constructing abodes suitable to himself and to the growth of his wants, as they increase by the improvement of his condition. The same instinct which led him to take refuge from the shower, taught him to prefer those trees

of which the branches were thickest interwoven, and, when they were insufficient, to draw the boughs closer over his head. The process of reasoning from this experience, to the considerations which led him to form permanent bowers, requires no illustration.

Every hypothesis formed to account for the various styles of architecture, ascribes them to the form of the structures first raised by the inhabitants of the countries in which they respectively originated. The ailes of the Gothic cathedral, and that rich foliage of carving with which its vaults are embowered, cannot be seen without immediately suggesting the idea of a grove; and in the structure of the Grecian temple, we may trace the characteristics of an edifice originally formed of trees hewed and pruned for the convenience of transportation; for Greece was not a woody country like those Northern regions in which the Gothic architecture arose. In Egypt, where trees are still more rare than in Greece; where, indeed, there is nothing that can be properly compared to our idea of a tree, we find the character of the architecture partaking of the features of what must

have been the early habitations of a people necessitated by their inarborous climate, to make their permanent retreats, and the sanctuaries of their gods, in the hollows and caverns of the earth. The architecture which would arise among such a people we should expect to be dark, massy, and stupendous; and accordingly we find in that of Egypt, and of other countries which resemble it in local circumstances, temples and labyrinths that rival in extent and intricacy, the grottos of nature, and pyramids that emulate in magnitude and durability the everlasting hills. In the more oriental nations we find the same general principle obvious, and in their permanent structures a similar resemblance to the features of what were probably the primeval habitations of the natives. In the light and pavilionated appearance of the Chinese buildings, we may see the hereditary indications of a people that formerly resided in tents, and such temporary abodes as were likely to be constructed by the inhabitants of a country abounding in extensive plains, and of a climate unfavourable to the growth of trees, and yet not so hot as to oblige the natives to seek shelter in natural or artificial excavations.

The first savage, who in the construction of his hut, united a degree of symmetry with solidity, must be regarded as the inventor of architecture. Multiplying improvements upon the first result of a combined plan of the reason and imagination, after a series of errors and accidents, a code of rules came to be established, by which the art of building has since continued to be regulated. The study of these rules furnishes a knowledge of the science of architecture.

Although Necessity was the mother of Architecture, Climate dictated the choice of the materials employed in the construction of buildings, and Chance directed the fancy of individuals in the selection of ornaments. History, in mentioning that Callimachus of Corinth was led to think of forming the Corinthian capital by observing the beautiful effect of a vase accidentally placed in the midst of a bunch of cellery, has furnished us with a fact which proves, although a natural law governs man in choosing the style of architecture, and climate prescribes to him the materials, that the peculiarities of individual genius, and not the effect of any general principle of taste, developes the beauties of ornament.

Taste is formed by the contemplation of works of art, and the perfection of art consists in exhibiting the greatest degree of beauty with the utmost possible resemblance to the natural models. Taste, therefore, does not instruct us to prefer, for any general reason, any one particular style of architecture to another, but only to observe and disapprove of deviations from what is natural.

Every pleasure, after enjoyment, occasions a new want. The shelter and protection obtained from architecture incited man to seek enjoyments in the improvement of the art of building. When his corporeal necessities are supplied, the restlessness of his mind leads him to seek additional pleasures, by new modifications of the means which supplied his corporeal necessities.

In the Greek colonies of Asia Minor, architecture is supposed to have first attained excellence. At least the best authors on the history of the arts agree in stating, that the Doric and Ionic orders were first perfectly constructed there; and it may be questioned, if in the lapse of more than twenty centuries any improvement has been added to the august simplicity of the Doric, or

to the simple elegance of the Ionic column. The Corinthian, which is of much later invention, though more elaborately ornamented than the other two, is by many, of the most approved taste, deemed inferior to them as an order. It retains less of the resemblance of the original natural model. It has more about it that may be regarded as superfluous, and the foliage of the capital is obviously a redundancy placed there for no other purpose than the display of skill and expense. The Corinthian pillars of the porticos of St. Paul's, in London, are esteemed very pure specimens of that order; but their appearance is less impressive than that of the Doric columns, which still remain among the ruins of the Temple of Minerva at Athens. More than two thousand years have elapsed, and the remnants of the Greek architecture still afford models, which, never having been equalled, seem incapable of being further improved. It may indeed be said, that the genius of antient Greece has furnished eternal models of art, as well as of literature, to Europe.

About the same time that the Doric was raised to perfection in Ionia, the Etruscans invented the



Tuscan, a similar order, but a grosser style; and the Romans, after the simple and dignified manners of their republic had passed away, demonstrated by the invention of the Composite, and their preference for that gaudy order, how much the corruption of their morals had infected their taste.

The Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, Tuscan, and Composite orders constitute what is properly understood by the classes of architecture. They are arranged with distinct appropriate and peculiar ornaments; and their proportions are regulated by rules which cannot be violated without impairing their beauty. This is not the case with any other kind of architecture, and hence all other modifications of the art of building are called *styles*, in contradistinction to *orders*. It is true, that in England the Society of Antiquaries, and several private amateurs of the arts, have of late endeavoured to classify and illustrate the different styles of architecture in the antient baronial and ecclesiastical edifices of Great Britain, but the enquiry has not yet terminated, although it has ascertained that the Saxon, Norman, and Gothic, or as the latter is now perhaps

properly called, the English order, have characteristics as distinct as those of the Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian, and codes of general rules that may prove to be peculiar to each.

The human mind has an innate disposition to admire order, and to seek pleasure by the classification of objects. Hence architecture is considered as consisting of three distinct species, civil, military, and naval. I may be justified in adding a fourth, ecclesiastical, for it is impossible to visit any part of Europe, without being convinced that the buildings consecrated to religious rites could not, without radical alterations, be applied to any other use. The cathedral, with its vast ailes, its solemn vaults, and adjoining cloisters, is as obviously constructed for a special purpose, as the fortress, the ship, or the mansion.

Phelones of Byzantium, about three hundred years before the Christian æra, composed a treatise on the engines of war and military architecture. He is therefore justly regarded as the father of engineers; and the principles which he is supposed to have elucidated continued to be acted upon till the invention of gunpowder. Italy,

that has for so many ages been unknown as a military nation, claims for Sanmicheli of Verona, the glory of having established the principles of the art of modern fortification. Vaughban, Pagan, Blondel, Scheiter, &c. only modified his suggestions and developed his principles. History ascribes by a kind of courtesy, the honour of inventions and discoveries to the persons who first make them public, or bring them into use. It is thus that in naval architecture Usoo, a Phœnician, is considered as the father of the art, because he is the first on record that navigated a canoe. But in this the courtesy of history goes too far, for Noah has certainly a superior claim, both on account of the magnitude and the purpose of his vessel.

Although the Greeks excelled all the world in the beauty of their works of art, they did not furnish any treatise on the theory of architecture till after they had constructed their finest buildings. This was natural. The rules which instruct us to produce beauties in any kind of art, must be derived from the practice of those who have previously, by the instinct of genius, produced excellent works. The rules for composing a per-

fect epic poem, were derived from the practice of Homer, as it appeared in the Iliad. In like manner the principles of architecture, as a science, are founded on the result, not of rules previously delivered, but of experiments; hence we are assured that by an adherence to the rules, we shall produce the same beautiful effects as the result of the experiments from which the rules were deduced. Vitruvius was the first author who established the principles of antient architecture; but he did not write until the finest specimens of the art had been long completed. He mentions indeed the names of many architects, but they were practical men — men of genius who had erected models, and thereby furnished the means of giving rules, for the guidance of others.

It is surprising that, although the work of Vitruvius is admitted by all students to be deficient, obscure, and ill-arranged, it is still the best of its kind, especially in what relates to the proper and appropriate use of the different orders. A work embracing the Saxon, Norman, and Gothic styles, in addition to the classic orders, and discriminating the uses to which they are respectively adapted, is a desideratum in the literature of Europe. In Eng-

land, a work of this kind is particularly required, for the English are perhaps less than any other people in Europe, sensible or even acquainted with the proprieties of architecture. In the St. Paul's of London, one of the very finest works of the moderns, and admired by the English equal to its merits, the architect has employed the gayest orders, and in their most ornamented style. The sublime magnitude of the building diminishes, at the first view, the effect of its preposterous gaudiness. It is not till after contemplating it, with relation to its uses, that we perceive how much the style of the architecture is at variance with the purpose of the fabric. Surely, the flaunting luxuriance of the Corinthian and Composite orders are ill placed on a temple dedicated to the service of God, and appointed to receive the ashes of great and illustrious men. The decorum of architecture has been equally disregarded in the construction of the new Theatre of Covent Garden. The portico is undoubtedly a beautiful specimen of the Grecian Doric, and as such would not have disgraced even Athens; but the august simplicity of the Doric is as much out of place at the entrance of the play-house, as the

gaudier elegance of the Corinthian and Composite is on the church. Perhaps, if the theatre were entirely devoted to the exhibition of tragedies, the grave majesty of its portico would not be objectionable. Still, however, both the theatre and the cathedral are fine monuments of the skill of their respective architects, but they are curious examples of the want of that taste for propriety which is as requisite in the art of building as in the compositions of the Muse. It has been said of the English, that they build their hospitals like palaces, and their palaces like hospitals; it may be added, that they also ornament their churches like theatres, and their theatres like churches.

Of all the fine arts, Architecture is not only that which is most easily traced to its origin in the wants of mankind, but that on which all the others are dependant. All the others, when compared with Architecture, are only representative, and contribute only to the gratification of those wants which arise from the experience of pleasure. But this primeval art is, in its rudimental state, almost as necessary to man as food, and in its refined, no less essential to the improvement of every other.

Painting and sculpture are the arts which seem to have the greatest affinity to architecture, and to be immediately connected with its use and progress. For the origin of painting, we have no evidence of any such obvious instinct as that which led man to the art of building; and it may be doubted, whether it ought to be considered as an invention anterior, or coeval with sculpture.

The Greeks, with that vanity which their extraordinary proficiency in art and science almost justified them in assuming, a vanity which is probably constitutional, as it exists in them as strongly as ever, although they have nothing left of their ancestors but their vices, the lees and dregs of civilization, take to themselves the honour of the invention of painting; and tell us that, in particular, the art of portrait-painting was discovered among them by a girl who was fond of a youth devoted to traveling, and who, to sweeten the time of his absence, delineated on the wall, with the assistance of a lamp, the profile of her lover. Instead, however, of accepting this as an historical fact, we ought to reflect how prone the Greeks were to allegory, and that this elegant fable is but another way of

telling us that portrait-painting was suggested by adolescent affection.

Although Anaxagoras and Democritus wrote on the rules of perspective, we have no proof that the Greeks, notwithstanding their excellence in the delineation of objects, ever made any proficiency in the application of them. We have no account of any landscape-painter of great eminence in Greece. Among all the artists of antiquity there was no Claude. But they doubtless excelled in the drawing of figures. We are witnesses of the still surpassing beauty of their statues; and we should not, therefore, question the excellence of their figure-painters: indeed the sketches in outline on their funeral vases, put this matter beyond question.

In comparing the remains of Grecian sculpture with the works of the moderns, particularly with the public monuments of the British nation, a very obvious and striking difference is at once perceived and felt. We are sensible, in looking at the relics of Greece, of the presence of a simple grace, an admirable naturalness of form and figure, which is rarely discoverable in the sculptures of the moderns. This seems to be



owing to a cause which admits of an easy explanation. The inferiority of the moderns arises from their superior scientific knowledge. They understand the theory of the art so well, that they think attention to rules preferable to the study of natural phænomena. The Greek artists, on the contrary, appear to have worked from living forms and existing things. This is remarkably obvious in the remaining sculptures on the Parthenon. The riders in them are not singly persons, whose muscles and joints are disposed with exquisite anatomical exactness, and placed on horses individually, equally, correctly formed; but the riders and the horses as in nature, though two distinct beings, are there shewn under the influence of one impulse, and all those minute and indescribable contractions and dilations of parts which arise from their separate conformation, are shown with the effect of that impulse which constitutes the unity of their mutual exertion. I am not here alluding to the centaurs of the metopes, but to the horsemen of the bas reliefs on the frieze. It is impossible that this felicitous result could have been obtained by the most careful attention to any system of rules. It is indeed

impossible, that the artist, whose business is to attain perfection of design and beauty of execution, should be able to give so much time and consideration to the study of rules, as would enable him to work without reference to models in nature. He must unquestionably furnish himself with such a competent knowledge of principles as will prevent him from falling into error; but, if he expects to excel in his art, he must study other things than the principles by which the critics will estimate his proficiency. As poets must be so far acquainted with grammar, as to be able to write correct language, painters and sculptors are required to know the principles of their respective arts. But as that knowledge of grammar which constitutes the merit of a grammarian, will never make a poet, so that knowledge of perspective and anatomy which constitutes the merit of a connoisseur, will never make a painter or a sculptor. Painting and sculpture are representative arts. Their province is confined to forms that can be exhibited, and excellence cannot be attained in them but by studying such forms as naturally exist. In groupes the sculptor may bring together figures that might never have met; as

the landscape-painter may combine into one picture, objects selected from different views, and thereby produce an effect that, while perfectly natural, shall be more pleasing and impressive than any particular view in nature. But the sculptor must not attempt to create forms, nor the painter to draw mountains or trees, from his own fancy, or they will assuredly never fail to offend, if they do not always disgust. The two grand allegorical landscapes of Claude, descriptive of the rise and fall of the Roman empire, furnish an admirable illustration of the maxim which I would inculcate. There is no part of Italy, various and beautiful as the scenery of that country is, which exhibits such magnificent scenes as those paintings; but still the moment that we see them, we at once recognize all the features of the Italian landscape. The picture descriptive of the rise of the Roman nation, informs us at the first glance, of the moral which the artist intends to convey. The sky indicates the morning. On more close examination we find by the general appearance of the woods, and other objects, that it is the spring of the year; the allegory is still more distinctly told by the introduction of husbandmen employed

in preparing the soil; and the rudeness of society is ingeniously expressed by a number of little incidents, that nevertheless harmonize with the general tone of the composition; while the style of the buildings, and the features of the landscape, show that it is a probable view of Italy, in the simple and manly ages of the Roman republic. In delineating the decline of the empire the painter has been no less happy. The incidents are chosen with equal skill, and combined with equal judgment. The sun is setting. It is the close of the vintage. The temples are in ruins, which emphatically tell the spectator how much the reverence for the gods had declined. The peasants are discovered in a state of intoxication, and the painter has contrived to represent this without any ludicrous circumstance. He wished to convey an idea of the corruption of manners, and he has accomplished it without infringing the solemnity of his composition. In the first picture, all is vigorous, fresh, active, and productive; in the second, all is exhausted, decaying, melancholy, and wasteful. No poem, no oration, could have described the subject more elegantly. The historian who related the fall of Rome, has not em-

ployed a pen more correct than the pencil of the artist. It is such productions that show the superiority of genius. It is this exquisite arrangement and choice of things actually existing, which obtains the praise of originality.

Architecture, Painting, and Sculpture, may be described as the sensual classes of the fine arts, and poetry and music as the intellectual. The former address themselves at once to our senses. Their aim is to exhibit the resemblances of things which we have seen, but the latter address themselves to the mind, and call up trains of thought by means which have no likeness to those ideas which they nevertheless renew. The influence of painting and sculpture on the mind is like that of oratory, which persuades by the statement of truths: the power of poetry and music is felt like that of magic, which calls up spirits, and produces miraculous effects by the mixing of certain ingredients curiously culled. As the orator cannot state a truth justly and perspicuously, without obtaining an immediate concurrence in opinion from his auditors, so the painter or sculptor cannot exhibit a picture or a statue properly executed, without obtaining the admiration of all spectators. But the jurisdiction of Poetry and Music

is not so universal, for they are dependant on associations in the minds of those to whom they address themselves. Truth is everywhere the same, but habits are local. And the arts of painting and sculpture are connected with truths, while those of music and painting are dependant on habits. The poet cannot produce any effect unless the reader's acquired intellectual associations resemble those of the poet. Music will produce no sentimental effect, unless in particular passages it tends to remind the hearer of sounds in nature, and by that remembrance to recall the images of the scenes where they were first heard, or of incidents connected with the hearing of them.

The effects of a local influence similar to that which has produced the different styles of architecture, is perceivable in the poetry of all nations. The more detached, unmixed, and steady the society of any country preserves itself, the more original and singular should be the characteristics of its poetry; and by the same rule, according to the intimacy and extent of intercourse which nations cultivate with one another, the more various will be the points of association in their

habits of thinking, and their poetry will the more approximate in resemblance.

The English nation, above every other, has cultivated a general intercourse with all parts of the world, and accordingly we find poets in that country whose works, though comparatively popular there, are but little understood, even by the learned in those districts where the inhabitants have remained less extensively informed; while at the same time there are productions in the English language in which the most unmixed and primitive people may discover transcripts of their own thoughts.

In the middle of the eighteenth century, all Europe was surprised by the appearance in the English language of the poems of Ossian, works which, whatever may be the debate as to their historical authenticity, are admitted to be fine specimens of a kind of poetry cultivated by the mountaineers of Scotland, and which was felt to be natural, and acknowledged to be original, even by those who questioned their antiquity. In like manner the conquests of the British in India have added to the stores of the British poets; and in England a kind of poetry is fast growing into repute, which seems to bear the same sort of resemblance to that of

the oriental poets which the productions of the Muse in the days of Leo X. bore to those of antiquity. Mr. Southey has already brought this style to a high degree of excellence; and specimens by Sir William Jones, along with the Transactions of the Asiatic Society, present to the world a glimpse of what pleasures may be added to our enjoyment of knowledge, by a nation which combines in its enterprises the glory of victory, and the advantages of commerce; which carries in the rear of its armies the abundance of industry; and which, by its jurisprudence requiring the military to be subservient to the civil authorities, sends to the most distant regions, the most enlightened of mankind in the capacity of advocates and judges.

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It was necessary to conclude with something complimentary and national, in case your patience had been worn out. After a dull speech nothing is so exhilarating as a clap-trap of this sort, except the orator's thanks and gratitude for the indulgence with which he has been heard.

Yours, &c.



## LETTER XXVII.

ATHENS, *March 26.*

THE drought still continues to parch, and the price of corn to rise. The distresses of the poor have become pressing and clamorous. The rumour from all parts, from Egypt, from Asia, and from Constantinople, is, the progress of the scarcity, and the only enquiries are respecting the price of bread. The misery that threatens individuals renders the public calamity of the war but of secondary interest.

Last week, Hogia Murat, the governor, called together the chief Turks, and the primates of the city, and represented to them the necessity of adopting some measures for alleviating the distresses of the poor. He proposed a subscription for that purpose, and began it himself, with three purses, or seventy-five pounds sterling, a vast sum here. With the amount of this subscription,

corn is to be imported, and sold at a reduced price.

Public prayers for rain are now ordered for nine successive days, and this morning they commenced. The first three are allotted to the Ottomans, the next to the Arabians and slaves, and the last three to the Christians. The ceremony began this morning, two hours before sun-rise. The three principal emirs, with a boy before each of them, carrying the Koran on his head, and followed by all the Turks of the city, with their male children, walked in procession to the place among the ruins of the Temple of Jupiter Olympius, which I have already mentioned; the emirs repeating, from papers which they held in their hands, the prayer for the occasion, and the Turks responding "Amen" at the close of each sentence. After their arrival at the place of worship, the chief mufti delivered a sermon, sitting on the steps of the pulpit. His manner was simple, moderate, and slow, but impressive. The discourse lasted upwards of an hour and a half, and his auditors behaved as most Christian congregations do on similar occasions. Some listened with unaffected and sincere attention; others

were so intent on making religious faces that I suspect they heard very little ; and there were several young fellows who seemed to consider the whole a very tiresome affair. The boys were all for some time most exemplary in their deportment; but gradually, one by one, they began to move from place to place, and to throw pebbles and straws at each other. The governor, who is really a good man, and gets tipsey every night, which, father Paul jocularly observes, is the cause of his goodness, knowing the mufti to be rather long-winded, did not make his appearance till after the close of the discourse, but in time to assist at one of the most extraordinary ceremonies I ever witnessed or heard of.

A flock of ewes and lambs was driven together in the neighbourhood of the worshippers, and soon after the close of the sermon, the lambs were separated from their mothers, and all the Turks standing up began a loud and general supplication, in the most pathetic tones. The divided flock at the same time began to bleat. It is not easy to convey to you by words the effect of this simple and expressive accompaniment, which infinitely, in my opinion, excelled the lead and leather

popery of all the organs of Christendom. Viewing the dry bed of the Ilissus, and the blasted appearance of the grass, and beholding the sun, which at that moment arose from behind Mount Hymettus, red and arid, like a shield of polished copper, it seemed to me as if all nature, feeling the destructive thirst, seconded the supplication of man, and sympathized in his fears.

In several parts of the city, the storks, which are held in great veneration by the Turks, build their nests. This morning, the first that have been seen this season, arrived with the swallows. The main body, according to custom, will be here in the course of a few days. Their arrival is not marked by any thing extraordinary; but their departure, I am told, is attended with many signs of preparation for the voyage. They are seen in flocks for several days, deliberating, no doubt, as to the time and manner of taking their flight. When the day arrives, those who took the most active part in the previous deliberations, mount aloft, and flying round the city, collect all who are ready. The whole body then adjourns to a particular garden, and arranging the plan of their voyage, mount together, and depart. Those

that have not their affairs settled in time, follow in the course of a few days. The old and weak who deem themselves unable to undergo the fatigue of the flight, take up their residence with the Governor. This last circumstance looks a little fabulous, but the unquestionable fact is, that several of these birds do voluntarily remain in a domesticated state at the Government-house.

Besides the swallows and storks, the Athenians have another set of annual visitors, who have also begun to arrive. The Greeks call them Kirkenesi. Their Italian name I have not been able to learn, and I never saw any of them before. They are less in size than the partridge, which they resemble, and their plumage is brighter. They build under the tiles and eaves of the houses, and fly open-mouthed after insects. Not being good to eat, they are rarely molested, and of course are very tame. The visits of these insect-hunting birds in a climate where the flies are already becoming troublesome, shews no small consideration in Nature.

