



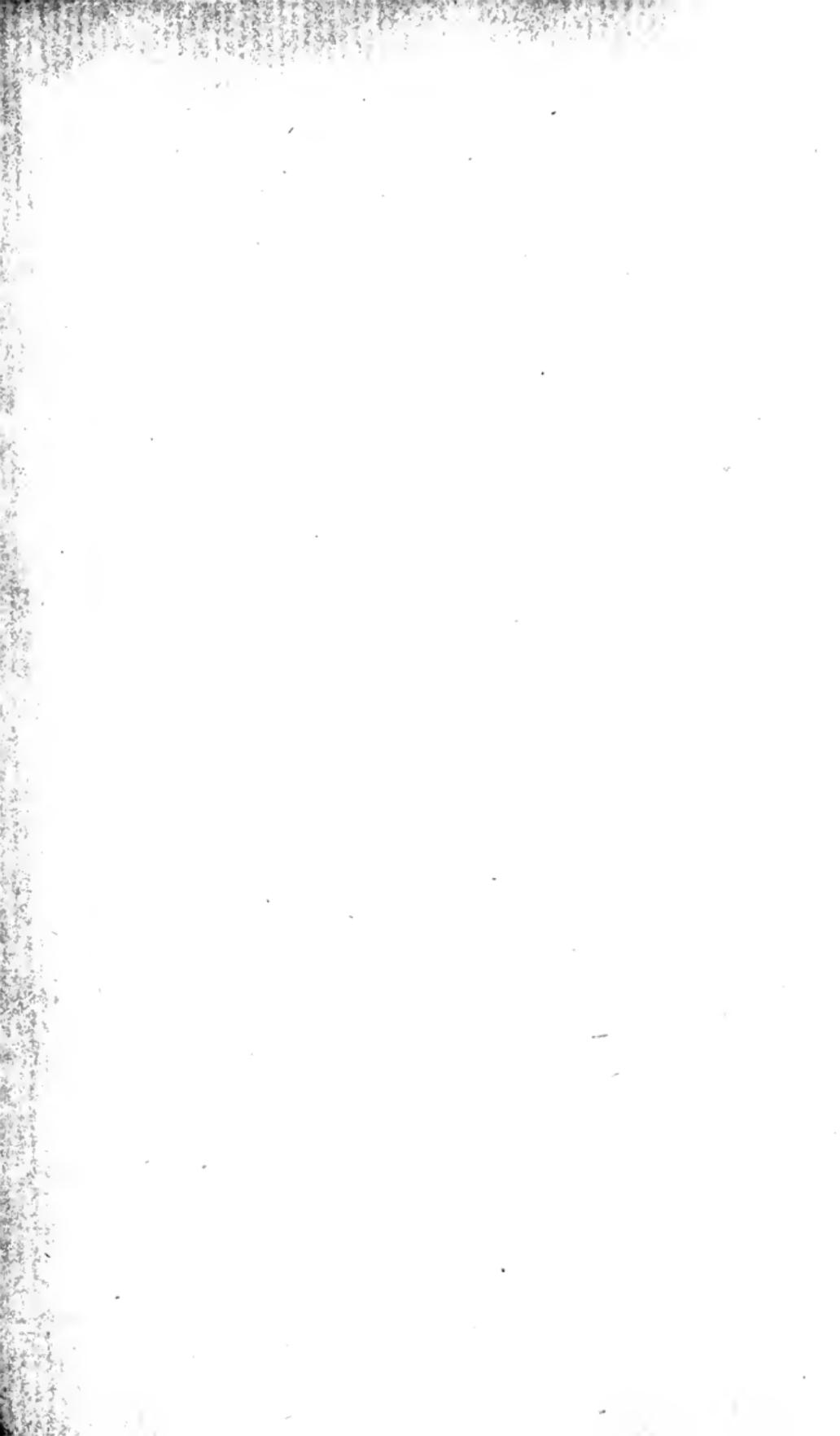
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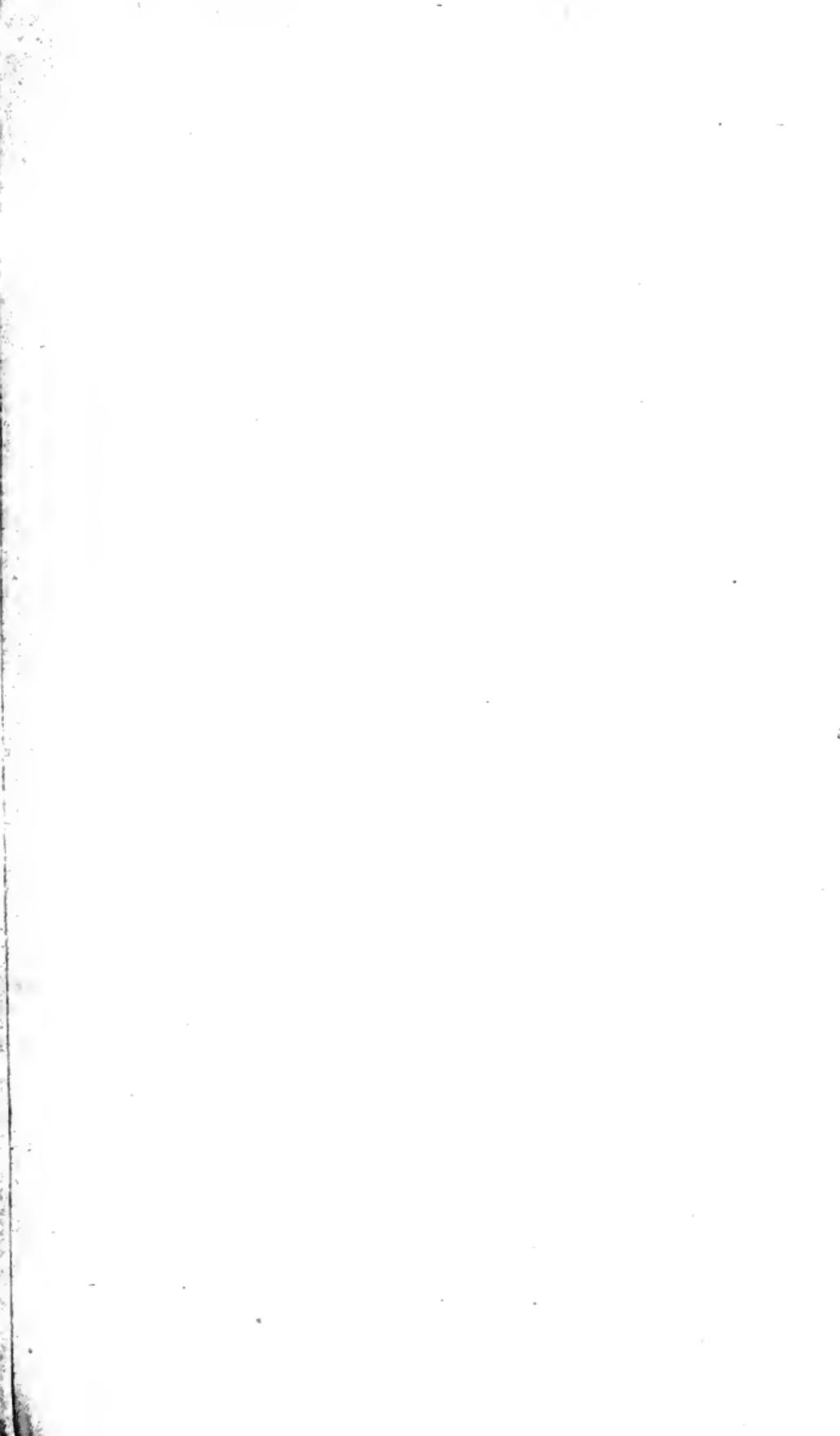
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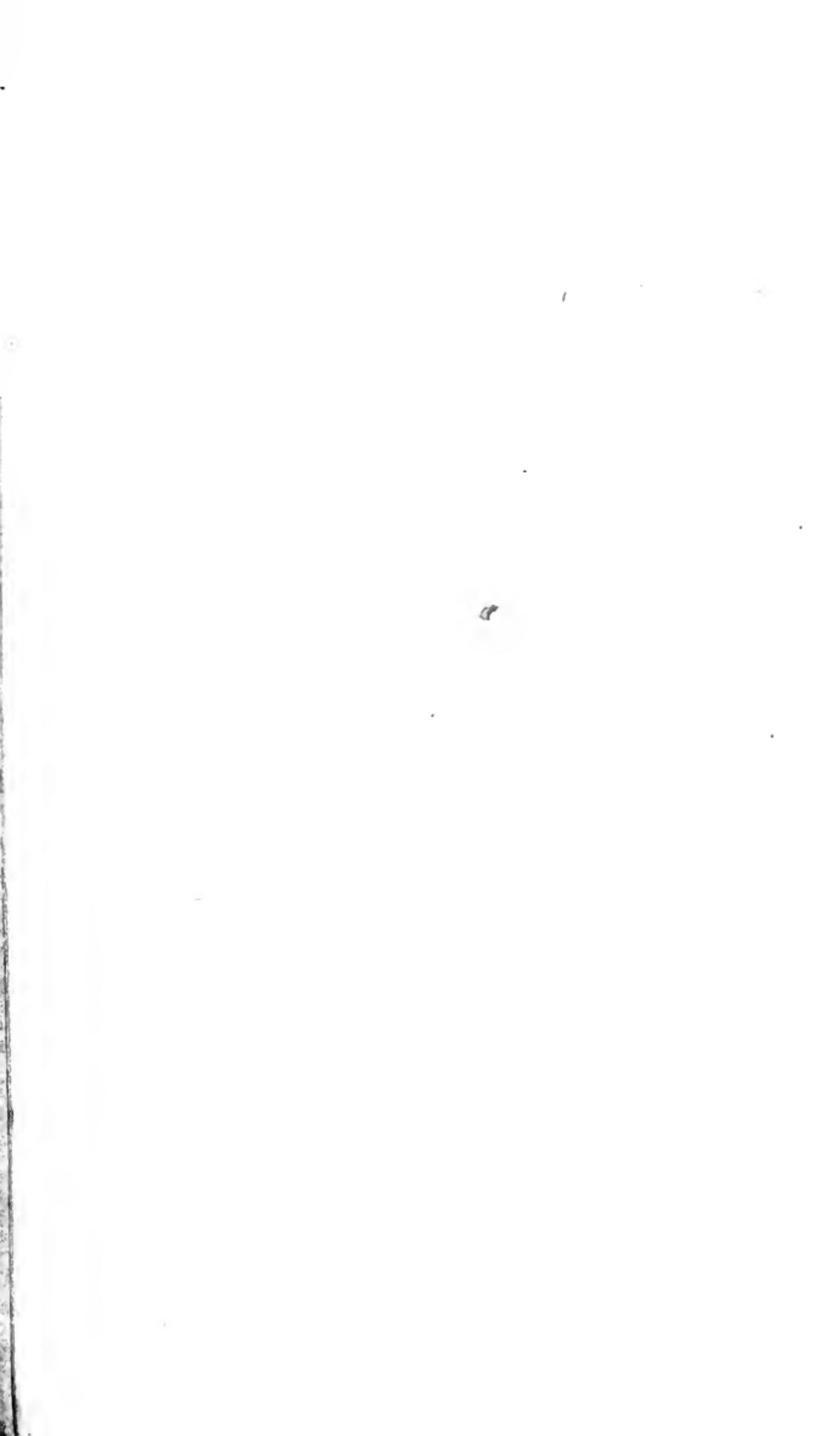




M E M O I R S

OF THE

BARON DE TOTT.



M E M O I R S

OF THE

BARON DE TOTT,

ON THE

TURKS AND THE TARTARS.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH,

BY AN ENGLISH GENTLEMAN AT PARIS,

UNDER THE IMMEDIATE INSPECTION OF

THE BARON.

I N T H R E E V O L U M E S.

V O L. II.

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M E M O I R S

O F T H E

B A R O N D E T O T T.

S E C O N D P A R T.

On the TURKS and the TARTARS.

MY Father died at Rodosto †, in the arms of Count Tezaky, and in the midst of his countrymen. The Ministry which had intended to have

† A town situated on the Propontis; set apart by the Grand Signior for the residence of Prince Ragotzi, and all the Hungarian refugees. My deceased father had followed that Prince thither, and left it in the year 1717, to enter into the service of France: the different commissions in which he was employed, gave him frequent opportunities of seeing his former companions, in the midst of whom he died in 1757. Count Tezaky survived him only eight days, and never spoke after his death.

VOL. II.

B

employed

employed me, had just been changed in France. A foreign name, no protection, and eight years absence at Constantinople, nothing, in short, seemed to give me much prospect of success at Versailles. I obtained, however, a promise of employment at one of the German Courts, an employment ill-suited to the sort of information I had acquired, and which the Duke of Choiseul was desirous of applying to more purpose, when on his resuming the foreign department, and after a trial of my abilities on a particular commission, he made choice of me to reside with the Kam of the Tartars. My zeal made me overlook all the disagreeable circumstances of such a mission. I had neither solicited, nor desired, nor foreseen it; but I accepted it as a favour, and it was indeed a favour to serve under that Minister.

It was determined that I should go by land to the place of my destination, and every thing being prepared, I left Paris on the 10th of July, 1767, for Vienna, where, after a stay of eight days, I continued my journey to Warsaw, at which place I remained

mained six weeks, and from thence I proceeded to Kaminiek.

The difficulties I had undergone in Poland from the scarcity of provisions, the want of horses, and the ill will of the people, prepared me to bear, with patience, what I still had to undergo before I could arrive at the end of my journey.

There being no post-horses in Poland, after passing Kaminiek, I was fortunate enough to procure Russian horses to carry me to the first Turkish Custom-house, opposite to Swanitz, on the other side of the Niester. The course of that river forms the boundary between the two empires; and some Janissaries who were come to walk on the Polish side of the river, attracted by curiosity near my carriage, taking a liking to me on my addressing them in the Turkish language, accompanied me in the ferry boat, which conveyed us to the other side. Every person in my retinue, except my secretary, imagined we were going to Constantinople. I undeceived them in passing the Niester †. We

† This river is also called the Nieper.

landed safely on the opposite side of the river, and my Janissaries, eager to acquaint the Custom-house Officer with my arrival, prepared him to receive me with so much respect, that, overcome at length by his entreaties, I agreed to pass a bad night at about a league from Kotchim, where I might have met with better accommodations. The Custom-house Officer compelled the Russians, also, who had brought me, to stay with their horses all night, to conduct me the next day to Kotchim. My remonstrances on this head were ineffectual, when opposed to his interest and convenience: He affected, indeed, to have no other motive than respect for me, and to have nothing but my convenience in view; when his only object was, in fact, to save an expence which must otherwise have fallen upon him.

In other respects we could not perceive that we put him to any expence, except from the profusion with which we were served; and the Pacha, whom he had acquainted with my arrival, increased our abundance by a present of flowers and fruit

he

he sent me, with the assurance of being well received, and better treated the next day.

The habit of living with the Turks rendered my evening, however, more tolerable than it would have been for any other person. I passed a part of it in the Custom-house officer's kiosk, which was his usual residence; and where, indolently stretched out on the frontiers of despotism, in the full plenitude of his authority, this Turk exhibiting its genuine picture to the inhabitants of the opposite shore, was intoxicated with the pleasure of seeing nothing so important as himself. He informed me, that two young Frenchmen had arrived a few days before at Kotchim, where, after taking the turban, they had set out for Constantinople. He satisfied, also, my questions respecting the revenues of his Custom-house, which I found were as profitable to him, as they were burthensome to those who had the misfortune to fall into his hands; and as that was all the information to be got from him, I left him and went to take some rest. The people, however, sent by the Pacha to conduct

duct me to Kotchim, and to receive me there with distinction, began to awaken me from a sound sleep at day break. Each of them was eager to acquaint me with the importance of his employment, in order to have a better claim on my generosity. The people of the Custom-house watched, also, the moment of my waking, to come for their share. I rewarded the guards too, who had attended me, and who had been prevented from robbing me, only by the particular attention of my servants. We then set out with a pretty numerous retinue, and I was soon settled in the house of a Jew, prepared for my reception in the suburbs of Kotchim.

An officer and some Janissaries, who were to be my guard, occupied the gateway into which I was introduced by one of the Governor's people, who had orders to procure me, *gratis*, and at the expence of the inhabitants, every necessary. His first care, therefore, was to inquire what I wished to be supplied with. I was shocked at this species of oppression, to which, however, I was no stranger; but I knew
neither

neither the right, nor the resources of the oppressors; I modestly answered that I wanted nothing, and gave secret orders to my own people to purchase the necessary provisions. I could not foresee that this was the very way to aggravate the oppression. A miserable Jew I had employed to make my purchases, and who, in the hopes of cheating me, had overlooked the danger of his undertaking, was seized, bastinadoed, and forced to point out to my zealous purveyor, the people with whom he had been dealing, who escaped, however, by returning the money, and with the loss of their property. My broker disgorged also his profits, and the Turk gave back nothing; but he took special care to order for the evening, and the next day, such a quantity of provisions, that he must afterwards have sold, for his own account, a great part of them, which I could not possibly consume.

Such scenes greatly increased my desire of hastening my arrival in the Crimea; but it was necessary to obtain both the Pacha's

Pacha's permission, and other assistance which he alone was able to procure me. My first care was to have an interview with him as early as possible; for the Turks are so slow, and so lazy themselves, that the first civility they show to a stranger is to invite him to rest himself, and that was the compliment I received on alighting; but I assured them so positively that nothing fatigued me so much as repose, that I obtained an audience for the next day. The Pacha, who lives in the fortress, sent me horses accordingly, at the hour appointed, and several of his officers to conduct me to him.

The fortress of Kotchim, situated on the rise of the mountain, on the right border of the Niester, hangs towards the river, and lays the place entirely open to the opposite bank. The country of Poland, indeed, presents this citadel with so delightful a prospect, that one would be tempted to imagine that the Turkish engineers sacrificed to that advantage, both the defence and safety of so important a port,

port, in which, as it now is, they would not be able to hold out three days against a regular attack.

The Pacha who commanded there was a venerable old man, with whose character I was in some measure already acquainted. I knew that being naturally of a timid disposition, he feared that the Visir had hostile intentions towards him, and I had reason to apprehend therefore, that he would not venture to let me pass without an express order from the Porte. He convinced me accordingly, after the first compliments were over, that I was not mistaken, assuring me, however, that he would endeavour to make my stay agreeable; but it was impossible to render any delay agreeable to me. I discussed the matter with him, therefore, and at length persuaded him that he would run more risk by detaining me at Kotchim, than by letting me pass, since he would offend the Tartars, who were expecting me, without paying his court to the Visir, who did not look for me, and the protection of the

Kam, which I undertook to promise, overcame his difficulties. My departure was fixed for the next day, and our parting was the more friendly, as I made him understand that my good offices might be of service to him.

His principal Tchoadar, who was to be my Mikmandar†, came to wait on me at my return home. He concerted with me the proper means to be taken, and then left me to get his orders signed, and to prepare the post-horses for our journey. But notwithstanding the alacrity with which they seemed to set to work to collect them, we could not set out until very late the next day, and in spite of the blows bestowed on the unfortunate postillions by my Mikmandar, they went no faster. We might have gone farther that day, however, had not Ali Aga, (that was the name of my Mikmandar) made us stop a league short of the Pruth, to give himself time

† An officer appointed to go before Ambassadors, or other persons, who travel by the order, and at the expence of the Porte.

to prepare for the crossing of that river, for which purpose he brought us to a tolerable good village, the miserable inhabitants of which were obliged to bring us provisions. A family soon turned out of doors, made room for us, and two sheep killed, roasted, and eaten, and not paid for, added to a few unnecessary blows, began to put me a little out of humour with my guide, who set off in the evening to prepare every thing for the conveyance of my carriage over the Pruth.

I took the opportunity of his absence, to give an old Turk, who appeared to be entrusted with the concerns of the community, the value of the provisions; but some of the inhabitants presently came to complain, that as I had not distributed the shares, they should not receive any part of the recompence I intended making them; “and,” added they, “the old Turk to whom you have given all, is supported by four cut-throat sons, who bear no part of our burthens, and yet always take possession of the profits.”

These

These poor wretches, whilst they were making these complaints to me, never suspected, certainly, that they had the good fortune of living under an aristocracy. To satisfy them, however, and to fulfil my original intentions, I doubled the sum, and every one retiring to his place of rest, I got into my carriage, where I fell into so found a sleep, that we were far advanced on our way when I awoke. The Pruth was only at a league's distance, and my conductor, whom we perceived on horseback, flogging up a troop of peasants he was in the midst of, gave us to understand that we were not far from the river, on the borders of which we arrived, without being sensible of its proximity, from the steepness of its banks.

The Pruth separates the Pachalick of Kotchim from Moldavia. Ali-Aga had swam over to the opposite shore the night before, and got together by dint of his whip, near three hundred of the neighbouring Moldavians, and had employed them the whole night in forming with the trunks
of

of trees an ill-contrived raft, on which he had repassed to our side of the river ; but all that did not satisfy me of its solidity. I prepared myself, however, to sacrifice, if necessary, my carriage, and every thing upon it. I only secured out of it my pocket-book, fully determined not to expose myself to so evident a personal danger ; nor would I suffer my own attendants to go over, but reserved them for a second voyage, in case the first succeeded. Meanwhile, my conductor, proudly exulting at having accomplished so wonderful a work, pressed me to get into my carriage.—“How” said I, vexed at his stupidity, “will you ever contrive to get it down to the river ?—How will you afterwards keep it on your paltry raft, which is scarce large enough for it, and must infallibly sink under its weight ?” “How ?” said he, “why, with these two instruments ;” shewing me his whip, and upwards of a hundred sturdy peasants he had brought from the other side : “Don’t be uneasy ; I would make them bear the universe on their
their

their shoulders. And if the raft sinks, these fellows can all swim; they shall keep it up; if you lose the value of a pin, they shall every one of them be hanged."

Somuch ignorance and barbarity shocked me, without giving me more confidence in the raft. But my resolution was formed, I told him I would not go over with my attendants till the second trip, and therefore he might do as he thought proper. I sat down on the edge of a cliff, to take a better view of this great manœuvre, and to enjoy at least a scene for which I expected to pay very dearly.

The signal for the workmen to begin was then given, by pronouncing the name of God, followed by several smacks of his whip. They undid the traces of my carriage, and carried it in their arms to the brink of the precipice, where they had formed with their pickaxes a rough sort of shelving, to facilitate its descent; but it was not without shuddering, that I saw them on the point of being crushed by the weight of my coach, which they got down
however,

however, on the raft, where it could only be diagonally placed, and to keep it steady in that position, four of these wretches were clapped under the wheels, the least motion of which would have carried the whole equipage to the bottom of the river. After this operation, which had made that part of the raft next the land sink into the mud, and had plunged it seven or eight inches deep under water on the other side, they still had to work to get it afloat, which the hundred men at length effected. They then accompanied it, part of them wading and others swimming, and guided it with long poles to the other side, where some buffaloes were in readiness to draw up my carriage, which I saw in the twinkling of an eye on the top of the opposite cliff. My fears were now at an end, and the raft returning, conveyed us over without a shadow of danger or difficulty.

It is easy to imagine that Ali-Aga triumphed on the occasion, and on setting out, I gave the value of a hundred and fifty livres, (six or seven guineas) to the workmen ;

workmen ; but what is not so easy to imagine, nor could I foresee it, that my conductor, attentive to all my actions, and to every gesture, staid behind, to get his portion of the trifling present I had made these poor creatures.

In an hour afterwards he made his appearance, and immediately went on before to prepare breakfast, at three leagues from the Pruth, where we came up with him, whilst he was collecting provisions with the same instrument with which he had constructed his rafts. Except the too frequent use he made of his whip, Ali-Aga appeared to me to be a good humoured fellow, and I undertook to make him in future less lavish of his blows.

The Baron.

Your dexterity in the passage of the Pruth, and the good cheer you provide for us, my dear Ali-Aga, would be fully satisfactory, did you not beat those poor Moldavians so frequently, or if you only beat them when they disobey you.

Ali-

Ali-Aga.

What signifies it to them, whether it be before or after, since they must be beaten? Is it not better to do it at once than to lose time?

Baron.

What do you mean by losing time? Do you call that making a good use of it to beat, without reason, a set of poor creatures, whose exertions, strength, and submission, perform wonders?

Ali-Aga.

What, Sir—you talk the Turkish language—you have lived at Constantinople—you know the Greeks; and you do not know that Moldavians will do nothing till you break their bones! You imagine then that your carriage would have crossed the Pruth if I had not beat them all night, and continued this discipline until your arrival on the banks of the river?

Baron.

Yes; I think that the fear alone of being beaten would have made them do all this; but, however that may be, we have

no more rivers to pass ; the post supplies us with horses, we want nothing but provisions, and that is my affair ; for I will own to you, my dear Ali, that such as you procure for me by blows, are hard of digestion ; let me pay for them, that is all I desire.

Ali-Aga.

You certainly take the surest way not to have an indigestion ; for your money will not even get you bread.

Baron.

Never fear ; I'll pay them so well that I shall have the best of every thing, and with more certainty than you could get it yourself.

Ali-Aga.

You will not have bread, I tell you ; I know the Moldavians ; they require beating ; besides, I am ordered to defray your expences every where, and these rascally infidels are rich enough to bear the heaviest charges ; this is a trifling one, and provided we beat them, they will be contented.

Baron.

Baron.

Do not refuse me, I beg of you, my dear Ali Aga ; I do not wish my expences to be defrayed, and I'll answer for it, they do not wish to be beaten, provided we pay them ; I take that upon myself—let me do as I think proper.

Ali-Aga.

But we shall die with hunger.

Baron.

At any rate, let us make a trial ; it is my fancy.

Ali-Aga.

Since you are determined, I consent : Try your experiment, which appears necessary to give you some idea of the Moldavians ; but when you are better acquainted with them, remember that it is not right I should go to bed without my supper ; and when your money and your rhetoric have both failed you, you will allow me, I hope, to make use of my method.

Baron.

Be it so ; and since we are agreed, I shall, when we arrive at the village where we
sleep,

sleep, address myself to the Primate †, in order to treat with him, in a friendly way, for provisions, and a good fire, under some cover, where we may pass the night without having any thing to do with the inhabitants, and be free from the danger of the plague, which has just broke out in Moldavia. “ In this case, said Ali-Aga, “ I need not go any farther,” and he immediately ordered one of his people to follow my directions, repeating, with a smile, that “ he would not go to bed supperless.”

We did not arrive till after sun-set at the village where we intended to halt; and we discovered our lodgings by a fire they had prepared for us.

My conductor, in order to keep to his engagement with me, went to warm himself on alighting, and sat down with his elbow leaning on his saddle, and his whip in his hand, to enjoy the diversion he ex-

† This title answers to that of Mayor; but his functions differ in the same proportion that slavery differs from liberty.

pected I should afford him. I was no less desirous of procuring my provisions from that spirit which produces a mutual exchange of necessaries. I inquired for the Primate, whom they pointed out to me: I went up to him, and presenting him with twenty crowns, (about two guineas and a half,) which I laid upon the ground, spoke to him first in Turkish, then in Greek, in these terms, faithfully translated :

The Baron. (In Turkish.)

There, my friend, is money to buy the provisions we shall want. I have always loved the Moldavians, and cannot bear they should be ill treated. I hope you'll lose no time in procuring me a sheep §, and some bread ; keep the rest of the money to drink my health.

The Moldavian. (Feigning not to understand Turkish.)

He not understand.

Baron.

What, don't you understand Turkish ?

§ A sheep alive, and of a good quality, is only worth half a crown English.

The

The Moldavian.

No Turk ; he not understand.

The Baron. (In Greek.)

Well, let us talk Greek then : Take this money, bring me a sheep and bread ; that is all I ask of you.

The Moldavian. (Still feigning not to understand, and making signs to express that there is nothing in his village, and that they are starving.)

Not bread ; poor ; he not understand.

Baron.

What have you no bread ?

Moldavian.

No bread ; no.

Baron.

Ah ! wretches, how I pity you ; but at least you shall not be beaten ; that is some consolation. It is undoubtedly very hard to go to bed without any supper ; yet you are a proof that many honest men are obliged to do so. (*To the guide.*) You hear what they say, my dear Ali ; if money can get nothing here, you will own at least that blows would have been superfluous :
these

these poor creatures have nothing, and that grieves me more than having nothing ourselves to eat for the present. We shall have a better appetite to-morrow.

Ali-Aga.

For my part, it is impossible to have a better appetite than I have to-day.

Baron.

It is your fault; why did you make us stop in a poor village, where there is not even bread? You shall fast for your punishment.

Ali-Aga.

A poor village, Sir! A poor village! If the darkness of the night did not prevent you from seeing, you would be delighted with it. It is a little burgh that abounds in every thing. One may find even cinnamon § here.

Baron.

So, I see that your desire of beating is returning upon you.

§ The Turks are very fond of this spice, which they put in all their dishes, and compare it to the most exquisite delicacy.

Ali-Aga.

Ali-Aga.

No indeed, Sir; it is only my desire of supping, which I certainly cannot get rid of; and to satisfy it, and convince you that I am better acquainted with the Moldavians than you are, let me talk with him.

Baron.

Can you satisfy your hunger by beating him?

Ali-Aga.

Yes, I'll answer for it; and if in a quarter of an hour you have not a most excellent supper, you may return me the blows I shall give him.

Baron.

On this condition I consent, and take you at your word; but remember, that if you beat him without reason, I shall lay on you most heartily.

Ali-Aga.

As long as you please; but be as quiet a spectator as I have been during your negotiation.

Baron.

Baron.

That is but fair ; I will take your place.

Ali-Aga. (Rises, puts his whip under his coat, and advancing carelessly towards the Greek, pats him in a friendly way upon the shoulder.)

Good day, friend ; how are you ? Well — speak — don't you know Ali-Aga, your friend ? Come ; — why don't you speak ?

The Moldavian.

He not know.

Ali-Aga.

He not know! — Ah ! ah ! that is astonishing. What friend, seriously, you don't understand Turkish ?

Moldavian.

No ; he not know.

Ali-Aga. (Knocks down the Primate with his fist, and kicks him as he is rising.)

There, scoundrel, that is to learn you Turkish.

Moldavian. (In good Turkish.)

Why do you beat me? Don't you know that we are poor people, and that our Princes hardly leave us the air we breathe in?

Ali-Aga.

Well, Sir; you see that I am a good language master; he already speaks Turkish charmingly. We can now talk together at least, that is something. (*To the Moldavian, leaning on his shoulder.*) Now that you know a little Turkish, tell me how you and your wife and children all do?

Moldavian.

As well as people can do, who are often in want of the necessaries of life.

Ali-Aga.

You are facetious, my friend; you only want a little more beating; but all in good time; let us come to the point: I must have immediately two sheep, twelve chickens, twelve pigeons, fifty pounds of bread, four oques * of butter, some salt, pepper,

* A Turkish weight, equal to about 42 ounces.

nutmegs,

nutmegs, cinnamon, lemons, wine, salad, and good oil of olives, and plenty of each of them.

The Moldavian. (Crying.)

I have already told you we were poor people who had not even bread, where would you have us get cinnamon?

Ali-Aga. (Pulling out his whip from under his coat, and beating the Moldavian till he runs away.)

Ah! rascally infidel, you have nothing! I shall take the same method of enriching you, that I did to learn you Turkish. (*The Greek runs away; Ali-Aga returns and sits by the fire.*) You see, Sir, that my receipt is better than yours.

Baron.

To make the dumb speak, I confess; but not to get a supper; and I believe I shall have some blows to give you, in your turn, for your method does not procure provisions any more than mine.

Ali-Aga.

Provisions! Oh! we shall be in no want of them: and if in a quarter of an hour,

all I have ordered be not here, take my whip and return me all the blows I have given him.

In fact, the quarter of an hour was not expired before the Primate, assisted by three of his countrymen, brought us all the provisions, without forgetting the cinnamon.

After this example, it was impossible to deny the efficacy of Ali's receipt; and it was sufficient to cure me of my obstinate humanity. In fact, unaccountable as it appeared, I was evidently wrong, and I was compelled, though reluctantly, to leave to my guide the care of supplying me with provisions in future, without disputing with him about the means.

The country through which we were passing, engaged all my attention. New and picturesque scenes, as interesting from the luxuriant cultivation, as from the great variety of objects, presented themselves at every step; and I should compare Moldavia with Burgundy, if the Greek principality
could

could enjoy the inestimable advantages resulting from a moderate government.

These people, who by the faith of treaties have been long governed by their own Princes, should to this day be no otherwise acquainted with despotism, than by the change of their sovereigns at the will of the Ottoman Porte. Moldavia and Wallachia were only subject originally to a very small tribute, and then enjoyed a shadow of liberty. They presented in the persons of their princes, if not men of merit, at least illustrious names, respected by the conqueror, and the Greeks were still flattered to behold in these princes, the image of their former masters; but every thing was soon confounded; the conquered Greeks found themselves no better than slaves, and no longer admitted any distinctions amongst them; their mutual contempt increased their abasement, and in this state of things, the Grand Signior himself, no longer made any distinction in this despicable herd. The merchant was raised to the principality—every adventurer

rer

rer thought himself intitled to that rank ; and these unhappy provinces, frequently offered to the best bidder, soon groaned under the yoke of the most cruel oppression.

An annual tax, become immoderate, from the practice of selling the Principality to the highest bidder, enormous sums borrowed by the tributary, in order to purchase the enfeoffment, interest at twenty-five *per cent.* sums of money daily employed by others, to frustrate the intrigues of the pretenders, the luxury of these upstart Princes, and the eager rapaciousness of these ephemeral beings, are the causes which concur to lay waste the two finest provinces of the Ottoman empire. If it be considered, that Moldavia and Wallachia are more burthened with taxes, and more cruelly oppressed, than they were in their most flourishing state, it will be easy to form a just idea of the deplorable fate of those countries ; as if the Despot, solely bent on destruction, thought himself entitled to increase his exactions in proportion

tion to the diminution of his people, and the loss of the fertility of their lands. I was myself witness, in passing through Moldavia, to the levying of the eleventh poll-tax in that year, though we were then only in the month of October.

We now approached Yassi, to which place my guide had dispatched a messenger, to announce my arrival. I had taken the same opportunity of sending compliments to the reigning Prince, who was son to the old Drogman of the Porte, of whom I have already spoken. I had reason to think our former acquaintance might be of use to me in Moldavia; but I did not foresee that I should have a proof of his eagerness to receive me, even before my arrival in his capital. At a league's distance, however, from that town, as we were struggling in the dark, against the difficulties of a narrow steep road, on a clay soil, I was informed of the arrival of one of the Prince's carriages which was sent to meet me. In fact, it arrived just in time to block up the passage; and to complete my impatience, a secre-

a secretary, who was sent to compliment me, seeks me out in the dark, and acquits himself so tediously of his commission, that I should have been there till now; had I not consented to be removed into his ill-contrived calash, of which he wanted me to admire the magnificence, in spite of the darkness of the night. “Ah! my dear Ali,” cried I, “how excellent your receipt is!” For I saw, in fact, that Ali-Aga, ever convinced of its efficacy, was at that moment applying it with as much success as activity, to make them turn the carriage in which I had taken my seat. I tried to make the best of my present situation, by questioning the secretary on such objects as had excited my curiosity, without endangering either his policy or his discretion; but in vain:—all I could get from him were fresh assurances of his sorrow that the darkness hindered me from seeing the gilding of our car, and deprived me of the splendor of the triumphal entry they had prepared for me.

We

We perceived, however, that we were entering the town, by means of a few scattered lights, and the noise of planks, on which I found the carriage rolling, made me inquire of the secretary the meaning of it. He informed me that these pieces of wood, laid near each other across the streets, served to bear up the carriage, on account of the miry soil on which Yaffi was built. He added, that a fire had just reduced the greatest part of the town to ashes; that they were then busily employed in re-building it, but that the houses would be built in a more modern taste.— He was going to enter into particulars of the plans, when our carriage turning too short, and running against the corner of the gateway, introduced us into the Convent of the Missionaries, where I was to lodge, well pleased at once to get rid of a very jumbling carriage, and most disagreeable master of the ceremonies.

A tolerable good supper was waiting for us, and some Italian Cordeliers, settled at Yaffi, under the King's protection, and the

direction of the Society *de propaganda fide*, had prepared us convenient enough lodgings. Before I went to bed, I received a fresh compliment from the Prince on my safe arrival, and on awakening had a visit from the Governor. He was mounted on a horse richly caparisoned ; a croud of servants, dressed like Tchoadars, accompanied this Greek, whom I had known at Constantinople in a very inferior situation. He seemed to be particularly desirous of exciting my admiration of the Oriental splendor with which he was now surrounded, and I was, for my part, no less entertained at seeing him puffed up with the most ridiculous pride. Ali-Aga, however, disconcerted every thing by his presence. We have already seen that this Turk treated the Moldavians in the country with a great deal of levity, but I imagined he would lose something of his importance and prerogative at Yassi ; but in this I was again mistaken, for he soon made his appearance in a handsome dress, with a grave carriage, and a tone of dignity. He played off,

off, in short, the courtier, who feeling that he might one day be Vifir, and give Princesses to Moldavia, already looked upon himself as their superior ; with this idea he began with treating the Governor very indifferently, for the neglect of the Grand Equerry, who had not yet sent him the retinue which was to conduct him to the Prince's audience. The Governor in vain exculpated himself:—" You are all alike," replied Ali-Aga ; " but I will put matters in order." Fortunately the so much wished for retinue arrived, which consisted in a horse neatly caparisoned, and four Tchoadars to accompany—Whom ? The Tchoadar of the Pacha of Kotchim, who was himself only a Pacha of the second order. But there are no gradations between a Turk and a Greek ; the former is every thing, and the latter—nothing.

It was on this unquestionable principle that Ali-Aga mounted his horse with a superior majesty, and that every body he met stopped to make him a profound reverence, which respectful homage he very
gravely

gravely returned by a slight nod of the head and by a gracious smile. His visit to the Prince produced him some presents, and every step he took in Yaffi contributed equally to his personal interest and dignity. Whilst my conductor was thus mixing the *utile dulci*, I was contriving means to find a substitute for him, that I might continue my journey. The Prince could only undertake to supply me to the Tartar frontiers; I wrote therefore to the Sultan Serasker of Bass-Arabia, requesting him to send to meet me on the confines of Moldavia.

My plan being thus laid, I got into one of the Prince's carriages, in which, surrounded by a great many more equerries and footmen than I wished for, I was conducted to the palace. I was anxious to get in, to avoid the tediousness of the Turkish ceremonies, which the Greek pride had prepared for my reception.

I found the Prince alone with his brother, in an apartment, more remarkable for two enormous arm chairs, covered with scarlet, than for its richness. I soon guessed

all

all their importance, but I constantly refused to take a seat on one of them. The Prince himself then took another seat and our former intimacy, which furnished matter for the beginning of our conversation, induced him to trust me with the history of his present embarrassing situation. I easily perceived that the intriguing fanaticism of his brother, made it extremely cruel, and exposed him to very great risques in future. We terminated this conference by concerting all the necessary arrangements for my departure, after which I was obliged to suffer all the Turkish ceremonies. The most important, and which conveys the strongest mark of regard, is presenting the sherbet, which is always followed by sprinkling you with rose water, and perfume of aloes. This sherbet, so often spoken of in Europe, and so little known there, is composed of cakes of preserved fruits, dissolved in water, and so strongly tinctured with musk, that one can scarcely taste the liquor; the same jar, therefore, once filled,
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is sufficient for all the visits of the week. I took it cautiously, as I did the sweetmeats given with the coffee, and of which they never change the spoon. All this ceremonial, however, which was repeated for my servant in the anti-chamber, met with a different, and not quite so æconomical a reception from him : his appetite refused nothing ; he eat all sorts of preserved ginger that were offered him ; he swallowed, at one draught, the whole jar of sherbet ; and the courtiers were viewing him with amazement, when I came out of the Prince's apartment.

On my return to the Convent of the Cordeliers, I found several Greeks of my acquaintance waiting for me, some of whom I kept to dinner, and they afterwards accompanied me in the visits I had to return.

The town of Yaffi, situated on a miry soil, is surrounded by hills, on the sides of which are the most rural spots, where delightful country houses might be built ; but where nothing is at present to be seen

but

but a few flocks ; and excepting the houses of the boyards, and those occupied by the Greeks, who came from Constantinople in the Prince's suite, to partake with him of the plunder of Moldavia, all the other dwelling houses of the capital bespeak the greatest misery.

The boyards * represent, with a great deal of stateliness, the grandees of the country, but they are, in fact, no more than tolerable rich landholders, and very cruel oppressors. It is rarely that they live on good terms with their Prince, and their intrigues are generally pointed against him ; Constantinople is the centre of their manœuvres. It is there that both parties carry their complaints, and their money, and the Sultan Serofkier, of Bafs-Arabia, affords a constant refuge to such boyards as the Port is disposed to sacrifice to its tranquillity. The safe-guard of the Tartar

* So the great landholders are called ; they are a sort of nobility without any other pretensions than their wealth ; but every thing is in subjection to riches, and the best established regulators with difficulty withstand them.

Prince ensures the impunity of the boyard ; his protection, not frequently, procures even his re-establishment, but that protection must be paid for.

These different outgoings, for which the boyards reimburse themselves by partial persecutions, joined to the taxes imposed by the Prince to compleat his annual tribute, and the other articles of expence I have already mentioned, oppress Moldavia to such a degree, that the richness of the soil is scarcely adequate to the purpose. It is also very certain that this, as well as the neighbouring province of Wallachia, in submitting to Mahomet II. with the clause of being respectively governed by Greek Princes, and of being subject only to a moderate impost, have not made so good a bargain as the framers of the treaty imagined ; undoubtedly, they did not foresee that the vanity of the Greeks would expose these provinces to be put up to the best bidder : they must have shut their eyes, too, against the clause reserved to the Grand Signior of removing them at pleasure.

sure. A terrible bargain this, between a greedy despot, and these haughty slaves, whom he can exalt to a Principality when he thinks proper, and strip them of it by a nod! It is evident that this power of removal could not fail of carrying the annual tribute of these provinces, by a rapid progression to an excessive height, and that a general system of depredation must be the necessary consequence; and accordingly, the whole art of these subordinate governments consist in embracing, and employing every possible means of accelerating this horrid scene of plunder.

Moldavia and Wallachia were an ancient Roman colony. A corrupted Latin is spoken there to this day, and this language is called *Roumié*, the Roman tongue. These provinces, wretched enough under the lofty yoke of the Romans, groan at present under the weight of a more cruel, and more humiliating oppression—they are pillaged by a set of subalterns, vested with a momentary and precarious authority.

Every

Every thing being ready for continuing my journey, I quitted Ali-Aga after rewarding him for his good offices, and left Yaffi, attended by two Janissaries of the Prince's guard, and a Greek, who was to be my conductor. This triumvirate, wherever we came, pursued the great principles so happily adapted to the Moldavian manners, and which Ali-Aga had taught me; but a striking instance of violence and robbery exhibited by the Turks, deserves to be recorded. We were passing through a pretty enough valley, with hills on each side, where some sheep were feeding under the care of several shepherds: happening to ask one of the Janissaries some questions respecting the quality of the wool in that country; "You shall judge of that very soon," says he; he then spurs his horse up towards the flock, disperses it, wheels about in the midst of it, fixes on the largest sheep, rides after, and comes up with it in a gallop; stoops down, seizes it by the fleece, lifts it with one hand, places it before him on the saddle, recovering

recovering his seat himself, and comes up to me full speed. I made several fruitless efforts to make him restore the animal to the owner, or to pay him the value of it. They laughed at my delicacy; the Turk kept the prize, on which he and his comrades regaled themselves in the evening.

This part of Moldavia appeared to me as beautiful as the country we had passed through to arrive at Yaffi; but it became more mountainous as we approached Kichenow. We descended, at length, through defiles, which becoming longer, and opening out more as we advanced, we discovered from their bottom the country of Bass Arabia. We had scarce entered it before we saw the declivities to right and left covered with dromedaries †. The Greek
I had

† This animal, which has two large lumps on his back, is much larger than the camel, who has only one; but it seems that naturalists are not generally agreed on the subject of the names which ought to distinguish these two species of animals. As the Arabs, however, who have only the camel with one lump, call him *dévé*, or *l'aútréche duvé couchou*, the
bird,

I had with me observed, that these animals, which belong to the Tartars, by thus encroaching on a foreign territory, frequently give rise to disputes, which never terminate until the pasturage in litigation is eaten up. We soon saw a greater number of these herds, and I remarked amongst them some white dromedaries.

We had scarcely passed the frontier before we perceived a troop of horsemen coming towards us. It was the interpreter of the Sultan Serasker, sent by that Prince to meet me, with ten seimens of his guard. My messenger whom I had dispatched from Yassi, was likewise with them. He delivered me the Sultan's answer, and the interpreter added the compliment he was ordered personally to make me; after which four horsemen arranging themselves as a van guard, we continued our journey through a flat country,

bird, or ostrich camel. It seems proper to distinguish by the name dromedary, such animals of the same genus, as have two lumps,

entirely

entirely open, and on a hard soil, where the print of the road was scarcely visible.

My new conductor was a renegado Jew, born in Poland; he spoke German, and was so loquacious, that I had no occasion to ask him any questions, to get at the bottom of his whole history. He informed me, also, that the Noguais were discontented with the Kam, who had been so weak as to transfer to the Grand Signior the duty of Ichetirach *, in the two provinces of Yedefan and Dgamboylouk, through which I must pass in my way to Orcapi; but our conversation was frequently interrupted by a circumstance not deserving of mention, had it not served to give the superstitious Tartars a favourable opinion of me.

On my arrival on the frontier, where I was met by my escort, a stork, a bird which feeds on serpents, and builds on houses, and is held in veneration by the eastern nations, as a sort of household God,

* I have already said that this duty was paid in corn, at a very unfair price for the husbandmen.

seemed

seemed also to come on purpose to meet me; it flies past swiftly to the left, very near my carriage; flies round it, repasses on the right, pursues its flight by the highway, and sits down at twelve hundred feet distance before the horsemen, who preceded me; rises when they come near, resumes its flight towards my carriage, again makes the circuit, goes and takes its advanced post as before, and repeats this manœuvre until our arrival at Kichela †.

This town, the residence of the Sultan who commands at Basa Arabia, is considered as the capital of that province. The Prince who filled this station was the eldest son of the reigning Sultan, and had the title of Serasker ‡, (Generalissimo). A Mirza § on my arrival came to compli-

† Kichela means winter quarter.

‡ Serasker, a Turkish word composed of SER, which in Persian means Head, and of ASKER, Soldiers; it is a military rank which admits of no superior; it can only be compared with Generalissimo, and that title is usually given to those who command on the frontier, or who are detached with a considerable body of troops.

§ Mirza, the title of all the nobles. The reader will find in the course of these Memoirs, the different classes of the Tartar nobility.

ment

ment me on his part, and to conduct me to the lodgings prepared for me. I went immediately with this gentleman to wait upon the Sultan †. He was a young Prince, of eighteen or twenty years old, of a good size, well made, with a countenance more noble than agreeable, and whose modest demeanour occasioned a little embarrassment, which I took care to remove; and I discovered that this Prince, as well as the Mirzas who composed this pretended barbarous Court, were possessed of infinitely more softness and amenity, than are found very frequently amongst those who are called polished nations.

Excepting the dresses of the Sultan, and the Mirzas, which, without being rich, are distinguished by a sort of luxury and elegance, the furniture amongst the Tartars is confined to what is strictly necessary. The luxury of window glass is no where to be seen but in the Prince's apartments; paper frames are the only windows made

† We have already seen that Sultan means a Prince of the blood.

use of in other houses during the winter, which they remove in summer to breathe more freely, and to enjoy, without obstruction, the distant prospect of the Black Sea. The Sultan entertained me at supper; and notwithstanding I had a very great appetite, it did not escape me that the excellent fish of the Niefter deserved better cooks than are to be found amongst the Tartars. Hawking, and grey-hound coursing, seemed to me to be their only amusement; and the Sultan made these parties very frequently with a numerous retinue of Mirzas. They set out on these hunting parties, which last several days, with arms and baggage; the camp is formed every evening; a body of troops always makes part of the Serasker's retinue, and sometimes these parties of pleasure are only a pretext for more serious expeditions.

The night was passed in repairing a little carriage I had bought at Yassi, and which I had converted into a *dormeuse*, (or carriage for sleeping in;) a waggon carried
the

the baggage which had been fastened to my carriage all the way from Moldavia; and the Sultan's orders being forwarded, I set off the next day from Kichela with a Mirza, who had orders to conduct me to Baſtcheſeray §, eſcorted by forty horſemen armed with bows and arrows, and with ſabres. Accuſtomed to the want of order, diſcipline, and military knowledge which reigns amongſt the Turkiſh troops, I had no reaſon to ſuppoſe the Tartars were any better. After paſſing the Nieſter, however, which ſeparates Baſs Arabia from Yedefan, where there was ſuppoſed to be a ſort of inſurrection amongſt the herds, the officer who commanded the detachment

§ Baſcheſeray is the reſidence of the Kam of the Tartars. This town, at preſent conſidered as the capital of the Crimea, was formerly nothing but a country houſe, called the Palace of the Gardens. The ſovereigns by living there have drawn together a number of inhabitants; and this town ſtill keeping the ſame name, has ſucceſſively uſurped the pre-eminence over the ancient town of Crimea, which is now no more than a paltry village, where the tombs alone teſtify its ancient importance.

disposed the order of march like an enlightened foldier: a van guard of twelve horsemen preceded my carriage at two hundred paces distance, which the officer took under his particular protection, with eight men, four of whom were placed on each side; two waggons followed after, eight other horsemen closed the march, and two little platoons, of six men each, at more than six hundred paces distance, kept a look out to the right and left.

The plains we crossed were so level and open, that the horizon appeared only a hundred paces from us on every side. No rising ground, not even the smallest shrub to make a variety in this picture; and we perceived nothing during the whole journey, but a few Noguais on horseback, whose heads were discovered by the piercing eyes of my Tartars, when the convexity of the earth still hid the remainder of their bodies. Each of these Noguais was riding alone on horseback, and those who were questioned by our patroles, made us easy on the subject of the pretended troubles

bles we had been told of. I was curious to know, what could be the object of these men, and was informed, these people thought to be Nomades, because they live in a sort of tents, were settled in tribes, in vallies of fifty or sixty feet deep, which intersect the plain from north to south, and are more than thirty leagues in length, by half a quarter of a league in breadth, the middle of which are occupied by some muddy rivulets, and terminate towards the south by small lakes that communicate with the Black Sea †. The tents of the Noguais are on the banks of these rivulets,

† Notwithstanding the barren appearance of the whole Tartar country, and facility with which they may compare their soil with that of the Moldavians, and Poles, to enable them to form a judgment of the advantages possessed by the latter, habit has such an empire over us, and the wants of men are relatively so connected with this habit, that it gets the better of every sensation. The Noguais have an idea that it is impossible to cross their plains without envying them their possession. "You have travelled a great deal," said one of the Tartars to me, with whom I was pretty intimate, "Did you ever see so rich a country as ours?" It is evident that this epithet, once established, admitted of no contradiction.

as well as the hovels to shelter the numerous flocks of this pastoral people during the winter. Every proprietor has his particular mark, which is made with a hot iron on the thigh of the horses, oxen, and dromedaries; the sheep, marked with colour on the fleece, are kept in sight, and stray very little from the habitations; but all the other kinds, collected in particular herds, are driven in the spring to the plains, where the proprietor abandons them till winter. At the approach of that season he goes in search of them, to bring them back under his hovels. This was the employment of the Noguais we met with; but it is very remarkable, that a single Tartar thus employed in an extent of plain which is never less than from ten to twelve leagues wide, by more than thirty leagues in length, from one valley to the other, is ignorant even on what side to bend his steps, nor does he reflect about it. He puts thirty days provisions, consisting of millet flour roasted, in a little bag; six pounds of flour are enough for his

his consumption. His provisions made, he mounts his horse, never stops till sun set, puts shackles on his horse, leaves him to graze, sups on his flour, goes to sleep, and awaking in the morning, continues his journey. In his way, however, he observes the mark of the herds he meets with, retains them in his memory, communicates his discoveries to the different Noguais employed in the same business, tells them what he is looking after, and in return receives such useful informations as terminate his expedition. It is undoubtedly to be feared, that so patient a people, endowed with such qualities, may one day furnish a very formidable military force.

Our first day's journey was to the nearest valley, which was only at ten leagues distance. The sun, however, was on the decline, and I saw nothing before me but a melancholy horizon, when on a sudden I felt my carriage on the descent, and I perceived the row of Obas †, which ex-

† Obas; the tents of the Noguais.

tended along the valley, to right and left, as far as the eye could reach. We crossed the rivulet on a little bridge, near which I found three of these Obas out of the line, and one of them, entirely new, designed for me. My carriages were placed behind it; the detachment staid near me. My first care was to examine the whole of the picture, of which my retinue formed a detached groupe. Above all, I remarked that solitude in which we were left, and which astonished me the more, as I thought myself an object sufficiently curious to merit some attention. The Mirza had quitted me on our arrival, to look after provisions, and I employed myself, in the mean time, in examining the structure of my Tartar house. It was like a large poultry basket, built in lattice work, and formed in a circular inclosure, over which was a dome, open at the top; a felt of camel's hair covered the whole on the outside, and the hole at the top, intended occasionally as a vent-hole for the smoke. I observed, also, that the Obas inhabited by the Tartars, and
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in which they made fires, had each of them a similar piece of felt, tied in the shape of a flag, in the opposite direction from the wind, and supported by a long stick from the inside of the Obas. The same stick was made use of to let down this sort of fan, when on extinguishing the fire, the aperture was become useless or inconvenient.