The period of the arrival of the storks is no less sensibly fixed than that of the others, as the young snakes are beginning also to be numerous

for the pious storks have as great an antipathy to young serpents as the holiest lady of your acquaintance has to the old one. The same happy judgment which enables them to regulate their migrations so well, and to keep undisturbed companionship with man, is curiously manifested in their mode of attacking the vipers. They strike them on the head with their bills, retreating backwards after each blow. They then take hold of the reptile by the neck, and bear it triumphantly away, writhing and twisting round their heads, as you see exemplified in the crest of Mercer of Aldie.

Admonished by these birds of passage that I am myself but a sojourner here, I have made arrangements for my departure to-morrow. I shall feel much regret at leaving this celebrated town, in which I have spent forty days so pleasantly. Lord Byron and his friend left it some time ago. Their society occasionally served to vary the monotony of my solitude, in a way that I must always think of with satisfaction. One may travel long enough, and come many times even to Athens without meeting with any company equal to theirs. Mr. Hobhouse intends to pub-

lish an account of his journey; and his Lordship is writing a poem descriptive of the scenes that have interested him in the course of his travels.

Yours, &c.

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LETTER XXVIII.

IDRA, *March 30.*

HAVING bade adieu to my friends, I left Athens on the evening of the same day on which I last wrote, and embarked for this place at the Piræus, in a vessel hired by Lord Elgin's agent to carry to Malta part of those sculptures over which he has somehow acquired the claims of a proprietor. We had a brisk passage, during the night, of only four hours. When we approached

this island, the wind however was not favourable for making the port, and we were obliged to come to anchor in a small creek, about a mile and a half from the town.

The sides of the creek are bare, and precipitous to so great a height, that it is hardly possible to conceive a scene more rugged and barren than that which presented itself to my view on coming on deck in the morning. The whole island, indeed, is but one great rock, naturally as sterile as a mass of recent lava. Not a tree grows on it; for the two or three shrubs among the houses are not entitled to that appellation. Nor does any flock feed on it, or the ploughshare ever impress its surface. But the inhabitants, without soil, without a single well in the whole city, containing upwards of twenty thousand inhabitants, without the natural possession of one article of convenience, even of necessity, have become opulent by turning their attention to commerce, and in these seas rival the fame and enterprise of the antient Phœnicians.

Wholly occupied with their vessels and trade, they have as yet made no roads in the island, so that I was almost literally obliged to crawl on all



fours over rocks and stones to the city. The town itself is exceedingly well built; and more than any place that I have ever seen, or could have previously imagined, it resembles the form of a theatre. The houses are piled in successive tiers to a stupendous height; but the crowded port below, with the majestic stage of the sea, circumscribed by the distant scenery of Greece, displays a spectacle infinitely more sublime than any theatre can ever exhibit.

The principal building in the town is the residence of a Captain Georgio, formerly of the Ottoman Navy, in which he acquired an honourable reputation by faithful and intrepid service. In the late war he signalized himself in the personal defence of the then Captain Pashaw, who rewarded him with the Governorship of Idra, his native island, and happening to visit him while he was building a house, insisted on contributing to render it an ornament to the town. Georgio has lately resigned the office of governor, and four magistrates have this year, for the first time, been elected by the people.

Some time ago, a Turkish officer, a friend of Captain Georgio, came to live here, and built a

handsome mansion for himself. But no other Turk being in the island, and Georgio taking up with his old friends, and embarking in trade, the poor Ottoman found himself alone, and grew very melancholy. After many days spent in solitary rumination, he one morning put money in his purse, and taking his pipe in his hand, silently stepped on-board a vessel, and sailed for Constantinople, from which he has never returned.

There are forty parish churches in the town of Idra, and two of them have steeples built of marble. Eighty houses constitute, I am told, a parish; and in those districts, or as I might say, those shelves of the rock on which there are more than eighty houses, but not enough to make two parishes, a chapel is sometimes erected. What kind of relationship such chapels have to the parish churches, I have not been able to get satisfactorily explained, except that the service is not regular in the chapels, being performed only when the neighbours raise a contribution to pay the priest. Idra forms part of the diocese of Egina, in which Poros is also comprehended. The bishopric is one of the richest in these parts, the nett annual revenue being estimated at six

hundred pounds. The episcopal residence is in Egina, but the Bishop visits Idra and Poros regularly every year. As I shall have another opportunity of furnishing you with the circumstantial information which I have gleaned here, and also of discussing more at large the particular political and commercial consequence of the island, you will excuse me for so abruptly terminating this letter ;—the master of a vessel waits in which I mean to take my passage, and I must speak to him.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER XXIX.

IDRA, *April 2.*

YESTERDAY morning the appearance of the sky gave me some hope of getting off this rock; but the master of the vessel still pretends that the wind is against us. The truth, however, I think is, that he expects to obtain more passengers; for I find that his vessel, instead of being, as I was originally led to believe, a merchantman, is a regular packet. The pleasure of hearing of such travelling accommodation in the Turkish dominions was greatly impaired by the consideration, that although I had paid four times the sum of any two other passengers, I was likely to be very uncomfortably situated. But I had no other alternative than either to hire a small sloop for the remainder of the voyage, as I at first intended, and thereby run the risk of being plundered and murdered by the pirates round Cape Colonna; or to wait the uncertain chance of a man of war,

which is looked for to convey the Athenian marbles towards Malta. After much cogitation, I resolved to abide by the arrangement which had been made with the packet master; but the prospect before me, and the want of occupation, made me all day little better than disconsolate: to mend matters, the cursed Sirocco, it seems, had nothing else to do than to blow chagrin and hypochondria into the very marrow of my bones. I ascended to the top of the hills that overlook the town; I counted the windmills on the hills three times, I grew fatigued, and returned to the house. Without books, without amusement, all inquiries finished, vexed, disappointed, it seemed as if every object of my existence had suddenly come to an end. I therefore naturally took to bed on the occasion, and falling fast asleep, enjoyed for four or five hours an interval and respite from existence.

When I awoke, the gentleman with whom I stay was out; but his clerk, whom I beg leave to introduce to you by the name of Patience, fortunately was in the house. I had not before spoken to this curiosity; for not hearing him speak Italian, the mercantile language of these parts, I imagined that he had not yet acquired it.

He wears a long loose pelisse, and a cap the very shape of a parish-bell turned upside down on his head, which is as round as a cherry, and his cheeks are as smooth. He is slow in all his movements, quaint in his expressions, and finically dainty in every thing he does. But all these highly interesting traits I had not before noticed; and it was only by a certain indescribable queerness of tone with which he replied to a question I accidentally asked, that I was led to do justice to the peculiar merits of his genius and character.

Patience is a native of Scio, which, according to his account, is the most beautiful, civilized, and elegant country in the world, and where there are more fine things to be seen than even in Constantinople, which however he has not yet seen. In short, the infinite Italian *assai*, being incapable of expressing the superlative beauties and perfections of the native land of Patience, he is obliged to use an inarticulate interjection, the effect of which is assisted by two very little eyes, twinkling with all the pleasures of boyish recollection.

In the evening a stranger came to sup with us.

He proved an amusing talkative Greek, who had once been as far as Naples. Among other things, we happened to have at supper a plate of Candian chesnuts, and by one of those caprices of fortune which surprise men with unexpected possessions, Patience got the largest and plumpest chesnut, not only of all the plate, but that I ever beheld, for the chesnuts of Candia are the finest in the world. Delighted with his good luck, Patience peeled the fruit in silence, apparently unobserved. He turned it round; it was perfect and sound in all its parts: he smelled it, and it was quite fresh: he poised it in his hand, and found that it was of great weight. The three senses of seeing, smelling, and feeling, being satisfied, the taste must next be indulged; but the mischievous harpy of a Greek, when the chesnut was at the very threshold of the lips, snatched it from Patience; and affecting to look as if he had done nothing extraordinary, at every comma and semicolon of his garrulity, took a bite. Patience stared aghast; and, for a moment, the corners of his mouth declined with a piteous expression of infantine sadness mingled with resignation. He again gazed at the apparently

unconscious Greek, and the corners of his mouth gradually turning upwards, the risible muscles of his cherry cheeks at length became excited; finally, a progressive laugh began, accumulating sound and vigour until it became so loud and vehement, that the mastication of the predestined chesnut was suspended, and the Greek appeared little less astonished than the clerk himself did a little while before. Our host, a plain grave man, who, in conversing with me, had not observed these elegant proceedings, gazed narrowly into the face of Patience, with a perceptible degree of alarm in his countenance. Take this as a sketch of society and manners in the Island of Idra.

The Idriots have no places of public recreation. The greatest part of the male population is constantly abroad, and the females lead a retired and sedentary life. It is the custom of the vessels belonging to the island always to call as they pass; and the crews, on these occasions, are wholly engaged with their families, and the adjustment of their accounts. There is, however, a tolerably decent coffee-house; and in winter, even at present, card and chess players may be



always found in it. I saw there to-day a game, which, not having seen elsewhere, I will give you a description of. The Idriots call it Mandoli, or the Almonds, and it is played at a board by two persons. Twelve hollows are scooped in the board, in two rows of six each : in each hollow six balls are placed, and the opponents take each a row. The game is commenced by the first player taking out the balls from any one of the hollows, and distributing them, one by one, successively, round the board. In the first round no balls can be captured, but in the second the contest becomes serious. The skill of the player consists in so managing his distribution, that his last ball shall either fall into a hollow where there is only one, or three, or seven, or nine, &c. which, by the addition of his ball, are made even numbers, and in consequence become prizes. If in the distribution he makes even numbers in the two last hollows, he takes the contents of both. This is considered a great stroke. The victor is, of course, he who reckons the greatest number of prisoners.

The Levantine custom of counting beads is, I think, more generally practised here than in any other place where I have yet been, and the

strings are more various and beautiful, a minute effect of commerce. I have hitherto omitted to give you an account of this pastime. The string of beads is, to its bearer, what a switch or a stick is to an Englishman or a Frenchman. He carries it in his hand; and in conversation or in cogitation, turns the beads from the one part of the string to the other, and back again. The string of beads, or coronal, as it is called, is in my opinion a very benevolent plaything; and it is indeed much to be wished, for the sake of cats and lap-dogs, that some of our politicians, who have so Christian a sense of the sin of cruelty to animals, would take up the subject, and endeavour to procure the consent of the Legislature to oblige mischievous boys and old humourists to exchange their sticks and switches for strings of beads. A pat on the paws, with such a pretty toy, is much more suitable to the delicate nerves of Felina or Shock, than a knock with a stiff stick or a nimble cane; with either of which to be cruelly poked in the stomach, while comfortably sleeping on the hearth-rug or the sofa, is a most horrid thing!

The dress of the Idriots is perhaps the most

unbecoming disguise that has yet been contrived for the human figure. Their breeches are very large; being, in fact, what our sailors call petticoat trowsers. Their waistcoats are commonly scarlet, or green, or blue, embroidered with silk and tinsel; and their jackets are short, like those worn by the English seamen, but have neither collar nor pockets. The seams of the jackets are also embroidered. I observe, that when they want their beads, or 'the weather happens to be cold, they take hold of the corners of their jackets between their fingers and thumbs turned backward, and tucking them up, so cover their hands. Like all the Greeks, they wear mustachios, and shave a great part of their foreheads, allowing the hair of their crowns to grow down into their necks, and they wear the little red Barbary cap, which is not larger than a tea-saucer.

The shaving of the hair round the neighbourhood of the face, by showing a large space, not subject to be affected by the passions and operations of the mind, gives an air of simplicity to the physiognomy. A Lavaterian would here be often surprized by the discovery of a little busy village of features, situated in the midst of a great desert of unmeaning flesh.

As you are a dabbler in mineralogy, I ought to mention, that I met here with the Cimolian earth; of which some travellers, because they did not happen to meet with it, have doubted the existence. It is however common enough, and is brought from Milo, in boat-loads, for sale. I am no judge of such things, but I think it only a better sort of fullers' earth. The common people use it as a substitute for soap, and it does very well. It costs little more than a penny a pound.

Yours, &c.

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LETTER XXX.

*ZEa, April 5.*

**WE** left Idra the same evening on which I wrote last; but the wind was so light that we made very little way. Besides a number of Albanian emigrants, going from the Morea to Natolia, we have on board five young Turks, who are on their way to Egypt. They belong to Corinth;

and one of them has told Jacomo a great secret, which he has deposited with me under many injunctions not to mention it; therefore, like all other secret-keepers, I also beg you, in turn, to be discreet. It seems that four of the party were one day, lately, in a village near Corinth, where they got tipsy. On their way home they fell in with a Greek, and being very jovial, they killed it, and threw the body into a hole. Next morning, when they had become sober, they consulted together; and being valiant hearts, they resolved unanimously to serve their country in the present just and necessary war in which it is engaged. Accordingly they went to the Governor, and solicited his permission; which he, greatly commending their patriotism, forthwith granted.

On their safe embarkation at Idra they shewed great joy, firing a salute of eleven pistols, and five more when they found a Frank on board who could speak their language; for, Jacomo being in the Frank dress, they supposed of course that he was one himself. Latterly they have become somewhat thoughtful; and, were they of Christian blood, I should conclude that they felt a slight pricking of the conscience; but,

as they are Turks, this cannot be; for I do not remember of ever having seen or read a play in the English language, in which a professor of the Mahomedan religion was represented as touched with remorse. Shakespeare has forgot to let us know what was the faith of Othello; and all the other theatrical authors, in treating of Turks and Moors, have taken good care, that although we may not be able to find out that their characters are men, we shall always know them to be Mahomedans.

In speaking of murderers, I ought to have mentioned, long ago, that Jacomo himself has, in his day, killed his man, and under circumstances which, even by his own account of the affair, would have hanged him in any part of the British dominions. But in this region of the world crimes are not such great sins as they are among you law-protected Islanders. Virtue must cease to be good, when it ceases to be admired; for offences are only hateful so long as they are rare. To do the unhappy Turks justice, since they have been on board they have conducted themselves in a very civil manner. As far as deference and respect are concerned, I ought to be

very well pleased, although one of them yesterday, when I happened to be

“ Crooning o'er an auld Scotch sonnet,”

desired me to be quiet with my groaning. Soon after, he offered to serve me as a Janissary during my travels. The Turkish character has unquestionably much simplicity in it. There is something curiously *animal* about my fellow-passengers—a sort of mastiff docility, which at once tempts me to tease them, and inspires caution in the manner.

The breeze, after we left Idra, as I have already mentioned, was very light. For the greatest part of the following day, we were alongside of St. George, an uncultivated rocky island, that lies about fifteen miles South of Sunium, and is inhabited by two or three pastoral Albanian families, who possess a few flocks of sheep and goats. Towards the evening, the wind became rather brisker, but less favourable, and obliged us to steer close upon Provenzale and under the Cape; where, had we been in a boat, instead of a large vessel, we should, in all probability, have been pounced upon by some of the pirates, who conceal

themselves in the creeks along the shore. These uncommissioned heroes have lately become so formidable, having been reinforced by a number of banditti from a French privateer, that they have attracted the attention of Government, and an Ottoman frigate is expected to be sent to cruize in this quarter, if she is not already arrived.

The sea, round the Cape, was vivid and rippling; and the promontory, crowned with white ruins and desolate columns, was brightly illuminated by the setting sun. Seen from a short distance, and as part of the objects in the landscape, ruins produce their appropriate effect on the mind. The shrine of antiquity should not be approached too near. The devout pilgrim must worship reverentially aloof, if he wishes to retain his enthusiasm: a rash approach will incur the insensibility of a dealer in dates and dimensions.

Soon after sunset the wind entirely subsided, and we were becalmed close under the long island of Macronisi. This island, in which the ruins of an antient city are visible, is inhabited by two or three Greeks from Zea, who cultivate a little



grain, and tend a few sheep. It possesses a fine spring of water. I was not on shore, but such is the account I have received of it. About sixty years ago, it is said to have been infested by a prodigious serpent, which killed the sheep and the shepherds. A Greek sailor undertook to destroy the monster, and having succeeded, the Captain Pashaw of that time rewarded the modern Hercules with a vessel.

In the course of the night we were disturbed by a voice hailing either from the island or a boat, which reminded me of the proclamation of the death of Pan, as it is said to have taken place on the evening of the Crucifixion. Conceiving that it might be a signal from some of the pirates, we prepared ourselves for an attack, but it was not repeated. At midnight a Sirocco wind began to rise; and becoming boisterous, the master judged it best to come into the harbour of this island (Zea), one of the finest ports in the Archipelago, and capable of sheltering a vast number of vessels from every wind. The island itself is beautiful, and differs greatly from Idra. It appears to have been originally as barren; but, in the course of the many ages that

it has been inhabited, the precipitous sides of the hills have been formed into innumerable artificial terraces. The town stands very high; and I counted, on the lower side of the road which leads to it, at one place, forty-nine terraces under me, and in several places on the opposite hills upwards of sixty. The number of these rude but necessary works, more effectually impresses on the mind of a stranger a just notion of the long period that the island has been inhabited by a civilized community, than monuments of greater invention and art.

The form of the town resembles that of the city of Idra; but it is inland, and stands much higher. From the sea it appears an inconsiderable village; and even until arriving at the upper part, I thought it in a state of Sicilian dirtiness and misery. However, in getting out of the narrow and nasty lanes by which I ascended to the Consul's house, I was agreeably surprized at its magnitude, and the respectable appearance of many of the buildings. It is said to contain not less than a thousand houses. The population of the island is estimated at upwards of five thousand souls, all Christians, for the religious go-

vernment and instruction of whom there are thirty-four churches, five monasteries, and the half of a public schoolmaster. Thermia has the other half of Lingo, who spends alternately a year in each island. At present he is in Thermia. There are, however, one or two private schools, where the children are instructed in the mere rudiments of reading.

The great production of the island is Valonia, of which it formerly exported a considerable quantity to Italy, but the war has stopped that trade. It also exports, in common years, two or three cargoes of grain, and three or four thousand barrels of wine, of an excellent flavour on the island, but which it sometimes loses at sea, where it is apt to become not only sour, but putrid: this, however, might be prevented by brandy. At present, all the trade here is literally at a stand. The inhabitants, however, have not the reputation of being very active or enterprising.

The cattle that I have seen are uncommonly small, but well formed. An ox is worth about one pound fifteen shillings, and a good sheep five shillings. As in the islands generally, a little silk is raised here, and the British agent has two or three orange and

lemon gardens. At present, as in Greece, the excessive drought has done much injury to the rising corn, and to-morrow there is to be a procession of all the inhabitants to pray for rain.

Zea is better fitted for being a commercial seat, than to furnish much itself to commerce. Its situation is singularly happy; and, by its excellent port, one might almost conclude that it could not fail to become a place of great trade. It commands equally the Gulph of Egina and the straight that runs up between the large island of the Negropont and Greece. But, as Idra demonstrates, habits of industry are of infinitely more consequence to prosperity, than situation or fertility of soil.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER XXXI.

Scio, *April 10.*

IN the course of the night, after I had written you from Zea, the wind became fair, and we again weighed anchor. When I awoke in the morning, we were passing between Andros and Negropont. About noon we saw the fatal *Old Men*, two large rocks which stand in the middle of the channel, and on which many vessels are annually wrecked. At the closing-in of the day-light we were off the little island of Venus, with Scio on the left; the stupendous mountains of Asia in front, and the hills of Samos and Necaria, blue and distant, on the right. The breeze, which had hitherto continued favourable, now checked round into the North, and so opposed our passage to the city, which is situated on the East side of the island, that it was the middle of the following day before we reached the port. The

delay and opposition of the wind I did not however regret ; for the different tacks that we were obliged to make afforded agreeable views of the coast of Chezmaih, and the rural scenery of Scio.

The City of Scio, from the innumerable villas, gardens, and windmills, with which it is surrounded, and the trees, interspersed among the houses of the town, has the appearance of a vast village. The vessels in the harbour, the insulated light-houses and fortresses, and the mountains behind, abrupt and lofty, render the view one of the most beautiful landscapes in the Mediterranean. I have seldom been so delighted with the external aspect of a town ; and the gratification that I have received in the course of these two days, has tended to confirm the first impression.

This island formerly belonged to the Genoese, by whom the present fortresses were constructed, and its beautiful silk manufactures established. The houses are built in the Italian style, with lofty pyramidal roofs. The Turks having intermarried with the natives, the society is said to be more free in this island than in any

other part of the Ottoman Empire. Except in the particular of dress, and the streets where the shops are situated, every thing about Scio has the appearance of a town in Christendom. The women sit at the windows, go about with their children, and look at strangers, with the unaffected air of persons in the full enjoyment of liberty. The Turk is here different, indeed, from what he is at Tripolizza and Athens. There he is seen in his legitimate military character, but in Scio he is comparatively a citizen of the world. In his look and gestures, and in his mode of treating strangers, even of regarding the Greeks, he is affable and courteous. With all due reverence be it spoken, I do begin to think that he shews some qualities very like the special peculiarities of John Bull.

The shops are well filled, many of them with those gorgeous stuffs, of woven gold and silver, which are but rarely seen even in London. The town of Scio is one of the principal manufacturing seats in the Empire; and silks, which rival in beauty and elegance the richest of France and Italy, are produced in the Sciot looms. In one ware-room I was shewn brocades as neatly executed, as more

costly articles of the same kind which come from Lyons. The Lyonese was rated at about three guineas and a half per yard, and the Sciot at no more than three. These valuable manufactures are sent to Constantinople and Grand Cairo; into the interior of Asia; and through Africa, as far as the Court of Morocco. The silk manufactories consume annually about seventy thousand pounds weight of the raw material, of which above twenty thousand pounds are imported. Besides silks, a considerable quantity of neat cotton goods are exported, chiefly of a strong texture, intended for the dresses of men. All that I saw of them were striped with dyed yarns, and the colours were delicate and beautiful; several of them not inferior to any that we are able to produce.

The inhabitants of the city are estimated at twenty thousand souls. The population of the whole island is very great, not less, it is said, than a hundred and thirty-five thousand persons. But as they are chiefly Christians, and the ignorant and greedy vermin of the Greek Church, though they exact most punctual payment of the fees, for almost every casualty that befalls human



life, keep no registers of births or burials,—the estimate of the population, even although there is the check of a capitation-tax, is probably not very correct.