I particularly admired the solidity, united with the delicacy of the lattice work; pieces of raw leather are used for fastening them together; and I understood that my Obas, designed for a new married woman, made part of her dowry.

We had very great appetites, and with much satisfaction saw the Mirza return with two sheep, and a kettle he had procured. The kettle was suspended to three sticks, separated at the bottom, and joined at the top. The kitchen thus arranged, the Mirza, the officer, and some Tartars, proceeded to kill and cut up the sheep, with which they filled the pot, whilst others were preparing spits to roast
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what it could not contain. I had taken care to make a provision of bread at Kichela. This is a luxury with which the Noguais are unacquainted, and their avarice hinders them from making an habitual use of flesh meat, which however they are very fond of. I was curious to know what way they cooked, and to taste their victuals, as well as the good cheer which was preparing for me. The Mirza, to whom I communicated my whim, smiled at it, and dispatched a Tartar, with orders to collect every thing which could satisfy my curiosity. He soon returned with a jar full of mare's milk, a little bag of flour of millet roasted, some small white balls of the size of an egg, and as hard as chalk, an iron pot, and a young Noguais, tolerably well clad, and the best cook of the hord. I paid all possible attention to his manner of proceeding.—He fills his pot three quarters full of water, about four quarts, to which he adds about six ounces of the roasted millet flour; he places his jar near the fire, pulls out a flat knife, wipes it

it on his sleeve, stirs the contents about in a circular direction, always the same way, until the first simmering of the liquor; he then asks for one of the white balls, which was cheese, made of mare's milk, saturated with salt, and dried; breaks it in small pieces, throws it into his ragout, contriving to stir it round in the same direction; the contents begin to thicken, and he still keeps stirring, but with difficulty at last, until the whole was of the consistence of bread without yeast; he then draws out his flat knife, empties the kettle on his hand, and presents me with a cylinder of puff-paste in a spiral form. I was anxious to taste it, and was really better pleased with the mess than I expected. I tasted also the mare's milk, which perhaps I should likewise have found good, but for a sort of prepossession I could not overcome.

Whilst I was employed with so much luxury about my supper, a more interesting scene was preparing for me.

I have already said, that on my arrival, the Noguais retired each of them to his

hut, shewing no curiosity to see me, and I had already made a sacrifice of my vanity on that head, when I perceived a considerable troop of them advancing towards us; the tranquillity, the slowness even with which they approached, could give us no uneasiness. We could not, however, conceive the motives which brought these Noguais on our side, until we saw them stop at the distance of four hundred paces, and one of them advancing alone till he came near the Mirza who conducted me, communicated to him the desire the chiefs of his nation had to see us; adding, that unwilling, in the smallest degree, to disturb our rest, he was deputed to inquire if their curiosity would not displease me; and in case it should not, which would be the place where his companions would the least incommode me? I answered the ambassador myself, and assured him that they were all at liberty to mix with us; that amongst friends there was no distinction of place, much less any particular line of separation. The Noguais insisted on the orders he had
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in that respect, and the Mirza rose up to point out to him the spot to which the spectators might advance, which was soon occupied by this curious troop. I approached also, to take a nearer view of them, and to have the pleasure of making acquaintance with these gentlemen. They all rose upon my coming within reach, and the most remarkable amongst them, to whom I addressed myself, saluted me, by taking off his cap, and making an inclination of his body. I observed that the deputy had used the same ceremonial to the Mirza, which surprized me the more as the Turks never uncover their heads, but to be more at their ease, and that only when they are alone, or amongst very familiar friends. It is for this reason also, that the European Ambassadors, and their retinue, go to the Grand Signior's audience with their hats on, and it would be a breach of decorum to present oneself otherwise before a Turk; but I shall have some more important remarks to make on the resemblance between our customs and those of the Tartars.

If

If I derived little information from my Noguais, it was undoubtedly because I neglected to ask such questions as might have enlightened me. The natural fondness we have for novelty, however, rendered the close of this day tolerably agreeable. I did very well too with my supper; but the Tartar cookery owed its success amongst my attendants only to their good appetite, which gave a relish to every thing. They had no idea that one could sometimes take a pleasure in indifferent entertainment. It was apparently on my account only that they complained; but I have since been perfectly well convinced, that the sole interest they took in my personal comfort, was only to give them the right of lamenting freely their own privations; by partaking of their wants, I discovered the method of rendering my servants less troublesome; and I give this as the best possible receipt to all travellers.

However interesting these Noguais were, desirous of shortening my stay amongst them, and of going the next day to the second

cond valley, I fet out early in the morning, and we ſaw the ſun appear on the horizon of theſe plains as mariners obſerve him on the ocean. We diſcovered nothing this morning but ſome little hillocks, like thoſe one ſees in many parts of Flanders *, and particularly in Brabant, where the common opinion is, that they have been formed by the hands of men, and by the combination of ſhovels full of earth, brought by each ſoldier in antient times, to throw on his General's corpeſe, by way of mauſoleum. A great number of theſe hillocks, are likewiſe to be ſeen in Thrace, where, as well as in Tartary, in Brabant, and in every place where they are to be found, they are never ſingle. But the quantity of theſe peculiar accumulations, diſpoſed, as they generally are, at almoſt equal diſtances, and always with a conformity of poſition which ſeems to beſpeak deſign, more than the ſimple effect of hazard, led me to trace out, from the

* They are to be found in various parts of England; near Steverage, in Hertfordſhire, &c. and are known likewiſe by the name of Butts.

customs now in use, the origin of these pretended mausoleums. It appears to me, that their origin may be discovered in the custom prevailing at this day amongst the Turks, when they go to war, of marking by hillocks of earth, placed in sight of one another, the route to be followed by their army. These elevations, it is true, are not so high as those I have just been speaking of, and which have resisted the operation of ages on the surface of the earth.— But may it not be added to my observation, that even if the hillocks of the ancients had no other object than to mark out the march of their armies, in order to insure their communication, the spirit of conquest, which made them penetrate into unknown countries, would naturally induce them to preserve these points of information from too easy a destruction.— With respect to the bones which have been found under some of these hillocks, they only prove, that they were *also* made use of as burial-places for their generals and soldiers, who died on the march. But the greatest part of the butts which have been
under-

undermined in Flanders, prove that *all* these heaps were not places of sepulture; and if we recur to the idea of considering them as marks, this hypothesis will give the further explanation of the works spoken of by Xenophon, in his Retreat of the Ten Thousand. An unknown soil must every instant have presented obstacles to the Greeks, more difficult to surmount, and snares more formidable, than the nations themselves who were to be intimidated or repelled.

On my journey I saw no appearance of agriculture; because if the Noguais sowed their corn in frequented places, near the high-roads, their corn would only serve for pasturage for travellers horses. But if these precautions preserve the Tartars from this species of depredation, nothing can save their fields from a more fatal calamity. Clouds of locusts, that frequently shower down on the plains of the Noguais, choose in preference the fields of millet, and destroy them in an instant. The horizon is darkened by their approach, and
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the cloud produced by the prodigious multitude of these animals, obscures the sun. If the Noguais husbandmen happen to be sufficiently numerous, they sometimes succeed by their gestures, and their cries, in averting the storm; if not, the locusts alight on their fields, and form a bed of six or seven inches thickness. To the noise of their flight, succeeds that of their devouring labour, which resembles the clattering of hail, and the consequences are more destructive. Fire itself is not more active; and not a trace of vegetation is to be discovered when the cloud has resumed its flight, to produce fresh disasters in other places.

This calamity would extend itself, no doubt, to countries where the culture is more abundant, and Greece, and Asia Minor, would be more frequently exposed to it, did not the Black Sea swallow up the greatest part of these clouds of locusts when they attempt to pass that barrier.

I have often seen the shores of the Pontus Euxine, towards the Thracian Bosphorus,

rus, covered with their dried carcases, and in such numbers, that it was impossible to walk on the shore without sinking half-leg deep into this bed of their skinned skeletons. Curious to know the real cause of their destruction, I have sought for opportunities to observe the moment of it, and I have been witness to their total destruction by a storm, which surprized them so near the coast, that their bodies were floated thither by the waves before they were dry; their carcases produced such an infectious smell, that it was many days before one could come near them.

We arrived at the second valley before noon; and whilst the Mirza who conducted me, was searching for the persons who were to order the necessary relays of horses, I went up to a groupe of Noguais collected round a dead horse, which they had just been skinning. A young man naked, of about eighteen years old, received on his shoulders the skin of the animal. A woman, who performed the office of taylor, began by cutting the back of this new
coat,

coat, following with her scissars the shape of the neck, the fall of the shoulders, the semi-circle which joins the sleeve, and the side of the habit, which came down below the knee. It was unnecessary to support a stuff, which, from its humidity, already adhered to the skin of the young man. The woman taylor proceeded very smartly to form the cross lapels and the sleeves, after which the mannikin, who served as a mold, sitting down squat, gave her the opportunity of stitching the pieces together; so that cloathed in less than two hours in an excellent *brown bay* coat, nothing remained for him but to tan this leather by constant exercise, which was accordingly the first thing he did, and I saw him presently mount a horse bare-backed, to join his comrades, who were employed in collecting the horses I wanted, the number of which was not nearly compleated.

We already know that the Tartar horses are dispersed over the plains, in particular droves, and distinguished by the mark of the proprietor; but as there are occasions
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when each individual must contribute to the public service, there is also a particular drove of horses for that purpose, belonging to the whole community. This drove is kept near, and within sight of their dwellings; but these animals at liberty, in an open country, are not easily got hold of; it is evident, likewise, that the choice which must necessarily be made of different horses, for draught and for the saddle, increases the difficulty. The Noguais succeed in this by a method which furnishes the young men destined for that sort of hunting, with the opportunity of becoming the most intrepid, and most skilful horsemen in the world. For this purpose they provide themselves with a long pole, at the end of which is fastened a cord, the extremity of which terminated in an eye-let, passed through the pole, forms a running knot, open enough easily to admit a horse's head. Furnished with this implement, these young Noguais, mounted on horses bare-backed, the longe of the halter passed through the horse's mouth, ride up to the drove

drove full gallop, observe the animal which suits them, follow him with extreme agility, come up with him, notwithstanding his shifts, to which they accommodate themselves with wonderful address, gain on him by swiftness, and seizing the moment that the end of the pole reaches beyond the horse's ears, they slip the running knot over his head, slacken their speed, and thus retain their prisoner, whom they conduct to their depository.

As I was in want of near eighty horses, and there were only half a dozen horsemen in pursuit of them, their exercise lasted long enough to give me all the pleasure of it; but the relays were so well chosen, that we were able to arrive in pretty good time in the suburbs of Oczakow where we lodged.

This fortress, situated on the right bank of the Boristenes, and near its mouth, is built on a small declivity which goes down to the river. A ditch, and a covered way, are the only works for the defence of the place; it is in the shape of a parallelogram,

logram, bending on its length ; and one observes there, as well as at Bender, and at Kotchim, a numerous artillery, every piece of which, badly mounted, is bound together by two enormous gabions, which serving by way of parapet, form the embrasures of the fortification.

Some Jews fettled there, keep inns in the suburbs of Oczakow. They were of great service to us in renewing our provisions, and enabling us to cross the plains of Dgamboylouk, inhabited also by the Noguais. The morning of the next day was taken up in passing the Boristenes. This river, strengthened towards its mouth by a tongue of land belonging to the opposite bank, and which is called Kilbourns †, or Kilburn, forms within it a sort of lake, which stretches northward, from whence the river flows. It is more than two leagues broad between Oczakow and the fort opposite, which is situated at the end of the point of land. It was in this direction that we passed the Boristenes. Sailing vessels

† The nose, or promontory of the hair.

are built for the purpose, which take the opportunity of a favourable wind, and may also be pushed with poles from its shallowness, every where but in the middle, where it is deep only for a few yards.

After three hours of this tedious navigation, during which we had nothing to entertain us but the leaping of a few dolphins, we landed at Kilbourns, opposite to the castle which is built there. The landing of my carriages, and the collecting of the horses we had occasion for, took up the conductors the rest of the day, which I employed in visiting the castle, where I found nothing remarkable but its inutility. Its artillery, in fact, designed to co-operate with that of Oczakow, in the defence of the river, unable to form a cross fire at so great a distance, leaves the passage up the middle unmolested. But I could not help remarking, that batteries placed on the point of Kilbourns, and upon a ledge of rock, situated on the opposite bank, would always prevent the entrance of every sort of vessel; this the Turks have never yet
been

been able to calculate, and I shall have other more important occasions of fixing the limits of their military knowledge.

We agreed to set out an hour before day-light, and I made choice of a waggon prepared for me to sleep in, that I might take some rest, of which I began to be very much in want.

The commander of my escort knew nothing of this arrangement, and after distributing his troops in the order I have already explained, he very assiduously follows my coach till he discovered, by the day-light, that I was not in it; he then complained very heavily of their negligence in not pointing out to him the carriage I was in, and immediately surrounded it with the little band he had reserved for that purpose. The reader will doubtless perceive, that I only relate this circumstance from its developing the character of the Tartars, which invariably exhibits the seeds of the most correct ideas.

The road we took brought us near the Black Sea, and in following the beach from
time

time to time, the very noise of the waves afforded us a more interesting object, than we could find in the naked plains over which we had been passing. Those we still had to pass, were likewise entirely bare, although I have been assured, that they were formerly covered with forests, and that the Noguais had torn up even the smallest stumps, to avoid all possibility of a surprize. But if this precaution effectually secures a nation so transportable as to move off with every thing in less than two hours, it deprives the Tartars of the fuel which is so necessary in that climate. To provide against this want, each family carefully collects the dung of the cattle, which they knead with a sort of sandy earth, and produce a turf which unfortunately smokes the Tartars more than it warms them.

No people live more soberly. Millet and mares milk are their usual diet. The Tartars, however, are very carnivorous. A Noguais might lay a wager that he eat a whole sheep, and win his wager, without having an indigestion. But their taste in
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this respect is restrained by their avarice ; and that avarice is carried to such a length, that, in general, they retrench every article of consumption of which they can dispose. It is only, therefore, when one of their animals is accidentally killed, that they regale themselves with its flesh ; but never unless they arrive in time to bleed the dead animal. They observe the precepts of Mahomet, also, with respect to sick animals. The Noguais watch all the periods of the disorder, in order to seize the moment, when, finding their avarice condemned to lose the value of the animal, they may at least gratify their appetite, by slaying it a moment before its natural death.

The fairs of Balta, and some others on the frontiers of the Noguais country, procure them a sale for the immense droves they are possessed of. The grain, which they collect in abundance, finds a vent likewise by the Black Sea, as well as wool in general, and that kind called *pelades* § :

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§ That wool is called *pelades*, which is separated from the skin by means of lime. This operation cannot take place on living animals. It procures the greatest quantity of wool, but injures the quality.

to these articles of commerce must be added some bad leather, and a great quantity of hare skins.

These different articles combined, procure the Tartars very considerable annual returns, which they will only receive in Dutch or Venetian ducats ; but the use they make of them destroys every idea we might be led to form of their wealth from this prodigious quantity of specie.

Perpetually accumulating, and no part of it returning into circulation by any kind of barter, avarice takes possession of, and buries all the riches, and the plains they are concealed in, offer not a trace to aid those researches which they otherwise might tempt. Several Noguais dying without communicating their secret, have already deprived the world of considerable sums. It is also to be presumed, that these people are persuaded, that if they were forced to abandon their country, they might safely leave their money without forfeiting their property ; and, in fact, it would be of the same use to them five hundred leagues distance.

distance. They derive no other enjoyment from it than the mere pleasure of possession ; but this has so many attractions for them, that a Tartar frequently takes a thing for the sole pleasure of possessing it a moment : compelled soon after to restore it, he must pay likewise a considerable penalty ; but he has enjoyed it in his way, and he is contented. The avidity of the Tartars never calculates eventual losses. They are satisfied with the enjoyment of momentary advantages.

We now approached Orcapi, and had only one bad night's accommodations to suffer, when I received a messenger who was sent to meet me. He was commissioned by the Kam of the Tartars to ensure me those conveniencies which I had already been fortunate enough to procure myself.

We passed the night in a wretched hovel, covered with reeds, the only produce of the marsh in which it was situated, near the sea. We travelled next morning along the beach, and soon came in sight of the

western side of the peninsula, which stretched into the sea on our right-hand. This land, which was likewise flat, but more elevated than the plain we were on, was joined to it by so gentle a slope, as if it had been formed by the line, and the upper part of it presented us with the profile of the lines of Orcapi. We travelled by the side of them pretty early in the morning, and passed the ditch on a bad wooden bridge, which joins the counterscarp to a vaulted gate, which crosses the platform, the porter of which keeps the peninsula every evening under lock and key. One of the redoubts, situated in the middle of the lines, within cannon-shot each way, lined with masonry, and provided with artillery, and some Turkish soldiers, together with the commerce between the Russians and the Tartars, has given rise to a miserable little village near this gate, where I alighted at the lodgings prepared for me. The Governor of the Citadel lost no time in complimenting me on my arrival, by sending me a trencher full of mutton, roasted
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in the Turkish fashion, which they call *Orman Kébab**. I soon after received a deputation also from the Janissaries of the fortrefs, inviting me to become a member of their body, and I accepted their offer with as much apparent readiness, as they manifested to receive the present of my welcome. The corps of Janissaries, originally composed of slaves carried off from the Christians by the Turks, in time of war, has been long recruited by their children, who are given as a tribute. But the privileges granted to this new militia, determined the Turks to enroll their own children amongst them. The abuses of these privileges, and the number of candidates, naturally going hand in hand, there was no longer any safety out of the pale of their protection. The great men of the empire enrolled themselves; the Grand Signior himself wished to belong them, and

* *Orman Kébab*,—the roast of the woods.—This is the favourite roast meat of the Turks, and consists in pieces of mutton, cut and spitted alternately with slices of onions, roasted at a great fire.

and nobody discovered that this was the very method to increase their insolence.— The established regulations for a long time supported this corps, in spite of its irregularities, but they at length ceased to maintain their independence. Each Janissary became possessed of property; and connected at this day with the general order, by the particular interest of its members, this corps is no longer formidable to its masters.

Whilst I was taken up with these different affairs, I saw a troop of Europeans appear, escorted by the Tartars of the plain. They were Germans, fugitives from Russia, taken by the Noguais. The situation of these unfortunate people, induced me to claim them; and they were immediately delivered to me. I resigned to them the pyramid of roasted mutton, which they certainly stood more in need of than myself. I then examined my new colony, which was composed of seven men, five women, and four children. They were dejected by misfortune, but began to smile at the prospect of better days. These unhappy

happy people, born in the Palatinate, had been drawn into Ruffia by the hopes of bettering their fortune, (the motive of all emigrations) but the difappointment of which makes them soon regret the lofs of their former habitations. Imprifoned in a foreign country, their only project was to make their efcape, and they knew no other road but the wrong one. Arrived in the defart plains, they had fcarcely time to draw the breath of liberty, before the Noguais feized them, to fell them to the firft purchafer. It afforded me great pleafure to have faved thefe poor people, and I took the neceffary meafures to infure their fafe arrival at Baëtchèferay.

I employed the reft of the day in examining the lines of Orcapi. No picture of this kind can be more respectable. Excepting that the works are rather gigantic, I know of none where nature is better feconded by art. The folidity of the entrenchment is likewise to be depended on. It extends acrofs the ifthmus for three quarters of a league, and is flanked by two feas.

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It overtops the plain below by about forty feet ; and it will long continue to resist that ignorance which neglects every thing. Nothing points out the æra of its construction, but every thing conspires to prove it of a date anterior to the Tartars ; or if not, that these people were better informed in antient times, at least, than they are at present.

It is very evident also, that if these lines were pallisadoed *en fausse braye*, as well as the redoubts on them, and provided with artillery, and above all, with howitzers, they would secure the free possession of the Crimea against an army of an hundred thousand men. Such an army, in fact, unable to carry these lines by assault, would be soon reduced to the necessity of retreating, from want of water. It was only by passing a small marshy arm of the sea, to gain the head of a very narrow tongue of land which opens parallel with the eastern side of the Crimea, that the Russians were able to penetrate into it in the last war. This route had been already successfully attempted in the campaigns
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of 1736 and 1737, by General Munick ; but this has neither suggested to the Tartars the desire nor the means of securing themselves in future from a similar misfortune, by defending the end of that tongue of land, where the smallest resistance would be sufficient to check the progress of their enemies.

On quitting Orcapi, I observed that the road was covered with a whitish crust, occasioned by the carriage of the salt which the Tartars sell to the Russians. The salt-works of Orcapi, part of the sovereign's domain, are farmed out to some Armenians and Jews ; and equally commercial, and perpetual rivals, they augment the revenue, by bidding against each other.— They are so unskilful in the management of their farms, and their avidity is such, that they are always the dupes of their ignorance. They have no depository to receive, to dry, and to preserve the natural salt which is formed in these salt-lakes ; so that the abundance of a plentiful season cannot compensate for the deficiency of a bad one ; and the rains very frequently de-

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stroy this valuable production, which is so easily preserved in store-houses. The seller and the buyer seem also to have combined their ignorance in forming the conditions by which they are reciprocally bound. The buyer is allowed to come himself to gather the salt in the lakes, and to load his carriages, which are to be drawn by a certain number of horses, and at a stipulated price; but with this clause, that if the carriage breaks down from its weight, before it arrives at a given point, a penalty and confiscation follow. The buyer and seller, in this contract, have overlooked the certain loss of what is scattered on the road, and the disadvantages resulting from any commerce founded on a perpetual state of warfare.

After passing the salt-works, we found ourselves in a country more remarkable for its fertility than its cultivation; and a number of villages, scattered over the plain, afforded us a prospect more interesting, as it was long since we had enjoyed so agreeable a scene. We arrived towards the evening at a habitation, situated in the
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bottom of a valley, where some rocks announced to us a change of soil, and the next day we got into a hilly country, through which we travelled during the whole morning. At noon we were obliged to lock the four wheels of my carriage to get it down a very narrow road, cut out of the rock, which brought me to Baſtchéferay. I arrived in this town early enough to perceive all the inconveniencies to which I ſhould, thenceforward, be obliged to ſubmit. Mr. Fornetty, Conſul of France in Tartary, received me in a houſe occupied by him ten years, and which was deſigned for me. This houſe was not well calculated for the increaſe of inhabitants I brought with me; an inconvenience, above all, very ſenſibly felt by my attendants. Fatigued as they were with a long journey, the ſight of this ſtrange land of promiſe completely diſcouraged them; and I muſt confeſs, that my new dwelling could not very well conſole us for the nine hundred and thirty leagues we had travelled to arrive there. An open wooden ſtair caſe,
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the steps of which, rotted by the rain, giving way under the weight of every person who mounted them, enabled the lightest amongst us to reach the only floor there was; which consisted of a hall, and two side rooms which served for salloon and bed-chamber. The walls, formerly covered with lime and hair, as well as the floor, discovered to us the original construction of this building. It was doubtful whether my trunks would not prove too heavy for it; we tried the experiment, however, with success, and as it is necessary to make the best of every thing, each of us made choice of the spot where we were to rest from our fatigues.

If the successive variety of objects on the road prevents one from attending to any thing but the difficulties to be surmounted before the journey is at an end, that period naturally leads one to examine the nature of a situation which is to be more permanent. This was our first employment on awaking. The time I had already passed with Mr. Constillier, who accompanied
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me as Secretary, made me very certain that the sweetness of his disposition, and his patience, would get the better of every inconvenience. I was as fortunate, likewise, in the choice M. de Vergennes had made of Mr. Rufin to reside with me in quality of Secretary Interpreter; and the intimacy which very soon took place between these two young men, by giving animation to their gaiety, rendered their society more agreeable to me: It was, indeed, the only remaining society I had, for I could not flatter myself with the prospect of deriving much advantage from a Monk I had taken at Yassi, and two Polish Armenian Missionaries, any more than from the company of Mr. Fornetty, who was to leave me and return to Constantinople as soon as his local and official information became unnecessary to me.

My arrival was immediately announced to the Visir of the Kam, and this Prime Minister, assuring me of the satisfaction his master would have in seeing me as soon as I was disposed to have my first audience,

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sent me the establishment of *Tayn*, assigned me by the Prince. This custom consists in the supplying with necessary provisions, the person whom it is meant to gratify. Throughout the East, gifts are always the mark of honour; obliged, therefore, to submit to this kind of distinction, I transferred my *Tayn* to the subsistence of my little German colony; but although this succour was sufficient to furnish it abundantly, my attendants saw no means of providing for my personal wants. Reduced to bad bread, rice, and mutton, and some lean poultry, we were threatened, in fact, with very indifferent living. I could not conceive that I should want either butter, vegetables, or fish, on the finest soil in the world, and in the neighbourhood of the sea; but I soon understood that celery was cultivated as a rare plant in the Kam's garden; that the Tartars did not know how to make butter; and that the inhabitants of the sea coast were no better mariners than those on the plains, therefore I was obliged to submit. My servants, however,

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at length discovered some spontaneous vegetables, which consoled us a little, and I took measures to get some seeds from Constantinople, and hired a country house, where I established my Germans, to whom I gave some cows; and my new farm very soon supplied me with abundance of every thing. I determined, also, to make my own bread: one of my servants became an excellent baker; and the pleasure of having found out the means of obtaining it, gave an additional relish to our good cheer.

I was waiting for some presents for the Kam, which never arrived, before I had my first audience; but the impatience of Makfoud-Gueray, then on the throne of the Tartars, removed every difficulty. On the day appointed for the delivery of my credential letters, the Master of the Ceremonies waited on me with a detachment of the guard, and some officers appointed to escort me to the Palace. Our cavalcade, half European, half Tartar, drew together a great concourse of people. We alighted

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in the last court, and the Visir, who was waiting for me in the vestibule of the Palace, conducted me into the audience chamber, where we found the Kam seated on the corner of a sofa. A chair was placed opposite to him, where I seated myself, after paying my compliments to the Prince and delivering my credentials. This first ceremony, which installed me in my public capacity in Tartary, was followed by the civilities practised amongst the Turks, and by an invitation from the Kam to visit him frequently. I was then conducted back to my own house in the same order. The following days were taken up in paying the necessary ministerial visits. I endeavoured also to form such connections as might gratify my desire of becoming acquainted with the government, the manners, and the customs of the Tartars; and the Mufti, a man of abilities, of strict honour, and capable of a strong attachment, was one of those with whom I formed the greatest intimacy, and from whom I derived the most useful information.

After

After attending principally to these objects, I thought it necessary to endeavour, before the winter attacked me in my hut, to secure myself against the inclemency of the weather, and to enlarge and repair it, which was pretty nearly the same thing as to rebuild it. We were now in the month of November, and no time was to be lost. I drew the plan, I collected the materials, and superintended the work, without departing from the method of building pursued by the Tartars; and I got tolerably well lodged before the end of December, at the expence of six thousand livres, (about 250l. sterling.) I shall take this opportunity of describing the structure of the houses in Crimea; but these details, or the architecture of the Tartars, will be of more service to the lovers of œconomy, than to disciples of Vitruvius.

Pillars placed on the points which terminate the angles, and the openings fixed perpendicularly by an architrave which supports the joists, prepares the way for the execution of the upper part of the building,

ing, which is formed in the same manner to receive the roof. The building thus disposed, other pillars which are smaller, at a foot's distance from each other, but perpendicular also, occupy the folds, and are designed to hold together the hazle rods, which give the house the appearance of a basket; pounded earth, and cut straw, are then applied to this sort of hurdle, after which a layer of lime and hair, laid on internally and externally, added to the painting of the pillars, the doors, the plinths, and the windows, give the whole of the building a very pleasing appearance.

I must add, that this manner of building has infinitely more solidity than might be imagined from the description, and is certainly more salutary than that of our peasants houses. I am farther convinced, that gentlemen of estates, who, either from motives of interest or benevolence, are desirous of building houses with the view of increasing and favouring the population of their dependants, would gain in every way by adopting this new plan of
building,

building, in which they would find great œconomy, and enable the inhabitants to make their own repairs, which will certainly appear the most important advantage.

Having now got a tolerable dwelling, and in a very short time, it became necessary for me to look out for furniture. My steward was the upholsterer, and I took upon myself the joiner's work, and the turnery; these occupations, together with my private affairs, and my visits to the Kam, gave me a continual and varied employment, which filled up all my time.

Makfoud-Gueray had admitted me into his private parties, which were composed of Sultan Nouradin, his nephew, a Mirza of the Chirins †, called Kaia-Mirza ‡, who was the husband of a Sultana, cousin-german to the Kam; of the Kadi-Lesker, and
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† Chirin is the name of the most distinguished family amongst them, which composes the principal Nobility of Tartary. We shall see, in the course of these Memoirs, that the established order excludes from this class all the ennobled families.

‡ Kaia, in Tartar language, means Rock.

of some other Mirzas. This Prince used to receive us after the prayer of sun-set, and keep us 'till midnight. More diffident from system than from disposition, Makfoud-Gueray, easily prepossessed, recurred with the same readiness to whatever could restore the tranquillity of his mind, and render every thing agreeable about him. With more knowledge than usually falls to the share of the Orientals, he was fond of literature, and discoursed on it with satisfaction. Sultan Nouradin, brought up in Circassia, spoke but little, and only talked of the Circassians. The Kadi-Lesker, on the contrary, was very loquacious, and talked of every thing; ill informed, but of a lively disposition, he very frequently departed from the gravity of his situation, to enliven our conversations.—Kaia-Mirza furnished all the news of the day; whilst I entertained them with those of Europe, and answered all their troublesome questions. The etiquette of this Court allows very few persons to be seated in the presence of the Sovereign; the Sultans

tans have this privilege by birth, except the children of the Prince, who, from respect, never sit down before their father. This privilege is granted also to the heads of the law, to the Ministers of the Divan, and those of foreign Courts ; but excepting Kaia-Mirza, who was seated in quality of husband of a Sultana, the other courtiers stood at the foot of the sofa, and withdrew at supper time. This repast was served on two round tables, one of which spread before the Kam, was set apart for his Tartar Majesty, who usually eats alone, and never departs from that etiquette but in favour of some Sultan distinguished by his age, or who is himself a Sovereign. The second table, prepared in the same room, is for the persons whom the Kam admits to supper. I eat at this table with the Kadi-Lesker, and Kaia-Mirza. Makfoud Gueray always amused himself with encouraging the little differences of opinion which arose daily between the Judge and me, and in which this Magistrate appeared less anxious about the accuracy of his

his reasoning, than the amusement of his master. Our situations were so different, that it was impossible to dispute his favour by the same means; but I did not neglect those which I thought might please the Prince. I had remarked that he was fond of fire-works, and the ignorance of his artificers was ill calculated to gratify his taste. I got ready the implements, prepared the materials, and instructed my attendants; and when I thought myself capable of fulfilling my object, I asked permission of the Kam to exhibit a fire-work on his birthday. Accustomed as he had been to see nothing but smoaky gerbs, bad crackers, and small rockets, badly filled, and ill directed, the success of my exhibition was complete.

I had foreseen that the Kam, after politely thanking me for the saltpetre I had been burning, would politely complain of the shortness of the entertainment; and I had prepared, by way of answer, some electrical experiments, which I offered to exhibit as a little chamber fire-work, to
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fill up the remainder of the evening. The first effects of this phenomenon excited such astonishment, that I had some difficulty in destroying the opinion of magic I saw arising in their minds, and which was gradually increased by every fresh experiment. The Kam, however, had the air of comprehending me, and was himself desirous of being electrified. I gave him the stroke very moderately, but I handled the courtiers in such a manner as to obtain the Prince's approbation.

The whole town resounded the next day with the prodigies I had performed; and I was obliged, on the following days, to satisfy the curiosity of those who had not been present with the Kam at the first experiments. Several persons successively applied to me to repeat them upon them and their friends, and I sent every body away equally full of amazement. Nothing was talked of but electricity, and the number of the curious continually increased.— I began, however, to be tired of the inconveniencies of this celebrity, and was com-

complaining of it one evening to Mr. Ruffin, who was as tired of it as myself, when we saw upwards of twenty lanthorns appearing in a row. I immediately sent Mr. Ruffin to inquire of this troop the motive of their visit; to whom their spokesmen addressed the following discourse:—"We are, Sir, Circassian Mirzas, hostages with the Kam; we have heard of the miracles performed by your Bey §, at his pleasure; miracles, of which no person before has ever had an idea, since the birth of the Prophet, and which will never be known to man after his death; beseech him to permit us to be witnesses to them, that we may one day testify them in our country; and that Circassia, deprived of this phenomenon, may, at least, be able to record the memory of it in her annals."

The gravity with which Mr. Ruffin delivered this harangue, preserved all its ridicule.

§ Bey;—the title given to persons of distinction, and is equivalent to that of Seigneur, or Lord, and is used also for a Prince; as Bey of Wallachia, Bey of Moldavia.

dicule. I made my new guests mount into the saloon, where ranging them in a semicircle, with all the respect, and all the affectation of mystic devotion, the Circassian orator addressed the same compliment to me which he had done to my interpreter. I listened to his harangue with all the solemnity I was master of, and in my turn, complimented all Circassia; after which, I disposed myself to impress strongly on their minds the remembrance of electricity, whilst Mr. Ruffin, offering them the usual civilities, amused himself with heightening those ideas of the marvellous exploits which had procured me their company.

It is easy to imagine, that in this disposition, I had no difficulty in selecting my victims; each spectator would be electrified in his turn; and these poor creatures, whom I sometimes pitied, gave a laugh of satisfaction, in suffering martyrdom, and I was obliged to give my Circassians some of the rudest shocks, before I had the good fortune to dismiss them fully satisfied; but they were the last whom I electrified, and

I endeavoured to procure myself some less brilliant, but more useful amusement. My uniform, which I always wore, threatened to fall in pieces, and I tried to be my own taylor. I had also the fancy to equip a handsome Arabian horse in the French manner. I could not break him with a Tartar saddle, the shape of it raising the rider too far from the horse. This was no small undertaking, for I had to begin with making the implements. I prepared the saddle-bow, disposed all the parts, and at length completed a saddle of crimson velvet, with housings, and trapping well sorted. I made use of it the first time I rode out with the Kam. This Prince had the condescension to admit me to be of all his parties, and I was happy to give him some idea of our manner of riding.— The Tartars know no other principle of equitation than firmness in the seat, and that firmness is carried even to roughness, so that the suppleness of the motions of my Arabian horse astonished the whole court. The Prince's first Equerry was desirous

firous of trying him, but scarce had he got astride a bare saddle, before he was obliged to recover his equilibrium, by thrusting in his heels. My horse, not accustomed to the manœuvres of such a cavalier, would soon have got rid of him, had not his servants run to his assistance, and prevented the catastrophe.

The Kam invited me also to his parties of hawking and greyhound coursing, which were very frequent. He was attended by five or six hundred horsemen, and in this manner we ranged the neighbouring plains, where the abundance of game, joined to the vanity of the sportsmen, rendered these parties very lively. Makfoud-Gueray was particularly fond of hawking; his birds were perfectly well trained, and he wanted nothing but good dogs to start the game. I had brought one with me from France, of remarkable beauty, but he was so caressed, so spoiled, so wilful, that I never took him out with me, the very circumstance that made them think him of great value. The courtiers spoke of him to the

Prince, who expressed to me his desire of having him, and even reproached me with a sort of affectation for having concealed him. In vain did I assure him that my dog was ill trained, that he would certainly throw himself upon the birds, and that some disagreeable circumstances would happen ; he took all this for an excuse, and I was obliged to give way to his fancy, which he very soon had reason to repent of. I immediately sent for my dog ; he arrived, and began to pay his court very familiarly. There was a basin of water in the middle of the apartment ; *Diamond* washes himself in it, jumps on the sofa to caress me, and taking the laugh of the Kam for a friendly invitation, leaps briskly upon him, overthrowing, as he passes, every thing in his way. In the first moments of favour, it is permitted to err with impunity ; *Diamond*, therefore, given into the care of a page, from that evening he had free quarters, and a grand hawking party was ordered for the next day. Nothing was talked of the whole evening but the talents

talents of the new favourite ; as for my part, I spoke of nothing but his vivacity and forwardness ; every thing about him, however, was found charming, and the Kam was so impatient to see *Diamond* in action, that he gave us the rendezvous for an earlier hour than usual next morning. On arrival, I perceived the hero of the entertainment, led by his page, surrounded by spectators, and not knowing what they were going to do with him ; they were waiting for me, to give him his liberty. I had hardly loosed him before the cavalry put themselves in motion, to open to the right and left of the Kam, near whose person I was. *Diamond*, terrified at first, was only afraid of being crushed. A quail, however, rises before him ; one of the Kam's falcons is flown at the game ; he comes up with and strikes his prey, and continues his flight to some distance, where a falconer, full speed, rides up to take him. *Diamond* also sets off,—a double prey animated his ambition ; and had not they thrown a hammer at him, to make him quit

quit his hold, my prediction would have been accomplished ; but the dog and the falcon being both frightened, took different ways home, and the Kam was let off for the apprehension of losing his bird.

My position with respect to Makfoud-Gueray, and his Ministers, with the manner in which I had succeeded in arranging my new establishment, rendered my stay at Bactchèseray, supportable. I was particularly intimate with Kaia Mirza, of the family of the Chirins, accounted the first nobility of the Tartars : he had married a Princess of the blood, who filled the place of Olou-Kanè, Governess of the Crimea ; and this Sultana, willing to give me a mark of her favour, sent me, by the intendant of her household, a present of a night-shirt, richly embroidered, and every thing belonging to the most complete and magnificent deshabille. The mystery with which this mission was accompanied, might have given me some uneasiness ; in fact, the Princess was seventy years old ; but I was soon made easy on that head. I was informed

formed that presents of this kind are never made by a Sultana, but to one of her relations, and I gave way, without fear, to all my gratitude. The Princess had some interest with Makfoud-Gueray, but her credit would probably have proved insufficient to preserve one of her favourites from the avarice of that Prince.

Yacoub Aga, Governor and Grand Master of the custom-house of Balta, was on the point of falling a victim to it. Dispossessed of his employment, despoiled of his fortune, and chained in prison, he was in danger of losing his head, notwithstanding the zeal of his protectress. It appeared to me very important to endeavour to save, and re-establish this man, with whom France had always great reason to be contented. The Ministers seconded me; the Mufti assisted us with ardour, as well as the Sultana; Yacoub Aga quitted his chains to resume his ancient dignity, and the means of again laying the foundation of his fortune, which the Kam would not restore him. But if this Prince may justly be reproached

proached with this instance of avidity, it must be owned that he vigorously supported good order, without adopting the fanatical and superstitious principles which lead the Turks to deviate so often from it. The slave of a Jew has murdered his master in his vineyard; the complaint is made by the nearest relations. The murderer is apprehended, and, previous to his trial, some zealous Mahometans prevail on him to become a Turk, in hopes of obtaining for him a pardon. The conversion of the criminal was opposed to the sentence of death pronounced by the Kam: it is proper to observe, that by the Tartar law the criminal must perish by the hand of the injured person, or by his heirs. It was objected then, but in vain, that a Turk could not be delivered up to the Jews. "I would deliver up my brother to them," replied the Kam, "if he was guilty; I leave Providence to reward his conversion, if it be sincere; it is my duty to do justice." The intrigues of the devoted Mussulmen succeeded, however, in deferring the execution

tion until Friday afternoon, in order to render that law favourable to the profelyte, which obliges the injured party to execute the sentence in four and twenty hours, and the law compelling the Jews to shut themselves up for their sabbath at sun set. The murderer, however, loaded with chains, was conducted to the butt appropriated to this sort of execution; but a new obstacle presented itself. The Jews must not shed blood; a public crier is sent through the town to offer a considerable sum to any Jew who will lend his hand, and it was amongst the most wretched of all people that this research was fruitless. This new incident was reported to the tribunal of the Kam, and the bigots expected to derive great advantage from it, but they were deceived in their expectations. Makfoud-Gueray permitted the Jews to execute the criminal according to the law of the old Testament, and the scene terminated by stoning him to death.

The Turkish law, of which I have formerly spoken, that which delivers over the

criminal into the hands of the injured party, is founded on the Coran, which grants to the nearest relation of the deceased, the right of disposing of the murderer's blood. We have seen that in Turkey, the party complaining *assists* at the punishment; the Tartar law, more literal, obliges them to carry it into execution. I shall further observe, that amongst the Turks, where the executioner does not give the blow until the sum offered by the criminal be refused, there are instances where the wife has sold the blood of her husband. In Tartary, on the contrary, the wife, who is to plunge the knife with her own hand into the criminal, never suffers herself to be tempted by any offer; and the law which commits her vengeance to herself, renders her inaccessible to every other sentiment. One of the Prince's officers, with his arm uplifted, carrying a silver axe, precedes the criminal, conducts him to the place of punishment, and assists at the execution.

There

There is no country where crimes are less frequent than in Tartary. The plains, where malefactors might easily escape, afford very few objects of cupidity; and the peninsula of the Crimea, where there are more temptations, being daily shut, leaves no hope of escaping from punishment. For this reason no precautions are taken for the security of the capital, in which there are no guards but those of the sovereign. The Palace he inhabits, formerly built entirely in the Chinese, but repaired in the Turkish fashion, still retains some of the beauties of its former stile of construction. It is placed at one of the extremities of the town, and is surrounded by very high rocks, from whence flows an abundance of streams, which are conveyed into the kiosks and gardens in a most delightful manner. This situation, however, which looks on nothing but barren rocks, obliges the Kam very frequently to walk upon the heights, to enjoy the beauties of the most variegated prospect.

I have

I have said that the plains of the No-guais, which extend along the continent of the Crimea, are nearly on a level with the sea, and that the isthmus forms another level plain, thirty or forty feet higher. This upper plain occupies the northern half of the peninsula, and afterwards the face of the country thick-set with rocks, and full of mountains running from west to east, terminate in the pyramid of *Tchadir-Dagué*, the hill of the tent. This mountain, which is too near the sea for its base to add much to its elevation in the atmosphere, can only be classed amongst the mountains of the second order; but if we cast an eye on the map of our hemisphere, it is impossible not to perceive that *Tchadir-Dagué* forms a part of that chain which connects the Alps with Mount Caucasus. In fact, we see that the branch of the Ap-penines which crosses Europe from west to east, separating Germany from Italy, Poland from Hungary, and Wallachia from ancient Thrace, after plunging into the Black Sea, re-appears in the same direction,

on

On the southern part of the Crimea, scarcely leaving a passage for the communication of the seas of Sabache, and the Pont-Euxine, and continues as far as the Caspian Sea, under the name of Caucasus, once more to re-appear under that of Thibet, and to stretch to the very eastern extremities of Asia.

The continued series of these mountains too, is as evident, and as clearly demonstrated by all the details we have respecting their appearance, their structure, their fossil productions, and the minerals they contain.

The first observation which presents itself in the Crimea, is the uniformity of a bed of rocks which crowns the top of all the mountains on the same level. These rocks, very sharp pointed, and of more or less thickness, offer the most indisputable traces of the operation of the waters; one distinguishes throughout them an exact resemblance to those which are at present exposed to the efforts of the sea, and are also strewn with apparently fossil oysters, but
so

so fastened, that they cannot be procured without loosening them with a chisel. It is observable, likewise, that the living oyster of these fossils, which are of the largest kind, is not known in the seas of the Levant. I shall add, that there are at present no oysters on the northern coast of the Black Sea, and that on the southern part there is only the small kind.

Amongst the fossils adhering to the rocks is found also the sea urchin, the living animal of which is peculiar to the Red Sea. The vallies which furrow that part of the Crimea, contain very great beds of uni-valve fossils, almost all of the genus of the Chinese bonnet. These fossils differ, however, from those we find in the Mediterranean, by a thicker shell, less hollowed, and covered with circular stripes; in some valleys they are in such quantities, as to choke all vegetation; these shells are there mixed with fragments of a soft sandy stone, imprinted with leaves, and branches, the principal bed of which lies in the bottom of the ravines.

The

The level of the beds of rocks which I have ascertained from one mountain to the other, with the level of the sea, proves that they are all equally horizontal. I have always given the most scrupulous attention to my researches into a subject as new, as it is interesting; and I have discovered no exception to this uniformity*.

The map of the upper parts of the Crimea, taken from the level of these beds of rock, would exhibit nothing but an archipelago, a heap of islands, more or less elevated, at a small distance from each other, and always to the west of Caucasus, but very distant from the lands, which at that epocha might form the continent towards the

* When human knowledge shall have penetrated into the principles of the revolutions of the globe, the observations I now report of the immutability of the soil of the Crimea, will become more important: it will prove that the causes of the great convulsion have had no effect on that peninsula. Earthquakes, which are scarcely known there, can never have been central, the summit of the rocks is still covered with a vegetable earth, and the highest mountains shew no marks of craters, nor the least vestiges of lava.

the north ; and it is only towards the Little Don, that the earth begins to rise to the same level.

Such researches into primitive geography, by assisting the progress of human knowledge, might throw a new light on a subject which has long been occupied by the spirit of system. The philosophers who are curious to know the original aspect of the globe, may discover it by following the level of those features which are every where the most distinctly marked. The loftiest mountains will present to them levels which had been first abandoned by the waters ; but, limited in these Memoirs to the simple narrative of the present appearance of the countries I have passed through, and of the character of their inhabitants, I shall only add to what I have said on this subject, the answer of a Tartar. I was walking with this man in one of the defiles, adjoining that in which Baçtchéferay is situated. I observed there an iron ring, placed on the top of an inaccessible rock, which crowned and terminated the
bottom

bottom of this defile. I asked my Tartar the use of this ring: "I imagine," replied he coolly, "that it served formerly to fasten vessels to, when the sea, bathing these rocks, formed a harbour in this valley." I was confounded with this answer, and could not help admiring the genius which, with no other guide than the daily comparison of the banks of the sea, in their present state, with the antient traces of its waters remaining on the mountains, could elevate itself to the solution of the problem. The ancient Greeks, and ancient Romans too, had opportunities of admiring the most sublime *moral* philosophy of the Scythians; but the vast idea of the revolutions of our globe is more astonishing, undoubtedly, in a Tartar, and his unaffected simplicity still further increased my admiration. We may judge from him that his countrymen interest themselves very little in the monuments which attest the different ages of nature. They neglect also to avail themselves of her labours, by working the mines of Tchadir-Dagué. The Genoese,
better

better informed, and certainly more covetous, had begun to extract the gold, which is found in abundance in that mountain. It may also be presumed that the Kam would not have remained insensible to the acquisition of these riches, had not the fear of exciting the avidity of the Porte led him to prefer inactivity to a labour, of which that government would have reaped the benefit. Nor was the danger of seeing these riches carried to Constantinople, the only one to which the Kam of the Tartars would have been exposed, in working this gold mine; by necessarily introducing persons employed in the mint to direct the works, he must have introduced the scourge of prohibition into the Crimea, and the Tartar sovereigns humanely sacrifice their interest in this particular, to the public tranquillity. There is certainly some glory in being poor at this price.

Accustomed to an existence, the pleasures of which arise more from the richness of the soil, than from that pride which imprisons itself under gilded roofs, the Tar-

tars

tars make an article of luxury of the very air they breathe; and this first want of all beings is fully gratified by the beauty of the climate.

The meteors which one observes in the sky of the Crimea, at all seasons, and the whiteness of the *Aurora Borealis*, which are pretty frequent there, furnish certain proofs of the purity of the atmosphere. We may attribute this *ethereal* quality, if I may be allowed the expression, to the immense dry plains to the northward of this country, and to the neighbourhood of Mount Caucasus, whose summits attract, and absorb all the vapours arising to the westward.

Regular seasons, gradually succeeding each other, unite with the excellence of the soil, to favour the most luxuriant vegetation. It consists of a black virgin mould, mixed with sand, the bed of which extends from Leopold in the Red Russia, to this peninsula. The heat of the sun brings to perfection all sorts of grain with very little labour on the part of the cultivator.

vator. This labour consists, in fact, in furrowing the land intended to be sown. Melon seeds and aubergine †, peas and beans, mixed together in a bag, are scattered by a man following the plough; they do not take the pains to cover the seeds, but leave that to be done by the rains, and the field is quitted until the time of the different crops, when they have nothing left to do but to clear them from the confusion occasioned by this manner of sowing.

Amongst the number of spontaneous productions which cover the surface of the Crimea, asparagus, walnuts, and filberts, are remarkable from their size. There is likewise an astonishing quantity of flowers, whole fields, covered with tulips of the small species, form, from the variety of their colours, the most pleasing picture.

The manner in which the vine is cultivated in the Crimea, is not calculated to improve the quality of the grape. One sees, with regret, that the most beautiful

† Very common in France; resembling, if not the same as our egg plant, produced in hot houses, &c.

exposures in the world cannot prevail on the inhabitants to prefer those situations to the valleys ; the vines are planted there in holes of eight or ten feet diameter, by four or five feet deep. The branches of the vine are supported on the edges of these holes, covering the whole orifice with the leaves, under which hang the grapes ; deprived by this means of the sun, but abundantly nourished by a soil always moist, and sometimes drowned with the rain waters which collect there. They strip off the leaves a month before the vintage, after which they cut the vines close to the ground ; and the vineyard, under water during the winter by the overflowing of the rivulets, is covered with all sorts of aquatic birds.

The most remarkable of the different species of these birds which abound in the Crimea, is a sort of wild goose, longer legged than ours, with feathers of a lively brick colour. The Tartars pretend that the flesh of this animal is very dangerous ;

I was

I was desirous, however, of tasting it, and found no bad effects from the experiment.

There is no country where there are more quails than in the Crimea; and these birds spread over the whole country during the summer, flock together at the approach of autumn, to cross over to the southern shore of the Black Sea, from whence they pass into a warmer climate. The order of their emigration is invariable. Towards the end of August, the quails which are collected together in the Crimea, make choice of one of those serene days, when the northerly wind blowing at sunset, promises a fine night; they collect on the beach, begin their flight together, at six or seven in the evening, and complete their passage of fifty leagues by day-break, where the nets spread on the opposite shore, and the sportsmen lying in wait, ensnare the emigrants.

The vast plenty of waters in the Crimea, do not form there any remarkable river, and the proximity of the shore attracts every rivulet to the sea. The greatest heats
never

never dry up the springs, and the inhabitants find in every hollow the most delicious water, which by running alternately through agreeable meadows, and falling amongst rocks, is beautifully limpid. The Italian poplar is fond of growing near it; and the quantity of those trees might make them to be looked upon as natives of the Crimea, did not the establishments of the Genoese point out from whence they have been transplanted.

That nation, which long governed by its industry, had extended its commerce and its conquests even into the Tauric Chersonesus, where the descendants of the famous Gengis-Kan were compelled to submit to the oppression of these merchants, until the reign of Mahomet the Second, who only freed the Tartars from the tyranny of the Genoese, to substitute as heavy, perhaps, but certainly not so humiliating a yoke.

The traveller still sees in the Crimea, the remains of those chains which bound the Tartars, and kept them in subjection

to

to the Genoese. These monuments of their tyranny, attest at once the fear and uneasiness of the tyrants. It is only on the steepest rocks that we find the traces of their ancient habitations. The rock itself, which serves as a foundation for these strong castles, is hollowed all round, and still exhibits the plan of their dwellings. Their stables are still to be seen, and the mangers cut out of the rock. The greatest part of these hollow ways communicate with each other, and some of them with the upper town, by subterraneous passages, the avenues to which are still open. I found in the middle of a pretty large hall, a square basin of ten feet diameter, by seven feet deep, filled at this day with human bones. I shall hazard no conjecture on this circumstance, but content myself with relating what may still be seen, since these ruins are only at two leagues distance from Baſtchéſeray. Several of these retreats, cut out of the rock, are to be seen in the Crimea, and always on mountains difficult of access; it may be presumed, that they
served

ferred as an asylum for the flocks of the Genoese, which fed on the plains in the day time, and were shut up by them during the night.

The steepest places have been at all times the asylum of liberty, or the haunt of tyrants; rocks are, in fact, the situations the most capable of dissipating the fears which assail alike the oppressor and oppressed.

It is probable that the town of Caffa, which is still the centre of the commerce of the Crimea, had the same pre-eminence in the time of the Genoese; but on considering the beauty of the Port of *Baluklava*, and some ruins of ancient buildings, one is led to imagine that they had not neglected to make use of it. This harbour is situated on the most southerly part of the Crimea; the two promontories which form the entrance, are the first land which appears to the north-east of the Thracian Bosphorus. This port, besides its proximity, extent, and security, is in the neighbourhood of forests, which might furnish

ship timber. At present totally abandoned, the port of *Baluk-lava* preserves nothing but the traces of its ancient importance, as we have already seen, that the tombs still visible at Krim, the ancient capital of the peninsula, are the only marks of a town which was formerly of some consideration.