I am told, that in the town of Scio there are no less than ninety places of worship belonging to the Greek and Roman persuasions. The cathedral, dedicated to St. Ingriari, is a respectable building; and the paintings with which it has been recently ornamented, afford a favourable specimen of the state of taste among the ecclesiastics. Some of the pictures are really, as far as respects drawing, not ill done; one, in particular, appears to have been executed in imitation of the Italian style, and the colouring has some merit. But it must be recollected, that the prosperity of Scio has been scarcely affected by the Turks. The traces of its former possessors, the Genoese, are every where visible; and I should not be surprized, if, in some of the houses, paintings of the old Italian masters were discovered. I say this with the more confidence, having seen, in an old Genoese mansion, several antient and well-executed pictures.

The women of Scio have been always famous

for their personal charms, and the freedom of their manners. Their preposterous stuffed sleeves and short gowns, however, hideously disfigure their forms, but their sprightliness is certainly without disguise. The ladies make no scruple of asking silly questions, with the intention of quizzing. This species of familiarity is very apt to make strangers still more familiar. Many of their questions are Italian expressions, which they have only accidentally learnt; and in general their knowledge of Italian is limited to these banter phrases. Contrasted with the women of the Morea, the Sciot are undoubtedly wonderfully free. But I cannot conceive how any of our countrymen, far less Frenchmen, should be surprized at their manners: to me they seemed very like those of our own females. Nor do I think it at all derogatory to them, that they open their windows to look out at a strangely-dressed foreigner; and, though without any male protector, venture to ask him, gaily, Where he came from? How he likes the island? or such sort of questions. It would not, certainly, be considered disgraceful to any lady of your acquaintance to ask a Turk, an Arabian, or a Greek, similar

questions. The Sciot women are undoubtedly more lively, and of a brighter complexion than any I have met with since I left England. But I do not think that, either in freedom of manners, or in beauty, they can be compared, as the newspapers say, to the British Fair; and the British Fair, particularly in the opinion of the French, are not superlatively free. As for the maid-servants who come to the fountains here, Heaven knows, that in all countries, since Jacob kissed Rachel at the well of Haram, they consider themselves entitled to no small latitude of speech; and doubtless, "the talk of the conduit" in Sciot consists of the same sort of topics as it did in London in the days of Massinger.

Seriously, however, the good women of Scio have long suffered under an unfounded calumny, from those travellers who represent them as so outrageously libidinous, at the sight of strangers, as to offer themselves, with no more decency than the girls in London. If I may judge from what has happened to myself, the free conduct of the women in this island does great honour to their domestic virtues. Almost the whole of the lower class are silk-weavers and embroiderers; and

that earnestness with which they invite, and even pull strangers into their houses, arises from their anxiety to obtain purchasers. I went into several of their houses, at first with no very respectful idea of their manners; but I was very soon set right, and convinced that the smiling vivacity with which I had been invited was the pure offspring of mercantile assiduity.

The handsomest women will, no doubt, probably attract the greatest number of dealers; but the freedom of the women, in general, is unquestionably not owing to any peculiar degree of licentiousness.

In passing along the streets, I observed a Turkish barber's shop, and being somewhat in want of assistance in his way, the idea struck me to go in; so I entered, and desired Jácomo to inform the Turk what I wanted. He was employed in trimming and anointing an Aaron-bearded Musulman. Their discourse was about the ravages which the earthquake has made at Candia, where it is said to have destroyed a third part of the houses, and killed many thousand persons;—the same earthquake that nearly frightened me out of my wits at Tripolizza, and which I have

found was felt in every place that I have since visited. The old Turk, casting his eyes towards me, observed, as Jacomo afterwards told me, that the destruction would give great joy to the Christians. The shaver of the faithful was a middle-aged man, with a due portion of professional suavity of manners. He wore clean yellow leather boots, a scarlet pelisse trimmed with brown fur, and a huge muslin turban. In performing the mysteries of his art, he tucked the pelisse up behind; and the floor of his shop being wet and sloppy, he was mounted on a pair of stately wooden pattens, to keep his buskins clean. His operations I can conscientiously say were neatly performed, and he appeared to have a great run. At his door was a stage, on which his customers held their fumigations, and meditated on the news of the day.

Many of the villas in the neighbourhood of the town, are large buildings with pleasure-grounds, and gardens attached to them. As I was desirous of seeing some of these, the person I had procured for a guide took me to a part of the environs where the best are situated. In going along the road I passed the gate of a large man-

sion, at which several Turks were standing. One of them enquired if I wished to see the gardens ; and being answered in the affirmative, went to procure his master's permission, with which he soon afterwards returned. On entering the courtyard, I observed a number of Turkish officers smoaking in a kind of temple in the middle of a pond. Others were diverting themselves with a water-wheel, which raised from a well the water that supplied the pond ; and a little smart-looking man, whom I presently perceived to be the master of the house, was giving directions to some workmen, and assisting himself in the decoration of a carriage, which, had it been on wheels, I should have called a barouche, but being without, I must denominate a letica. Having made my bow in passing, I walked into the garden—a trim and beautiful retreat. Observing that the guide had not entered with me, I enquired the reason, and was informed that the little man was no other than the Governor of the island. Pleased as I was to have seen so stately a being as a pashaw in the moments of relaxation, I was a little disturbed by the news ; for it is not only proper to act highly towards the Turks, but to

treat them ceremoniously. I immediately sent Jacomo to say that I was an English traveller, who, in going to Smyrna, had only touched by accident at the island, otherwise that I should have paid my respects to him more particularly. The Turk, with the graciousness of an Oriental courtier, sent two of his officers in return to say, that he observed I was a stranger and did not know him, but that, although I had not paid him a visit, nor asked permission, I was at liberty to visit every part of the island, and to consider myself as the master of his house and gardens. This, I think you must allow, was a degree of civility that might hardly have been expected, under the circumstances, from any man dressed in a little brief authority, and far less from so untractable an animal as a Pashaw.

The island of Scio has been famous from time immemorial for the excellence of its wines. Julius Cæsar was very fond of them, for, among his other great qualities, he was a very good judge of wine, which is no doubt the reason why he is so much lauded by certain college and church dignitaries, and proposed by them as a model and example to their pupils; at least I do not recollect

any of his other predilections which they could decently think of recommending. The Sciot wine is very delicate and high-flavoured; and it is the more valuable out of the island as the produce is scanty; but chiefly, because it is apt to become putrid in the transportation. The grain crop is trifling, not more than equal to six weeks' sustenance of the inhabitants. On this account it is exempted from taxation. The great source of the revenue of the Ottoman state is the tenth of the produce of the land. The oppressive Turks are content with the same proportion of the result of the primary labour of mankind, for the support of their fleets and armies, sultanas and princes, that the meek and lowly priesthood of England require for their backs and bellies.

The fruits of this island are the finest in all the Levant, and are principally consumed in Constantinople. The figs are of an incredible size, and the lemons and oranges annually exported are alone estimated at the value of twenty-five thousand pounds of our money. But the most celebrated production of Scio is the mastick gum, an article held in so much esteem by the Turks that the Greeks who cultivate the shrub from



which it is obtained, enjoy several peculiar privileges. They are not subject to pay either tithe or tribute, and are permitted to wear white turbans. They are also tolerated in the use of bells on their churches; and the only public burden to which they are subjected is that of attending to the watch towers on the coast, near to their villages. In return for these immunities they bring annually to the governor a quantity of the choicest mastick, of the value of about fifteen hundred pounds; and the day, on which they do this, is one of the grandest festivals known on the island. They come in white dresses preceded by musicians and dancers, resembling in the style and practice of their march the antient processions in honour of Ceres and Bacchus. The mastick gardens are the most remarkable things in the island. Under the shrubs, the ground which receives the gum as it drops from incisions in the bark, is made as smooth and neat as a pavement.

The only fortifications of the island are the castles of the city, and the towers along the coast. The citadel in point of grimness and strength is a match for that invalid, the Tower of London. The garrison consists of about four hundred domesti-

cated Janisaries. It is indisputable that for the last fifty years the Greek islands have only acquiesced in the claims of the Turks, and that they must fall an easy prey to the first invader. The Ottoman government has been in good luck to have had so long such quiet neighbours as the Neapolitan and Italian states. Were an active government to be renewed among the ruins of Rome, what a superb empire might be easily acquired in these parts.

As I shall visit Scio again, I beg you to be content for the present with this account. As much of my information has necessarily been derived from the reports of others, I ought to warn you that the Greeks are too conceited to confess themselves ignorant of any thing: they will rather give you cause to suspect their veracity than their knowledge. However the gentleman from whom I have had my principal details is a man of a very respectable character, and has more than once been agent for Hassan, the famous Captain Pashaw, in collecting the revenues of the islands. His authority may therefore be regarded as deserving of as much credit, as that of any traveller who would speak from his own own observations.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER XXXII.

SMYRNA, *April 20.*

THIS city is so well known, that it is needless to trouble you with any circumstantial account of it. The situation is justly admired. The adjacent mountains and country, if not so well cultivated as they ought to be, are still far superior to the condition in which I expected to find them. The streets are narrow and consequently dirty, except where they are covered, as in the Bazars. The shops are well filled, and throughout the whole town there is an appearance of prosperous industry.

Here, as in Greece, the general sentiments of the Greeks are governed by the hope of their deliverance ; but their character on the whole, as it has been represented to me, is better than that of the Athenians. They are more opulent, and their egregious pride and vanity are less at variance with their circumstances. Within the

last six months, they have founded a college for the teaching of the antient Greek, and the mathematical sciences. The professors were educated in Vienna, and I am told are well qualified to promote the interests of the institution. One of them, to whom I have been introduced, is a sensible, sedate man. The funds for the maintenance of the college are derived from a tax levied on all the Greeks indiscriminately, through the medium of the church. The professors are paid about a hundred pounds sterling per annum each, and have apartments within the building of the institution, which is large and convenient for its purposes.

The students are limited to a hundred, and the number is complete. The mode of teaching the mathematical class, has, I think, something curiously antique. A large table is placed diagonally in the middle of the school-room, on which the students successively work their problems with chalk.

Except the subscription-rooms of the Casino, there is no other place of public amusement at Smyrna.

In the year 1797, a party of German rope-

dancers exhibited their performances, under the protection of the Imperial Consul, but the consequences that ensued, are likely for a long time to deter the Government from again consenting to allow any similar entertainment. A number of sailors belonging to the Septinsular Republic attempted to force themselves into the theatre, and were resisted by the Janisaries who guarded the entrance. A scuffle took place, and one of the Janisaries was killed. The governor of the city demanded the murderer, who had taken refuge with the Russian Consul. The consul equivocated with the governor. The Turkish populace became riotous, and insisted on the governor being peremptory. Still the consul refused to deliver up the offender. The Turks, no longer able to endure the evident trick that was playing against justice, set fire to the street where the Franks resided, and almost every house and store, together with a vast quantity of property, was consumed. A massacre of Greeks followed, and it was some time before the fire could be got under, or the rioters reduced to order. On this occasion the Turks had just cause for their indignation; and in the punishments that were afterwards inflicted,

it is certainly to be regretted that the Russian consul was not made the first and most conspicuous example.

In passing along the streets of the Turkish part of the town, I have seen in several places broken marble pillars and capitals; but I have not met with any edifice that has the appearance of antiquity. The Khans, or places where the travelling merchants reside, are the handsomest buildings in Smyrna, and some of them, from their extent, might almost be called magnificent.

The most remarkable thing that I have seen here, is a living human malformation, a female, from the island of Scio. She is about sixteen years old, but her face is as withered as that of a woman of sixty. Her hands and feet are regularly formed, but the bones of her arms and legs are flat and bent, like the blade of a sabre. In place of two elbows and two knees, she has six of each, and her elbows are so placed that she can twist her arms like cords. In her limbs she has very little power, and her whole form is contained within a box not more than eighteen inches long by twelve wide. This helpless being solicits charity in the streets; her voice is delight-

fully clear; her language is greatly admired; and I am told that her mind is singularly intelligent.

Such prodigies I am assured are often seen in these countries. In the year 1788, a biform monster died in Alexandria of the plague. By the account that I have received from a person who saw it, it seems to have resembled the celebrated Scottish prodigy, mentioned by Buchanan, but one of the bodies was much less than the other. It went about the streets, and the one sung while the other implored charity. It was only infected in one body, and the other died, not of the disease, but by the corruption of its companion.

Many opinions have been sported by the ingenious as to the causes of malformations, particularly of that kind which are supposed to arise from impressions made on the mind of the mother during her pregnancy; and it has been argued against the probability of their being occasioned by such impressions, that there is no nervous connexion between the mother and the *foetus*, by which the emotions of her mind can be communicated. It appears to me, however,

that this argument is worth nothing, because it ought rather to be shewn, that the impressions on the mother do not so affect herself, as to occasion any interruption in the secretion of the materials of which the foetus is formed. It certainly seems a more probable supposition, that it is owing to a defect of the material necessary to the development of the foetus that malformations are produced, than by any intellectual influence exerted by the mother.

Yours, &c.

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LETTER XXXIII.

SCALANOVA, *April 23.*

I LEFT Smyrna on the morning after I wrote to you last, taking with me a Janisary, a guide, and Jacomo. On ascending the heights, after



quitting the town, I saw along the side of the road several broken relics of antient edifices, and I met a large caravan of camels from the interior of Asia. These ships of the desert, variously loaded, were moving slowly to their port. The camel is without doubt the ugliest of animals, but it has a composed docile aspect that reconciles us to its deformity. A caravan, owing to the oriental dresses of the passengers, and the innumerable grotesque circumstances which it presents, is an amusing spectacle. On the back of one camel three or four children were squabbling in a basket; on another, cooking utensils were clattering; from the back of a third, a young camel looked forth enquiringly on the world. The camels were followed by a long desultory train of foot passengers and cattle.

After reaching the summit of the hills immediately behind Smyrna, the road lies through fields here and there well cultivated, and interspersed with country houses. When we had rode slowly on for three or four hours, we passed through the ruins of a Turkish town, of which four or five moschs, one of them a handsome building, are entire; some twenty houses or so are also

still tenantable, and a few of them are inhabited. In passing this place I was agreeably surprised by a cuckoo: the voice of this bird has at all times afforded me indescribable delight; but on this occasion, its two simple notes seemed to have acquired the power of a felicitous epithet in poetry, and excited in my recollection a long and pleasing succession of rural associations. I forgot in the reverie of the moment that Fancy was only walking in the gallery of Memory, and that the original subjects of those pictures which she contemplated were at a long and a dangerous distance.

Proceeding still slowly, we arrived at a coffee-house, on the banks of a small stream, where we alighted, and took some refreshment under the shadow of three or four trees, on which three or four couple of storks were conjugally building their nests. I became interested in their work, and observed that when any of their acquaintance happened to fly past, they chattered a sort of how-do-ye-do to one another. This civility was so uniformly and reciprocally performed, that you may rest assured of the politeness of the storks being as indisputable as their piety.

Having stopped some time, we again mounted, and continuing our journey at the same dull rate, we frequently passed droves of camels, the stragglers of the caravan. The road for a mile or two lies along the side of a marshy lake, and the environs are equally dreary and barren. Passing the lake, we entered on an extensive plain, where I noticed several broken columns of marble, and the evident traces of an antient highway, which apparently led towards the lake; perhaps, like the roads through the Pontine marshes, it crosses the lake, for the weeds and rushes shew that the water is very shallow. Near these relics there is a small coffee-house, a burying-ground, and a mosch. Leaving them on the left, we turned towards the south, and passed about a dozen Turks with a corpse, which they had laid on the grass while they dug a grave to receive it. This incident effectually dispersed all the rural reflexions which the cuckoo had awakened, and substituted for the calm and delightful pictures, in the style of Claude, that my imagination had contemplated with so much complacency, a number of grim and gloomy sketches, after the manner of Salvator Rosa. The wind indeed had

a hand in the change, for all the afternoon a violent Scirocco had annoyed both man and beast, and the sky, which in the morning was blue and crystalline, had assumed the appearance of tarnished brass; nor could scenery more wild and desolate than the landscape, which served as a back-ground to the gloomy business of the Turks, be easily imagined. The road, indeed, after ascending the hills on the south side of the plain, was calculated to inspire only apprehension and melancholy. Not a habitation was to be seen, but we passed several cemeteries with their dull cypresses and tomb-stones, which served to shew that the country had once been inhabited. Justly to appreciate the impression which all these things made on me, you would require, besides being under the hypochondriacal influence of the Scirocco, to be provoked almost to the very act of suicide or murder, by a stupid sullen Janisary, who, being himself the owner of the horses you have hired, will not ride even at the rate of a brewer's dray.

Just as the stars began to twinkle, we arrived at another coffee-house on the road side, with a mosch before it, a spreading beech-tree for the Turks to recline under in the spring, and

a shed for them in the more intense sunshine of summer. Here, I was informed by the Janissary, we were to rest for the night; and I was fortunate in getting a room, and a tolerable place for my mattress. At present the Turks are making great preparations to strengthen their army, and recruits are almost daily passing from the southern provinces towards Constantinople. The chance therefore is, that a traveller in Natolia is likely to be rather well or ill accommodated: well, if he happen to find the apartment allotted for officers empty; ill, if he fall in with a gang of recruits. In this case I had the good luck to be the only guest in the house.

This inn, as I must call it, was kept by a Turk and a Moor. The Blackamoor danced a jig to amuse us, and the Turk sang two songs with a degree of pathos and sweetness that greatly surprised me. He told me that an English Milordos, who had passed some time before, advised him to go to London, where his singing would make him as great as a Pashaw; but he had not been able yet to find any one willing to take him there. One of his songs, as Jacomo interpreted the meaning, was a description of an army advancing to the

field, and had been composed by the Turk himself. The music was so lively and descriptive, that the poetry, I am sure, could not have been otherwise than good. Alas!

“ Full many a gem of purest ray serene  
The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear ;  
Full many a flower has blown to blush unseen,  
And waste its sweetness on the desert air.”

The other song was a love ditty. Considering that the poor Mahomedans are not permitted to see the faces of their mistresses, I was desirous of hearing which of their charms were celebrated, and made Jacomo, when the Turk had ceased singing, translate for me the whole ballad. It related that all on a summer's day, two young Ottoman swains were smoking under a tree, by the side of a purling stream, hearing the birds singing, and seeing the flowers blooming. By came a young maiden, her eyes like two stars in the nights of the Ramazan. One of the swains takes his pipe out of his mouth, and sighing, smoke, gazes at her with delight. The other demands why his rapt soul is sitting in his eyes, and he avows himself the adorer of the veiled fair. “ Her eyes,” says he, “ are black, but they shine like the

polished steel, nor is the wound they inflict less fatal to the heart." This conceit is pretty, but mark what follows: "My sister says, that in the bath her skin is like the snow on the mountains of Brusa, and her cheeks more beautiful than the rose of the morning." The other swain ridicules his passion, and bids him refill his pipe. "Ah no!" cries the lover, "I enjoy it no more; my heart is as a fig thrown into a thick leafy tree, and a bird with bright eyes has caught it and holds it fast."

The Turk and Moor were as willing to serve me as a landlord and waiter could possibly be; but they had only eggs and coffee, having ate up their whole allowance of bread before our arrival. They are the servants of the host at the ferry-house of the river Castrus, and he is a retainer of a chief in that neighbourhood. Throughout the whole empire there is, unquestionably, a great resemblance to the descriptions of feudal manners; particularly of what I conceive may have been the state of society, in the West of Europe, before the fiefs became hereditary.

In the morning I set out at day-break, and, after a short ride, arrived on the borders of the

plain of Ephesus. As I do not visit the ruins till my return, we turned towards the shore, leaving the castle on the left, distant five or six miles, and entered upon a road recently constructed across the marsh, to which the overflowings of the river have now reduced the greatest part of the land, between the scite of the city and the sea. The materials of which this road is made cannot fail to interest every passenger, who has the slightest tendency of mind to meditate on the fluctuation of human affairs. They consist of broken pillars, entablatures, and inscriptions, on many of which the sculpture is still so entire, as sufficiently to attest the labour and skill that had been employed on them.

After riding some time on this road of fragments and relics, we reached the ferry, the inn at which is really not despicable. The Castrus here, although scarcely fifty yards broad, is nearly twenty feet in depth, over which we were ferried along with other cattle in a triangular float. We then followed the course of the river to the sea, and observed for nearly half a mile the stone embankments, which had antiently confined the stream, and which in several places were not in



the least decayed. The river has thrown up a bar across its mouth, and its course from the ferry is much interrupted with fishing cruives. Either the sea has receded, or the river has brought down large quantities of sand and rubbish, for the landmarks at the terminations of the stone embankments are now a considerable distance from the beach, and the space between, particularly on the north side, is a foul unwholesome fen. Leaving the banks of the Castrus, we rode along the coast for a mile or two, and after crossing a point of land, we had a view of this town.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER XXXIV.

SCALANOVA, *April 24.*

THE approach to Scalanova lies through fields finely cultivated. The town is seen, a long way off, sloping down the side of a promontory. From the bottom of the steep, a point of land projects in a curved direction towards a small island, on which there is a square tower erected, immediately in front of the city. This is the only defence towards the sea; an old fortress on the land-side of the town, under the walls of which the road passes after crossing several burying-grounds, is indeed properly the guardian of the place. A large lion of white marble is stuck up on one corner of this fortress.

As we were entering the precincts of the town, I noticed a young bull-dog stretched at a door. Either from hereditary feelings of patriotism, or some other sympathy or antipathy, he allowed me to pass unmolested; but Jacomo, who had fallen

behind, was not so fortunate. I had not passed the door many yards when I heard him utter an interjection, followed by a malediction, and on turning round saw the dog retiring. It seems that Jacomo was trotting gaily on, thinking of nothing at all, when out sprang the dog, and seized his horse by the leg. Such a dog, either in shape or manners, Jacomo had never before seen. The curs of these parts, like the antient Trojans, give due warning, by shouts, before they make an attack, but this round-headed rogue gave no notice whatever of his intention ; and Jacomo justly observed, that it was not fair any dog should have the nature to bite without barking.

On entering the town, we were met by the keeper of one of the khans, who conducted me to an apartment, in the building, where the person resides who has, at present, charge of the British consulate. The vice-consul was not in town, and the personage who represented him was so invincibly stupid, that I should have made but an idle journey had I not found a Greek merchant who took compassion on me, and with uncommon assiduity and politeness assisted me in all that I wished to see and to learn.

Scalanova contains about twenty thousand inha-

bitants, of whom five thousand are reckoned Greeks, about one hundred Armenians, and two hundred Jews; the rest are Mahomedans. The cathedral, dedicated to St. George, is successor to the primitive church of Ephesus, and in consequence is regarded as the third of the patriarchate in point of dignity.