There are few towns in the Crimea worthy of being mentioned. *Guez-levé* merits however to be spoken of, on account of its harbour, on the western side of the peninsula, and *Acmedchid*, the residence of the Calga Sultan †.

After running over the principal objects connected with the natural history of the Crimea, let us cast a more attentive eye on the political situation of the Tartars, and on the principles of their government.

The countries comprized under the name of Little Tartary, are the peninsula of Crimea, the Cuban, a part of Circassia, and all that territory which separates the Russian empire from the Black Sea. This

† We shall see further what this dignity is.

zone, from Moldavia to near Taganrog, situated between the 46th and 44th degrees of latitude, is 30 or 40 leagues broad, by near 200 long. It contains from East to west, the Yetitche Koulé, the Dgamboulouk, the Yedeffan, and Bafs-Arabia. The latter province, called at present the Boudjak, is inhabited by Tartars settled in villages, as well as those of the peninsula, but the inhabitants of the three other provinces have only tents made of felt, which they remove at pleasure.

These people called Noguais, and who are supposed to be wandering tribes, are settled however in the vallies which intersect the plains they inhabit from North to South; and their tents ranged along them in one line, form a kind of villages from 30 to 35 leagues in length, which distinguish the different hords.

It is natural to imagine that the rural and frugal way of life of this pastoral people, is more favourable to population than amongst polished nations, where multiplied wants, and excess of luxury, radi-

cally destroy it. It is observed, in fact, that the population is already less considerable, even under the roofs of the Crimea, and the Boudjak, than under the tents of the Noguais; but there is no other method of computing the number of the people than by the appearance of the military force the Kam is able to bring into the field. We shall see this Prince very soon levy three armies at the same time; that which he commands in person of 100,000 men, that of his Calga of 60,000, and that of his Nouradin of 40,000. He might have raised double the number, without prejudice to the necessary labour; and if we consider the number of soldiers, and the surface of the Tartarian states, we may form some comparison between their population and ours.

The most certain method of estimating the power of these nations, is by seeing them act in armies. But it is well to begin by attending to the nature of their forces, and the means of collecting them.— These means are connected with the government,

vernment, and the origin of all government, forms an essential part of history.

That of the Tartars, in particular, presents the image of a vast ocean, with the extent of which we never can become acquainted, but by following the course of the surrounding coasts. The annals of this people are to be found no where but amongst such nations as have had the misfortune to be near them, and which they have successively over-run. These very nations, however, who have written very little, or not at all, on the subject, leave scarcely any materials for history beyond conjecture; but such as they are, on comparing them with the annals of all people, we are compelled to admit, that the Tartars, above other nations, have the best ascertained claims to antiquity.

Without pretending to a profound inquiry into the great question which occupies the men of letters at this day, that of the true situation of the island of the Atlantes, I shall only observe, on the platform of Tartary, which prolongs to
the

the north the chain of mountains of Caucasus and Thibet. As for the Isle of Corea, judging from the course of the waters, which from the centre of Asia empty themselves to the southward and northward of that part of the globe, it forms the most elevated portion of those lands which separate the seas of India from Kamstchatka. This observation alone seems to render it certain, that this country, possessed at present by the Tartars, must have been the first discovered land in Asia, and the earliest inhabited; the source of that population which first sent forth those swarms which, constantly driven back by the wall of China, and the defiles of Thibet and of Caucasus, fell upon the northern parts of Asia, and overflowed our Europe, under the name of Goths, Ostrogoths, and Visigoths.

Besides these geographical observations, this hypothesis is still further supported by the Tartar tradition, communicated to me by Krim-Gueray. We shall soon see this Prince on the throne, and have reason

sen to admire his courage, his information, his philosophy, and death.

It would be difficult to extract any thing sure and well ascertained, from the annals of the Tartars, prior to Jengis-Kam ; but we know that this Prince, elected Grand Kam, by the Kams of the different tribes, was only chosen to be the King of Kings, because he was the most powerful amongst them. We know, likewise, that at this period Jengis-Kam conceived and carried into execution the projects of invasion on which he founded the greatest empire recorded in history. The emigrations subsequent to this conqueror, and which have covered the conquered countries, prove also the degree of population necessary to supply these overflowings ; and all these circumstances combined, carry back the origin of this family to the remotest periods of time.

An uninterrupted succession has continued to our days ; this dynasty of Princes of the Jengis-Kam race, as well as the feudal government, which still prevails in Tartary, amongst them, are still to be found the first laws by which *we* were governed—

verned—the same prejudices which prevailed amongst us ; and if we combine these resemblances with the emigrators of this ancient people towards the north, and those of the north towards us, we shall have no difficulty, perhaps, in acknowledging the source of our most ancient customs.

After the Sovereign family, the next in rank are the families of Chirin, of Manfour, of Sedjoud, of Argifin, and of Baroun. The family of Jengis-Kam furnish the Lords Paramount, and the five others the five great vassals of the empire. Those who are called Beys, are always represented by the eldest of each family ; and this is invariable. These ancient Mirzas, whose stock is placed by the Tartar annals amongst the companions of Jengis-Kam, form, in the above gradation, the great nobility of the country : they can never be confounded with the ennobled families. The latter, united under the denomination of a *Mirza Capikouly*, that is to say, Mirza, slave of the Prince, have nevertheless, a Bey who represents them,

them, and the rights of the great vassalage, that of sitting in the assembly of the states. Amongst the Mirzas *Capikouly*, the family of Koudalak, distinguished by the ancient date of its creation, enjoys the exclusive right of furnishing from the eldest of its members, the representatives of all the ennobled families; and these six Beys, joined to the Lord Paramount, form the Senate, the Select Court, the Supreme power of the Tartars.

These assemblies are never convoked but on extraordinary occasions, to prevent the Kam, who has the privilege of calling together the grand vassals, from taking advantage of their absence, to extend his authority beyond the bounds of the feudal system: the Bey of the Chirins constantly represents the other Beys; and this Chief of the Tartar nobility, as well as the Sovereign, has his Calga, his Nouradin, his Ministers, and the right of calling together the assembly of the Beys, should this convocation, neglected by the Kam, become necessary to counteract even his designs.

The post of Calga of the Chirins, is always held by the eldest of the family, after the Bey; this chief, therefore, has always his successor near him, and this counterpoise of the Sovereign's power is always in action.

The same constitution which combines all its forces against the attempts of despotism, is equally jealous of the security and stability of the lawful power of the Sovereign. The great Tartar vassals appear, in fact, to have no other connection with the government, than as columns to the edifice which they support, without being able to shake it. There is no example amongst this people of such trouble as agitated France, during the whole period of the existence of the feudal system. The Tartar government, still in its purity, leaves no opening for ambition. In France men were born great vassals, in Tartary they have hardly time to be so.

It is probable that the same order was formerly established in the Sovereign's family, and that the Kam of the Tartars was
always

always the eldest member of that family ; but whatever was the order of succession before the arrival of the Genoese in the Crimea, at that æra, we plainly discover tyranny countenancing intrigues ; three Kams elected at a time, and Mingli-Gueray, who had the best founded pretensions, was kept a prisoner at Mancoup.

Mahomet the Second had just completed the conquest of Constantinople, and expelled the Genoese : he then flew to drive them likewise from the Crimea, and to rescue Mingli-Gueray from their hands ; but he did not re-establish him on the throne, before he concluded a treaty with that Prince, which gave to the Porte his nomination, and that of his successors. A great part of Romelia was given as a dependency to the Jengis-Kam Princes, rich successions were accepted as a price for the liberty of the Tartar Sultans, and the guaranty of their submission ; and each Prince of the reigning family, from that instant, formed hopes of attaining the throne by his intrigues at Constantinople.

Notwith-

Notwithstanding the precaution of Mahomet the Second, conqueror of the Genoese in Tartary, to insure the execution of his treaty with Mingli-Gueray, it is certain that the contracted parties could not really stipulate any thing, but in virtue of their respective rights; that those of the Tartar Republic could not be compromised, and that the deposing of the Lord Paramount of the Tartars, ascribed to the Grand Signior, could convey no legal prejudice to the independence of the nation. The *jus publicum*, therefore, the public right of the Tartars, has been overlooked, or mistaken by other powers, when they have taken upon them to pronounce *the independence of this nation*. To declare a nation free, which has never ceased to be so, is the first act of its subjection.

The political methods adopted in the Crimea to maintain a perfect equilibrium between the great vassals and the Paramount, rendered it necessary that the distribution of lands should be such as to ensure

sure

sure its duration. But this partition itself must partake of the different modes of living of the inhabitants.

The lands of the Crimea, and of Bafs-Arabia, are divided into noble fields, royal domains, and lands held by foccage. The first, which are all hereditary, do not hold even of the crown, and pay no quit rent. Those of the domain are partly annexed to certain offices by way of salary; the surplus is distributed by the Sovereign to whom he thinks proper. The *droit d'aubaine*, or *escheat*, established in the Crimea in default of heirs in the seventh degree, gives the Kam that privilege over every thing which respects the property of the nobles; and each Minga possesses the same right over the property of the inferior classes, in the whole extent of his fief. It is on this principle, also, that the annual poll tax is collected from all the Christian and Jew vassals; and this latter object gives the utmost extent of the most absolute property to the estates of the nobility of Tartary.

It

It is only on the assembling of the states, likewise, that the Mirzas, possessors of fiefs, are bound to military service; but I shall treat of this article when I come to the circumstances which bring all these details into action.

These distinctions of territorial property are not known amongst the Noguais; and this pastoral people, occupied entirely with their flocks, are left in the full enjoyment of their plains, knowing no other boundaries than those traced out between the neighbouring hords.

But if the Noguais Mirzas partake with their vassals of the community of the soil, if they even affix a sort of disgrace to agriculture, they are not on that account less powerful. Retired during the winter in the vallies, occupied by the hords, each of them collects in his aoul †, the tribute which is due to him, in cattle and provision; and when the sowing season comes, he goes into the plain with his husbandmen,

† Aoul; part of a hord, which comprehends the vassals holding under the same noble.

men, fixes on the spot for cultivation, and divides it amongst the vassals.

By thus changing their tillage, the Noguais unite excellent pasturage with the most plentiful crops, from lands which are never exhausted.

The right of *Corvée*, or binddags, which having less connection, doubtless, with the feudal system, than with the luxury of the great vassals and Lords of fiefs, prevails likewise in the Crimea, is unknown to the Noguais; but they pay a tenth to the Governor of the province.

The Sultans, who are generally invested with these governments, reside there under the title of *Seraskers*, and command as Viceroys. But the first dignity of the empire is *Calga*, always conferred by the Kam on one of the Princes of his house, in whom he places the most confidence. His residence is at Ackméhid, a town situated at four leagues from Bactchéseray, where he enjoys all the decorum of the sovereignty. His Ministers carry his orders into execution, and his jurisdiction extends very near to Cafa.

The

The dignity of Calga, formerly destined for the presumptive heir, still preserves the privilege of holding the reigns of government in case of the Sultan's death, and until the arrival of his successor. He commands in chief the Tartar armies, when the Kam does not himself take the field; and he inherits, as Lord Paramount, the property of all the Mirzas who die within his dependencies, without heirs of the seventh degree of affinity.

The post of *Novradin*, the second dignity of the kingdom, is held also by a Sultan, who has likewise the right of having Ministers; but these, as well as their master, are without any active functions. This little Court, which has no other residence than Baçtchéferay, is confounded with that of the Kam; should some event, however, occasion troops to be sent into the field, the command of which is entrusted to the Novradin, his authority, as well as that of his Ministers, acquires from that moment all the activity of the sovereign power.

The

The third dignity of the kingdom, held by a Sultan under the title of Or-Bey, Prince of Orcapi, has sometimes been conferred on *Chirin-Mirzas*, who had espoused Princesses of the blood royal. These nobles, who disdain the first places in the Ministry, and will only accept of those destined for the Sultans, have been allowed also to hold exterior governments; but these governments of the frontiers are generally possessed by the sons or nephews of the reigning Prince. They are Generals of the troops of their particular provinces; and when those of Boud-jak, Yedefan, and the Cuban, are called out, they are always commanded by the Sultan Seraskers, even after a junction with the forces under the Kam, the Calga, or the Nouradin.

The hord of the Dgamboylouk is governed only by a *Cuiamakan*, or Lieutenant of the King; he performs, therefore, the functions of Serasker, and conducts the troops to the army, and then resigns his command to the commander in chief, to return to his government, and to have an eye
to

to the security of the plains, which are situated before the isthmus of the Crimea.

Besides these principal employments, the revenues of which arise from certain duties collected in the provinces, there are two *female* dignities. That of *Ala-Bey*, which the Sultan commonly bestows on his mother or one of his wives; and that of *Ouloukany*, conferred on the eldest of his sisters or daughters. Several villages are under the dependencies of these Princesses, who take cognizance of the differences between their subjects, and distribute justice through their intendants, who sit for that purpose at the gate of the Seraglio, the nearest to the harem.

I shall enter into no details concerning the Mufti, the Visir, and the other Ministers, whose offices are analagous to their corresponding situations in Turkey, with this difference, that the principles and customs of the feudal government moderate their exercise in this country.

The revenues of the Kam scarcely amount to 600,000 livres, (about 31,000l. sterling)

sterling) for the support of his household ; but if this moderate income restricts the liberality of the Prince, it does not prevent him from being generous. A number of Mirzas live entirely at his expence, until the *droit d'aubaine*, or escheat I have spoken of, furnishes him the means of getting rid of them, by granting them some part of his domain.

Besides, the raising of his troops puts him to no expence. All the lands are held by military service, nor does the Sovereign support any expences of justice, which is gratuitously distributed throughout the whole of his extent of government, as well as by the particular jurisdictions in their respective districts ; appeals lie from these subordinate judicatures to the tribunal of the Paramount.

The most complete education in Tartary, extends no farther than to the knowledge of reading and writing ; but if the instruction of the Mingas be neglected, they are distinguished by an easy politeness resulting from the habit of familiarity, in
which

which they accustomed to live with their Princes, which never deviate into disrespect.

Bactchéferay, nevertheless, contains a very valuable historical journal, undertaken by the ancestors of a family who have always preserved, and carefully continued it: This manuscript, begun by its author, by collecting the most ancient traditions, contains all the successive facts down to the present day. The event of my mission into Tartary, occasioned the person who was continuing the journal, to apply to me for some information by which means I discovered it. I made a fruitless attempt to obtain such an acquisition; ten thousand crowns (£ 1250 sterling) could not tempt him, and circumstances did not allow me time to procure extracts from it.

The gazettes have said enough of the troubles which in our time have distracted Poland, and of the discussions between the Porte and Russia. Makfoud-Guéray found himself in the very centre of this conflagration, and compelled to play a considerable

rable part in it; he trembled for the consequences to himself, saw his successor in Krim-Gueray, and was not deceived in any of his conjectures.

The affair of Balta, however, determined the Grand Signior to display the standard of Mahomet. The Russian Minister was sent to the Seven Towers; and Krim-Gueray, replaced on the throne of the Tartars, was called to Constantinople, to concert with his Highness the first military operations. This news reached Bactchéferay with the intelligence of the deposing of Makfoud. The same messenger brought orders for the new Kam to instal a *Caïmakon* †, and for fixing the general rendezvous at Kaouchan, in Bafs-Arabia. I hastened to go there, and was preparing to meet Krim-Gueray at the Danube, when I received a messenger from him, dispensing with that formality, limiting the ceremonial to my accompanying him on his entry, assuring me of his favour,

† This title, which signifies "holding place," answers to that of Regent.

and

and desiring me to prepare a supper for him on the day of his arrival.

This opening appeared to me very flattering; but the supper would have embarrassed me, had not the courier who conveyed the message given me the necessary hints. He was his confidential man.—“Our master loves fish,” says he, “he knows that your cook dresses it very well; his own puts nothing but water in the fauces.” This was enough for me to discover the Prince’s taste, and I gave orders for the best fish of the Neister to be drowned in excellent wine.

The Kam was to make his entry the next day. I mounted my horse, and met him at two leagues distance from the town. He was attended by a numerous cavalcade, and the reception he gave me, corresponded with the testimonial of his favour which preceded him.

Krim-Gueray, about sixty years of age, joined to an advantageous size, a noble carriage, easy manners, a majestic countenance, a lively look, and the happy talent
of

of assuming at pleasure the appearance of gentle affability, or of a commanding severity. The circumstance of the war brought in his train a great number of Sultans, several of whom were his children. His second son was particularly pointed out to me as a young man whose youthful courage was burning to distinguish itself, and who, from the habitual exercise of his strength, was easily able to bend two bows at a time. He had pursued this exercise from his infancy; and when this Prince was hardly nine years old, his father, wishing to pique his vanity, said to him, with a contemptuous air, that "a distaff suited better a poltroon like him." "Poltroon!" replied the child, turning pale, "I fear nobody,—not even you!" letting fly an arrow, which fortunately struck only a basket of wooden ware, into which the iron tip of the arrow went two fingers deep. As the greatest mildness, as well as the general conduct of the child, previous to this fit of passion, gave proofs of the strongest filial respect, such violence

can

can only be attributed, in this instance, to an excessive sensibility on the point of honour.

Every thing necessary was prepared at the gate of the town for the public entry and installation of the Kam, where he dismounted for a moment, to put himself in order, under a tent made ready for the purpose. Dressed in a cap loaded with two aigrets, enriched with diamonds, his bow and quiver slung across his body, preceded by his guard, and several led horses, whose head-stalls were ornamented with tufts of feathers, followed by the standard of the Prophet, and accompanied by all his court, this Prince repaired to his palace, where he received in the hall of the Divan, seated on his throne, the homage of all the grandees.

This ceremony employed us till the hour of the supper I had prepared for him, and which my cook was permitted to serve up. The Prince's cooks, apprized of this rivalry, endeavoured also to distinguish themselves, but they could not contend
against

against the wine fauces. They succeeded no better in their made dishes; and the superiority of the French kitchen procured me the advantage of daily furnishing a dozen of articles at all the Prince's entertainments.

Krim-Gueray did not confine his taste to good cheer, every pleasure had its charms for him. A numerous orchestra, a troop of comedians and buffoons, whom he had also in his pay, by varying his amusements, filled up all his evenings, and relieved him from the fatigues of political affairs, and preparations for war, with which the day was taken up.

The activity of this Prince, for whom nothing was too arduous, made him require also a great share of it from others, and I may venture to say that I had the good fortune to satisfy him. I had the honour of his confidence, was admitted to his parties of pleasure, and I amused myself greatly with the curious and varied picture of his court.

Kaouchan was become the centre of Tartary; all orders were issued from thence; people flocked there from all parts; and the croud of his courtiers augmented every day. The new Ministers, whom I had known in the Crimea, and who perceived the particular favour with which I was honoured by the Kam, made choice of me to obtain from their master a favour they would not themselves have presumed to solicit. The experience of his former reign, had made them feel that it was of the last importance to keep him from a first act of severity, which once committed, however repugnant at first to his disposition, no person could tell where his cruelty would stop. An unhappy Tartar having acted contrary to too severe an ordinance, was condemned by the Kam to suffer death; preparations were making for conducting the wretch to the place of punishment, at the moment of my arrival at the palace; several Sultans immediately got round me, explained the circumstance, and desired me to preserve the Tartars
from

from the consequences of this execution. I entered into the apartment of Krim-Gueray, whom I found still agitated with the efforts it had cost him to order the execution. I approached him, and inclining myself to kiss his hand, which I had never before done, I held it, notwithstanding the attempt he made to withdraw it. "What would you have?" said he, with a look of severity.—"The pardon of the criminal," answered I. "What concern can you have," replied he, "in this wretch's fate?"—"None," added I; "a man who has disobeyed you can inspire me with none; it is only for you, Sire, that I am concerned; you would soon become cruel, were you, but for a moment, too severe; and you have no reason to cease being good, to be constantly feared and respected." He smiled, and abandoning me his hand, I kissed it; and flew, by his desire, to announce the pardon he had granted. The joy produced by this circumstance was continued by a new Turkish Comedy, of a tolerably burlesque kind. Krim-Gueray, during the representation, asked me many

questions about Moliere's plays, which he had heard spoken of. What I told him of the dramatic laws, and of the decency observed on our theatres, gave him a disgust for the farces with which the Turks are still obliged to be satisfied. He perceived of himself, that the *Tartuffe* was preferable to *Pourcaugnac*; but he could not perceive how such a character as the *Bourgeois Gentilhomme* could exist in a society where the difference of rank is so perfectly understood, and so invariably established; and I rather chose to let him remain in ignorance, and imagine the poet was in the wrong, than to undertake his justification, by exposing the history of our irregularities. "But," added he, "if it be impossible to carry on the deception respecting *birth*, a man may easily impose upon the world by his character. Every country has its *Tartuffes*; (hypocrites) Tartary has hers;—and you will oblige me by getting this piece translated *.

Whilst

* Mr. Rufin, Secretary Interpreter of the King at Versailles, undertook this work. His understanding would

Whilst our imagination was occupied by these peaceful projects, an Envoy from the Confederates of Poland arrived at Kaouchan, to concert with the Kam the opening of the campaign. This Prince had promised the Grand Signior to begin by an incursion into New Servia: the Polish Ukraine might suffer by this, and it required, therefore, some preliminary negotiations, to which the powers of the Polish Envoy appeared insufficient. Time pressed, however; and Krim-Gueray was desirous that I should go to the neighbourhood of Kotchim, to treat, in his name, with the principal Confederates, who had taken refuge there. But, flattered as I was with this mark of the Prince's confidence, I did not choose to accept the commission without a Tartar colleague, who was named on the spot, and, as well as myself, was invested with full powers. Our Embassy required more dispatch than luxury, and we slept the very next day
within

would have laid the foundation of good taste amongst the Tartars, had circumstances permitted him to dedicate his time to it.

within the confines of Moldavia. The picture of the most horrid devastation preceded even the war in that country; and the terror of the inhabitants from the incursions alone of some troops had already occasioned this calamity. The desertion of the villages, and the cessation of all husbandry, did not promise that abundance of provisions for the subsistence of the Ottoman army, which they had reason to expect on the borders of the Danube; but these reflections, which I made to my colleague, seemed to interest him infinitely less than the scarcity we were then suffering, until our arrival at Dankowtga †. The Counts Crazinski and Potocki, received us there with all the respect due to the Prince we represented; but the excellent Tokay wine with which they regaled us, gave much more pleasure to the Tartar Ambassador. I had brought him in my carriage; but the inconvenience of an elevated seat, made him desire a Turkish waggon

† A village near Kotchim, whither the Confederates retired after the declaration of war.

waggon for his return, in which he might lie at his ease. I made a point of procuring this satisfaction for a man whose great age, and amiable character, were equally interesting. A waggon followed with our baggage and some servants. We travelled in this manner by a different road, which we were assured was better, although somewhat longer. Very heavy falls of snow, were just succeeded by a pretty severe frost; it was necessary to avail ourselves of this circumstance to pass at Gae-le Pruth, before the swell of the river, which would be occasioned by the slightest thaw. Conducted by a guide, we reached the borders of that river, where the ice was drifting rapidly with the current. I was unacquainted with the depth of it, and was afraid of the experiment; but my conductor encouraged me, by going before my carriage, which led the way. It was drawn by six good horses, and was heavy enough to resist the current, and consequently arrived safe on the opposite side. I hastened to get on shore to look after the

two

two waggons, for which I was uneasy on account of their lightness. They were scarcely a third of the passage before the water began to lift them up. I called to them to stop; but instead of listening to me, the postillions bear up their horses, the two carriages are overfet, and in an instant the river hurries them along pell mell, with the flakes of floating ice. I fly to the postillion of my carriage, to order him to unharness his horses, and go to the assistance of the Tartar Envoy and my people; I find him on the bank expiring with cold; I drag him near an adjoining ditch, where I precipitate him, and cover him with snow. My coachman had already followed the course of the river as far as a mill, where, by his cries, he had drawn the attention of the millers. I arrive there soon after, and find them employed in fishing up, with crooks, those who had been under water. But I search in vain for my ancient colleague, and I was agitated with the utmost violence of despair for his fate, when I heard his voice,
desiring

desiring me to calm myself, whilst he was in the midst of the flakes of ice, and his head barely out of water, peeping through the door of his carriage. He was only stopped by a shallow place, from whence the smallest force would have detached him. I was at length fortunate enough to relieve him, and to collect together all my shipwrecked companions, whom it was still necessary to preserve from the danger of perishing with cold; and, in fact, the frost had so hardened their cloaths, that they could not be stripped until the heat of a good fire had softened the stuff. As soon as I was sure that the care of the millers would be sufficient for them, I ran with my coachman to bring back my postillion, who was recovered by the snow. We saw him, on our arrival, employed in getting out of the hole, into which I had thrown him: the good fire at the mill completely restored him; and I was agreeably surprized, on my return, to find all my baggage fished up. I provided in the best manner I could for the fresh succours

which the circumstances required, and I soon had time to sympathize with my colleague, who having himself run the greatest risque, would speak of nothing but my anxiety on his account. The time necessary for drying their cloaths, putting our waggons in order, and victualling our troop, delayed our departure until the next day. Hitherto I had no reason to praise the route we had taken; and the bad roads we met with would have compleatly disgusted me, had it not been for the hope of very soon arriving at Botouchan. This was described to me as one of the most considerable towns in Moldavia—as a promised land, where I might lay in provisions for the remainder of my journey: it was still day light when we entered the town, but we found it totally deserted, and we had nothing to do but to enter the best-looking house among them, for they were all open, which belonged to a Boyard †, as my conductor told me. This situation afforded us few resources; I prevailed on my
guide,

† Boyard,—a Moldavian gentleman.

guide, however, to go, from me, to ask assistance from the superior of a neighbouring convent. I was waiting with impatience for his return, when a coach with six horses appeared in the court-yard; it was the master of the house. He told me on entering, that informed by my emissary of the honour I had done him in taking up my abode at his house, and hearing of my wants, he was come that no other person might have the satisfaction of providing for them. So polite an opening gave us fresh hopes; and the arrival of provisions proved they were not ill-founded. However consequential my host might appear, I soon perceived that he was not the eagle of the district, and that giving way, from feebleness of character, to every impulse, the last speaker, with him, was always the most persuasive orator; I consequently found no difficulty in demonstrating to him the danger to which the Boyards exposed themselves, by not preventing the inhabitants from quitting their houses, and even by setting them the example. He informed

informed me that all the inhabitants of the town, to the number of seven or eight thousand, terrified at the bad treatment and ravages of some Sipahis, had taken refuge in the convent which I had sent to; that several Boyards, as timid as the multitude, fomented this confusion, without foreseeing the bad consequences. "I was one of the number," added he, "but you have made me change my opinion; come with me and do the same service to my companions." The pleasure of bringing back all these unfortunate people to their habitations, who were threatened by no immediate danger, made me insensible to the risque of attempting this good work. I kept my host all night, and, as my road lay directly before the gate of the monastery, the next morning the cries of the women and children, the tumult of the multitude crouded together, and the picture of the surrounding misery, determined me to follow my Boyard. He assisted me in passing through the croud to a flight of steps, on the top of which his companions received

received me, and introduced me into the hall, where they held their meetings. I had produced such an effect on my host, that still full of my arguments, he was willing to attempt the conversion of his companions; but he was instantly interrupted by the reproaches they showered upon him, which confirmed me in my opinion, that he at least was not the leader of a party. I then thought it time to display my eloquence, but I soon perceived that it would have no great success; my audience was tumultuous, and the tumult left very little interval to the calm I had endeavoured to establish. I next had recourse to more efficacious measures. A panic had occasioned this disorder; a more substantial terror appeared to me the only remaining remedy. I changed my tone, and threatened to complain to the Kam, and to prevail on him to do speedy justice. I apologized for the people who always suffer themselves to be carried away by their leaders; I accused the persons who listened to me, with rebellion, and from that mo-

ment

ment they appeared before me trembling and submissive. "Speak yourself, then, to this frightened croud," says the most turbulent of the Boyards; "you will prevail on them more readily than we can; they will bless you, and so far from accusing us, you will be able to bear witness to our good disposition." This I evaded a long time, and should never have accepted the dangerous part he proposed to me, had I not perceived, on returning to the steps to go away, that it was impossible to get through the croud, who were in violent agitations of anxiety ever since my arrival. "Speak to these unhappy people," repeats the same Boyard to me, advancing to the front of the steps, to serve me, no doubt, as a colleague on this new tribune of harangues. Three Janissaries, armed to the very teeth, were sitting there with all the furliness of Islamism. Their consequential air convinced me they had protectors, and seeing it necessary to put an end to this unpleasant adventure, I thought it best to begin by striking an awe into these bravoës,
in

in order to make an impression on the multitude. “What are you doing here?” said I, in a firm tone of voice; “We are defending these infidels,” answered one of them. “You are defending them,” replied I, “against whom? Who are their enemies? Is it the Grand Signior, or the Kam of the Tartars? In that case you are rebels, and the sole promoters of the sedition. Depend on it I will see you punished.” Before I had finished this short apostrophe, the insolence of my Turks had given place to fear; they had got up to listen to me, and went down the steps exculpating themselves. This first advantage over the auxiliary troops had attracted the attention of the croud, whose silence appeared to me a good omen. I then advanced and raising my voice in Greek, I was upon the point of obtaining all the success of Demosthenes, when a drunken fellow, pushing through the croud, and standing forth as the champion of the adverse party, insolently broke out into the following discourse:—“What do you talk

talk of submission, of tranquillity, of cultivation, whilst we are dying with hunger? Bring us some bread," cried out this madman, "that is what we want."—"Aye, bread," cried out the people in a fury. Perceiving then my whole edifice overturned, and no means of extricating myself from the situation in which I had so imprudently engaged, I took out of my pocket two handfuls of money, that I had of different kinds; "There" cried I, throwing it amongst the croud, "there is bread for you, my good people; return to your habitations, where you will find abundance." The scene quickly changed; one overturned another, to pick up the money; the drunken fellow disappeared amongst the combatants; benedictions succeeded to abuse, and my desire to make my escape was at least equal to the inconsiderate zeal which had brought me amongst them. I received, however, all the honours of war on my retreat, and regained my carriage amidst the applauses of the people, who had opened a passage for me,

me, and next day returned to their habitations. My colleague, who was waiting for me at the gate of the convent, where I had been making my orations, was not without uneasiness for the consequences of my imprudence. We were mutually very happy to meet together, and continued our journey daily, making the most of the provisions with which the Boyard had supplied us. The villages we passed through, comprehended in the general devastation of Moldavia, scarcely afforded us a shelter during the night. Wallachia, also, had been ravaged by some Turks who were on their way to join the Kam; and who did nothing else, in fact, but lay waste their own country. There is no horror which these Turks did not perpetrate; and, like a licentious soldiery, at the sacking of a town, not content with disposing of every thing at their fancy, still aimed at successes the least to be desired. Some Sipahis † carried their atrocity so far, as to insult the person of the Old Rabbi of

† Turkish Cavalry.

the Synagogue, and the Greek Archbishop.

We arrived at length at Kicherow, after a great deal of fatigue, and very wretched living ; but the Governor made us forget every thing, by giving us an excellent supper, and good beds. We had now only twelve leagues farther to go, and I had given orders to be ready early in the morning ; when, on awakening, I was informed it was impossible. After an excessive frost in the evening, there had fallen so great a quantity of snow, that the road across the mountains was become impassable for carriages. I was, however, by no means disposed to submit to the obstacles which seemed to combine in retarding our return to the Kam ; but my old Tartar, less active, and more fatigued than I was, agreed to stay behind to take care of the baggage. I set out on a sledge, and the rapidity of this conveyance soon brought me into the plains of Kaouchan, where I was still to encounter fresh difficulties. The want of snow, added to the most complete thaw,

thaw, was again very near stopping me, had I not met with a cart, which suited me very well ; but it was necessary to make use of some violence with the owner, to force him to conduct me. I was perched up with my Secretary on this carriage, and we were congratulating ourselves on not arriving on foot, when, one of the wheels breaking, we were at last obliged to adopt this measure, which certainly did not add much to the dignity of the return of the Ambassador of the Tartars. I did not wait for my colleague, whose return was delayed for some days, to pay my compliments to the Kam. He was already informed of my curious entry into Kaouchan ; and this Prince no sooner saw me, than he began with bantering me on the modesty of his Plenipotentiary. Every thing I told him respecting Moldavia, seemed to him of so much importance, that he gave orders to remedy this disaster, at the same time that he sent intelligence of it to the Porte. The inquiry into the causes, gave Krim-Gueray an opportunity

opportunity of disclosing to me his opinion of the Grand Visir, *Emin Pacha*. This Turk had begun his career as a shop-keeper's man, and in time attaining the place of writer of the Treasury, he rose rapidly, by his intrigues, to the first offices of the state. His presumption made him aspire at the Visirate, on the declaration of war ; but his ignorance soon gave his master reason to repent of so bad a choice. The Visir's faults could not escape the penetration of the Kam. He explained himself fully on the subject, and was contriving means to preserve the Ottoman empire from the consequences of the folly and misconduct of its Prime Minister.

The incursion into New Servia, concerted at Constantinople, was consented to in the assembly of the grand vassals of Tartary, and orders were expedited into all the provinces, to claim the tribute of military service. *Three* horsemen were demanded from *eight* families, and this was deemed sufficient to compleat the three armies, which were to begin their operations
at

at the same time. That of the Nouradin, of 40,000 men, had orders to march to the lesser Don ; that of the Calga, of 60,000, was to file along the left bank of the Boristhenes, as far as Orela ; and the main army, commanded by the Kam in person, consisting of 100,000 men, was destined to penetrate into New Servia. The troops of Yedeffan and Boudjak, were peculiarly appropriated to this army, the rendezvous general of which was fixed to the neighbourhood of Tombachar.

On communicating to me all these particulars, Krim-Gueray asked me if I intended accompanying him on this expedition ? I answered him, that the honour of residing with him, on the part of the Emperor of France, rendering it my duty not to be distant from his person, took from me the merit of making a choice.—“ That title by which you are placed near me,” replied he, “ is enough to make me keep you. We are going to suffer very severe colds ; your dress is not calculated for them : dress yourself in the Tartar fashion ;
—there

—there is no time to be lost ;—we shall set out in about a week.”—I rose immediately, to go and give orders for my campaign equipage, and was leaving the Prince’s apartment, when the Master of the Ceremonies, followed by two Pages of the Chamber, cloathed me in a superb pelice, made of the neck of the white Lapland wolf, lined with light grey fur. I turned round to thank the Kam for the honour he did me. “ It is a Tartar house I give you,” said he, laughing ; “ I have such a one myself, and I wish us to wear the same uniform.”

The Grand Equerry sent me the same day ten Circassian horses ; advising me, from his master, not to take my Arabian horses into the field, which were neither able to withstand the cold, nor want of forage. But the scantiness of this supply did not inspire me with much confidence ; nor did I think proper to follow the advice which accompanied the present.

Whilst my Tartar dresses were making, I provided myself with three dromedaries,
and

and ordered the necessary tents to be got ready. Their mechanism, as simple, as it is easy, merits description. Continually encamped, it is natural to suppose that the Tartars have carried that art to perfection. All their ideas are concentrated in an object indispensably become their principal want. A nation at all times unacquainted with the luxury of indolence, must necessarily bend all its attention, and all its researches towards that which is connected with bodily exercise, field sports, and warlike apparatus. The Tartars never take repose but in their hours of leisure; they are sedentary, without effeminacy; and their camps are an exact counterpart of their ordinary habitations.

A lattice work, which easily folds and unfolds, forms a small circular wall, four feet and a half high, the two extremities of which, two feet distant from each other, form the entrance of the tent; after which, eighteen or twenty rods, joined at one end, and having a ring of leather at the other, to hook on to the cross-bars of the
lattice

lattice work, form the pent of the dome, and support the covering of felt in the form of a cone, the circumference of whose base covers the walls, which are lined also with the same stuff. This covering is bound with a girth, and a few shovels full of snow, thrown up against the walls, prevents the external air from penetrating, and perfectly consolidates these tents, without either posts or cordage.— Some of them, formed on a more refined plan, by applying a circular hoop at the top of the cone, to which all the rods are fastened, by leaving a passage to the smoke, admits of a fire in the tent, without rendering it more accessible to the intemperance of the severest climate.

The tent of the Kam was of this kind, but so large, that more than sixty persons might conveniently sit round the wood fire. Decorated on the inside with a crimson stuff, it was furnished with a circular carpet, and some cushions. Twelve small tents, placed around that of the Prince, for the use of his officers and pages, were contained

contained within an inclosure of felt, five feet high.

Every thing was prepared for taking the field; the troops of Bas-Arabia, collected at Kichela, under the Sultan Serafker, waited only the signal of departure. It was fixed for the 7th of January, 1769, when Krim-Gueray began his march from Kaouchan, with the troops of his body-guard, the Sultans who had permission to follow him, his Ministers, his great officers, and all the volunteer Mirzas. The first day was taken up in passing the Neister; eight rafts were prepared for this purpose, on which the baggage had been passed over the preceding evening. We found all the tents pitched also on the other side. The first care of the Kam was to enquire where mine were placed; and finding them too distant from him, he gave orders that in future, they should be nearer his own. This Prince had desired me likewise to make no provision, taking upon himself to furnish me during the campaign. The 8th

was employed in passing the Bafs-Arabian troops.

I was that evening in the Kam's tent, with some Sultans of his society, when his Vifir came to announce to him the arrival of a Lefgian Prince, brother to the Sovereign of these Asiatic Tartars. He was invested with the character of Ambassador, to do homage to Krim-Gueray, and to make him an offer of 30,000 men for the present war. I had the honour of assisting at his presentation. A short harangue, majestically delivered, explained the object of his mission; and the answer of the Kam, accepting the homage, but declining the proffered succours, reconciled at once the dignity of the Lord Paramount, and the consequence of the General. The Ambassador then solicited, and obtained permission, to make the campaign. This ceremonial finished, Krim-Gueray invited his distinguished guest to supper.

If we may judge of a nation from an Ambassador of his high rank, and from
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the persons who accompanied him, we must form the most advantageous opinion of the Lefgian Tartars; all of them of a great size, and well proportioned, joined to very noble countenances, an easy carriage, and a military air. I must observe, too, that their arms, such as are in use in Europe, were perfectly well finished; and I shall add, on the testimony of Krim-Gueray himself, that his specimen by no means exaggerates the appearance of the whole body of the Lefgian troops. I have reason to believe also, that being in the vicinity of that nation, he would not have refused their offer, if the coast of the Caspian Sea, inhabited by this people, could have been left defenceless, without endangering the Cabarta.

The colds, which notwithstanding the great falls of snow, had not yet frozen the Boristhenes, very soon became so piercing, as to allow the Tartars collected on the other side to pass over on the ice. We were encamped, and waiting for them near Tombachar. I passed my evenings with

Krim-Gueray, whose ideas, often original, were always noble, and always expressed in the most striking manner. This Prince had essential need of giving a free scope to a philosophical turn of mind, which his courtiers were not calculated to gratify.— On this account our conversations became the only remedy capable of dissipating those hypochondriac affections to which he was subject. He took particular delight in investigating the prejudices which govern different nations; he amused himself by tracing up to their sources these prejudices, to which he attributed every error, and even almost every crime; and in bewailing humanity, to vindicate its infirmities, constituted his philosophical amusement. It is my duty to bear my testimony to the talents and understanding of this Prince: I have several times heard him deliver his opinions on the influence of the climate, on the abuses and advantages of liberty, on the principles of honour, on the laws and maxims of a government, in a manner
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which would have done honour to Montefquieu himself.

A great part of his troops were already assembled, and the effect of the measures taken to victual the army during its stay at Balta, determined the Kam to proceed thither. This town, situated on the confines of Poland, and the suburb of which is in Tartary, became celebrated by the commencement of hostilities; but at that time, totally destitute of inhabitants, presented nothing but the most frightful picture of devastation. The 10,000 Sipahis sent by the Turks to join the Tartars, had reached this place before us; and had not only laid waste Balta, but had burned also all the neighbouring villages. Krim-Gue-ray led on, with regret, such wretched and ill-disciplined troops; he augured ill of their courage, and acted only in deference to the good opinion the Grand Signior had formed of them. This body of cavalry, accustomed to the comforts and inactivity of a long peace, no way formed to fatigue, uninured to the cold, and so ill-clothed

cloathed withal, as not to be able to withstand it, could be of no effectual service whatever. Their bravery was not less suspected by the Kam of the Tartars, than are in general their principles of religion. It is hard to know, in fact, whether the Arnaouts † Timoriots ‡ give the preference to the Coran or the Gospel. I was returning one night from the Kam's, in a Tartar dress, and was crossing the square of Balta, to return to my lodgings; two Sipahis, who were likewise returning home, walked before me, conversing in Greek, cursing their situation, and swearing by the *Holy Crucifix* to revolt on the first opportunity. This excited my curiosity, to make them explain the contradiction; and mending my pace, I came up with them, giving them the Mahometan salute, which they
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† Under this name of Arnaouts, are comprehended all the people of Turkey in Europe, which borders on Sclavonia.

‡ Timoriots are the possessors of fiefs, held under the Sovereign by military service; and the Timors are particularly appropriated to the Sipahis, who compose the Turkish cavalry.

very solemnly returned in the Turkish language; I then addressed them in Greek; —“ Adieu! Brethren, we are no more Turks, one than the other of us.” This adieu was not of a nature to separate us so soon. Enchanted with me, they were only astonished that a Tartar could be a Christian; but not wishing to be known, I framed a story. They confessed to me that they were only Mahometans for the *Timar*; and this was all I wanted to know.

The main army was collected, and the colds became so violent, that they left the field open for the Tartars to make their incursions into New Servia. We had just been informed that the army under the Calga was ascending towards the Samara; that the Nouradin's army was also on its march; and Krim-Gueray, after adapting his plans to this new information, quitted Balta to encamp near Olmar. This town, dependent on Tartary, had been partly burnt by the Sipahis, who completed its destruction even under the eyes of the Sovereign. To this outrage, they added

added the insolence of coming in a body to him, to demand barley for their horses, whilst his own, as well as those of the whole army, were reduced to browse under the snow. The indignation of the Kam was very near breaking forth into cruelty; but he confined himself to menaces, foreseeing that this insolent banditti would soon be reduced by the cold to the most complete submission.

Hitherto I had been supplied by the Prince; we still had fresh provisions, and I had not been in the way of judging of what was left for the remainder of the campaign; but the scarcity at the camp at Olmar, prepared us the first truly military supper. I was waiting for it without anxiety, but not without appetite, when the officers of the kitchen came to lay out the field table. It consisted of a round trencher of Russia leather, of about two feet diameter; with this trencher were two bags, from whence they drew out some excellent biscuit, and smoaked horses ribs, the deliciousness of which was an inexhaustible

haustible topic ; poutargue, cavear †, and raisins, for the dessert, completed the banquet. “ How do you like the Tartar kitchen ? ” says the Kam, laughing ; “ Dreadful for your enemies,” replied I. A page, to whom he whispered a moment after, presented me with the same gold cup made use of by his master. “ Taste my drink, also,” says Krim-Gueray. It was excellent Hungarian wine, which he continued to favour me with the rest of the campaign.

On the following days the army marched towards the *Bog*, which we crossed on the ice, and established our first camp in the Zaporovian Deserts. Notwithstanding the advice that had been given me, I had amongst my horses an Arabian, which was very soon exhausted, and, sinking under the rigour of the climate, fell down to die after the passage of the river. The animal had scarcely any breath remaining, when some Noguais came to beg him of

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† Poutargue and Cavear, are the spawn of fish salted, but variously prepared.

me as a present. "What would you do," said I, "with the dead horse?"—"Nothing," says one of them; "but he is not dead; we shall be in time to kill him, and to regale ourselves on him, particularly as he is a white horse, whose flesh is always the more delicate." I readily granted them this morsel, to satisfy their appetite; but I will not undertake to say that they arrived in time to satisfy the Mussulman law, in all its scrupulous exactness.

The cold, however, became so excessive, and the plains we passed over, which had been lately burnt, afforded so little pasturage, that after crossing *L'Eau Morte**, (the Dead Water) a resolution was taken to follow the course of that river, and to encamp amongst the reeds, which were discovered by our patrols. We had need of them to warm ourselves, and to feed our horses; but the Turkish cavalry, who had flattered themselves, no doubt, with the hopes of making war only with Polish villages, being provided neither with tents

* A River in New Servia.

nor provisions, experienced at once all the severity of cold and hunger : besides their original want of foresight, they had the imprudence, on their arrival at the camp, to come near the fires ; the greatest number of them, in consequence, were maimed, and pity very soon succeeded the general indignation inspired by their robberies and devastation. The Kam, informed that these wretches were begging their subsistence from tent to tent, ordered a certain portion of biscuit to be collected from each Mirza, and distributed amongst them.

A small eminence we fell in with the next day, whilst the army was marching in line of battle, over an extensive plain, gave Krim-Gueray the desire of seeing all his troops from it in one point of view.— He ordered a halt : I followed him upon this rising ground ; and the dark colour of the Tartarian dress, contrasted with the whiteness of the snow, which served as a back-ground to the picture, suffered nothing to escape the eye. We distinguished
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by the standards, the troops of the respective provinces; and I could not help remarking, that without any fixed order, the army had thrown itself naturally into twenty files deep, and in lines tolerably well formed. Each Sultan Serasker, with his little court, formed an advanced groupe before his division. The centre of the line, occupied by the Sovereign, formed of itself a pretty considerable advanced corps, the arrangement of which formed a picture no less military than agreeable. Forty companies, each composed of forty horsemen, four abreast, led the van, in two columns, and formed an avenue, lined on each side with twenty pair of colours.—The Grand Equerry, followed by twelve led horses, and a covered sledge, marched immediately after, and preceded the body of horse which surrounded the Kam. The standard of the Prophet, borne by an Emir, as well as the two pair of green colours which accompany it, came next, and were seen blended with the standard of the Cross, belonging to the troop of Inat Cofacks,

facks,

facks, attached to the Prince's body-guard, which closed the march.

This nation of the Inat Cossacks, which is indebted for its possessions to the circumstances of its emigration from Russia, is established in the Cuban. One Ignatius, more tenacious of his beard than of his liberty, to escape from the razor of Peter the Great, attended by a numerous set of followers, took refuge with the Kam. The Tartars found so much analogy between the word *Inat*, (opinionated) and the word *Ignatius*, that they continue to bear the former appellation, to mark the motive of their emigration. They do not appear to have preserved with the same attention the purity of Christianity, but they faithfully retain the sign of it on their banners, and are still scrupulously attached to the privilege of eating pork. Each of our Inats had a quarter of swine's flesh, by way of portmanteau. The Turks, on these occasions, must find the Prophet's standard in very bad company; and I have often heard them murmuring against that

as a sacrilegious profanation, which the Tartars had the good sense to regard as a matter of perfect indifference.

The rest of the army had not so striking an appearance of foresight. Eight or ten pounds of millet, roasted, pounded, and pressed together, in a little bag of leather, suspended to the saddle of every Noguais, furnished the army with a certain provision for fifty days. The horses alone were left to their own industry to find subsistence; but their present situation differed very little from that to which they had always been accustomed. The little attention their horses require, induces the Tartars also to bring two or three, and often more into the field, so that we had more than three hundred thousand in the army.

The Kam, who was much pleased with what he had seen, asked the Sultans and his Ministers, if in the view they had just taken, they distinguished the bravest man in the army? The silence of the courtiers marked sufficiently their answer. "It is neither you, nor I," resumed Krim-Gueray, jocularly;

jocularly; “we are all armed:—Tott is the only man who dares go to war unarmed; he has not even a knife.” This pleasantry terminated the review; and the army resumed its march to the head of the *Eau Morte*, where we did not arrive till very late, and encamped in an immense open space, lined with reeds.

For several days past, Krim-Gueray had been complaining of a pain in his thumb, where an abscess was formed, and produced a fever; *we had no surgeon with us*: I offered him my services, and the inspection of a set of lances I carried about me, in case of need, determined him to trust me with the operation. I immediately applied my instrument; the incision calmed his pain, the fever disappeared, and the wound, which was healed in a few days, did me much honour, and afforded me particular satisfaction.

From the time of our entering the Zaporovian plains, I never quitted the Kam's tent, where we conversed together till midnight. Wrapped up in his pelice, he
reposed

reposed himself on a cushion, and ordering me to do the same, two pages kept up a good fire, which was very necessary. But if I wanted rest, he was not disposed to let me long enjoy it. This Prince was accustomed to sleep only three hours, and I with difficulty obtained five minutes respite, whilst the coffee was preparing. Thus awakened, without changing my place, I resumed the attitude of the preceding evening.

It was soon perceived that the tent of the Kam was situated on the ice; but nobody discovered until day-break, and at the moment of departure, that all the army had encamped upon a lake, the surface of which, weakened by an infinite number of holes made in it to procure water, threatened to swallow up every thing. No tent was left standing but the Kam's. I was alone with him, when a Polish soldier in my retinue, rushing in like a madman, places himself near the fire, and begins pulling off his cloaths; I ran to him, to turn him out, thinking him either drunk

or mad, and threatened him with the displeasure of the Kam. Nothing moves him; and I could only get a sign from him to let him alone. He had already got off his boots, when Krim-Gueray perceived, by the cracking of his cloaths, that he had fallen into the water, "What are you going to do with the poor fellow?" says he to me, with goodness, "the man who is dying, is he not independent? He knows nobody but the person who can assist him.—Kings are no longer any thing for him!—Let us leave him the tent to himself."—We went out; and I ordered my people to take care of him.

The army, bending its course always to the northward, endeavoured to approach the Great Ingul, of the position of which we had very vague ideas; but by a forced march of twelve leagues, we at length encamped on the banks of that river: a few deserted dwellings, and some hay-stacks around them, were of essential service to us.

We

We were now on the confines of New Servia, and had reached the point from whence our incurfions were to ftrike terror into the wretched inhabitants ; and the council of war was fummoned to felect the troops neceffary for that expedition. Whilft it was afsembled, a meffenger, and fome prifoners made by the patroles, deposed that the Zaporovian Coffacks on our right, menaced by the Calga Sultan, having demanded and obtained a neutrality of this Prince, had refufed to give any affiftance to the Ruffian Governor-General of St. Elizabeth. Thefe particulars made the Kam and his Generals acquainted with their true pofitions. It was refolved in confequence, that a third part of the army, compofed of volunteers, under the orders of a Sultan, and feveral Mirzas, fhould pafs the river at midnight, divide itfelf into feveral columns, and fucceffively fub-dividing, fhould overrun New Servia, burn all the villages and crops which were gathered in, carry off all the inhabitants, and drive off their cattle. It was befides determined, that each
foldier

foldier ſhould have two affociates in that part of the army which remained. By this arrangement, every body was to partake of the booty ; thus, avoiding all difcuſſions about ſhares : and the general intereſt concurred with that of individuals, to make a good choice of the foldiers deſtined for this expedition. The detachment was likewise apprized, that the remainder of the army, paſſing the Ingul the next day, would direct its courſe by ſlow marches towards the frontiers of Poland, ſtreightning St. Elizabeth, to protect the foragers, and wait for their return. The deſtructive talents diſplayed ſo eminently by the Sipahis on former occaſions, ſeemed to diſcover ſo much zeal for deſtroying, that they were invited to take a ſhare in this expedition ; but the cold had reduced them ſo low, that none of them were inclined to march. There were only the Serdenguetchety §, and

§ A ſort of Turkiſh troops, whoſe name ſignifies Forlorn Hope, volunteers determined to conquer or to die ; but neither the one nor the other ever happens to them.

ſome

some other Turks who followed the Sultan.

The detachment under his orders had marched ; and the cold, already less severe than on the preceding evening, was so diminished during the night, that a thaw was to be apprehended. The water even began to cover the ice on the river, and left us no hopes of being able to cross it but by hastening our departure. The army was soon ready ; and extending itself along the Ingul, was put in motion at the same moment. The Tartars, accustomed to such expeditions, separating themselves at a certain distance from each other, crossed it lightly, in a little trot ; but a number of the Sipahis, who trod heavily, from fear, and who were so terrified by the noise of the broken ice, as to stop short, and were swallowed up before our eyes. We halted on the other side of the river, to give time for the troops to form. Some Sipahis, who had escaped from the danger, were deploring the fate of their comrades ; particularly
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one of these poor wretches, whose father had just perished in the river, with a sum considerable enough to have made his fortune. One of the Inat Cossacks immediately proposed to fish up the purse for two sequins; his offer is accepted, and he undresses himself, whilst they point out to him the hole amongst the flakes of ice; he plunges in, and remains long enough under water to make the spectators uneasy; but after a few minutes, he appears with the treasure in his hand. This success encourages one of the comrades of the deceased, who regrets his pistols mounted with silver; the intrepid Cossack undertakes a second trip, satisfies his desire, without disputing about an increase of reward, receives his two sequins, puts on his cloaths, and runs to rejoin his colours.