While I was looking at the interior of the cathedral, a funeral arrived. The body, preceded by a number of priests, was brought into the church, carried on an open bier, with the face uncovered. It was neatly dressed in white clothes, and bore a taper in its hand. After the service was read, a young man, who appeared to be chief mourner, lighted the candle in the dead man's grasp, and one of the priests distributed other tapers among the spectators. In the midst of the service my solemnity was irresistibly disturbed by the impudence of one of the priests. He took off my spectacles, placed them on his own snout, without saying a word, and finding, I suppose, that they would not suit, returned them with as little ceremony. When the body was carried to the grave, the wife and the female friends of the deceased came to pay the last marks of their affection. But you will excuse me from

attempting to describe a scene from which I quickly turned away.

By a mistake still unrectified, Scalanova is considered to be the antient Neapolis ; but the present town is only about three hundred years old, and the ruins of Neapolis are still visible on the other side of the promontory.

Scalanova consists properly of two towns, the Turkish and the Grecian. The Turks here retain all their peculiar consequence ; but they are civil and industrious, and the Greeks are more contented with them than any where else. The town itself is pleasant and well-built. One of the streets has a small brook of clear water running through it, and is agreeably shaded with trees. The Turks uniformly prefer situations where the water is good ; and it is traditionally reported that the town was first founded on account of the abundance of the springs here. The present governor of this district is represented as a man uncommonly shrewd, able, and just, and to these qualities in his character, the comfort of the Christian inhabitants, and the general prosperity of the country, are doubtless partly owing.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER XXV.

EPHESUS, *April 25.*

HAVING completed the objects of my visit to Scalanova, I returned by the road which leads directly towards this place. It was an hour after sun-set when we mounted, and the ride is computed at four hours of the post-rate, which is, I think, not more than three English miles per hour.

Losing sight of the sea, we came into a hollow among the hills, where I saw, on the right hand, at a considerable distance above our path, the parapet-wall of the antient highway from Ephesus to Neapolis. It was too late to think of riding along this road; but we continued nearly parallel to it, until it was so dark, that I could no longer trace the wall. The extent of this work, with the ruins that I had already seen, and some absurd affection of the imagination concerning the seven wonders of the world, and the seven golden

candlesticks, tended to produce in my mind a great idea of the ruins of the city, the approach to which was rendered uncommonly solemn, by the baying of wolves and the hooting of owls on the hills. However, before we reached the village where I am now writing, and which still retains the title of Ephesus, the moon rose above the mountains, and the songs of innumerable nightingales in the bushes greatly diminished the awe-struck and moralizing humour into which I had fallen. I wonder how it happens, that the song of the nightingale is generally thought to produce melancholy reflexions. I have never heard it without experiencing a lively emotion of pleasure, and on this occasion it seemed to me quite chearful. If any other being besides man is subject to the instigations of poetical fancy, it is this sweet, capricious, and elegant bird.

When we got to the coffee-house in which we were to take up our abode for the night, we found it full of Turkish soldiers, recruits, pipes, pistols, and smoke. Luckily, however, we met at the door an Athenian Greek, who, understanding that I preferred to have my bed spread in the open air, to sleeping in the coffee-house,

offered to accommodate me in his house, and in it I am now writing, disturbed, however, by a noisy cricket, which is making such a confounded and incessant chirruping, that if I had it under my heel, I would make it sing another song.

Yours, &c.

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LETTER XXXVI.

EPHESUS, *April 26.*

WHILE the horses are getting ready, I sit down to give you some account of what I have seen to recompense me for the trouble of coming here.

The ruins appear to consist chiefly of the remains of Saracenic baths and moschs. Of the temple of Diana I saw nothing which any man, in his sober senses, could say that he is sure may have belonged to it. The best classical relics are two or three fragments of bas-reliefs, rudely stuck up over an arched gateway leading to the



fortress. Probably, this arch belonged to the castle which the Empress Helena is said to have erected here ; for the present fortress is evidently of much more recent construction. At a short distance from the right of this gate, and somewhat lower, the walls of a large and magnificent marble mosch are still entire. This is the building which Tournefort, and most of the travellers who have followed him, call the Church of St. John. I think, however, that in this instance he is incorrect. The edifice is certainly Saracenic. I was not able to trace, on any part of it, Christian insignia ; but it exhibits many Mahomedan ornaments, apparently coeval with the construction. It is needless to enumerate any more of the few unintelligible scraps of antiquity which I met with, except a statue of an infant Bacchus eating grapes, which I bought for fifteen shillings. It was turned up by a plough a few days ago.

A walk of more than an hour, over broken vaults, and through nettles and briars, effectually cooled the slight desire which I felt to look at objects, of which the æra, use, and construction, are equally unknown. The traveller must be far

gone in Antiquarianism who can admire the wreck of the aqueduct, or the other shapeless heaps that constitute the ruins of Ephesus. To save you the trouble of a search, or the vexation of coming away without accomplishing the objects of your journey, if you are ever so mad as to visit this place, I ought to mention, that the remains of the antient city lie principally along the heights on the West of the modern village; and that those which are now commonly visited as such, are, in fact, of posterior origin, and are perhaps wholly Saracenic.

The situation of Ephesus, as it appears at present, is as well calculated to raise a dispute among topographers, as any place that I know. Were I to describe to you only its existing condition,—barren rocky hills behind, and a morass of many miles in extent in front, you would not hesitate to say, that it must have been extremely ill chosen. But when it is considered that this morass was formed by the inundations of the river having been neglected; that the river, prior to the stoppage by the bar across its mouth, and which is probably of the same date as the morass, was navigable to the city; and that the town

stood exactly in that part of the noble and fertile valley of the Castrus, by which it was enabled to unite, to its maritime advantages, the convenience of an easy communication with the interior, you will perhaps, like me, be disposed to think that it may have been very happily chosen. The marshes round Ephesus are not half so extensive as the levels on the South side of London. Now, were it possible to imagine the modern Babylon desolated; the ruins of the bridges interrupting the course of the Thames; scarcely a vestige of all her thousands of streets and structures remaining; the very scite of St. Paul's unknown to the miserable inhabitants of a few hovels, half hid by the briars and nettles among the ruins;—were it indeed possible to imagine the ruin of London as complete as that of Ephesus; what would then be the state of the low grounds of Vauxhall, Lambeth, and Camberwell, which at present are covered with so many flourishing gardens and terraces?—could they be otherwise than putrid fens, the abodes of reptiles, and the nurseries of pestilence, like those of the plain of Ephesus?

Yours, &c.

## LETTER XXXVI.

SMYRNA, *April 27.*

HAVING crossed the Castrus, a little way above Ephesus, by a bridge of several arches, we entered a beautiful, but almost entirely deserted valley. The clear river winds cheerfully through it; and the sides of the mountains are in some places broken into stupendous precipices, and in others scooped into fine holms and rural hollows, decorated with stately trees.

After riding an hour or so, we fell in with a train of camels, cattle, men, women, and children. Forgetting, in the instant, that I was in Asia, I imagined it was a troop of country folk going, with their merchandise, to a fair; but, observing something uncommon in the dresses of the men, and that the women were not veiled; I enquired what they were; and was agreeably surprized to find them one of those wandering tribes, who, like Abraham and his household, roam over the vast unappropri-

ated domains of Asia, and have no local habitation. During winter they come into the narrow valleys; and as the spring returns, they retire again towards the open country, passing the vicinity of the large towns about the end of Lent, at which time they dispose of their lambs and young cattle. This tribe or family consisted of about a hundred persons, men-servants and maid-servants, with their little ones. Upwards of three score of camels, with a more numerous train of cattle, sheep, and goats, asses loaded with poultry in baskets, and other patriarchal chattels and moveables. They rested on the banks of the river, but did not pitch any tents. As they travel slowly, the Paschal Feast will begin before they can reach the neighbourhood of Smyrna. I had not the least hope of falling in with any thing so primitive. The Mosaic descriptions have now acquired a degree of circumstantiality, in my mind, pleasantly perspicuous.

Leaving the patriarchs, we rode up the banks of the river, and turning towards the North, for we had hitherto proceeded in an easterly direction, entered a valley, which gradually expands to a great width, assuming the appearance of a

large plain. On the banks of the stream, at a short distance from where we left it, we alighted near a little coffee-house, and took some refreshment. In the neighbouring bushes a vast number of nightingales were rehearsing for the evening: I do not remember to have heard before of their day-light songs. Lulled by their melody, as I should have said about ten years ago, but in fact oppressed by the heat of the sun, I fell asleep under the trees, where the rug had been spread for my dinner. The servants also fell asleep; and, while we were all in this negligent condition, a Turk, who happened to be passing, stole one of the horses' bridles. When we awoke, the Janissary made a terrible disturbance on account of the loss; but I was very thankful, that we had not found our throats cut.

The appearance of Greece, particularly around Athens, though exceedingly picturesque, is not more majestic than that of your own neighbourhood; but the general aspect of the landscape in Natolia is stupendous and extensive, far beyond any means of comparison that Scotland affords.

On the West side of the plain on which the road lies, after quitting the banks of the *Castrus*, we

passed the ruins of an aqueduct, that at one time had supplied a large town, of which no remains were visible, except a few fragments of broken marble, appearing like white bones among the green grass. At the moment, I felt a wish to learn something of the deceased, and regretted that I had not taken my compass and map with me. But of what use would it have been to my unfurnished memory, to have ascertained the name of a city that is no more? In truth, I begin to think that my ignorance contributes not a little to the gratification which I receive in these regions of desolation. For conjecture, in attempting to satisfy curiosity, has recourse to fancy, over whose creations a degree of melancholy is necessarily diffused, which, like the transparent obscurity of the painters, gives a charm to the composition, more delightful than the distinct lights and hard facts of historical truth.

When we had left those imperfect vestiges of the unknown dead about three miles behind us, we came to another coffee-house on the banks of a pleasant brook, with a mosch for travellers to say their prayers in, and a little grove for their ruminations and smoking. The uniformity in

the situations of the Asiatic public-houses, every one having its grove and running water, proves that there is something systematic in the choice. In a climate where shade and cool water are so often luxuries, the system does credit to the taste, or rather to the instincts, of the Turks. At this coffee-house a number of recruits were resting. The Janissary advised me, prospectively, not to attend to their request, for they would ask money. They did so, and patiently submitted to their disappointment.

When we arrived on the heights above Smyrna, the night was far advanced, and the moon was high and clear. On one side of the road a drove of camels were encamped round a fire. They formed a circle, with their heads to the light, and the drivers were seated within, joyously singing.

On entering the city, we were saluted by the barking of at least fifty dogs, a party of those masterless and vagabond curs, which infest the streets of the Turkish towns. Their barking was only an alarm: the moment that they were spoken to, they retired, or came towards us greetingly and kindly.

Yours, &c.



## LETTER XXXVII.

AT SEA, *April 29.*

I LEFT Smyrna on the evening of the 27th, in a vessel for Samos. The wind was not very favourable, and we took the voyage easily. On the second day we arrived in the neighbourhood of the largest of the two islands which are called the English Islands, and the ship having anchored in the straits between them, I went on shore. I found it inhabited by two or three Turkish shepherds and their families, and I engaged one of them to conduct me to a port on the opposite side of the island, where I was informed several antient arches, and a large cistern, showed that a town had once been. Our walk lasted about an hour, over a rude tract, through fields that still retained some traces of having formerly been cultivated, and of which the inhabitants still sow a few corners with corn and beans, for their own subsistence.

The ruins consist of upwards of a hundred groined vaults, supported by rude square pillars, —probably they were originally warehouses. They are situated in the vicinity of a cove, that branches from a port capable of containing hundreds of vessels, in perfect security from every wind. By the workmanship, it is evident that these buildings were constructed for some very ordinary purpose. The vaulting and arches over the cistern are more neatly formed, and I think are of greater antiquity. Of the history of this island I know nothing, and these remains are too inconsiderable to enable me honestly to say more.

Having returned on board, we lay at anchor till an hour before day-light, when we got under weigh. The day, according to the usages of the Greek church, being the festival of the Resurrection, the appearance of the sun was announced by the firing of the guns, and the sailors shaking hands and embracing, crying “Christ is risen.” This is one of the greatest of the Greek holidays; and I was not surprized to see all hands, after living forty days on bread and vegetables, preparing, with great jollity, for a sumptuous repast of flesh and other savoury messes.

After mid-day, the sea-breeze set very strong into the Gulph of Smyrna, and we could not weather Cape Calaberno; the Captain, therefore, bore away for Foscia, where he cast anchor, and I went ashore.

The port of Foscia is an oval bason, about a mile in length, and half that extent in breadth: the entrance is not a musket-shot in width, and the anchorage within is excellent for vessels of any description. The town stands on a peninsula that projects into the port, and is almost entirely surrounded by the water. It is a small decayed place, was built by the Genoese, and with them its prosperity and riches departed. The environs still retain some marks of their industry and opulence, in the ruins of country-houses, and orange and olive-gardens, of which the walls are almost entirely fallen, and the soil overgrown with weeds and nettles. A few fields are still planted with vines, of which the fruit is sent to Smyrna; but, generally speaking, the place is fast approaching to a state of complete desolation.

After walking about the neighbourhood for an hour or two, and enquiring in vain if there were any

things worth looking at, I returned towards the boat. At the gate, for the walls are still in existence, a number of Greeks were amusing themselves in their holiday-clothes, and a band of Turks were reposing in the shade. Desiring Jacomo to enquire at one of the Turks about an appearance somewhat like a wall, along the face of the hills, I was amused by the Turkishness of the reply. Jacomo, as is usual with him, instead of putting a plain question, prefaced the enquiry with some observations of his own, relative to antiquities in general, the great love and esteem which the British have for them, particularly his master, and how for them only he had come on shore, &c. &c. The Turk listened to the oration with the greatest possible gravity; and when Jacomo had made an end, answered, "That he could tell nothing about the age of those walls, for they were older than him, and that we could see, as well as he, that they were very old;" adding, profoundly, "Who can now tell by whom they were constructed, or for what purpose, since every one is dead that had any thing to do with them."

As soon as the breeze arose, we again weighed

anchor; but we had scarcely got beyond the mouth of the harbour when it fell calm, and continued so till next day at noon. A light breeze then sprang up, and we reached Scio about sunset, but we did not clear the Southern mouth of the straits till after ten o'clock this morning.

Yours, &c.

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### LETTER XXXVIII.

AT SEA, *April 29.*

WHILE we were tacking off the coast of Samos this afternoon, the Captain pointed out to me the distant heights of the Isle of Patmos. This, like the sight of many other places in these regions, had the effect of calling up a particular train of associations, and I have endeavoured to embody some of them in the following Ode. I entreat you to be tender in your criticism. Reflect that it was written off the coast of Ionia, a

country where there never was any professed reviewer ; and if all this be not enough, I conjure you, for your own sake, to remember that the antients once stoned a critic to death ; and who knows but one of the moderns may be actuated by the same spirit ?

### THE CONQUEROR.

Avenger, Destroyer, thou storm of the Lord,  
That scatterest the chaff of the nations, give ear!  
Thy earth-shaking chariot and life-reaping sword,  
May daunt like the thunder and lightning of fear,  
But the end of the rolling and gleaming is near.

Vain-glorious ! proclaim'st thou thy triumphs and power,  
O fire of Jehovah, that wasteth the world !  
As the noise of a burning and flames that devour,  
Is the Hero's renown, and the banner unfurl'd,  
A cloud whence the red-bolted vengeance is hurl'd.

Belshazzar of Blasphemy, throned with thy bride,  
And feasting in Babylon, gorgeous and vain,  
From spoils of the Altar, as full as thy pride,  
Thy chiefs and thy captains new fury may drain  
From the wine, flowing free as the blood of their slain.

But winnower of Kings, thyself, as the corn  
 That floats in the fanner, and flies from the flail,  
 Found light in the balance and germless, in scorn  
 The Lord will disperse, with the breath of his gale.  
 Ha ! wheat of the sycophant—thou art but hail.

Dread Vial of Wrath, from the zenith of Heaven,  
 With terrible heralding pour'd on the earth,  
 For a day and an hour though dominion be given  
 To the scorpions of death and the locusts of dearth,  
 In the end it shall be as they never had birth.

Yours, &c.

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## LETTER XXXIX.

SAMOS, *May 3.*

SAMOS, like the other dominions of the Greeks, has greatly declined from its former importance. But though the monuments of its early grandeur are almost obliterated, I suspect very much that its riches and population fall little short of what they were in the best times of anti-

quity. I cannot, indeed, think that the insular Greeks have been so retrograde as other nations have been progressive. On all the islands at which I have touched, except those in the Gulph of Smyrna, I have seen indisputable evidences of the agriculture having the appearance of being maintained at its maximum. In Scio it is universally allowed, that a greater extent of surface is under tillage than was at any former period; and the population is so great, that the island may be regarded as one of the best-peopled in the whole world. The ruins, which call forth the lamentations of the classical travellers, are rather proofs of an alteration in religious sentiments, than of waste or decay in the civil interests of the inhabitants. The Classic, among the Grecian ruins, is very like the Papist among the monastic remains of England. We must not trust too much to his account of the existing state of things. His enthusiasm leads him to attach more value to the past than it deserves, and to regard the present with far less esteem than it merits.

This island has, for some time, been not a little disturbed by clashing principles and prejudices, of the same nature as those which have caused



so much agitation in the West of Europe. The primates and the rich men had long managed, with great success, to exempt themselves from all manner of taxation. The common people grew, at last, discontented; and insisted that the primates, according to their means, should also pay taxes. The primates treated them with contempt. The people rebelled, and a revolution ensued. Some of the primates were slain, and others emigrated. A sort of compromise has lately taken place, but it is not supposed that matters are yet in a settled frame. What laud and praise this affair would have received from the Doctors of Oxford and Cambridge, had it happened two thousand years ago!

Samos is said to contain, at present, about twenty thousand inhabited houses; and the whole population, which is Christian, is estimated at fifty thousand souls. There is only one Turkish officer in the island, the Governor, and he bears his faculties very meekly, leaving the aristocrats and democrats to worry each other in their own way, without taking the part of either. He is a wise man. Moral distempers have their raving fits, and the extravagances of the patient ought to

be heard with equanimity: it is only when he proceeds to work mischief that coercion should be used.

The principal production of Samos is the rich muscato wine, once so much esteemed under the name of Malmsey. Upwards of fifty cargoes were formerly shipped to the Black Sea; but, owing to the war, the trade is quite at a stand, and the vintagers know not what to do with their wines. The sweet muscato, unlike every other wine, is best in the first year. Its fine perfume passes off in the course of the second; and, as it grows old, it becomes strong and spirituous, like the Comanderia of Cyprus. Samos also exports a considerable quantity of oil and raisins. The oil is the best in the Levant, being prepared in the French manner, by cleaning and garbling the olives. Since the shutting of the Italian ports, some of the Samos oil has been sent to London, and sold for good Lucca. In the mountains, statuary marble is found in abundance; and not far from the town of Vathi, in which I am now writing, there is an extensive forest, which occasionally furnishes timber for the Ottoman navy. In the recesses of this wood, serpents of an incre-

dible size are said to have been discovered, and the stories that are told of them would do credit to the Legend of Hercules.

The carob-tree is also cultivated in this island; and a considerable quantity of the fruit, in time of peace, is sent to Russia, where, I am told, it is distilled into a spirit used by the common people. In Turkey it is not much eaten by the poor, but it is esteemed excellent for feeding horses. You will probably recollect, that among the Romans the carob was the standard of a weight, somewhat, I suppose, as the barley-corn, with us, is the standard of measure.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER XL.

MYCONI, *9th May.*

AFTER adventures that partake of the nature of those of Columbus, in the first and most famous of all his voyages, I have great reason to thank my stars that I have reached this island. On the morning of the 3d I left Samos in a boat, which I had hired, and as the wind was not very favourable, instead of coasting Necaria, as I at first intended, we steered towards the continental peninsula of Chezmaih. In the afternoon we found it would be necessary to seek a port for the night, according to the good old custom of the heroic ages. While sailing easily along, just as the sun was setting, we discovered something white lying on the shore, and which Jacomo, whose head is full of images, immediately set down for a marble lion. He was not a little confirmed in his opinion when he observed the ruins of an extensive antient wall immediately behind it. To take pos-

session of the statue, and to view the ruins, I directed the boat to land us. But, alas! the lion proved only a white stone. We found, however, that the wall extended a long way. Following it to a considerable distance, we traced the ruins of a tower, projecting beyond the line of the wall, and soon after came to the remains of a temple, in the neighbourhood of which the foundations of several edifices are still visible. As it was now beginning to grow dark, we deemed it expedient to return, having followed the line of the fortifications about a mile. This wall undoubtedly encompassed a city. But what city, by whom built, or when destroyed, I confess myself unable to conjecture. The ruins are situated almost directly north from the harbour of Vathi; and the wall, constructed with large black square masses, of a lava-like substance, is built along the edge of a rocky peninsula.

About an hour before the dawn, we again stood out to sea, but the wind was so light that we made very little way along the coast. In the afternoon, observing a flock of camels feeding on the heights, and several inclosed fields, we resolved to sail into a port which enters from the open bay, in which

we had already lost so much time. When within, the port had the appearance of a lake, the entrance being concealed by a point of land. Its shape resembles the outline of a double bunch of grapes; and the wildest loch in the highlands of Scotland is not sequestered among more barren scenery than this little creek of Asia. Here we lay till after midnight, when we again put to sea, but as the dawn began to brighten, the land breeze slackened, and by the time the sun appeared it was quite calm. We, therefore, had recourse to our oars, and met with no other adventure that day, than finding an excellent fish asleep in a small pool on the shore, above the level of the sea. It was probably thrown there by a wave. We also picked up several shell fish, but the change of the moon being near, they were all of course, lean and insipid,

From the way in which the men handled the oars, I began to suspect that they were no great sailors, and my apprehensions were speedily verified. One of them had in fact never acted in that capacity before. Vexed by this discovery, and fearing lest we might have a long passage, I resolved that we should not again go into port at

night. This determination encountered some opposition, but in the end, by making a vehement noise, I carried my point.