In execution of the plan resolved on, the army remounted the hill, until it fell in with the track beaten in the snow by the troops of the incursion. We crossed this road near the place, where dividing itself
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into seven branches, it formed a goose's foot, to the left of which we constantly directed our course, taking care never to touch upon any of the subdivisions we successively fell in with, the smallest of which were at length no more than paths traced out by one or two horsemen.

The weather becoming rainy, obliged the army to halt on the banks of the Adjemka, where it passed the night. But this thaw, which at first had made us uneasy, was rapidly succeeded by so severe a frost, that it was with difficulty the tents could be folded up. Small hail, violently drifted by the wind, cut our faces, and made the blood come out of the pores of the nose, and the breath freezing to the whiskers, formed icicles so heavy, as to be very painful. A great part of the Sipahis, maimed in the preceding marches, perished on that day; the Tartars themselves suffered very severely, but nobody dared to complain. Krim-Gueray, who since his indisposition, went part of the way in a covered sledge, amused himself, during
this

this time, by asking me questions concerning the Pope, comparing his situation to that of the Holy Father, and regretting that he was not in his place. I took this opportunity of representing to him the havoc the cold was making in his army, and the danger of too long a march. “ I cannot make the weather better,” said he, “ but I can inspire them with courage to support its severity.”—He calls immediately for a horse, and conforming himself to the custom which prohibits the Oriental Sovereigns from wearing shawls, such as private persons cover their heads with, he braves the hoary frosts, and by his example obliges the Sultans, the Ministers, and every person about him, to go uncovered. This act of vigour put a stop to the murmurs, and gave the Prince an opportunity of viewing the picture of those disasters which occasioned them. In fact, we were losing both men and horses every moment. We met with nothing in the plains but frozen flocks ; and twenty columns of smoke rising in the horizon,

completed

completed the horror of the picture, by proclaiming to us the fires which were already ravaging New Servia †.

Falling in at length with some briars, and a little forage, the Kam determined to make a halt. His tent was pitched near a hay-stack, which he ordered to be distributed, and which, in spite of its enormous size, disappeared in an instant. We amused ourselves with this spectacle, which presented at once the eagerness of pillage, and the severity of good discipline. A messenger from the Sultan who commanded the incursion, brought us news in the evening from that Prince. He informed us that the inhabitants of a large village, having to the number of 1200, taken refuge in a Monastery, had compelled him, by their resistance, to shoot off some arrows with brimstone matches, in hopes of seeing their obstinacy give way to the fear of fire; but that the conflagration, too rapidly surrounding these unfortunate peo-

† This day's march cost the army more than 3000 men, and 30,000 horses, who perished by the cold.
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ple, had consumed them all. The Sultan added to the deep regret he expressed for this dreadful misfortune, some complaints of the cruelty of the Turks who had accompanied him, whose only courage, he said, consisted in bathing themselves in the blood of the prisoners.

Krim-Gueray was not less sensible than the Sultan to the melancholy consequences of the conflagration; the cruelty of the Turks filled him with indignation; the sight of the heads cut off, still further shocked him †. “I would hang up a Tartar,” added he, “who should dare to present himself before me in the attitude of an executioner.—How can there exist so ferocious a people as to encourage barbarity by rewarding it, and can take a pleasure in such disgusting objects?”

The successive arrival of the Tartars, who were already returning, laden with

† The Turks are accustomed to carry the heads of their slain enemies to the General who commands them; the Tartars on the contrary, hold this custom in abhorrence.

booty, and bringing us fresh particulars, had kept us awake till three in the morning. The entrance of the Kam's tent could not be shut, under the present circumstances, and I obtained permission to go and take some hours rest in my own.— It was occupied by Messrs. Rufin and Constillier, who were half frozen, slept little, and were dying with hunger. A hard snow formed the bed I came to share with them, and on which, wrapped up in my pelice, I took my place, and fell asleep. Soon after, one of the Kam's pages half opens the door, announces a present from his master, places it at the feet of Mr. Rufin, and withdraws. Mr. Constillier, who was kept more awake by hunger, made no doubt but that it was something eatable ; he knew also that I kept nothing concealed from him of that sort ; but too far off to examine the packet, he desires his companion to see what it is ; who, on account of the severe cold, refuses a long time : obliged, at length, to submit, he puts out his arm, keeping his head still covered

covered with his pelice, gets hold of something hairy, which he lifts up by the glimmering of a lamp hanging from the top of the tent, and presented to the greedy eye of Mr. Constillier a human face. Struck with this horrible object, he cries out,—“ My friend, it is a head !” and Mr. Rufin sent it as quick as lightning out of the tent, both of them cursing the cold, their hunger, and the Tartar pleasantries.

The cold increased so much next day, that at our setting out, notwithstanding my gloves lined with hare skin, my hands were benumbed with it at the moment of getting on my saddle, and I had much difficulty to recover the circulation. The columns of smoke which covered the horizon on the right, and Fort St. Elizabeth, which we perceived on our left, left no longer any doubt about the route we were to pursue ; we directed it towards some edifices in our front, which we soon discovered to be a preparation for signals of fire. These triangular wooden frames, eight stories high, filled with straw and

faggots, were, doubtless, intended to spread the alarm, on the first appearance of the Tartars; but they eventually served only as guides for their army as far as Adjemka. This town, preserved from the ravages of the incursion by its vicinity to St. Elizabeth, contained only a few inhabitants, and we suspected that the greatest part of them had taken refuge under the cannon of that fortress.

The main army was in so bad a state, that it had every thing to fear itself from a sally; in fact, two or three thousand men attacking it in the night, would only have had the trouble of cutting us to pieces. This danger was not more clearly proved, than the impossibility of avoiding it by continuing a march, the fatigues of which the troops were no longer able to support. In this extremity, Krim-Gueray ordered the Sultans, and the Mirzas to form a detachment of 300 horsemen, to go at sunset to insult St. Elizabeth, in order to keep the garrison on the defensive. This chosen band, the only part of the army whose energy of mind was still able to surmount
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the natural faintness arising from a complication of sufferings, pushing into the suburb to make prisoners, made the success of this military stratagem so complete, that the army was enabled to stay and recover its fatigues in the midst of the greatest plenty. The town of Adjemka, consisting of eight or nine hundred families, situated on a small river of that name, proved the fertility of its soil, by the abundance of the crops of every kind. The troops, however, were not allowed to occupy the houses, from fear of a premature conflagration. They were only permitted to carry off the wood and provisions for consumption; the Kam himself set the example, by continuing under his tent. The next day's rest, by recruiting their strength, and giving time for a part of the incursion troops to join us with a vast number of slaves and cattle, diffused a general gaiety throughout the army.

I observed that the Tartars of each hord, and of each troop, had a watch-word to which their comrades answered, to direct them.

them. That of Ak-Seraï, *the White Palace*, was peculiar to the Kam's household ; but if it be easy to conceive the utility of this expedient, a circumstance one would scarcely believe on seeing it, is the care, the attention, the patience, the extreme agility of the Tartars in keeping what they have taken. Five or six slaves, of different ages, sixty sheep, and twenty oxen, the prize of a single man, do not embarrass him. The children, with their heads peeping out of a sack, hanging by the pommel of the saddle ; a young girl sitting before, leaning on her left hand ; the mother behind on the crupper, the father on a led horse, the son upon another, sheep and oxen before them, every thing in a march, and nothing goes astray from under the vigilant eye of the shepherd of this flock. To collect, to conduct them, to provide for their subsistence, to go on foot to ease his slaves, no trouble is too great for him ; and this scene would be truly interesting, did not avarice, and the most cruel injustice, furnish the subject of the picture.

picture. I had gone out with the Kam to view this spectacle, when an officer of the guard, which formed a line of circumvallation around the tent, came to acquaint him, that a Noguais asked permission to make a complaint to him. Krim-Gueray consented ; and the Noguais, followed by the same officer, advanced towards us ; but uncertain, from the similitude of our pelices, to which of the two he should address himself, he appears disposed to give the preference to me. I was going, however, to retreat, to put an end to his embarrassment, but the Kam, who had observed it, making a sign to the officer to let him remain in his error, drew back himself, and ordered me to hear what he had to say. The case was a horse which had been lost, and of another which he had stolen in return, without being able to justify his pretended right of reprisal. “ What must I answer ? ” says I, to the Kam ; “ Decide as you think proper, ” replied he, laughing. I pronounced, accordingly, the restitution of the horse
stolen ;

stolen ; and was about to dismiss the parties, when Krim-Gueray, who was amusing himself with this pleasantry, whispers me in the ear, not to forget the bastinado. I immediately added, “ I *pardon* thee the bastinado thou hast merited.” A sign from the Kam, to carry my sentence into execution, proved to me that he was not displeased at my mitigating his.

Every research that could be made after the inhabitants of Adjemka, had hitherto proved ineffectual ; and it was not until two days after, at the moment of our departure, on setting fire to some stacks of corn and forage, which concealed these unfortunate people, that they came and threw themselves into the arms of their enemies, to escape the flames which were destroying their crops, and their habitations. The order to burn Adjemka, was executed with such precipitation, and the fire caught all the thatched houses with such violence and rapidity, that we could barely escape ourselves through the flames. The atmosphere, loaded with ashes, and
vapour

vapour of the melted snow, after some time darkening the sun, formed, from the combination of these different materials, a greyish shower of snow, which crashed between the teeth. One hundred and fifty villages, which were also consumed, producing the same effect, extended this cloud of cinders full twenty leagues into Poland, where our arrival would alone furnish the solution of this phenomenon. The army marched for so long a time in this obscurity, that several hours elapsed before we discovered the desertion of a large part of the Noguais of Yedefan, who, being already joined by their foragers, were returning, at every hazard, by the Desert, to avoid the ten per cent. on their prizes, payable to their Sovereign.

The route of the army lying towards the frontiers of the Polish Ukraine, brought the army to Crasnikow. This village, situated behind a marshy ravine, contained a fort of redoubt, in which the inhabitants, assisted by about a hundred soldiers, at first made some resistance; but their

dread of the flames soon obliged them to fly into a neighbouring wood, from whence they might annoy our troops with musquetry, even in the village. To dislodge them, Krim-Gueray, who went to the head of the wood in person, ordered the Sipahis, who were still remaining, to begin the attack. But those brave fellows, whom the stay at Adjemka, and the intermission of the cold had again rendered insolent, were dispersed on the first fire. The Inat Cossacks, drawn up behind us, animated by the presence of the Sovereign, demanded, and obtained permission to attack. Dismounting in an instant, they penetrate into the wood, hem in the party who defend themselves, kill about forty of them, and make prisoners of all those who were unable to escape. During this expedition, which only cost the Cossacks eight or ten men, and a few slight wounds received by the Tartars, who were near the Kam, that Prince, fired with indignation at the cowardice of the Turks, was conversing with me on the subject, and predicting

predicting the humiliation which it must necessarily bring upon the Ottoman empire.

Occupied with this idea, he was still on horseback at the entrance of the village, when he perceived a Turk, of the race of Emirs, who was coming on foot from the wood, carrying a head in his hand. "Look at that rascal," said he; "he is coming to spoil my supper; but observe him well; he dares scarcely touch the head, now that he has cut it off." The Emir arrives; throws his trophy at the feet of the Prince's horse, and pronounces, with emphasis, his wishes, "That all the enemies of the Emperor of the Tartars, may suffer the same fate as the one he has just been destroying." Krim-Gucray, however, had, by this time, discovered in this head, the features of one of his own Cossacks.— "Wretch!" says he, to the Emir, "how did'st thou kill him? Dead as he is, thou art afraid of him; living, he would have eat thee! It is one of my Inats, killed at the attack of the wood: Who helped thee to cut off his head—to assist thee in deceiv-
ing

ing me? Thou wouldest not thyself, have had the courage!" The Turk, disconcerted, strives to defend himself; he insists, and has the hardiness to assert, that he killed the man himself, and that he was an enemy. "Examine his arms, then," says the Prince;—knife, sabre, pistols, every thing was examined on the spot, but nothing indicated that he had killed him. "Knock down this pretended man of courage," cries Krim-Gueray. An officer of the guard, giving him a slight stroke with his whip, was desirous of sparing the wretch, at the same time that he satisfied his master's anger. But the Turk, proud of his rank of Emir, the sole privilege of which, in Turkey, is never more than respectfully to take off the head dress of the person to be beaten, exclaims with insolence against this assault upon his person. The fury of the Kam could no longer be restrained: "Cut the green turban, with your whips, upon the rascal's head!" This order, pronounced in a firm tone of voice, which allowed of no further palliation, was
executed

executed with a severity more cruel than death itself. This execution had a great effect on the Sipahis, who, after refusing to share with the Tartars in the fatigues of the incurfion, used to watch their return, and frequently rob them, with pistols at their heads, of the flaves they were bringing back; and, after dragging these wretched people about with them for some time, tired of the trouble, cut them in pieces, to get rid of them.

The Kam proposed attacking the little town of Sibiloff, fituated behind the wood, at about a league and a half distant from us, the next morning; but from the report of prifoners, the garrifon appearing too ftrong for him to carry it, without cannon, he only permitted some volunteers to go there, whilst he, at the head of his army, bent his course towards Bourky, in Poland.—The cannon of Sibiloff, which we heard on our march, could not hinder the Tartar detachment from burning the fuburbs, and making a great number of flaves. All the villages in our line of
march

march underwent the same fate; and the Tartars, more disposed to get possession of the persons of the inhabitants, than to study distinctions respecting the boundaries of Poland, continued their ravages far beyond the prescribed limits. But although the orders of the Kam could not, at first, check the avidity of the Tartars, which purposely confounded the inhabitants of New Servia with those of the Polish Ukraine, the measures adopted by the Prince at length produced the desired effect; besides that, punishment always very nearly followed the offence.

To insure the respect due to the Republic of Poland, the main body of the army always encamped in the environs of the villages, living on their own provisions; and the Turks, for whom it was absolutely necessary to procure lodgings, having dared to set fire to some houses, were severely punished. A rough calculation of the slaves carried off by the army, amounted to 20,000: the cattle were innumerable. We could only proceed by slow marches;

marches; and the necessity of watching the conduct of the Tartars, determined Krim-Gueray to march in seven columns. In every village where we halted, our lodgings, marked with chalk, left the Sipahis the choice of such houses as were not occupied by the Kam, and his attendants. The Prince had given orders that mine should be always near his. I enjoyed this advantage very quietly for several days, until an Alay-Bey *, who, doubtless, had not been able to find apartments in the town worthy to receive him, very gravely enters my lodgings, followed by two Sipahis, carrying his baggage. I ask him what he wants?—"Don't disturb yourself," says he, coolly, and seats himself on a sort of estrade, between two cushions, which he never quitted, and asks for his pipe.—In vain did I observe to him that these lodgings were designed for me; that we could not both occupy them; that I could not be far from the Sovereign, nor he from his troop. No argument has any weight with

* Colonel of the Arnaout Sipahis.

with him ; he has taken up his quarters, and is immoveable. I had no other resource than to apply to the Selićtar to free me from this disagreeable intruder. The Selićtar comes immediately, under pretence of paying me a visit, and asks the Colonel, on entering, how long he has been acquainted with me? The other, not at all disconcerted, replies, that he is come to make acquaintance with me, by lodging there. “ It was at the attack of the wood,” says the Captain of the Guards, ironically, “ that you should have made acquaintance with us; we should then have received you very cordially; but to-day, you must withdraw:—and, take my advice, not to wait until the Kam, informed of your conduct, makes you feel his displeasure.”—“ I know,” replies the officer, “ all his power;—to take off my head;—he has only to say the word;—he may do that, if he pleases; but I will never go out of this house alive, before the army marches.”—This was his definitive resolution, and nothing could shake him.

Enraged

Enraged at this madman, the Seliſtar quitted me, to inform Krim-Gueray of what had paſſed.—I immediately received an invitation to wait upon him; and I found him giving ſuch orders as made me tremble. Long irritated againſt the cowardice and bad diſcipline of the Turks, the inſolence of my Alay-Bey exhausted his patience. I was only ſent for, in fact, to give him an opportunity of ſtriking the intended blow. The Kam was inclined to extend his rigour to the whole body of Sipahis, and could only be reſtrained by the fear of lying under the imputation of prejudice. Whilſt he was heſitating in this reſpect, I was determined to do every thing in my power to leave the Colonel quiet, whoſe motto certainly was not—‘To *conquer*, or to die;’—but, ‘To *ſleep*, or die.’ I urged, that my complaint might have been improperly explained;—that I was the perſon to be heard;—and having, at length, ſucceeded in amuſing the Kam with remarks on the ridiculous obſtinacy of the Arnaouts, I made my particular inſtance diſappear under the general obſervation.

observation. The order was revoked, with the obliging condition that I should no more quit his tent.

The army laden with the plunder of New Servia, regulating its march by that of the cattle, was slowly approaching the frontiers ; and the Tartars, always insatiable, were taken up with various attempts to elude the vigilance of the Kam, in order to increase their booty, by marauding, when it was strictly prohibited, under pain of the severest punishment. The dark colour, however, of the Tartar dress was too easily distinguishable at a distance on the snow, to favour the stratagems of the plunderers. Some Noguais were detached to turn a Polish village, behind which they were about to conceal themselves, when the Kam, passing along the edge of a wood, on a flat piece of ground, which overlooked the plain, discovered some of these marauders. He gave immediate orders to his Seličtar to go in person, with four Seimens, to scour the village, and bring him such of the Noguais as he should find

find

find in the fact of plundering. The gloomy air with which Krim-Gueray gave this order announced an intended example.— Already did the Seliotar, who went full speed to the spot, to execute his orders, make his appearance, bringing back with him a Noguais, and a piece of linen, and a couple of handfuls of wool, which he had taken. Interrogated by his Sovereign, the marauder confesses his faults, admits that he was acquainted with the rigour of the orders against this rapine, offers nothing in his defence, asks no favour, tries to interest nobody in his behalf, and coolly awaits his sentence, without displaying either insolence or weakness. “ Let him dismount, and tie him to a horse’s tail, to be dragged until he dies ; and let a crier, following him, inform the army of the crime which has incurred this punishment.” To this dreadful sentence pronounced by the Kam, the Noguais makes no other reply than by dismounting from his horse, and approaching the Seimens who were to bind him ; but there were
neither

neither cords nor straps. Whilst they were looking for them, I attempt a word in his favour ; Krim-Gueray's only answer was by sharply commanding them to put an end to the business, by making use of a bow-string. They tell him it is too short. " Well, let him pass his head, then, through the bow when it is bent." The Noguais obeys ; follows the horseman, who drags him rapidly along, until, unable to keep pace with the trot of the horse, he falls, and thus escapes from the yoke by which he is held. A fresh order from the Prince remedies this deficiency.—" Let him hold the bow with his hands," added he. The criminal immediately crosses his arms, and takes hold of it ; and the complete execution of this sentence, which condemned the prisoner to be his own executioner, affords, undoubtedly, an example of the most extraordinary submission ; it surpasses all the strange stories which have been related of the blind obedience to the orders of the Old man of the Mountain §.

The

§ Mr. Rufin, who accompanied me, and who is
at

The attention of Krim-Gueray to the maintenance of good order in Poland, extended even to the religious worship of the inhabitants ; and some Noguais, convicted of having mutilated a picture representing Christ, received a hundred strokes of the bastinado, at the gate of the church. “ We must teach the Tartars,” said he, “ to respect the fine arts and the Prophets.”

Savran || was now the desired point, in which town the distribution of the booty was to take place ; the different hords were to be dismissed, reserving only the troops of Bas-Arabia, and where we were to be freed from the rabble which surrounded us. It was determined to remain there, and the division of the spoils was proceeded on the day after our arrival ; but the strictest attention could not prevent some rogues from getting their booty out of the way of the ten *per cent.* duty, payable to the Sovereign. But, notwithstanding the frauds,

the

at present Professor in the Royal Academy at Paris, was, as well as myself, a witness to this incredible fact.

|| A town in Poland, in the Palatinate of Bruklaw.

the Prince still received for his share near two thousand slaves, which he made presents of to the first comer. I was necessarily present at these transactions, and perceiving the liberality of the Kam in this particular, I represented to him, that if he continued, he would soon dry up the source of it.

Krim-Gucray.

There will always be enough left for me, my friend; the age of desire is past; but I have not forgot you: far from your *harem*, marching over deserts, and braving the rigour of the climate with us, it is but just that you should have your share. I design for you six *beautiful young boys*; such, in short, as I should make choice of for myself.

Baron.

I am overcome with your bounty; but can one be worthy of a favour, without feeling all its value? I should be afraid of not holding this present in so much estimation as you seem to do.

Krim-

Krim-Gueray.

It is by no means my wish to bargain for your gratitude : I make you a present of these slaves ; they will give you pleasure, and that is all I desire.

Baron.

But, your serenity overlooks my situation, which forms an insurmountable obstacle to my accepting them. Your slaves are all Russians : How can I accept, as slaves, the subjects of a power in friendship with the Emperor my master ?

Krim-Gueray.

That reason most certainly escaped me ; nor can I even conceive the principle on which it is founded. Hostility makes slaves ; friendship gives, and receives them : What have you to do with any thing else ? I do not wish, however, to discuss your duty : it is your business to fulfil it ; and, to accommodate this matter between us, I will substitute six young Georgians, in place of the six Russians ; that affair is settled.

Baron.

Baron.

Not so easily as you imagine, Sir ; I have still another intrenchment, difficult to force.

Krim-Gueray.

What is that ?

Baron.

My religion.

Krim-Gueray.

As for that subject, I shall take special care not to touch on it. You do very well, doubtless, to conform to it ; but admit, at least, that it is very hard.

Baron.

I will do more ; I will confess that human weakness very frequently goes astray ; for example, it is very possible that I only show myself so scrupulous, and so attached to my duty, to-day, because you offer me nothing which tempts me to deviate from it ; six *pretty girls*, perhaps, might have made me forget all my principles ; and, if we examine, with attention, we shall often find, that the most sublime efforts

forts of virtue depend solely on the nature of the temptation.

Krim-Gueray.

—That I perfectly comprehend; and that method of seduction would not have escaped me, had it been in my power to employ it; but I, too, have my religion, my friend, which allows me to give *male* slaves to Christians, and enjoins me to keep the *females*, to make profelytes of them.

Baron.

You think it of less consequence, then, to make male than female converts?

Krim-Gueray.

Not at all; our great Prophet has foreseen every thing: this very distinction proves it.

Baron.

I must confess that I do not perceive the difference; you will permit me, therefore, simply to believe, that you are better pleased with *pretty girls*.

Krim-Gueray.

No, I assure you; but I act in obedience to a law, founded on reason. Man, in

fact, being from his nature independent, even in the state of slavery, retains a secret elasticity, which can hardly be restrained by fear ; he feels his powers, and is governed by his moral sense : God alone can influence his mind ; in your country, in mine, he may be equally enlightened ; the conversion of man is at all times a miracle ; that of a woman, on the contrary, is the most natural, and the most simple affair in the world : women are always of the religion of their lovers. Yes, my friend, love is the great missionary ; when he appears, there is an end to every dispute.

Nor did I dispute any longer this strange position, which is only applicable, doubtless, to women in a state of slavery.

After distributing the greatest part of the slaves which had fallen to his share, and sent off the Noguais, the Kam directed his march towards Bender ; but if the diminution of the army disencumbered us on our march, the Prince's generosity threw a fresh impediment in the way of so speedy a return as he desired. In fact, the
Sultans,

Sultans, and the Ministers, reduced, heretofore, to their camp equipage, now possessed, from their master's liberality, a superfluity, which prevented them from marching with so much celerity. The Kadi-Lesker, the most insatiable, as well as the most artful in pushing his pretensions, was consequently possessed of the greatest share of the plunder. Curious to examine his proceedings in the midst of his abundance, I went one evening to see him.

This great Judge, venerable from his age, and the whiteness of his beard, carelessly stretched on the carpet, destined for the five prayers, was very differently employed; he was at that moment contemplating with a greedy eye, and a malicious smile, forty or fifty slaves, of different ages; who, collected round a stove, formed a groupe of figures of both sexes, all with their eyes fixed on him. "I wish you joy," said I, on entering, "of the success of a war by which, it seems, you have been a considerable gainer."

The Kadi-Lesker.

You see, indeed, that the Kam has treated me handsomely ; but you know, likewise, that one must be possessed of his riches, to enjoy what he has given me.

Baron.

On the Kam's principles, however, respecting the conversion of the women, he has reckoned upon you, I imagine, to make some profelytes.

The Kadi-Lesker.

I was examining, when you came in, which of these faces is the handsomest. Do you take a look, and see if we shall agree in our choice.

Baron.

I have already made mine. That pretty girl, standing on that bench, with her slender shape, her modest air, and her soft looks, has my vote.

The Kadi-Lesker.

For my part, I prefer that round face, full of colour ; and I will answer for it, that the little rogue will be charming in a page's dress. I own to you, that the slender
make

make with which you are captivated, strikes me only as a want of *em bon point*.

Baron.

In that case, I am no longer sorry for you, for she is the only one who can be reproached with that fault; but I see there some very young ones; can you tell me at what age one begins to *convert* them; and if the Noguais, whose activity in carrying off girls I have been witness to, are not in too great haste to marry them?

The Kadi-Lesker.

No; the Tartars, on the contrary, are very scrupulous in that respect.

Baron.

But scrupulous as they are, Sir, they cannot interrogate their slaves about their age, and even that knowledge would be insufficient.

The Kadi-Lesker.

They have a better method of quieting their consciences. I'll tell you what it is: if they are in doubt about the strength of a young girl, they pretend to be out of humour, terrify her, and oblige her to save herself

herself by flight ; and when she begins to run, they throw one of their caps at her, the shock of which, without hurting her, is sufficient to make her fall, if she be weak ; in this case they respect her extreme youth, comfort her for the fall, and wait patiently till she is strong enough to withstand this proof.

Baron.

I doubt much, whether that be sufficient ; but even in that case, can you always answer for the good faith of those who make use of it ? “ You may always rely upon it,” replied the Kadi-Lesker, “ that their customs are more faithfully observed by a people whose manners are simple, than the most rigorous laws are amongst polished nations.”

A sort of indisposition, which I felt at that moment, and which I attributed to the suffocating heat in the chamber of the Kadi-Lesker, determined me to return home ; but the sudden transition from such an atmosphere, to a very piercing cold, affected me so violently, that I fell down
senseless

senseless on the snow. I lay there some time before one of the Judge's attendants perceiving me, acquainted his master with it. The assistance, however, I received from them would have done but little, had not Krim-Gueray, informed of my accident, sent some *eau de luce* by one of his pages, which made me respire. Notwithstanding this aid, I was too feeble to walk home; four Tartars carried me, and the concern with which it affected Messrs. Ruffin and Constillier, by awakening my sensibility, assisted in recruiting my spirits.

We arrived next day at Bender, and the Governor came to meet us at some distance from the town. At the Kam's approach, this Visir, followed by a great retinue, gets from his horse, with his whole troop, advances towards the Prince, salutes him profoundly, and turns round to march on foot before; but this mark of respect paid, he received permission, from Krim-Gueray, to mount and accompany him to the Niesster, which separated us from the fortress. There we perceived a bridge of boats, which

which the Pacha had built with great difficulty, being obliged to break the ice which covered the river ; but all these attempts to pay his court to the Tartar Sovereign were unsuccessful ; nor could all the arguments of the Visir, prevail on the Prince to pass the bridge. “ I cross rivers,” says he, “ in a more oeconomical manner.” This was no sooner said, than putting his horse into a trot, he forces the Pacha, who trembled at this pleasantry, to follow his example. The cracking of the ice, which broke under us, was indeed enough to make him regret his pontoons ; and the Kam’s arguments of their inutility, had no weight with him till he was safely landed on the opposite shore. During this passage, the cannon of the place had begun the salute, and Krim-Gueray entered Bender under a general discharge of artillery. He was lodged at the Governor’s, and he here dismissed the remainder of his troops, whilst his household went on to Kaouchan, to prepare for his reception ; and where we all arrived, well satisfied with

with the prospect of reposing ourselves after the fatigues of the campaign.

The news, however, we received from Constantinople, from whence the Ottoman army was preparing to begin its march towards the Danube, did not promise the Tartars any long inaction. In the midst of the pleasures by which Krim-Gueray delighted to unbend his mind, his foresight would not allow him to overlook the necessary orders for collecting fresh troops, and he thought it necessary to move himself towards Kotchim, that the Grand Visir might be obliged to keep at a distance; and, in fact, the ignorance which uniformly guided this Prime Minister, stood in need of being counteracted by a man so powerful, and so enlightened as the Kam, who was not, as we have already seen, too favourably disposed towards Emin Pacha. The latter, more circumspect in his discontent, and forced to hide the means of manifesting it, was, on that account only, a more dangerous enemy.

In the midst of these occupations, Krim Gueray had more frequent returns of those hypochondriac complaints to which he was subject. Being alone with him during one of these attacks, which he supported with impatience, I was striving to dissuade him from the use of empyric remedies, when one *Siropolo*, who had already proposed one to him, entered his apartment. This man, born at Corfu, by religion a Greek, a great chymist, physician to the Prince of Wallachia, and his agent in Tartary, had, in right of these titles, a free admission to the Kam ; he did not let slip this opportunity of offering the succour of his art, assuring him, that one draught, by no means disagreeable to the palate, would be sufficient to effect a radical cure. “ On those terms I consent,” replied the Prince, and the doctor went out to comply with them. I shewed my uneasiness so plainly, that Krim-Gueray, taking notice of it, says to me, smiling, “ What, my friend, you are afraid ?” — “ Undoubtedly,” replied I sharply ; “ reflect on that man’s situation,
and

and your own, and judge whether I am wrong." "What nonsense!" said he; "what good can I derive from such an examination? A single glance is sufficient: look at him—look at me, and see whether the infidel would dare!" In vain, did I make use of the strongest representations; until the phyc arrived; and the quickness with which it removed the Kam's indisposition, only added to my fears. His situation the next day increased my suspicions: scarcely had he strength enough to appear in public; but the art of the physician, by pronouncing it a salutary crisis, made the symptom pass for the fore-runner of the cure. Krim-Gueray, however, went out of his harem no more; and justly alarmed for his situation, and the safety of his Ministers, by making them partake of my fears, I prevailed on them to make *Siropolo* appear, to signify to him, that his life depended on that of their master; but this chymist knew the character of his judges well enough to be convinced, that their ambition would soon be less occupied with
their

their dead master, than with the person who was to be his successor. No menaces gave him the least concern; we were without hopes, and I had no expectation of again seeing the Kam, when he sent to me to come and speak to him. Introduced into his harem, I found there several of his women, whose grief, and the general consternation, had made them neglect to withdraw. I entered the apartment where Krim-Gueray was lying: He had just finished different dispatches with the Divan Effendi †. Shewing me the papers which were lying round him, “See there,” said he, “my last work; and my last moments I have reserved for you?” But soon perceiving that my greatest efforts could not conceal the poignancy of my sorrow, “Let us separate,” added he; “your sensibility would melt me, and I will try to go to sleep more gaily!” He then made a sign to six musicians, at the bottom of his chamber to begin their concert, and I learnt, an hour after, that this unfortu-

† Secretary of the Council.

nate Prince breathed his last to the found of music. It is unnecessary for me to say, what regret was occasioned by the loss of him, nor how much I was myself afflicted. The affliction was general, and terror even took such possession of men's minds, that they who slept the preceding evening, in the most perfect security, thought the enemy was already at their gates.

Whilst the Divan, immediately assembled, was dispatching different messengers, delivering over the authority of the interregnum to a Sultan, and making preparations for the funeral of Krim-Gueray, *Siro-polo* obtained, without difficulty, a passport, and the necessary order for post-horses, to return quietly to Wallachia. The symptoms of poison appeared very manifest, however, on embalming the body; but the present interest of that Court, stifled every idea of vengeance, and of the punishment of the offender. The Prince's body was carried into the Crimea, in a coach hung with mourning, drawn by six horses, caparisoned with black cloth; fifty

fifty horsemen, a number of Mirzas, and a Sultan, who commanded the escort, were also in mourning; and it is remarkable, that the custom is no where in use throughout the East, but amongst the Tartars.

The great fatigue I had so long undergone, together with the uncertainty of my situation after this event, made me very readily adopt the idea of going to Constantinople, to wait such further orders as might be given me: a part of my household was still at Baçtchèseray, the other part I had left at Kaouchan with Mr. Rufin, *charge d'affaires*; and I set out with my secretary, a surgeon, a servant, and the Bachetchoader of the Kam, who had directions to conduct me, and was provided with the necessary orders. We were in the Tartar dress, and our baggage was in character; we had scarcely enough to load one horse, which the postillion led in hand, and which we followed, riding post; but, notwithstanding the quick trot of the Tartar post-horses, the distance of the different relays prevented me from travelling
more

more than fifteen leagues the first day. It was still day-light when we arrived in the village of Bafs-Arabia, which my conductor made choice of for our abode ; he made me stop in the middle of a place, surrounded by houses, and I remarked, that each inhabitant, standing at his door, kept his eyes fixed on us, whilst the Tchoadar, staring about him, examined one after another. “ Well,” said I, to him, “ where are we to lodge ? Nobody seems to be paying any attention to that.”—“ I beg your pardon,” replied he ; “ every body is expecting, and wishing to have the preference : by choosing the house you like best, you will be sure to make somebody happy.” During this conversation, I observed an old man, standing alone at his door ; his venerable air interested me ; I decided in his favour, and had no sooner made this choice, than all the inhabitants returned into their houses. The earnestness of my new landlord testified his satisfaction : scarcely had he introduced me into a low room, neatly fitted up, before he

he produced his wife and his daughter, both of them with their faces uncovered §. The first carried a bason and ewer, the second a towel, which she threw over my hands, when I had washed them. Instructed by my guide, I submitted, without difficulty,

culty,

§ We have seen that the law of Namekrem, of which I have spoke in the Preliminary Discourse, is not scrupulously observed amongst the Tartars. The reader must have remarked also, amongst that people, a great number of customs which seem to point out the origin of those customs which are analogous to them amongst ourselves. Cannot we trace out the origin of the nuptial crown, and the sugar-plumbs, which are common at the marriages of the European nations, from the manner in which the Tartars bestow the marriage portion on the daughters? They cover them with millet: in the origin of all societies, grain must have been the received emblem of riches; in this light they placed a flat dish, of about a foot in diameter, on the head of the new married woman; they stretched a veil over her head, which descended to her shoulders; after this they poured millet on the trencher, which, spreading all around her, formed a cone, whose base became proportioned to the size of the bride: her dowry was not complete until the pyramid of millet reached up to the trencher, the veil still allowing her to breath. This custom was not favourable to little persons; they content themselves, therefore,

culty, to every thing which hospitality dictated to these good people. After ordering the supper, and leaving the women to get it ready, the old man, who until then had taken me for a Mirza, undeceived by the Tchoadar, came to make an apology for his inability to give me proper accommodations. My answer relieved him; and being desirous of asking him questions respecting the objects around me, I made him sit down, and smoke, and take coffee with me, which was brought me by my servant. This little civility, which he certainly would not have experienced from a Mirza, disposed him to enter into conversation. I desired him to tell me why, for the sole purpose of hospitality, they subjected themselves to a custom, of which he

therefore, at present, with estimating the number of measures of millet that a girl is worth. But the Turks and the Armenians, who calculate in gold and silver, still preserving, however, the custom of the trencher and the veil, throw pieces of money on the bride, which they call "Spreading millet."—Why may not the nuptial crown, and the sugar-plumbs, have the same origin?

he experienced the inconvenience, and which was capable of ruining the richest individual, if the choice of travellers happened to fall frequently upon him.

The Old Man.

The preference you have given me, has only made me feel the pleasure of obtaining it. We consider hospitality in the light only of our advantage. The person amongst us who should constantly enjoy that preference, would make others jealous of him; but we admit of no measures to fix the doubtful choice of the traveller. Our anxiety to appear at our doors, is only to show that the houses are inhabited.— This uniformity maintains the balance; and my favourable stars alone have procured me the happiness of your company.

Baron.

Pray tell me, do you treat the first comer with the same humanity?

Old Man.

The only difference we make, is by going to meet the unfortunate, who are always timid, from distress. In this case, the pleasure

pleasure of assisting them is the privilege of the person who can first get hold of them.

Baron.

It is impossible more rigorously to fulfil the Law of Mahomet : but the Turks are not always such scrupulous observers of the Coran.

Old Man.

Nor do we think we are obeying that holy book by exercising hospitality. We are men, before we become Mussulmen ; humanity has dictated our customs ; they are far more ancient than the Law.

Baron.

I observe, however, that you have some modern customs : for example, that bed with four posts, the tester †, the bedding, this

† The form of the Tartar beds I have just been mentioning, as well as that of the Grand Signior's throne, which consists likewise of a bed with four posts, presents circumstances of analogy which may appear interesting. When we consider that these governments must have been Patriarchal, and that the Tartars are in possession of the most ancient annals of this

this table, those chairs, are they Tartar furniture? or are they only to be found at your house?

Old Man.

We know no other.

Baron.

I am the more astonished, since neither the Moldavians, nor the Turks, have any thing like them. I cannot conceive in what way these European customs can have reached you. How happens it, that you have not adopted the Turkish furniture, as well as your brethren of the Crimea?

Old Man.

You see accordingly some cushions, which our forefathers knew nothing of.—

this kind, as well as of many others, we shall not be astonished that the form of the bed from which their old men must naturally have pronounced their judgments, should have been adopted, by way of model, for the Oriental thrones; and if we add to this remark, the invasion of all Europe by people of Tartar origin, we shall add the explanation of the term Bed of Justice; always employed in France, when the Sovereign Majesty displays itself.

But

But corruption must necessarily make less progress amongst us than in Crimea, where our Sultans shew the example of the Turkish effeminacy, in which they are brought up in Romelia.

Baron.

I feel perfectly this distinction ; but still it throws no light on the origin of the pieces of European furniture I find here.

Old Man.

Nothing, however, can be more strongly marked than the origin you are searching after ; these family moveables cannot be European ; we are the elder branch ; it is your furniture that is Tartarian.

This answer further excited my curiosity ; I multiplied my questions, and had the pleasure to hear my landlord confirm every conjecture I had myself already made on the subject. He informed me, likewise, that the Tartars on the Caspian sea, and those beyond it, preserved the same customs.

The desire of sleeping on the borders of the Danube, obliged us to set out very early.

early. At my departure, my host proved himself true to the principles he had professed; it was impossible for me to prevail on him to receive the present I intended to make him, for his kind reception.

We arrived at Ismahel *, from whence I could not cast my eyes on the opposite side of the Danube, without thinking of the surly insolence of the Turks, amongst whom I was to be next day. The neighbourhood already partook of the insolence of their manners; and this depository of the commerce between the Turks and the Tartars, no longer exhibited that good-fellowship, and that frank simplicity, which characterize the latter. Far from there finding obliging hosts, ready to assist you, one is delivered into the hands of industrious, and greedy Jews, who are to be found in every spot of the earth where there is a prospect of gain, and they are suffered to live.

* A town of Bas-Arabia, on the left bank, near the mouth of the Danube.

Besides

Besides the favourable situation of Isma-hel, as a depository for the transportation of corn by the Danube, that town enjoys a peculiar advantage, arising from its industry in the fabrication of the skins of shagreens, which we call Turkey shagreen. Around this town are to be seen large spaces set apart for the preparation of these skins. First, they are worked like parchment; after which, they are suspended in the air by four sticks, which stretch them horizontally, and prepare them to receive the impression of a small seed, of a very astringent quality, with which they are covered; and after a certain time, the shagreens are found in a perfect state of preparation.

We had two branches of the river to pass before we could reach the other side, and it was scarcely day-break, when the ferry-boat landed us on the island, through the middle of which we crossed diagonally for four leagues, to arrive at the second branch, over against Tultcha, a Turkish fortress, situated a little below the junction.

After

After providing ourselves with horses at this place, we continued our journey through a forest, in which the postilion warned us to be upon our guard. But it struck me, that five Tartars could never be an object to excite the avidity of the Governor's son, and a few gentlemen of his age, who, according to our guide's account, amused themselves with stripping the passengers. We thought ourselves out of danger of these tricks, when, on coming out of the wood, we met a horseman, well dressed, well mounted, and followed by a ruffian, both of them covered with arms, in a manner truly ridiculous. Two carbines, three pair of pistols, two sabres, and three or four great knives, made these fellows imagine they had formidable appearance; added to this strange warlike apparatus, they assumed a tone of insolence, designed, doubtless, to frighten timid people, and to enable them to judge whether it would be prudent for them to begin the attack. We saluted them civilly, when they were within hail, and their
first

first act of hostility was by not answering, concluding, from our tameness in receiving this sort of insult, that a few bravadoes would render us tractable, the rascal who appeared to be the chief, takes a pistol out of his armory, pushes on his horse, and kept wheeling round us ; but tired, at length, of seeing that the fellow wanted to frighten us, and reflecting likewise, that the opinion of our timidity might lead him to take some steps which would oblige us to kill him, I thought it better to get rid of him by correcting his ideas. I quitted, in consequence, our little troop, and, pistol in hand, I enter the lists with this prancing gentleman. Struck with this manœuvre, he slackens his evolutions :—“ Your horse appears to me to be well broke,” says I to him, laughing, “ but if he is of a good kind, he will stand fire ;—let us try :” — On which, I fired close to his ears ; the animal begins to rear, the cavalier throws away his arms, to hold by the mane, his cap falls off, and I left him in this small confusion, which operated as a sufficient

correction to them, and we quietly pursued our journey.

After passing the plains of Dobrodgan †, I observed that the ground, which rises gradually towards the foot of the mountains which separated us from Thrace, presented, every where, great beds of marble, which seemed to serve as a basis to the Balkan ‡. We penetrated into these mountains by a defile, where the Kamtchikfouy, (*the River of the Whip*) has its rise. This torrent, constantly fed by the springs of fresh water, falling in its course from one rock to another, has so many windings, that it must be crossed seventeen times before one arrives at the bottom of the defile, where we began to ascend the mountains by very difficult roads. We stopped to pass the night in a village situated about

† A province of Turkey in Europe, between the Danube and the Thracian mountains, celebrated for a small breed of horses, much esteemed by the Turks, from their being all pacers.

‡ The name given by the Turks to the mountains of Thrace; and, in general, to the highest chains of mountains.

the

the middle region, and had begun to take some repose, when it was interrupted by the noise of a numerous cavalcade. This was the new Calga Sultan, brother to Dewlet-Gueray, just named by the Porte to succeed Krim-Gueray on the throne of the Tartars. That Prince, who thought I was still at Kaouchan, no sooner heard that I was in the same village, than he sent for me, to wait upon him. He told me that the Ottoman army was in march; and after expressing some regret at the difference of our routes, concluded by prevailing on me to go a little out of my way, to Seraî §, to see his brother, the new Kam. “He is preparing to set out,” added he, “and I hope, that by determining you to return with us, he will make you forget a loss which you have thought irreparable.” In fact, I did not believe that the loss of Krim-Gueray was easily to be repaired. But I resolved, without difficulty, to visit the dependencies of the Tar-

§ A town in Romelia, dependent on the Tartar Sultans.

tar Sultans, that by seeing the manner of living in Romelia, I might complete my inquiry into every thing which concerns that nation.

We had still to cross the highest chain of the mountains of the Balkan. The sight of their different strata, and the variety of the rocks, which it seems to have cost Nature an effort to rend asunder, to discover the marks of the treasures they contain, present at every step, those great characters, which enlarging our ideas of the origin of Nature, call upon us to contemplate her works with additional interest and ardour. I saw in that part of the mountains, the ruins of ancient castles.— I there observed, too, numerous excavations, similar to those I have remarked in the Crimea, and which, no doubt, are in the Balkan, likewise, so many monuments of tyranny.

Having reached the upper regions of these mountains, we found there abundance of violets, whose stems and leaves, hid under the snow, formed a carpetting,
as

as striking, as it was agreeable. Continuing our route, we fell in with that newly traced out by the Ottoman army. Its direction was towards Yffakché. This route, marked out only by some felled trees, whose trunks were left standing two feet from the ground, to save trouble to the workmen, promised some difficulty for the passage of the artillery. Two little mounds of earth, raised to the right and left of the road, repeated at stated distances, and always in sight of one another, were the only marks in these plains to indicate the route. I left this road at *Kirk-Kilisié*, (the *Forty Churches*). Whilst they were providing horses for me, there being none left at the post-house, the Turk who occupied the place of post-master, endeavoured to console me for the delay.--- He politely invited me to go up stairs with him, and after ordering a dish of *heavy coffee* †, he gave me, in the interim, a pipe ;

† An expression of the Turks, to show that they do not spare coffee. It is a very false prejudice to imagine that the Turks are fond of weak coffee ; and if

pipe ; and, to complete the regale, he gallantly placed on the table a small piece of wood of aloes. This done, my host, blaming the government for the inconveniences I suffered, began to talk politics ; but tired with his prattling, I invited him to smoke with me, in hopes that this employment would slacken his discourse ; on this, he looks at his watch, reckons on his fingers, and says to me, “ I will be with you immediately.”

A head, bending over his long neck, the whole appearance of his person, which was rather eccentric, had already made me suspect that he was a lover of opium ; and, in fact, he pulled out of his pocket a little box, with a great air of mystery ; he then claps his hands, to call one of his people, shows him his box, and this signal immediately produced both our coffee, and his master's pipe, which was preceded by a large glass of cold water. The *amateur*

if they have given it weak to some Europeans, it only proves, that they were not inclined to treat them well.

smiled

smiled at this sight, opens his box, takes three pills, of the size of three large olives, rolls them, one after another, in his hand, offers me as many, and on my refusal, swallows, with wonderful gravity, his dose of happiness, which would certainly have been sufficient to kill twenty persons amongst us. The time I was obliged to wait for the horses, gave me the opportunity of examining the play of muscles, and the fallies of imagination, which were the prelude to that state of drunkenness in which I left this happy *Theriaki* †.

We had now reached Romelia, and had no sooner entered the patrimony of the Jengis-Kan Princes, than I was struck with an appearance as rich, as it was different from the rest of the Ottoman empire. Variegated productions in great plenty, and well taken care of, country-houses, gardens beautifully situated, a number of villages, in each of which were to be distinguished the mansion of the Lord, and his plantations, rising up to the very

† Opium eater.

summit of the hills, diversified the face of the earth, and formed a general landscape, in the European style, the particular beauties of which redoubled my astonishment.

The town of Seraî now presented itself to our view, as well as the palace of the Kam, where we arrived by a long avenue in front of the buildings, and which conducted us to the esplanade that separates the town from the castle. Several streets, terminating like the radii of a circle, were prolonged into the plain by plantations, and formed a star, of which the first court of the palace occupied the centre. We passed this court, to arrive at the second, where we alighted. I was first introduced into the Selictar's apartments, in one of the wings. That officer, leaving me to a few moments repose, to take some coffee, which is the invariable custom, went to acquaint his master with my arrival, and presently returned, to conduct me to his audience. We passed through a large courtyard, before we arrived at the wing occupied

pied by Dewlet-Gueray. Surrounded by a great number of courtiers, he appeared to be more taken up with the growth of his beard, which he was obliged to let grow from the moment of his elevation to the throne, than with the arduous situation he was about to fill. I have had an opportunity of knowing, from a long conversation with this Prince, that still too young, and perhaps of too feeble a character to tread in the footsteps of his uncle, Krim-Gueray, he has no other ambition than to devote himself entirely to the views of the Grand Visir.

It was too late for me, when I quitted the new Kam, to think of proceeding on my journey; I accepted the offer which was made me, therefore, to pass the night in the Palace, the more readily, because the Seličtar who had charge of me, appeared to be of an amiable disposition, and sufficiently informed to resolve the questions I wished to ask him on every thing that had excited my attention. He informed

formed me, that this province, given as a patrimony to the family of Jengis-Kan, and divided into separate territories, secured to each member of that family hereditary possessions, independent of the Porte, and in which the right of asylum is inviolable. What was originally an accessory to this grant, has eventually become the principal object. There is not a rascal in the Ottoman empire, who does not here find impunity, provided he has wherewithal to pay the Sultan who protects him. To these windfalls, which are frequent, and the profits of which are collected in ready money, may be added, the tenths, the poll-tax, and the other domanial rights. The fortune of these Princes is further augmented by the produce of the employments successively possessed by them in Crimea; but this emolument, limited by the Porte to the sole descendants of Selim-Gueray, gives them a pre-eminence, from their opulence, over the Sultans of the other branches of that family, who,
reduced

reduced to live on their patrimony, have vegetated, until this day, in the greatest mediocrity*.

I left

• Selim-Gueray, who reigned at the end of the last, and at the beginning of the present century, after saving by his valour, the Turkish army, on the point of sinking under the combined force of the Germans, the Poles and the Mulcovites, refused the Ottoman throne, on which the soldiery wished to elevate him ; and the Grand Signior, to recompense the bravery and disinterestedness of the deliverer, settled the throne of the Tartars on his descendants, to the prejudices of the other Princes of the Jengis-Kan family. Selim Gueray obtained, also, the privilege of making the pilgrimage of Mecca, which no Prince of that House had hitherto obtained. The Porte, in fact, might have reason to fear, that, at such a distance, they would excite the people to revolt in their favour ; but Selim-Gueray's conduct could inspire no diffidence. He made this pious journey, and his descendants have substituted the surname of Hadgi, (Pilgrim) for that of Tchoban, (Shepherd) common to all the family ; and which is still preserved by the other branches

We shall be curious, also, to investigate the origin of the surname of Gueray—always borne by the reigning Prince in Tartary. The tradition is, that one of the great vassals, whose name, and the æra of his crime, are neither of them preserved, after forming the project of usurping the throne of his masters,
and

I left Serai ; and the circuit I had been forced to make to get there, having given time for the Turkish army to pass Pazandgik, I met with nobody but stragglers, when I got once more on the direct road to Constantinople ; but the dead bodies with which it was strewed, the plundered
state

and taking the necessary measures, gave orders for the massacre of all the Jengis-Kan Princes ; but that a faithful subject, availing himself of the tumult, had the address to withdraw, without the knowledge of the assassins, one of those Princes, then in his cradle, and that he entrusted this treasure, and the secret, to a Shepherd of the name of Gueray, whose probity was universally acknowledged. The young Jengis, brought up under the name of Gueray, saw, without knowing, it, his inheritance a prey to tyranny, whilst his supposed father, occupied only with a country life, was waiting the moment when the public hatred should be so matured, as to revolt the Tartars against the usurper. The Prince had attained the age of twenty when that event took place. The old Shepherd always respected, saw the conspiracy ripen, animated the conspirators, presented his Sovereign to the people ; and, after the death of the tyrant, re-established him on the throne of his ancestors.

Hitherto the new Kam had no other claim to govern them, in the eyes of the people, than the testimony of a respectable old man indeed, but who might
still

state of the villages, and the general defolation of the whole country, loudly proclaimed the horrible disorders which accompanied its progress. Bodies of cavalry, and infantry were joining the army in each other's footsteps, without officers, or the smallest appearance of discipline. The little bands we met with, appeared only to

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be

still be suspected of acting from motives of ambition. His disinterestedness soon dissipated every injurious suspicion. Called to the foot of the throne, to receive the reward of the most signal service, he refuses all the honours which are offered him, and wishes for no other favour, than to immortalize his zeal, by rendering his name immortal. From that moment he returned to keep his flocks : the Kam governed under the name of Tchoban Gueray, (Shepherd Gueray) ; and the surname of Gueray is preserved, to this day, through all the succession of Tartar Sovereigns, as well as that of Shepherd, (Tchoban). The Turkish historians differ on this point, and their compilations would throw a doubt on the Tartar tradition, did not the palpable falsehoods in the Ottoman histories, respecting the most recent facts, oblige us to reject the opinion of the Turkish annalists : They pretend that the name of Gueray was borne by one of the younger branches of Jengis-Kan ; but the origin of the proper name is not so much the question, as that of the epithet Shepherd. Now, we cannot trace the origin of that name, but from the above tradition.

be got together to squabble amongst themselves ; to fire away, right or wrong ; to amuse themselves with the various accidents arising from their wantonness ; to murder some unhappy Christians ; to imagine their enemies already exterminated ; and in their road, if I may be allowed the expression, to gather the gleanings after the crop ; but this was so completely done already by the main body of the army, that the remains of this horrible harvest were to be traced up to the walls even of Constantinople ; every thing was destroyed by fire ; we changed our horses on the smoking ashes of the very post-houses ; nor could we discover a single habitable spot on this whole route, until we reached the Seven Towers, where I alighted, to go by sea to the suburb of Pera.

Whilst they were looking out for a boat for me, and were embarking our little baggage, a Turk, the news-monger of the quarter, observes me, and asks my conductor, who I am ? “ It is a Mirza,” replied he. “ The inquisitive fellow comes up

to

to me, and invites me to take some refreshment : I accept the invitation, and we enter into a neighbouring coffee-house, of which he was the orator. On a sign from him, the place of honour is resigned to me ; the company rise ; I stride gravely over twenty funnels of long pipes ; I feast myself ; and incessantly regaled, and questioned until my departure, I pay my share, muttering a few monosyllables, from which the politicians made very ingenious deductions, and which gave great satisfaction to the whole company ; nor was I less satisfied to leave them, to get to Pera, where I lost no time in laying aside my Tartar accoutrements.

END OF VOL. II.