During the night we got as far as the mouth of the straits of Scio, and next day at noon, a fine brisk north-west breeze sprang up, which gradually freshened into a gale till we were off the west end of Nicaria, a mountainous island inhabited by about two thousand half barbarised Greeks, who, besides pasturing a few sheep, cultivate several gardens, the fruit of which they carry to Scalanova, and even as far as Rhodes; they also prepare charcoal, which they sell among the adjacent islands. The wine that they make is not esteemed good, and is barely sufficient for their own consumption. There is no port in Nicaria, but the ruins of an antient mole are still seen at the north-west end of the island. Tired of my voyage, I did not however land. What I tell you is hearsay. Tinos and Myconi were in sight, and the gale had increased at such a rate that I became very anxious to terminate my voyage. Boreas in truth descended in such a fury, as of old from the mountains of Tinos, that I scarcely hoped to escape the fate which his sons inflicted

on the companions of Hercules. One of the boatmen rendered nearly useless by sea-sickness, the other equally so by his fears, and Jacomo recounting a terrible shipwreck which he suffered along with the Athenian marbles at Serigo, suspending his narrative every other moment to admonish the master of the coming of a mighty wave, were omens that seemed to threaten something more than a ducking. As we were now in the Icarian sea, and off the coast of that very island on which the son of Dædalus fell from his balloon, had any thing happened to us, the fate of Icarus would have furnished you with a happy simile for the elegy in which you would, no doubt, have wailed your sorrows.

About sun-set we were so near the north cape of Myconi that I could discern the breakers ; but in attempting to weather it, we lost way, and were obliged to steer to leeward along the coast, with the intention of going into Palerm, a port on the east side of the island. In this attempt the knowledge of the master of the boat deserted him. The waves were dashing themselves into foam against the rocks in the entrance, and he could not venture to say that he knew the channel. We



continued therefore to fall to leeward, in order to pass between the small rocky island of Traonis and Myconi, but here again we were baffled. No alternative seemed to be left but to run to the portless island of Naxia, or to Paros, a desperate expedient in the dark. But not to impair the sublime of our situation with many words, I thought in my heart that we were fairly in for a watery grave. Jacomo was desperate, but there was still something so odd in his despair, that it served to keep mine from taking full effect. He had found a book of nativities, in which he thought his own destiny, and the character of his wife, were described. The book was in his pocket, he bade me read, and it prognosticated to him perils by sea and shipwreck. One moment he thought of his wife and child, but his thoughts were much more about himself; at another he scolded the sea-sick man for presuming to come as a sailor, and the master of the sloop for putting our precious lives to hazard: anon he discovered a vast wave rolling irresistibly toward us, and crying out to the master to be on his guard, he darted at the ballast, and flung it up as fast as possible to the weather side, drawing every now and then a

profound sigh, and uttering a fervent ejaculation.

As we neared upon Traonis, nothing but huge precipices presented themselves, the whole extent of the coast appearing like a vast rugged wall. Fortunately, however, the island lay somewhat athwart the course of the wind and waves, and as we got under its lee, the water became gradually less tumultuous. On doubling the southern cape, we found it quite smooth. We resolved to anchor in a small creek for the night, but the master remembering the situation of a port in Myconi not far off, it was thought best to proceed there. On our arrival we discovered a boat already near the shore. One of the men took it into his head that it must be a pirate, and his lamentations were in consequence scarcely less violent than when at sea. But the boat was only, like our own, driven into that desolate place by stress of weather.

When we came to anchor it was quite dark, nevertheless, as I was drenched through, and exceedingly chilled, I determined to land and to search for a house. After wandering in quest of the road upwards of two hours in the dark, I was at last gratified with the civilized sound of a dog

barking, and soon after with the appearance of a light at a distance. It came from a cottage. We went to enquire the road to the town, and received the delightful intelligence that we were very near a monastery. Jacomo immediately remembered that this monastery was famous for effecting miraculous cures on mad people, declaring at the same time that it would afford proper lodgings and every thing suitable for me.

The monastery being a large white edifice made a great appearance in the dark. The gate we found covered with plates of iron, and bolted. We knocked as loudly as possible, and a light was soon discovered within from beneath the door, and steps were heard approaching. Presently some one in a weak, infirm voice enquired who was there, upon which we mentioned our situation. The steps were then heard retreating, and the light gradually disappeared. Immediately the sound of several persons in earnest conversation drew nearer and nearer to the gate, and a strong corpulent voice demanded what we wanted. Jacomo stated the case in an able and argumentative manner. The party within retired without replying, and soon after a window over the portal was opened, and the

same hoarse masculine personage demanded again from whence we had come, and what we were. In the end he ordered us round to the other side of the building, to be judged of by our appearance: we obeyed; and immediately several windows were opened, and lamps were advanced into the air, but the wind blew them out. Provoked by these delays, and almost chilled to death with my wet clothes, I desired Jacomo to claim admission according to the charitable purpose of the institution, magnificently threatening to represent the conduct of the friars to the Patriarch.—A council of war was held within, after which another parley took place, and in the end it was agreed that the garrison should admit us. We then returned to the front of the building, and the gate being opened disclosed an avenue of long bearded personages, with lamps in their hands. Having passed down the middle, I was conducted up a stair, and seated in a parlour, where the strong-voiced friar addressed himself in an authoritative manner to the assembled brotherhood, rebuking them sternly for not coming with their arms to the gate, in case our application had been only a stratagem.

It seems that last year ten Turks entered the monastery with the intention of plundering. The monks flew to arms: four holy brothers were slain, and several wounded. One Turk was manfully killed, with as many wounds as Julius Cæsar; three others were desperately punished, and the rest compelled to fly. Since that time the fraternity have been more wary than formerly, and hence their caution towards us.

The monastery is dedicated to the Virgin, and the society consists of seventy members, regulars, students of divinity, seculars, and helpless old men. It is liberally endowed, and the inmates fare well. Among the old men, I found one who spoke English. He had been a servant in London with the late Sir William Duncan. It is not generally known that, in his latter years, this eminent physician applied himself to the study of modern Greek, and attained proficiency enough to read it without much difficulty. He was so much attached to the Grecian name that he actually attempted to plant a colony of Greeks in America. East Florida was the country on which he fixed, and to which he transported several hundred persons from Greece on indenture. The

colony failed in consequence of the want of provisions. The doctor had however the satisfaction of dying with the belief that he had planted the Greeks in America, for the scheme was not abandoned till after his death.

In the morning I walked to the town of Myconi, where I have found very good lodgings. This is indeed the most Christian-like place that I have seen since leaving Zante, and I should be comfortable enough, but I am skewered with rheumatic pains, and my voice has departed, leaving only a hoarse incapable deputy, which, unlike most other deputies, is not half so useful as the principal.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER XLI.

MYCONI, *May 20.*

THIS is a neat place for its extent; and, as I observed in my last, more like a Christian town of the same extent, than any that I have yet seen in the Levant. It is supposed to contain between four and five thousand inhabitants, and upwards of eight hundred inhabited houses. The number of churches is so incredible, that I shall not attempt to form an estimate of it; but when I tell you that, in the island, upwards of three hundred have been counted, and the whole population does not exceed six thousand souls, you may form some notion of the number in the town. They are, of course, but rudely constructed; but are so exceedingly numerous, that a vast sum, when one considers the means of the inhabitants, must have been expended in erecting them. Since the better days of Venice, Myconi has been a place of considerable trade; being, in

some degree, the parent of Specia, Idra, and Ipsera. Till very lately, it was the practice of the sailors and ship-owners, on escaping from any extraordinary danger, to build a church in testimony of their gratitude to the saint whose aid they had implored during their jeopardy. But a more rational custom is now introduced. The monastery which afforded me shelter is regarded as the Greenwich Hospital of the island; and the sums which were formerly appropriated to the building of superfluous churches, are now given to that institution.

The island produces about five thousand bushels of barley, two thousand five hundred of wheat and barley mixed, and a thousand of pure wheat. A thousand weight of figs, and a small quantity of an excellent species of little white beans, which I conceive would grow very well in the West Indies. But the most considerable, and the most celebrated production of Myconi, is its red wine, of which about five hundred pipes are made annually. The quality resembles that of claret; but the inhabitants have a way of making different kinds; and, as the clarety is the most expensive to them, they will rather cheat



you than give it genuine. When the grapes are culled and pressed, while yet fresh from the vineyard, the claret-flavour of the wine is obtained in its greatest perfection. By drying the grapes in the sun, the other sorts, and which stand the most watering, are produced. When the grapes are too much dried, the wine becomes sweet, and, to my palate, very odious.

By their original capitulation with the Turks, the inhabitants of Myconi enjoy the right of choosing their own magistrates, and of otherwise regulating the internal economy of the island. They have, in their chancery, a registry of territorial property, which extends back many hundred years; but they have no public registry of shipping. Their commercial usages are similar to those of Idra, of which I mean to give an account more at large. But the Myconiots are not comparable to the Idriots in enterprize and activity, nor have they the same reputation for honest dealing.

Mavroyenni, one of the late hospodars of Wallachia, was a native of this island, and several of his relations still reside here. Myconi has also furnished several officers to the Russians. Psaro, who first conducted the fleet of that nation

from the Baltic to the Mediterranean, was born here.

In their manners, the present race of the Myconiots are considered more polite and liberal than the other Greeks. This is ascribed to the influence and example of a Russian Nobleman, who resided here as consul-general about five and twenty years ago, with the view of favouring the projects of his Government among the insular Greeks. His lady, a Venetian woman of high birth, introduced balls and theatrical exhibitions, to which all the inhabitants, above the very lowest rank, were freely admitted.

The Myconiots are said to be strongly tinctured with superstition. The men are considered choleric and turbulent, but their passions are not malicious, and murder is here regarded with almost a proper degree of abhorrence. In this island the women are undoubtedly the superior sex. Their complexion is of an English fairness, and many of them are very beautiful. But it is in their intelligence and address that their superiority consists. They not only possess a persuasive eloquence of manner, highly interesting, but are habituated to close reasoning, and the dis-

cussion of matters of business. In legal disputes among their husbands, they are the advocates before the magistrates; and I am told that there are women in the town, who, on important occasions, have displayed wonderful powers of argument and illustration. They are almost universally improvisatoré; and, in their occasional dirges at funerals, often display a felicity of conception that would do credit to studied efforts. I have myself been a witness to their performance in this way, and had the good fortune to obtain an accurate explanation of their expressions, as they occurred. A young woman, who was much esteemed in the town, died in childbed; and her female acquaintances, to the number of several hundreds, all dressed in their gayest apparel, attended the funeral. While the corpse was conveying to the church, a chorus sang in praise of the beauty and good qualities of the deceased. One began the verse; another, at the pause, took up the strain; and when a stanza was thus finished by several, the whole singers repeated it together. The young woman's mother was in the procession, and her distress excited universal pity. One of the sing-

ers exclaimed: "She embraced her child, and died of the joy of being a mother." The mother, taking up the verse, cried, "O my child! my child! where is now the joy of her that was thine!" This simple and pathetic apostrophe produced an effect that can only be imagined, not described. After the obsequies, all the women returned to the house, and began their regular dirge.—Unlike poetesses in general, the women of Myconi are very good housewives, and remarkably industrious. They knit large quantities of stockings, which they send as adventures with their relations and husbands to the markets of Smyrna, Constantinople, and, during peace, even as far as the Russian ports of the Black Sea.

In their dress the men resemble the Idriots; but they do not so generally shave the forehead, and many of them wear hats. The women are scarcely less remarkable in their dress than they are in other respects. On their heads they wear a papal-looking superstructure, of crimson velvet; the sleeves of their bodice are wide, loose, and flowing, having a kind of robe-like appearance behind. They have no gowns, and the sacred drapery of the petticoat reaches no farther than

the knees. Their stockings are red, green, and black, as fancy dictates. Notwithstanding their poetical propensities, I have not seen any blue stockings among them. The whole of this curious and grotesque disguise is placed on two little high-heeled shoes, of painted leather or sattin, loosely stuck on the fore part of the foot, making a great clattering in the streets as madam topples along. I had almost forgot to mention, that the women stand in great awe of certain invisible nymphs that haunt the wild parts of the island, and are the great authors of all the mischances that occur to them. For protection against the wicked influence of these malignant spirits, they have recourse to the priests, whom they pay to read the Evangelists in their houses, and to hallow them, from time to time, with holy water and benedictions.

There is at present no public school in Myconi. Prince Mavroyenni began a building for the purpose of instituting an academy, but his head was taken off before he had completed his design. It is however probable that a school will soon be established.

The Bishop of the Archipelago is here at pre-

sent, and I have succeeded in persuading him to order, forthwith, a register to be kept of the births, marriages, and burials, in the nineteen islands which constitute his diocese. The reason which I chiefly urged, in order to accomplish this, was the check which, in the matter of fees, it would afford to the collections of the inferior priests. To have been an instrument of introducing so useful an arrangement, in so useless an institution as the Greek Church, I assure you, is to me no small subject of self-gratulation. I hope you will not be so invidious as to refuse me your applause also.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER XLII.

MYCONI, *May 29.*

BESIDES the monastery, in which I found an asylum on the night of my landing, there is a convent for females in this island, situated at no great distance from the other. Like the monastery, the convent is both a religious institution, and a retreat for the indigent. The number of the sisterhood is limited to forty. They live apart, wear no veils, but are uniformly dressed in black. They are under no other restraints than those of propriety in their conduct, celibacy, and obedience to the orders of the Abbess. They are chiefly dependant on private charity, and the sale of the stockings and gloves, which they knit. It is, indeed, as to the principle of its foundation, a most respectable society of the kind. The abbess having lately died, the election of a new one was fixed for Monday last; and the Bishop, having occasion to ordain a priest at the

monastery, appointed the same day for that ceremony.

Some of my friends here, being interested in the choice of the abbess, made a party to the monastery, and invited me to accompany them. On the evening of our arrival (Saturday) the Abbot prepared a good supper, and the friars served us with a most edifying degree of humility; but the ladies, being fatigued with their ride, the party did not sit long enough to afford me an opportunity of observing any thing worthy of notice. Next day the strangers in the monastery were increased from eleven to upwards of twenty, so that, at dinner, we formed a jovial party. Among others, there was a singular creature — the brother of a Russian General's lady. His family having been benefactors to the foundation, he is allowed great liberties. But I must attempt to give you some notion of this being. He is above fifty, exceedingly decrepid, wears yellow shoes, stockings that reach only half way up his legs, light blue silk breeches, a black velvet waistcoat embroidered with gold, a short pink silk pelisse, and a long black nightcap; and he rides on an ass. His manners are as eccentric as his



dress is ludicrous, and at table he played innumerable pranks; such as sucking the bottles, as if glasses had never been invented; and when he saw any thing nice on his neighbour's plate, snatching it away. At first, and indeed for some time, I set him down as really crazy; but a few vivid scintillations of wit and good sense, convinced me that there was more humour than folly in his conduct. When dinner was finished, a stupid grave fool, one of that class of beings who, in Scotland, make themselves busy about the election of Ministers and Kirk-session Officers, began to bray, accompanied by the monks, the Greek "*Non Nobis.*" When they had put us all into the vapours, little Black-night-cap told them, seriously, that they had not sung it properly; and his pipe, which is as great an oddity as himself, being lighted, he resumed the strain in so ludicrously solemn a manner, with his eyes shut, taking every now and then a whiff, that young and old were convulsed with laughter. At the conclusion, he proposed the Virgin as a toast, and it was drank with great applause. The friars looked at one another, and said nothing.

The little gentleman has a sister in the nun.

nery, who is scarcely less extraordinary than himself. After dinner, the ladies of our party went to pay her a visit, in order to arrange the proceedings for the election next morning, and I accompanied them. I must now let you into a secret. The Abbess is always chosen from the poorer sisterhood, that she may not have presumption enough to infringe the freedom of the superiors. Sister Theophila is, in figure, the reverse of her brother, being a tall manly-looking woman, a very Hecat' in appearance; and, as I have said, a great humourist. On our arrival at the convent, she informed us that there were strong symptoms of a schism in the conclave. The nun pitched upon by sister Theophila was declared, by one party, to be a simpleton; and they were resolved to call to the vacant dignity another who possessed more energy of mind, and who was better suited to the exigencies of the times. But the sister was resolute, and expressed her determination to carry the business through with a high hand. This assurance was highly satisfactory to the secular powers. To me it was delightful, and I became greatly interested in the result. On returning to the monastery, we found

the Bishop arrived, all things restored to a proper state of decorum, and the ordination of the priest appointed to take place early in the morning.

I rose before day-light; but, not to trouble you with small details, I hasten to the ceremony of the ordination. At sun-rise, the priests being prepared, the Bishop came to the church-door, with a long black crape dangling from his cap; two large friars put a magnificently-embroidered purple satin robe about his shoulders; and another carried his train, in the same manner that the train-bearers of the Chancellor and Judges allow bad smells to escape. I have never been able to satisfy my understanding with any other reason for the holding up of a great man's tail.

In this state he was conducted to the throne; and two novices, each holding a silver branch of candles, mystically crossed, placed themselves at the foot of the steps, and said something in a loud voice. Whereupon another priest, arrayed in a scarlet robe, embroidered with spangles and hieroglyphics, and bearing a copy of the Gospels, came from the sanctuary, and the Bishop kissed the book. A chair was then placed in the

middle of the church, to which he descended. The purple robe was taken from his shoulders, and he was adorned with more glorious raiment. In the mean time all the spectators were employed in singing, and the *non nobis* fellow was particularly audible. When this part of the ceremony was finished, the bishop (who is a short thick personage, about four feet and a half high), almost as much stiffened with his brocades as a knight in armour, rose, and taking the two branches of candles from the novices, waved them backwards and forwards, uttering words that made all the spectators cross themselves. The candles were then restored to the assistants, and the fellow who was to be empowered to cheat simple sailors and their families, bent before the bishop, who making the sign of the cross on his head, again sat down in the chair, all the bystanders singing joyously. The song being finished, the Right Reverend Father in God entered the sanctuary, and mass was performed, after which two friars took the newly-ordained priest by the hand, and led him several times in a rapturous manner, his hair flying about his ears, in at one door of the sanctuary and out at the other, he each time kissing two

pictures, which I took to be portraits of Christ and the Virgin, and every now and then kissing also the altar. This exhibition being concluded, after a hasty breakfast we proceeded to the convent.

On our arrival we found sister Theophila all in a bustle, preparing with the assistance of two of her nieces, very pretty girls, lemonades and sweetmeats to regale the bishop and the visitors. Every other moment she suspended her labours to tell us what an arduous task she was engaged in with the schismatics, who were resolved on extremities. In the midst of her discourse, notice was given that the bishop was coming: she instantly went to receive him, and all the nuns being summoned to attend, they were drawn up in equal rows at each side of the portal, sister Theophila standing majestically on the steps. The bishop was seen coming up the hill: before him a priest carried the pastoral staff, and a gaily dressed train of seculars followed. Among the train I happened to observe several country lads with tall sticks in the one hand, and large nosegays in the other; and I was just beginning to philosophize on the generality of the taste of all bumpkins for tall sticks and large nosegays,

when one of the nuns ran from the ranks, and prostrated herself on the ground before the bishop's horse. In less than the time of an amen, sister Theophila also darting forward, seized the nun by the arm, and giving her three most undignified thumps on the back, flung her off to a distance. It was exceedingly provoking to the sister to see all her arrangements thus destroyed. Matters were however irretrievable—order was gone—and the bishop was received in a tumultuous manner, and amidst prophane shouts of laughter. The poor nun, it seems, is a little crazy, and the marvellous splendour of the bishop's appearance, had transported her to this untimely display of zeal.

The bishop, having alighted, walked to the church. The nuns successively came forward, and kneeling with their foreheads to the ground, kissed his feet. The two contending parties then presented their respective candidates. A dispute ensued, which sister Theophila ended by seizing her opponent's arm, and pulling her from the presence of the bishop, in manifest violation, however, of the freedom of election. The bishop being in the secret, immediately

accepted the candidate chosen by our party, and entered the church to consecrate her. But when summoned to appear she was not forthcoming. Dreading a turbulent reign, she shrank from the offered dignity. But our leader was not a person to be trifled with. Bouncing from her stall, she grasped her protégée by the hand, and compelled her to receive the benediction. The nuns then, one by one, knelt before the new abbess, and proffered their obedience and allegiance. The leader of the opposition being still somewhat refractory, instead of kneeling, began to remonstrate something like a protest against the proceedings, but which sister Theophila, with her characteristic promptitude and decision, cut short, by giving her a push on the back of the neck, that laid her reverentially at the feet of the abbess. In less than half an hour after the consecration, order was restored to the sisterhood; we enjoyed the lemonade and sweetmeats in tranquillity; the nuns resumed their knitting, and I have since heard that the schism is now entirely healed.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER XLIII.

MYCONI, *June 1.*

THE Greek literary genius is certainly not so much degenerated as we are taught to believe. I have seen here a translation of Goldsmith's *History of Greece*, a *System of Philosophy*, translated from the French, and several poetical publications, of which a Candiot pastoral is so much admired, that like the *Gentle Shepherd in Scotland*, it is in the hands of the common people. The number of original Romaic works, particularly in poetry, published at Vienna and in Italy, is, I am told, very considerable. Constantine Mano, who resides in Walachia, is said by the Greeks, with their characteristic hyperboles, to rival Homer in spirit and genius. He has however composed hexameters, on heroic subjects, with great splendour of fancy and energy of expression. The odes of Coræ are well known. There is in this island a poor old man, a schoolmaster, who has a



considerable stock of verses on hand, for which he would be glad to find a purchaser. Many of them are said to be delightfully composed, but they are likely to be lost for ever. I cannot imagine a more interesting sight than such a character as this, possessed of undoubted talent, and conscious of his powers, but sensible that he must sink into the grave unpitied and unknown. Were I to stay here, I would endeavour to give him a chance of obtaining the fame for which he languishes without hope, by setting on foot a subscription for printing some of his odes.

The two antient nations which have affected to the greatest extent the condition of mankind in Europe, are the Greeks and the Jews: the former by their literature, and the latter by their religion, but the sentiments of the former have ever been at variance with those of the latter. The religion of the Jews, as perfected in Christianity, teaches only peace and good-will to man, and countenances no opinion of a vindictive tendency, but claims the practice of manners and duties that will promote the repose and felicity of the world. The literature of the Greeks exalts into virtues those qualities which are calculated to

make war admirable for its own sake, and praises those exploits, which, undertaken for private motives, are justly held to be great crimes. Do you think if a poem of equal genius to the Iliad had been composed in its place, and had been as derogatory to the military character as the master-piece of mankind is the reverse, that martial glory would, at this time, have been held in so much esteem? I think not. It was a happy thought of Milton to represent the heathen deities as so many devils, who opposed by practical influence the will and pleasure of Heaven. If there can be a new epic poem composed, which shall have charms enough to counteract the spirit of the Iliad, the theme must be something else than war.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER XLIV.

MYCONI, *June 5.*

I AVAIL myself of the opportunity of a vessel about to sail for Malta, to send you my journal. By way of conclusion, I may as well give you some account of the general impression left on my mind of the state of the countries, and the condition of the people, that I have happened to visit.

Albania and the Morea differ from barbarous countries only in this, that civilization in them appears to have gone past. In the wild regions of America, if travellers discover symptoms of change, they are those of improvement; and if society be found there more savage than in any part of Europe, it is still but in a stage which the most refined people has passed through. The reverse is the case with those two provinces. Ruins every where appear as the monuments of a prosperity and a refinement now no more, and society has

mournfully realized the fable of Sisyphus. Still, however, I think that the stone, if not again in motion upward, has rested from its descent. Both in Albania and in the Morea succeeding travellers may be gratified with the visible effects of the security that has been introduced by the family of Ali Pashaw, although it has been accompanied with circumstances of incredible severity.

From the Isthmus of Corinth, and throughout the territory of Athens, the comparison does not apply with the same force; nor, though the country is greatly changed from its former splendour, does it inspire the same cast of reflexions. Attica, as a rural province, may still be visited with comparative pleasure.

Of Asia I have as yet seen so little, that it would be presumption in me to draw any general conclusions, the more especially as I feel myself at present rather inclined to differ from others who have had better opportunities of forming a fuller opinion. The islands are certainly in every respect superior to those within the European line, and it is among them only that the Greeks are seen to advantage. They enjoy all their antient liberty, and it is more owing to the negligence of

other countries, than to the conduct of the Turks, that they do not also possess more than all their antient wealth.

Though the Turks are the masters of Greece, yet, as they bear but a small proportion to the whole population, my attention was comparatively little directed towards them. Europe is not the proper country of that people. In their sentiments, conduct, and character, they have little in common with the other inhabitants. The Turk in Asia is very different from what he is in Europe. In Europe, he appears a stranger, nay more, a soldier on duty, jealous of stratagems, and fully under the pride-inspiring influence of the authority with which he is invested. In Asia he is more tame. He feels himself at home. He is there industrious and patient; and though the arrogance and reserve of his nature are still unrestrained, he possesses many respectable qualities. He not only regards his own house as his castle, but that of his neighbour as a sanctuary into which he ought never, uninvited, to intrude. The contempt in which he holds the Christians, is less owing to the bigotry inculcated by the Mahomedan faith, than to the absurdities of worship into

which the Christians themselves have fallen in the countries subject to his controul. I have no hesitation in saying that the Mahomedan religion is greatly more rational and sublime, than that which, in Turkey, is misnamed Christianity.

That the spirit of ambition and usurpation which formerly distinguished the Roman Catholic Church, has been less remarkable in the Greek priesthood, is much more owing to the latter having been always under the civil power, than to any greater admixture of reason and moderation in their system. Accordingly, the great revolution which characterises the present age, seems to be taking effect in Turkey, as well as in Christendom. Bigotry is universally relaxed. The ecclesiastics are generally considered as too numerous, and their pretensions are reprobated as inconsistent with the principles which they profess to teach. Many of their artifices are openly ridiculed; but the best proof that can be adduced of the radical nature of the alteration which is in progress, is the diminution of their excessive arrogance. Some years ago, a native of this island, who had resided some time in France, returned imbued with no small portion

of the philosophy of Paris. His conversation shook the faith of several young men of the island, and a report of his conduct, together with the names of his companions, was transmitted to the Patriarch of Constantinople, who immediately issued a fulminating excommunication against the party, describing them, without mentioning names, in terms that could not be misunderstood. The apostle of infidelity went to Constantinople, entered the conclave, and being under the protection of the French minister, demanded the recal of the excommunication, threatening that, if his demand was not immediately complied with, he would bring the whole question of the pretensions of the clergy in such a way before the public, that it must be openly discussed. The resolute character of the man was well known—the confiscation of the church property in France had just taken place—the Patriarch was intimidated, and the excommunication was revoked.

The character of the Greek has in it a great deal of a species of national vanity that exceedingly resembles family pride. This peculiarity, like the quality to which I have compared it, fre-

quently leads to the expression of opinions that do not correspond to the ordinary sagacity and ability of those who are under its influence. The Greeks are almost as ignorant of the west of Europe as we are of them, and their notions of the magnificence of the Ottoman state and institutions are absolutely ridiculous. Respecting their ancestors, their ideas are almost as absurdly inflated as those of an Oxford or a Cambridge tutor. This national vanity renders a true Greek the most insufferable animal in the world, and I take great pleasure in pulling him down: I remind him of the subjugation of the Greeks by the Romans, and of their degraded situation under the Turks, both of which facts I aver are positive proofs that with all their pretensions to superiority, they are really an inferior race. To be thought inferior to the Turks, what Greek can endure? Beyond this point the argument never proceeds.

There is no phrase more hacknied than Turkish oppression. I will not be so paradoxical as to attempt to reason against an opinion so universal; but it is a tyranny more individual than systematic. To me it seems to arise entirely from the want of general national laws; for the

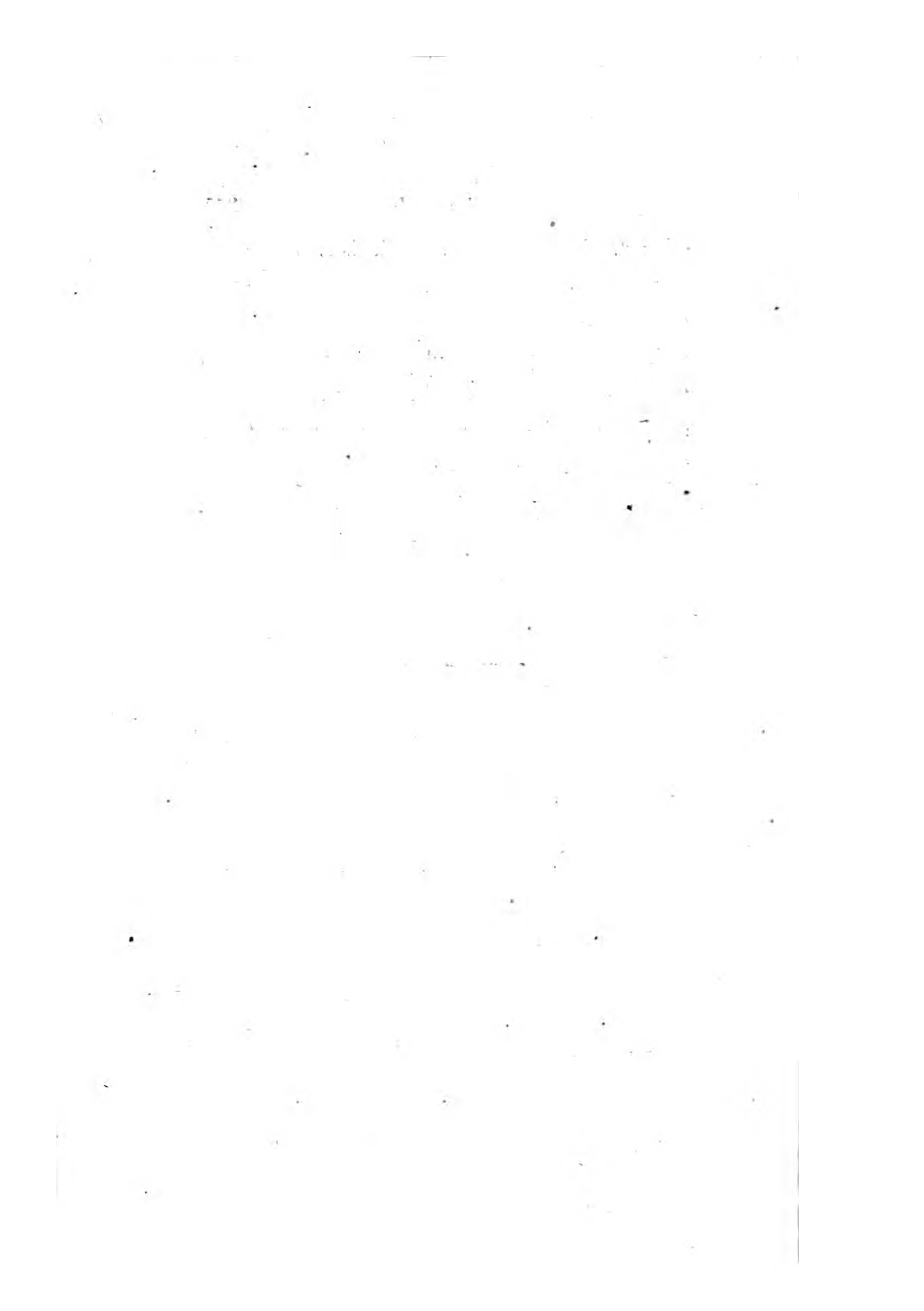


Greeks in Turkey possess greater privileges than the Catholics and Dissenters enjoy in England. They are admitted to the command of armies, the rule of provinces, and to the Councils of the Sovereign ; they also enjoy the free exercise of their Religion ; and instances are numerous, of their promotion to the dignity of princes. It is the want of security—the want of protection from private malice, which constitutes the great defect of the Ottoman Government. Too much is trusted to individuals, who in consequence of the promptitude with which punishments may be inflicted, are often enabled to gratify their bad passions with impunity. The severity of punishment, however, is not perhaps so great as it is generally supposed to be. The annual number of executions in Constantinople, is probably much less than the number of condemnations in London ; and we should judge of the severity of the law by the condemnations. In England, the humanity of the nation has long since shrunk from the full execution of the sentences pronounced in the courts of justice. The royal mercy is obliged to restrain to such a degree the sanguinary spirit of the laws, that the salutary certainty of punishment is almost de-

stroyed. Yet, because individuals have less discretionary power in England than in any other country, a degree of security is severally enjoyed, owing to the supremacy of the law, which makes the people the happiest and the most independent, singly and collectively, that is at present to be found in the whole world.

Yours, &c.

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## APPENDIX.



IN reference to the allusion made at page 160, relative to the services of the Scots in France, I feel gratified in being enabled to publish a pleasing Chrono-genealogical Sketch of the Scottish Guard of the French King, now the British Regiment of Royal Scots. No apology is requisite for giving a Paper, which at once corroborates the statement in the text, and is in itself interesting. It was compiled by my friend Mr. Hamilton, at the request of his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent and Strathearn, Colonel of the Regiment, who, as well as his brother the Duke of Sussex, is to a very uncommon degree, with respect to the antient Kingdom of Scotland, careful of every thing tending to preserve, heighten, and perpetuate, those public affections, which, although it has become fashionable to decry them as prejudices, are still the sources that contribute to elevate and sustain the dignity of nations.

**A HISTORICAL SKETCH**  
OF THE  
**ROYAL SCOTS.**

BY JAMES HAMILTON, Esq.

Breathes there a man, with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said,  
This is my own, my native land!  
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burn'd,  
As home his footsteps he hath turn'd  
From wandering on a foreign strand!  
If such there breathe, go, mark him well;  
For him no minstrel raptures swell,  
High though his titles, proud his name,  
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim;  
Despite those titles, power, and pelf,  
The wretch, concentred all in self,  
Living shall forfeit fair renown,  
And, doubly dying, shall go down  
To the vile dust, from whence he sprung,  
Unwept, unhonour'd, and unsung.

O Caledonia! stern and wild,  
Meet nurse for a poetic child!  
Land of brown heath and shaggy wood,  
Land of the mountain and the flood,  
Land of my sires! what mortal hand  
Can e'er untie the filial band,  
That knits me to thy rugged strand!

**T**HE Royal Scots, or Royal Regiment of Foot, lays claim to a high degree of antiquity, and is believed to have been the body-guard of the Scottish kings.

Although it is uncertain when such an institution was first established in Scotland, there is no doubt, that it must have existed at a very early period ; because, by the feudal tenure, as the tenants in capite were bound only to hold themselves in readiness to serve the king in his wars, either at home, or abroad, for a stated time, some species of regular force must have been instituted for the protection of royalty, to garrison national fortresses, and to enforce the due administration of justice.

It is ascertained, that in England, from the Conquest downward, stipendiary troops were hired by the kings, and employed in castle-guards, foreign garrisons, and protecting the marches, or borders of the kingdom, adjoining Scotland and Wales. The first regular institution on record of a body guard, was that of the Serjeants at Arms, established in or about 1190, by Richard the first, Cœur de Lion, in imitation of a corps of the same name formed by Philip Augustus king of France. Their duty originally was, to watch round the king's tent in complete armour, with a mace, a bow, arrows, and a sword. They were all persons of approved worth, and not under the degree of son of a knight.

In Scotland, the military establishments of France and England would soon be imitated ; and it may perhaps be conjectured with some degree of propriety, that the body guard of the Scottish kings was formed by king William the Lion, a contemporary of Richard and Philip Augustus, and who, from the want of some such institution, had been surprised by a few English horsemen, and taken prisoner at the siege of Alnwick Castle, in the year 1273.

In 1420, John Stewart Earl of Buchan, second son of Robert Duke of Albany, Regent of Scotland, during the captivity of his nephew King James the first, was sent to France at the head of 7,000 Scottish auxiliaries, to support the fortunes of that kingdom, then reduced to the lowest ebb by the valorous exploits of Henry V. of England. The Earl of

Buchan was accompanied by several chieftains of the first families in Scotland, and amongst others by

Archibald Douglas, Earl of Wigton, eldest son of Archibald fourth Earl of Douglas, chief of that heroic name. He distinguished himself at the battle of Baugé, 1421, and had the County of Longueville conferred on him by King Charles. He returned to Scotland in 1423, to solicit the aid of his father, whom he was unable from indisposition to accompany to France in 1424. On the death of his father that year, he became Earl of Douglas, and Duke of Touraine. On the death of King James the first, 1437, he was elected one of the Council of Regency, and the following year held the high office of Lieutenant-General of the Kingdom. He died 1439, and was buried at Douglas, where is a monument thus inscribed: "Hic jacet Archibaldus Douglas, Dux Toureniæ, Comes de Douglas, et de Longoville, Dominus Gallovidiæ, Wigtoniæ, et Annandiæ, Locum tenens Regis Scotiæ, obiit 26 Junii 1439."

Sir John Stewart of Darnley, from whom the present Royal Family of Great Britain is descended, through the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of James VI. After the battle of Verneuil he succeeded to the command of the Scottish troops in France.

Sir William Stewart of Jedworth, brother of Sir John of Darnley, fell with him at the siege of Orleans. From him the present Earl of Galloway, the Stewarts of Castlemilk, Torrence, &c. are descended.

Sir William de Hamilton, grandson of Sir David de Hamilton of Cadzow, chief of the name. Sir William was uterine brother of the two Stewarts, and fell gloriously at the battle of Crevan 1423.

Sir Hugh Kennedy, third son of Sir Gilbert, chief of the name, ancestor of the Earl of Cassillis, distinguished himself at the battle of Baugé, for which King Charles honoured him

with his armorial bearing, Azure, three fleurs de lis, Or, which he and his successors have marshalled in the first and fourth quarters. From him are descended the Kennedys of Bargeny, Kirkhill, and Binning.

Sir Alexander de Forbes, created Lord Forbes in 1442, ancestor of the present Lord Forbes.

Sir Henry Cunningham, third son of Sir William Cunningham of Kilmaurs, ancestor of the Earl of Glencairn.

Sir William de Seton of Seton, chief of the antient and honourable family of Seton, and ancestor of the Earl of Winton, attainted in 1715 ; in whom terminated one of the principal houses in Britain, after subsisting for upwards of 600 years in East Lothian. Seton of Garleton is the present representative of the family. Sir William de Seton was killed at the battle of Verneuil 1424.

Sir Alexander de Seton, Lord Gordon, uncle of Sir William de Seton. He married the heiress of Gordon, and became in her right Lord Gordon, and from him are descended in the male line, the Duke of Gordon, Earl of Aboyne, and several cadets of the name of Seton and Gordon.

Sir Alexander Home of Dunglas, ancestor of the present Earl of Home. He lost his life at the battle of Verneuil 1424.

Sir John de Carmichael, ancestor of the present Earl of Hyndford. He eminently signalized his valour at the battle of Baugé, and in the action broke his spear, in remembrance of which, his successors bear for crest, a dexter hand and arm armed, holding a broken spear.

Sir William Douglas, ancestor of the present Marquis of Queensberry.

Sir John Swinton of Swinton, ancestor of the present Swinton. This family is known to have possessed their lands in Berwickshire from the time of Malcolm Canmore.

Sir John at the battle of Baugé wounded the Duke of Clarence in the face with his lance, and to that achievement of Swinton, Scot, our national bard, alludes in his Lay of the



Last Minstrel, when in enumerating the border chieftains hastening to Branksome's aid, he says,

“ And Swinton laid the lance in rest,  
That tam'd of yore the sparkling crest  
Of Clarence's Plantagenet.”

The first important action in which the Scots were engaged, was the battle of Baugé, in Anjou, on the 22d March 1421, in which the English, under the command of the Duke of Clarence, brother of Henry V. were completely routed with great slaughter. The Dauphin had appointed the Scots, led by the Earls of Buchan and Wigton, and Stewart of Darnley, to defend the Province of Anjou, against the Duke of Clarence, whom his brother Henry had detached for its reduction. On the 22d March 1421, the English when foraging took four Scots, and brought them to Clarence, who thus learned that the Scottish army and a few French lay at Baugé. The Duke instantly sprang from table, exclaiming, “They are our's!” and after a quick march he came to Baugé, where a few French defended the church, and gained time for Buchan to arrange his troops. The English aware of this left the church untaken, and advanced; but to a complete defeat. Clarence, distinguished by a coronet of gold and jewels upon his helmet, was amongst the first who fell, having been grievously wounded in the face with a lance by Sir John Swinton: he was slain by Buchan himself with a battle axe. The Earl of Kent, the Lords Grey and Roos, and above fourteen hundred men at arms were killed; the Earls of Huntingdon and Somerset, and many others of note were taken prisoners.

The brave Earl of Buchan, whose valour had so signally contributed to gain the victory, was rewarded with the high distinction of Constable of France; and to some of the other leaders, grants of lands were made, and on others were bestowed honourable augmentations to their armorial bearings.

In the following year, the Scottish gens d'armes were formed, and their creation bore date ever afterwards from the

year 1422. In the history of France they are distinguished sometimes by the name of Les Gens d'Armes Ecossois, sometimes by that of La Garde Ecossoise, and at others by that of Royal Ecossois. The command was generally conferred on some Scottish nobleman, or gentleman of high descent, and until the beginning of the last century, the soldiers were almost all Scots.

The Scottish gens d'armes continued, until the end of the French monarchy, to rank as the eldest military body in France; and from the tradition universally received both in that kingdom and in Scotland, there is no doubt that the Scottish guards were part of the troops sent under the Earl of Buchan to the assistance of King Charles, and that the gens d'armes established by that monarch, were partly formed from them. The Royal Guard is mentioned in the reigns of James II. and III. and in such a way as shews, that it was not then an institution of a recent date.

The Royal Scots, or Royal Regiment of Foot, being a regular continuation of the Gendarmerie Ecossoise, or Royal Ecossois, is most certainly the oldest military body in existence, either in this or in any other country in Europe.

In 1422, the Constable Buchan took Avranches in Normandy, and in the following year, he and the Earl of Wigton returned to Scotland to procure reinforcements.

In 1423, was fought the battle of Crevan, in which the Scots under the command of Stewart of Darnley were defeated. King Charles intended that the Scots should proceed to Champagne, and defend that country against the Earl of Salisbury; but Darnley laid siege to Crevan, and sent for cannon, which were refused, as he had neglected his orders. Salisbury advanced to raise the siege, and an action ensued, in which Darnley was taken prisoner, and Sir William de Hamilton, Sir William Craufurd, and about nine hundred men were left on the field. Darnley was soon after exchanged for the Marshal of Burgundy.

In 1424, Archibald Earl of Douglas, Father of the Earl of

Wigton, arrived from Scotland, with his son-in-law, the Earl of Buchan, the Constable, accompanied by considerable re-inforcements. The Earl of Douglas shortly after his arrival, on the 19th April, had a grant of the Duchy of Touraine, and was appointed Lieutenant-General of the French forces, for which he did homage the same day at Bourges.

On the 17th August 1424, was fought the memorable battle of Verneuil in Normandy. Douglas, now Duke of Touraine, advanced to raise the siege of Ivry, undertaken by the English, under the command of the Duke of Bedford. But the French king learning that a battle must be risked before the place was relieved, assembled all his troops, and leaving Tours, with Buchan the Constable, he met his barons at Chateaudun, and advanced to Verneuil. The battalions were soon ranged upon either side, and Douglas resolved not to lose an advantageous position, but to wait the English: the Vicomte de Narbonne, the French General, unhappily thought otherwise, and proceeded with the national rashness which had decided the battles of Cressy, Poitiers, and Agincourt. Douglas was forced to follow the example; and the army lost breath, rank, and station, while the enemy retained all.

The French sent two thousand to attack the rear of the foe; but they were defeated by the English archers, and a general rout ensued. The Duke of Touraine, and his son-in-law Buchan, Constable of France, and many Scotsmen of note were slain; and of the French the Vicomte de Narbonne, the Count d'Aumale, and many other nobles; of common French and Scots fell about four thousand five hundred. Douglas was honourably interred in the Church of St. Gratian in Tours, the capital of his Duchy.

On the death of Douglas and Buchan, the command of the Scots devolved on Darnley, who in various encounters with the English gloriously signalized himself, and kept up the almost desperate fortunes of France until the appearance of the Maid of Orleans. Charles King of France, in gratitude to Darnley for his many heroic exertions in his cause, made

him a grant of the lands of Aubigny and Concessault, and in January 1426, of the county of Evreux, in the Duchy of Normandy, and permitted him and his descendants to quarter the arms of France with his own. In 1429, he went with the troops under his command to the assistance of the French forces, which at that time defended the town of Orleans against the English. In an engagement near that place, 12th February 1429, Sir William Stewart his brother, having fallen into the hands of the English, Darnley extricated him, and although wounded, made a most gallant and persevering resistance, till at length, surrounded by the enemy, and covered with wounds, he sunk to the ground. His brother, who had retired from the battle, observing what had passed, flew to his assistance, and was also slain. They were buried in the Cathedral Church of Orleans.

The heroic Darnley was succeeded in the command of the Scottish Guards by his third son, John Stuart, Lord of Aubigny, Knight of the Order of St. Michael, who died in 1482, and the command then devolved on his son, Bernard Stuart, a renowned warrior, Viceroy of Naples, Constable of Sicily and Jerusalem, Duke of Terra Nova, Marquis of Girace and Squillazzo, Count of Beaumont, D'Arcy, and Venassac, Lord of Aubigny, and Governor of Melun. He was sent Ambassador from Charles VIII. of France to Scotland, in 1484, for renewing the ancient League between the two Countries; was sent next year with auxiliaries from France to England, to the assistance of Henry Earl of Richmond, and had a share in the victory of Bosworth, 22d August 1485, which placed Henry on the throne. In 1495 he commanded the French army in Italy, which gained a signal victory over King Ferdinand, and the Spanish general Gonsalvo de Cordova, distinguished by the name of the Great Captain. He was sent ambassador from Louis XII. to Scotland 1504; and again in 1508. He died in the month of June that year at the house of Forrester of Costorphine, and was buried in the Church of Blackfriars at Edinburgh. On his death, King James IV.

wrote to Anne, queen of France, stating, that Robert Stuart, second son of John first Earl of Lennox, was the nearest relation of Bernard in France, and requesting that his offices and dignities might be transferred to him.

Robert Stuart did homage to the King of France for the Lordship of Aubigny 21st August 1508, and was appointed Captain or Commandant of the Scottish Guards. The historians of France and Italy have recorded his gallant actions, and his successful enterprizes. He attained the highest military honours and rank in France, having been created one of the Maréchals by King Francis the First, 1515, and at that time there were but four Maréchals in that kingdom. He was ambassador to Scotland in 1521, and received from Francis I. 15th June 1527, a grant of various lands in Normandy. He died 1543. David and Robert Anstruther, sons of Anstruther of that ilk, were officers in the Scottish Guards under Robert Stuart.

In 1555, James Hamilton, eldest son of James Duke of Châtellerault, visited the Court of France, and was appointed Commandant of the Scottish Guards, he bearing at that time the title of Earl of Arran. Having imbibed the reformed doctrines, the princes of Lorraine resolved to select, for a sacrifice, some person whose fall might convince all ranks, that neither splendour of birth, nor eminence in station, could exempt from punishment those who should be guilty of this unpardonable transgression. The Earl of Arran was the person fixed on to be the victim. As he was allied to one throne, and the presumptive heir to another; as he possessed the first rank in his own country, and enjoyed an honourable station in France, his condemnation could not fail of making the desired impression on the whole kingdom. But the Cardinal of Lorraine having let fall some expressions which raised Arran's suspicions of the design, he escaped the blow by a timely flight from France 1559, and returned to Scotland, animated with an implacable aversion towards the French.

In 1560, John Stuart Lord of Aubigny, third son of John

third Earl of Lennox, was appointed Commandant of the Scottish Guards. On the 14th July that year, he did homage for the lands of Aubigny.

John Stuart was succeeded by his son Esme Stuart, who came to Scotland in 1579, and on the 5th August 1581, he was by James VI. created Duke of Lennox and Earl of Derneley. He died at Paris 26th May, 1583.

John Duke of Lennox was succeeded in the command of the Royal Ecossois by his second son Lord Esme Stuart, who constantly and faithfully followed the fortunes of Henry IV. of France, and did homage for the Seigneurie of Aubigny 5th April 1600. He came to Scotland 1601; was created Earl of March in England, 1617; and succeeded his brother as Duke of Lennox 1624, but which dignity he enjoyed for a few months only, dying the same year.

In 1625, Charles I. married Henrietta Maria, the youngest daughter of Henry IV. of France; and, in 1633, his Majesty was crowned at Edinburgh. In that year, and most probably on that occasion, a division of the Scottish Guard, or Royal Ecossois, landed from France; and from that period the Royal Scots, or Royal Regiment of Foot, bears date on the British Establishment. The Colonel, at that time, was Sir Robert Hepburn, better known in France by the appellation of Chevalier Hebron.

1. Sir Robert Hepburn was descended from the Hepburns of Bothwell, an antient and distinguished family in Scotland, and which for many centuries had extensive possessions in the County of East Lothian, where several branches of the name at present exist.

The father of Sir Robert Hepburn was proprietor of the lands of Athelstaneford. General Lesly, afterwards Earl of Leven, passed a few days at Athelstaneford, on his way to embark with some troops, to join Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, then at the head of the Protestant league in Germany against the Emperor Ferdinand II. Struck with the appearance of young Hepburn, for he was tall and handsome,

Lesly spoke to him in a manner that roused the spirit of the young Hero, and he immediately joined the party. He soon distinguished himself by his military talents, and rose to the rank of colonel in the Scots Brigade. In that command he performed many important services, and often received praise from Gustavus, for his gallant conduct.

On his return to Scotland he was knighted by James the Sixth, and appointed Captain of his Life Guards. He shortly afterwards went into the service of France, and had the command of the Scottish Guards conferred upon him. He rose to high rank in the French army, and was beloved by Louis the Thirteenth. It would appear, that Sir Robert did not remain long in Britain, as he was killed in Flanders in 1636. By order of King Louis, a magnificent monument was erected to his memory in the Cathedral at Toul.

2. Lord James Douglas, second son of William first Marquis of Douglas, succeeded Hepburn in the command of the Royal Scots. He signalized himself under the banners of the French King; and particularly at the siege of Douay, where he lost his life 21 Oct. 1655. His death intercepted the gift of a Maréchal's Baton, intended for him the same day. A monument was erected to his memory in the church of Saint Germain de Prez, at Paris, on which is the following inscription, viz.

D. O. M.

Huc pariter oculos, animumque, viator, ab avo ill<sup>m</sup> D. Guilielmo Douglassio Comite octavo supra decimum, ad ejus Nepotem D. Jacobum Douglassium (ex<sup>mi</sup> Domini Gulielmi Marchionis Douglassii, adhuc superstitis, ex Margareta Hamiltonia, Comitiss Abercornii sorore, jam fato functa, filium). Quo ille præivit, hic sequutus est, non tam corpore ad tumulum, quam mente ad cælum, ac passibus quidem æquis, si non ætatis, certe virtutis. Paternæ avitæque ut nobilitatis hæres, sic religionis, sic bellicæ fortitudinis, sic exaggeratæ animi magnitudinis. In quem propagatus per tot ætates

illustrissimæ familiæ splendor sese profuderat. Ille subito proprii fulgoris accensione, sic in immensum excrevit, ut præcipiti cursu ab ortu actus sit in occasum, jam acriter perstringebat oculos intuentium altitudo tanti fulgoris et gloriæ; jam tota latissime Scotia, Gallia, Flandria, Italia, Germania spargebatur, jam militiæ laude, et castrorum metatoris munere clarissimus, pietate tamen clarior, ac Christianarum virtutum monumentis, cum æstu nimio abreptus in astra, unde primum emicuerat, evolavit.

Occidit prope Duacum XXI Octobris MDCLV. ætat. 38.

Filio amantissimo

Gulielmus Marchio Douglassius;

Fratricque optimo, dilectissimoque

Archibaldus Douglassius Anguriæ Comes vigesimus;

Moesti P. P.

“ Douglassium nova spes, patriæ lux, regibus orte,  
 Gallo-Scotigenum dux, Iacobe jaces.  
 Dum longa innumeros languentes pace triumphos  
 Majorum recolis, dignaque Marte geris;  
 Armaque dum proavum redivivo è funere tractas,  
 Heu cadis in media diva propago via.  
 Scilicet haud poterat Mars exsuperare tuorum,  
 Scandere nec te vult inclyta facta patrum.”

The monument of Lord James Douglas was erected near to that of his grandfather William, Earl of Angus, who died in France in 1611, and was buried in the church of St. Germain de Prez.

3. Lord George Douglas succeeded his brother in the command of the Royal Scots. He was, in his younger years, Page of Honour to Louis XIV. King of France, and was present at most of the battles and sieges betwixt the French and the Confederates, acquired great honour by his valour, and attained the rank of Lieutenant General.

In 1661, the Royal Scots being in garrison at Avennes, had orders to pass over to Britain. It consisted, at that



time, of eight companies. In the following year it was sent back to France by Charles II. as part of his auxiliary force to be furnished to the French Monarch, and was then augmented to thirty-three companies, consisting of at least one hundred men each. The regiment returned to Britain about 1678.

On the 9th March 1675, Lord George Douglas was created Earl of Dunbarton; and, upon the accession of James VII. was constituted Commander in Chief of the Forces in Scotland. On the revival of the Order of the Thistle, 1687, he was elected one of the Knights Companions thereof. At the Revolution, the Earl of Dunbarton followed the fortunes of King James, and died at St. Germain's 1692.

There was, besides the Royal Scots, another Scottish regiment in France, commanded by a Colonel Rutherford, which also ranked as guards. They went over from Scotland in 1643, and were at the battle of Lens in 1648. On the 26th March 1670 an ordinance was issued, by which this regiment took rank of the King's regiment, No. 12. When King Charles was restored, he had appointed Colonel Rutherford Governor of Dunkirk, who quitted the French service without paying the proper compliments to the King of France, by whom he had been loved and trusted. In the sequel, his regiment was reduced, and the subalterns, and such soldiers as chose, were incorporated in the Royal Scots. In all probability, this circumstance gave rise to the Regiment of Picardy having, on one occasion, disputed antiquity with the Royal Scots. The Regiment of Picardy did not exist until 1562, or 140 years after the formation of the Royal Scots in France.

When the Earl of Dunbarton followed King James to France, in 1689, he was accompanied by a great number of his officers, and many of the soldiers imitated the example of their officers.

An old tune, still in existence, called "Dunbarton's Drums beat bonny O," is believed to have been a march of the Royal Scots.

4. The Duke of Schomberg was, shortly after King William's accession, appointed Colonel of the Royal Scots. He was killed at the battle of the Boyne, and was succeeded in the command of the regiment by

5. Sir Robert Douglas, of Glenbervie, second cousin of the Earl of Dunbarton. At the battle of Steinkirk 1692, the standard of the regiment being taken, Sir Robert jumped over a hedge into the midst of the enemy, seized it from the officer in whose charge it was, threw it back to his own men, and fell, pierced with many wounds.

6. Lord George Hamilton, son of William Duke of Hamilton, and nephew of the Earl of Dunbarton, was appointed, on the 1st August 1692, Colonel of the Royal Scots. He distinguished himself at the battles of the Boyne, Aghrim, Steinkirk, Landen, Oudenarde, Ramilies, and Mons; and at the sieges of Athlone, Limerick, and Namur. At the attack of the latter he was made a Brigadier-general by King William, and gradually rose to the rank of Field Marshal. On January 3d, 1696, he was created Earl of Orkney; on 4th February, 1704, was invested with the Order of the Thistle; and, on the removal of the Duke of Argyle, was appointed Governor of the Castle of Edinburgh by Queen Anne, in which he was continued by king George I. He was likewise constituted Governor of Virginia 21 December 1714; was chosen one of the sixteen Representatives of the Scottish Peerage in 1708; and re-chosen at every general election, 1710, 1713, 1715, 1722, 1727, and 1734, to his death, which happened in Albemarle-street, in London, on the 29th January 1737, in his 71st year, being then Field Marshal of the Forces, Governor of the Province of Virginia and of the Castle of Edinburgh, Colonel of the Royal Scots Regiment of Foot, Knight of the Thistle, and Lord Lieutenant of Larkshire. He was buried at Taplow, near his fine seat of Cliefden; a seat adorned with tapestry, representing the victories of the Duke of Marlborough, in which he had himself

so great a share. It was unfortunately reduced to ashes, by an accidental fire, in May, 1795.

7. The Honourable James St. Clair, son of Henry Lord Sinclair, was appointed Colonel of the Royal Scots 17 June 1737. He was Quarter-master General of the British Forces in Flanders, 1745. In 1746, he was constituted Commander in Chief of a considerable body of land-forces, embarked on board transports at Spithead, where a large squadron of ships of war had assembled to escort them to Quebec, to attack the French King in his Canadian dominions. The General spared no pains to obtain all necessary information relative to the country, and to the service he was going on. After various delays, the Ministry came to the resolution of employing them in a descent on the coast of Brittany, in hopes of thereby obliging the French to draw off part of their troops from Flanders, where their army was superior to that of the Allies. The suddenness of this resolution was matter of great surprise to the General, who had not so much as a map of the country, or a plan of any of the towns on the coast. On applying for them to the Duke of Newcastle, Secretary of State, his Grace, with his usual confusion, sent him, by express, a map of Gascony, instead of a chart of Brittany. Admiral Lestocq commanded the fleet: they sailed from St. Helen's 5th August, 1746; but, owing to contrary winds, did not leave Plymouth Sound until 14th September. General St. Clair had under him Brigadier-generals O'Farrel, Graham, and Richbell; the first battalion of his own regiment, the Royal Scots; the 15th, 28th, 30th, 39th, and 42d regiments of foot; and 200 artillerymen. They made a masterly landing, in face of the Enemy, near Port L'Orient, 20th September; and, after some skirmishing, proceeded to that town, erecting batteries against it, from whence Deputies were sent, 23d September, to treat about the surrender of the place. Deceived by the report of his engineers, who engaged to make a proper breach, or to lay the town in ashes in twenty-four hours, the General thought

himself obliged to reject the terms, as too favourable to the Enemy. The bad state of his artillery, and insufficiency of ammunition, laid him under the necessity of calling a Council of War, in which it was unanimously agreed to raise the siege, spike the guns, drag back the mortars, and re-embark the army, which was effected 28th September, the General being among the last to quit the ground. The troops then proceeded to Quiberon Bay, where they landed, 4th October; and the General, at the head of the Royal Scots and 42d, took possession of a fort, in which there were eighteen guns. All the forts and guns on the peninsula of Quiberon, and Isles of Houat, were destroyed, and the troops re-embarked, 17th October, and returned to England. This Expedition, in a great measure, answered the purpose of its destination; for an order was dispatched from Paris, to Marshal Saxe, to send a considerable detachment from the army in Flanders to Port L'Orient, but it did not reach him until after he had gained the battle of Rocoux.

David Hume, the historian, acted as Secretary to the Commander in Chief on this Expedition; and he also attended General St. Clair in the same capacity, on his subsequent Embassy to the Courts of Vienna and Turin.

The General was chosen Member of Parliament for Dysart, &c. at the General Election 1722, rechosen 1727; for the County of Sutherland 1736, and again 1741; for Dysart 1747; became entitled to the honour of Lord Sinclair on the death of his brother 1750, but did not assume the title, preferring a seat in the House of Commons. He was chosen for the County of Fife at the General Election 1754, rechosen 1761, and died at Dysart 30th November 1762, being then a General in the Army, Colonel of the Royal Scots, Governor of Cork, and Member of Parliament for Fife. The Honourable James St. Clair was succeeded, in the command of the Royal Scots, by his Nephew.

8. Sir Henry Erskine, great great grandson of John, seventh Earl of Marr. He was Deputy Quarter-Master-General of

the forces under the command of his uncle, on his expedition to Port L'Orient, where he was wounded, 21 Sept. 1746; and was left, with other officers and soldiers, in the same predicament, at the port of Guadel, which, being attacked by the French, 23d September, the hospital-staff, with the sick and wounded, took arms, and repulsed the Enemy. He was chosen Member of Parliament for the Boroughs of Ayr, &c. 1749, on the death of his cousin, Charles Erskine; elected for Anstruther, &c. 1754, rechosen 1761; succeeded his uncle, the Honourable General St. Clair, in the command of the Royal Scots, 1762, and died at York, in his way to London, 9th August 1765, being then a Lieutenant-general in the Army. He was father of the present Earl of Rosslyn.

9. John Campbell, afterwards Duke of Argyle, had the command of the Royal Scots conferred on him 11 Sept. 1765. Colonel Campbell joined General Hawley with 1000 Argyleshire Highlanders, 17 Jan, 1746, the day of the battle of Falkirk; met the Duke of Cumberland at Perth on the 9th February, and proceeded to the North with his Royal Highness. He was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of the 42d, or Royal Highlanders, 24 May 1749; Aide-de-camp to the King, November 1755; Colonel of the 56th Regiment of Foot, 23d December following; Colonel of the Argyleshire Fencible Regiment, 14th August 1759; a Major-General, 25th June, same year; a Lieutenant-General, 29 January 1761; Commander-in Chief of the Forces in Scotland, 1762; Colonel of the Royal Scots, 11 Sept. 1765; again Commander in Chief of the Forces in Scotland, 24th March 1767, and held that office till 1778. He had the rank of General in the Army, 19th March 1778; had the command of the 3d Regiment of Foot-guards conferred on him, 9th May 1782; and attained the rank of Field-Marshal in 1796.

He was elected Member of Parliament for the City of Glasgow, 1744; and was re-chosen, at the General Elections, 1747, 1754, and 1761; but just after the last, became dis-

qualified, as the eldest son of a Peer of Scotland; his father, John Campbell, of Mamore, having become Duke of Argyle on the death of Archibald the third duke. In 1765 he was elected Member of Parliament for Dover; and on the 19th December, 1766, was created a Peer of Great Britain, by the title of Baron Sundridge. In 1770 he succeeded his father in the Dukedom of Argyle, and inherited the princely property and extensive domains of that illustrious family. His Grace died at Inverary Castle, on Saturday, the 24th May, 1806, in the 83d year of his age, honoured, respected, and lamented; and was, on the 10th June, interred in the church of Kilmun, in Cowal, where his dust now mingles with that of a long line of illustrious ancestors.

On the appointment of John, Duke of Argyle, to the command of the 3d Regiment of Foot-guards, on the 9th May, 1782,

10. Lord Adam Gordon, fourth son of Alexander, second Duke of Gordon, succeeded him as Colonel of the Royal Scots. He was appointed Captain of a company of the 18th Foot, 1746; Captain in the 3d Regiment of Foot-guards, December, 1755; Colonel of the 66th Foot, 19th January 1763; Colonel of the 26th, or Cameronians, 27th December, 1775; Colonel of the Royal Scots, 9th May 1782; Governor of Tinnmouth Castle, in April 1778; and of Edinburgh Castle, 5th November 1796. He was chosen Member of Parliament for the County of Aberdeen at the General Elections, 1754 and 1761; for the County of Kincardine, 1774, 1780, and 1784.

He accompanied General Bligh in his unfortunate Expedition to the Coast of France, 1758, and signalized himself at the head of his grenadier company of the Guards, bringing up the rear of the embarkation at St. Cas, 10th September 1758, in the face of a very superior army, preventing the Enemy, for a considerable time, getting forward, till, being overpowered by numbers, he was forced to retire to the beach. He had a command in America, from whence, arriving in 1765, he had a long conference with the Secretaries of State,

20th November, having been requested by the heads of the Colonies to make a true report of their grievances. Being appointed Commander in Chief in Scotland, 1789, he fixed his residence at Holyrood-house. He resigned the command in Scotland to Sir Ralph Abercrombie in June 1798.

He died at his seat of the Burn, in the County of Kincardine, 13 August 1801, and was buried at Inveresk, being at that time a General in the Army, Colonel of the Royal Scots, and Governor of Edinburgh Castle.

On the death of Lord Adam Gordon,

11. His Royal Highness, Edward Duke of Kent and Strathern, was appointed Colonel of the Royal Scots.



## II.

## THE LEVANT.

**T**HE Levant has, in the present age, acquired a degree of importance in the West of Europe, which it has not possessed since the conquest of Constantinople. With the British Nation, in particular, it has become more interesting than at any former period. Two causes have combined to produce this. The one has been our acquisition of Malta; and the other an alteration, come to some effect, in the state of society in the Turkish Empire, induced by the decay of the Ottoman institutions, and a diminution in the arrogance of the Mahomedan faith.

By the acquisition of Malta we have not only obtained a great mart for our manufactures, but we have given a new impulse to the industry of all the countries around it, and particularly to that of Greece. The Greeks, so long blotted out of the list of nations, begin again to rise into political consideration. The active communities of Idra, Ipsera, and Specia, have already attained, within the last twenty years, more wealth and influence than the most sanguine disposition could have previously expected. Even the Mainotes have foregone much of their ferocity; and I have the authority of their principal chiefs for saying, that they long to open an intercourse with the rest of the world.

The relaxation which has taken place in the maxims of the Turkish Government has been no less favourable to the improvement of our connexions with the Levant than the acquisition of Malta. The opening of the Black Sea presents a large and productive field of commerce, from which the British Trader was long excluded; and the plains and mountains of Romalia and Bulgaria, which have been only known



as the scenes of almost continual warfare, are now traversed with the products of British industry. It has been completely ascertained, that although all the West of Christendom were shut against us, avenues might be opened into the interior of the Continent, through the Turkish Empire, and that the state of society would defeat every attempt to close them. Nor were the experiments which have established this fact accomplished without giving new views to the inhabitants of the provinces through which the caravans passed. It has taught them how much their comforts might be increased by facilitating an intercourse not thought practicable by themselves, until it was successfully established, in despite of the obstacles of winter, and the difficulties and dangers arising from the operations of Turkish war.

Another cause is generating effects which will still more increase the value of every kind of information relative to the Levant. The enlarged policy of our own Government has opened the Trade to the East Indies, and there is nothing in the present state of Egypt, to render it improbable that the ancient intercourse through that country may be renewed, and thereby constitute Malta an intermediate link of communication between England and India. At Mocha we have already a factory; and therefore the establishment of agents at Suez and in Cairo, to manage the transportation of merchandize by the Nile, and across the desert, is all that is wanted, to perfect the links of a communication that would abridge the voyage to India of half its length, without being attended with half the difficulties and expense to which the successful intercourse with Germany, by Salonica, has been exposed.

With some reference to these views, I collected the following circumstantial information. How far it is all deserving of credit, I have not the means of judging; but what I had opportunities of comparing with the testimony of other persons than the authors, appeared to be correct.

The statistical account is a translation of an authentic

report. The account of the Crimea is also an abridged translation, in all its statements, of an account furnished by a Russian Officer long employed in the civil affairs of that peninsula. And the brief notices of Egypt were gathered from Greek Merchants concerned in the trade of that country. The concluding Note speaks for itself.

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### III.

To his Excellency, the most Fortunate, the most Merciful, my Benefactor and most generous Lord and Master, HASSAN, by the grace of God Captain Pashaw.

The Islands are—Naxia, Paros, Tinos, Andros, Myconi, Zea, Thermia, Anaffi, Astropalias, Amorgos, and Antiparos.

#### NAXIA,

The largest and most fruitful. Besides the city, it contains 35 villages. In all the island they count 20,000 souls. It abounds in oranges, but particularly in lemons; the juice of which, and distillations from the rind, are sent to Russia. In fruitful years the olives produce 400,000 okes of oil. Wine is made here, and cheese, and all kinds of useful provisions. Of the cheese, so much is made, that some is exported. A good crop of the grain yields sufficient for six months' subsistence. The deficiency is drawn from Vola, from Egypt, and Natolia. In all the island there is no port fit for ships to anchor in.

#### PAROS.

Besides the two towns of Nausas and Parchias, there are five villages. Much of the land is uncultivated. In all the island they count 8000 souls. In the years of the late war between the Porte and Russia, an epidemic disease destroyed, at Nausas, many of the Russians who then occupied Nausas,

and exterminated the greatest part of the inhabitants of the town. The productions of Paros are barley, a little wheat, a little wax and honey, and the other kinds of food. In a good year it produces 60,000 chilos of barley, which, in an average of fifteen years, was sold at 35 paros per chilo. About 70 cantars of wool are collected. The port of Nausas is one of the best in the Archipelago.

#### TINOS.

This is the richest of all the islands; and the cause of this is, because it is the most commercial. Besides the City of St. Nicholas, it contains 66 villages. In all the island they count 30,000 souls. The productions are small, to the population: not more is raised than would support the inhabitants five months, in the most favourable years. Figs is one of the largest of the exports, but the quality is mediocre. Wine is made, sufficient for the people, and of malvasia the quantity is small. Of silk a little is gathered; and stockings are made, which sell at Constantinople. In all the Island there is no good port; for Port Panormos is indifferent.

#### ANDROS.

Besides the City of Castello, this island contains 66 villages. They count, in all the island, 18,000 souls. The inhabitants live on their own industry, and employ but little money in the trade of their few boats. The main produce of the island is silk, of which a thousand okes are annually exported; which, on the average of fifteen years, has been sold at 12 piastres the oke. There are many gardens; and many lemons are gathered, which are sent to Constantinople. Here much wine is made, but little exported, for the inhabitants are great drinkers. They sow wheat and barley together, of which mixture they make their bread; but they raise not enough for their support, trusting to Natolia, Vola, and Egypt. The only port is Gavrios, but it is not on the peopled side of the island.

## MYCONI.

Here is but one town of 6000 souls. The inhabitants are merchants and sailors. In good years, they make from four to five thousand barrels of wine, and thirty-five chilos of barley. They raise also loupings; and the island, with its flocks, may support itself. Here they collect, of the herb orchilla, seven hundred cantars every third year. The bay is not safe, but the gulph behind the town is tolerably good. In winter their ships go to Delos, four miles distant, where there is a noble harbour.

## ZEA.

Here there is but one city, with 5,500 souls. It is an hour's distance from the harbour, which is one of the best of all the islands. The principal production is valonia, of which, in a good gathering, they export 14,000 cantars. Of barley produced here, ordinarily, there are 50,000 chilos. Of wine, 7000 barrels. A little cotton is also raised in this island, a small quantity of loupings, and a little silk. Wine, on an average of fifteen years, has sold at eight piastres per barrel.

## THERMIA.

Here is one town and one village, in which are counted 3,500 souls. Barley is the principal production, of which 30,000 chilos is the common harvest. They make wine, but not much. Port Collonos is good; and there are warm springs here, salutary in the spring and autumn.

## ASTROPALIAS.

This is but a little town, with 1500 souls, who raise annually 20,000 chilos of barley, collect a small quantity of honey, and make a little wine. No port for vessels.

## ANAFFI.

One village, with seven hundred souls. Here wheat is raised, but only 1,500 chilos ; honey also, delicious, but not much. Here are no serpents. It has no port.

## AMORGOS.

One town, and two villages, which count 2,500 souls. A little grain is raised. The inhabitants are very poor. The port is good.

## ANTIPAROS.

One village, with 300 souls. The productions trifling. Between Paros and Antiparos there is a roadstead.

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**IV.****CRIMEA.**

Present population about eighty thousand Tartars, thirty thousand Greeks, fifteen thousand Russians, besides twenty-five thousand soldiers. Before the conquest by the Russians, the number of Tartars was estimated at four hundred thousand ; but by emigration, oppression, and murder, they have been reduced to eighty thousand ! There are six cities, and about 300 villages. The capital is Bakserai, formerly the residence of the Grand Kam. It contains about 15,000 inhabitants, but the emigrations subsequent to the conquest have greatly impaired its opulence. There are fifteen moschs in the town, and a church dedicated to St. Nicolo, built by the Empress Katharine II. The town is not fortified. The palace is enclosed, and with the gardens may be in circumference about four English miles. The second city is Savastopolis, and is the seat of the Russian admiralty for the Black Sea. The port is good, and the fortifications are respectable.

The garrison in peace is generally about 4000 men. It is not walled, but defended by six batteries towards the sea. Balaklava is the third city, a fortress commonly garrisoned by Greeks and Albanians in the Russian service. Their number in peace never exceeds 2,000 men. In the neighbourhood, on the top of a hill, is an antient fortress, constructed during the first ages of the Constantinopolitan Empire. It is about four miles in circumference, and therefore probably inclosed a town. A peasant once found within this inclosure four thousand gold coins, of the weight of a Venetian sequin, having on the one side the head of the Saviour, and on the other that of a Greek Emperor. Juslevai, the fourth city, is a small place, with a garrison of 1000 men. Here is a grand mosch, with a thousand and one pillars—or to avoid this Orientalism, with many pillars. It was formerly a church dedicated to St. John. Theodosia, another town, contains about 6,000 inhabitants, Turks and Greeks. There is here also a magnificent mosch, and an antient fortress. In the neighbourhood are the ruins of an antient town, destroyed, it is said, by the antient Persians. The ruins are ten miles in circumference. Theodosia is garrisoned by a thousand men. Carassoi, another city, is one of the prettiest in the peninsula. It is situated in the midst of gardens. The inhabitants are reckoned at four thousand men. The baths are elegant. The garrison is a thousand. Aghamichel is the central residence of the tribunals of the Crimea. The garrison is commonly four thousand men. Round this city the river Salngeer runs. Yeenikalai is situated at the straits which lead into the Sea of Asoph. The garrison is a thousand. The fortress is handsome, and the church dedicated to St. Nicolo is also respectable. The soil of the Crimea is fertile, and tolerably well cultivated. It is well watered, and abounds in extensive plains. It abounds in vineyards, and makes delicate wines. The fruits are excellent of their kind. It exports annually considerable quantities of grain, sago, and Indian corn. Tobacco is also cultivated. Honey is abundant, and one of the

exports to Constantinople. Good butter and cheese are made for exportation, and wool of an ordinary quality is exported in large quantities. The inhabitants are taxed to the amount of the tenth part of their produce for the crown. There are two salt manufactories, which yield the collectors for the emperor 2,000,000 of rubles yearly. The Russians have introduced the amusement of the theatre, and other Christian pastimes, and the country is rapidly improving, but this has been accomplished at the expence of three hundred thousand souls, out of a population not supposed to have exceeded four hundred thousand. So much for military despots forcing civilization.

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## V.

### EGYPT.

The process of sending merchandize into Egypt is as follows: The ships go to Alexandria, where they put their goods into small vessels for Rosetta, where they are again transhipped into still smaller, and sent up the Nile to Cairo.

The goods which suit the Egyptian market are, cloths of every description; muslins, fine and ordinary; silks, plain and embroidered; velvets of all kinds, red, blue, and green, indeed, of all colours; velveteens of the same description; gold and silver lace, ordinary or point d'espagne; ribbons of all kinds; shalloons of all kinds: this latter article is now much better and cheaper made in Natolia than in England. Hardwares, such as needles, shears, thimbles, knives, gun and pistol locks, sell to a great extent; handkerchiefs of all sorts and colours; a few hats; lead, shot, and powder; buttons, of the small hawksbell form, a vast number; striped muslins, narrow for turbans, a great quantity; nankeens and printed cottons also in large quantities; jewellery also, of all descrip-

tions ; watches, with Turkish dial plates ; vast quantities of nails are annually consumed ; and compasses with oriental characters are also suitable for the market of Grand Cairo.

The returns are rice, pearls, and precious stones ; raw silk, wool, colours, grain of all kinds, cotton and cotton thread, fine flax, ivory, and hides.

The trade is managed in this way : The merchant goes to Cairo, and there sells and buys. The months of September and October are the best for doing business. But the merchant will find it advantageous to be there before his goods. He should arrive in August, and not think of departing before the middle of December. The charges on goods are trifling, and with a little management, the duties, which are considerable, may be compounded for. The freight of goods on the Nile is the main expence, and this is not great.

The proper way of managing the business is, to send a supercargo, and in no case to consign. Sales are made partly by barter, and partly for money. The intercourse from Cairo to Suez across the Desert, and from Suez to Mocha, is frequent and easy, and goods so sent do not incur heavy charges. Three hundred weight may be carried from Alexandria to Cairo, and thence across the Desert, for considerably less than five pounds sterling ; a circumstance worthy of attention now that the trade to India is opened.

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## VI.

## CANDIA.

My information respecting this great island has not been satisfactory, an accident having prevented certain papers from reaching me. But the want of them ought to be more than supplied, as Mr. Adair, when ambassador at Constantinople, sent a Greek there as a Consul, for the express purpose of obtaining political and commercial information. He was, however, not fortunate in his choice, as the man, both from his nation and character, was objectionable. His relations told me that his situation was very comfortless, for the Turks treated him with great contempt and jealousy. The French manage their appointments better, for they always employ their own countrymen. But still the commercial community is indebted to Mr. Adair for his endeavours. He did the best that circumstances allowed for obtaining information, and if the Government will not adequately remunerate its own subjects, there is no other way left for a Minister, than to employ those who will accept of the pitiful pittance that is given to British Consuls in every other part of the Levant except Constantinople and Smyrna. Even in Smyrna, the remuneration is not in my opinion adequate, and the respectability of the Consulship there, is, I think, more owing to Mr. Werry himself, than to the provision of the Turkey Company.

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## VII.

*Observations on the Practicability of opening a direct Intercourse with MALTA and the EAST INDIES by the way of EGYPT.*

DESIROUS of illustrating the practicability of cultivating a commercial intercourse with India by the way of Egypt, I have endeavoured to procure historical and circumstantial evidence of the facility with which it might be established. The ground and pivot of the plan is Malta. The possession of that inestimable island has given us a hold, and a political influence within the Mediterranean which not only renders the plan feasible, but makes the consideration of it a duty on the part of the public as well as on the part of the Government. We shall unquestionably suffer the advantages which we enjoy to be impoverished, or rather I should say, to be imperfectly realized, if we neglect to avail ourselves of so obvious a source of invigorating our commercial prosperity, as that which may open by constituting Malta an intermediate stage in our intercourse with India. As a central emporium for supplying the extensive and opulent region of the Mediterranean with the manufactures and products of our Indian subjects, and as a station for regulating the correspondence with Home, and the oriental Empire, it seems to have been felicitously placed in our hands.

The motive which induced Alexander the Great to destroy Tyre, was the superior local advantages for trade which the scite of Alexandria appeared to possess; and which induced him to expect that by directing the currents of the Tyrian commerce to that place, the city which was to bear his name might become suitable to the vastness of his ambition. It is hardly possible indeed, to point out on the map of the whole

world, with all the augmentations of modern discoveries, a situation so advantageous for a great city ; and when it is considered that for upwards of two thousand years, Alexandria has, notwithstanding the revolutions and military oppressions to which it has been subjected, been for the greatest part of the time a flourishing emporium, it is impossible not to applaud the discernment of the monarch who chose it for the capital of his empire.

But from the death of Alexander the Great till the final conquest of Egypt by Augustus Cæsar, our knowledge of the intercourse which the Egyptians maintained with India, as well as of the commerce of Alexandria, is exceedingly imperfect. All in fact that we substantially know is, that under the Ptolemys, Alexandria attained a wonderful degree of opulence, and that in the days of Cleopatra, the last of their race, the wealth and grandeur of Egypt exceeded that of all the rest of the Roman world.

From the conquest by Augustus, the Romans drew by the way of Egypt, the richest products of Persia, and the more remote regions of the East. The depot was Suez, then called Arsinoe or Berenice, and the oriental merchandize which was landed there, was transported by camels to the banks of the Nile, and shipped in floats for Alexandria.

Doubts have been started as to whether Arsinoe or Berenice were situated near the modern Suez, or on the coast of Upper Egypt, but it seems probable that the Romans had two depots within the Red Sea, and that the one may have been in Upper Egypt, and the other where Suez is now situated.

By the foundation of Constantinople a new centre of attraction was given to the commerce of the East, and Trebazond rose to comparative consequence ; still, however, Rome and Italy drew strongly from Alexandria. But in the indistinct records of the transactions of the Eastern and Greek empire, from the days of Constantine to the fall of the Paleologus, we have no certain information of what was the state of in-

tercourse between Europe and India, either by the overland route, or by the Red Sea; at least till the epoch of the Crusades, every thing is involved in so much obscurity, that even the illuminating pages of Gibbon fail to furnish a light sufficient to enable us to understand distinctly the political events.

I omit in this sketch the consideration of the trade across the Great Desert by Palmyra, because such is the altered moral and political state of the adjacent countries, that they scarcely any longer deserve our attention.

While the Constantinopolitan empire was sinking, Venice and Genoa were thriving with the fruits of eastern commerce. But their trade, both from the Black and the Red Seas, was suddenly blighted by the Portuguese discovery of the passage round the Cape of Good Hope. The opening of that passage was not, as is vulgarly supposed, a re-discovery of India, although it disclosed the Great Indian Archipelago. Continental India was well known at the time, and all that the route by the Cape of Good Hope effected with respect to it, in a commercial point of view, was, in directing to Lisbon the streams of opulence, which were then flowing to Venice and Genoa, by the Red Sea and Suez to Alexandria, and by the overland route to Trebazond, and thence, by water, to Constantinople.

About the year 1484, John II. king of Portugal sent Alphonso de Payva on a mission to a Christian king who then reigned in Ethiopia. Pedro de Covillan was ordered to accompany him, and to proceed to India by the way of Alexandria, Cairo, and the Red Sea,—a proof that this must have been the route most frequented at that time. They reached Aden, formerly a rich commercial town, situated a little to the eastward of Mocha, where Covillan embarked for the coast of Malabar, while de Payva proceeded towards Ethiopia. Covillan returning home by nearly the same path as he had gone to India, hearing on his arrival at Cairo of his friend's death, transmitted an account of his own voyages and travels to Lisbon, and proceeded to execute the mission with which Alphonso de Payva had been charged. It is

worthy of notice, that to the enterprize and observations of Pedro de Covillan, who is comparatively but little known, the success of Diaz and Gama was chiefly owing; and he may be regarded as having prepared the way for opening the passage by the Cape of Good Hope. Another circumstance shews that an extensive mercantile knowledge of India was familiar in Europe before the discovery of the passage round that Cape, although little notice was taken of it by the literary men, who, though the vouchers of the transactions of their times, are always posterior in practical knowledge to the rest of mankind, and this was the object of Columbus' voyages. That great navigator did not undertake his discoveries for the purpose of finding new lands, but only to explore a new route to the East Indies.

The discovery of the passage of the Cape of Good Hope has had the effect of bringing all the productions of India by that route to Europe, and those opulent countries round the Mediterranean, which, for so many ages before, had supplied themselves with the oriental luxuries by a direct trade, have since been furnished by an intermediate, and even the tracks formerly frequented have been neglected and almost all forgotten. It seems, however, to be destined to the English, who have acquired so great a share of the whole extent of the East, and so central and impregnable an emporium in the Mediterranean as Malta, to attempt the re-opening of an intercourse, which will abridge the voyage to less than half the length of the present route. This idea might have been thought wild before the invasion of Egypt by Buonaparte, and would, at least by the English, have been regarded as impracticable, for any profitable purpose, had they not acquired Malta.

It is as clear as any other historical fact, that the antients both by the Desert and the Red Sea, by Palmyra and Alexandria, carried on a great trade with India—another, that prior to the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope, the route by the way of Egypt was probably the most frequented, as it was

that preferred by the Portuguese ambassadors sent in the year 1484 to India and Ethiopia. The practicability of the plan being therefore indisputable, sanctioned indeed by the practice of ages, it becomes us now to consider the political circumstances which render it at this moment more likely to be easily re-established, than at any period perhaps since the sack of Palmyra, or the building of Constantinople.

It will not be denied, even by the most ignorant, that since the incorporation of the East-India Company by Queen Elizabeth, in the year 1600, that the power of the Ottoman Government has greatly declined, while that of the English has been augmented to a higher degree than all the power which the other ever possessed. If such be the fact, as it certainly is, let us consider what were the political effects of our national character on the Turks, a short time after the formation of the East-India Company.

• Prior to the year 1610, Capt. Sharpeigh, in a ship called the *Ascension*, visited Mocha, and was the first Englishman who entered that port for commercial purposes. The Pashaw of the province disapproved of his coming; and the Sherreeff of Mecca, who wished to monopolize all the benefits of trade at Gedda, his own port, was also jealous of this stranger. In consequence of their intrigues, and that of others interested in the coffee-trade, and general commerce of the Red Sea, the Vizier of Cairo represented to the Grand Seignior, that the *Ascension* had purchased all the choice wares of India, to the great detriment of the revenue, and that a stop should therefore be put to the intrusion and competition of such foreigners. In consequence of this, the Grand Seignior ordered that, if any more English, or traders from Christendom, were found in the Red Sea, they should be seized, their ships confiscated, and themselves put to death. Such was the state of things when Sir Henry Middleton, in November 1610, arrived with three ships and a victualler, with letters from King James I. to the Pashaw, relative to opening a trade with Mocha. But the Pashaw, instead of paying any atten-

tion to the letters of the British King, seized Sir Henry, and sent him prisoner to Sanaa ; but he escaped to his own ship ; and resolved, notwithstanding the then greatness and vigour of the Ottoman State, to be revenged for the insult. Accordingly, he blockaded the port of Mocha until the Pacha made him an ample apology, and indemnified him, for the injury he had suffered, by paying a sum of money. From this epoch the English have carried on a considerable trade between Surat and Mocha ; and the power of the Grand Seignior over Arabia has continued also, since, to decline so much, that at this time it is actually extinguished, and Mocha may be regarded as belonging to a new state, in which only the mere nebulus of a government exists. This is an important consideration ; because, without violating any existing arrangements with the Grand Seignior, we may recognise the new Government ; and such is the name and consequence of our power in the East, that for this recognition we may almost count on obtaining any privilege, on the Arabian side of the Red Sea, which we might ask. The state of the Government of Egypt has also much altered since the same epoch. For many years the Sultans have only possessed a nominal authority there. It was on the plea of being unable to redress grievances which French subjects had suffered in Cairo and Alexandria, that the Divan of Constantinople gave permission to the French to invade Egypt ; and, since the French invasion, the authority of the Sultan has been so little restored, that perhaps, at this time, it is even less at Cairo than it was prior to that event. With respect, therefore, to opening the intercourse to Suez, the political relationship seems to offer a degree of facility, which, at no former period, we had it in our power to avail ourselves of. The existing Government of Egypt is unquestionably aiming at independence, and would be glad to receive such a mercantile recognition from England as would give the English an interest in its prosperity, separate from the considerations which attach the British Government to that of the Porte.

We thus see, that in addition to the practicability of the plan, as demonstrated by the experience of the antients, political circumstances combine with our possession of Malta, to put it in our power not only to effect what has been proposed, but to do it with advantages, arising from the reputation of our arms and character, which no other country at this moment possesses, or perhaps ever enjoyed.

But, before concluding, it may be proper to notice some of the natural circumstances which require to be considered, and which divide themselves into two parts: those which respect the navigation, and those which respect the land-carriage. First, with regard to the navigation, it would be superfluous to say much. The Expedition which came from India, to co-operate with the army in Egypt under Sir Ralph Abercromby, is a recent and splendid example of the facility of navigating the Red Sea, if the proper season is chosen, and pilots of experience employed; and is an answer to all, who, from the representations of ignorance, theoretically maintain a contrary opinion. And with regard to the navigation between Malta and Alexandria, it is quite useless, on a subject so well known, and so daily spoken of, to say even a single word. The seas are open, the channels are explored; and it requires only the common prudence and forethought requisite in every kind of business, to make the maritime part of the intercourse as safe as any other navigated route.

As for the land-carriage. Suez is situated at two days journey of a camel from Grand Cairo, from which there is a speedy water-conveyance to Alexandria. It may indeed be said, that Nature herself has so directed the stream of the Nile, as to render him the grand carrier of the productions of the Indies and of Africa in the lap of Europe. Dispatches have been forwarded from Bombay to London by the route of Suez, in little more than nine weeks; we may therefore conceive with what expedition a correspondence, properly arranged, might be carried on between Malta and India, and what advantage would arise from abbreviating the route



of merchandize to less than a third part of its present length. A voyage by the Cape of Good Hope, from India to England, including the landing of the goods at London, cannot be reckoned at less than six months; and to ship the same goods for Malta, we could not allow a shorter space than two more, before they could be brought to market; making, from the date of leaving India, a period of no less, even on the most liberal calculation, than eight months. It would not, however, perhaps, be too much to say, that scarcely any India goods are at present brought into the market of Malta in less than twelve months from the date of their shipment in India. We ought not, therefore, to be surprized, when we take into consideration the outward voyage to India, that it was so strongly objected against the opening of the trade, that few private merchants were possessed of capital enough to withstand the effects of its delays and casualties, as the intercourse has been hitherto conducted.

But if we consider that the goods, calculating from the date of a departure from Bombay, may be landed at Suez in six weeks, sent from thence to Cairo in one week more, and shipped in the course of another at Alexandria, and arrive, in the usual passage of three weeks, at Malta, making, in all, not quite three months, until they are at the same market, which, by the route now used, they take twelve to reach, we shall obtain a glimpse of what may be the profits of the India Trade, managed with more enterprize than it has been since the Directors of the Company have regarded themselves rather as Sovereigns than as Merchants.



THE END.

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