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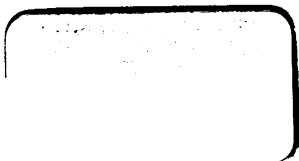
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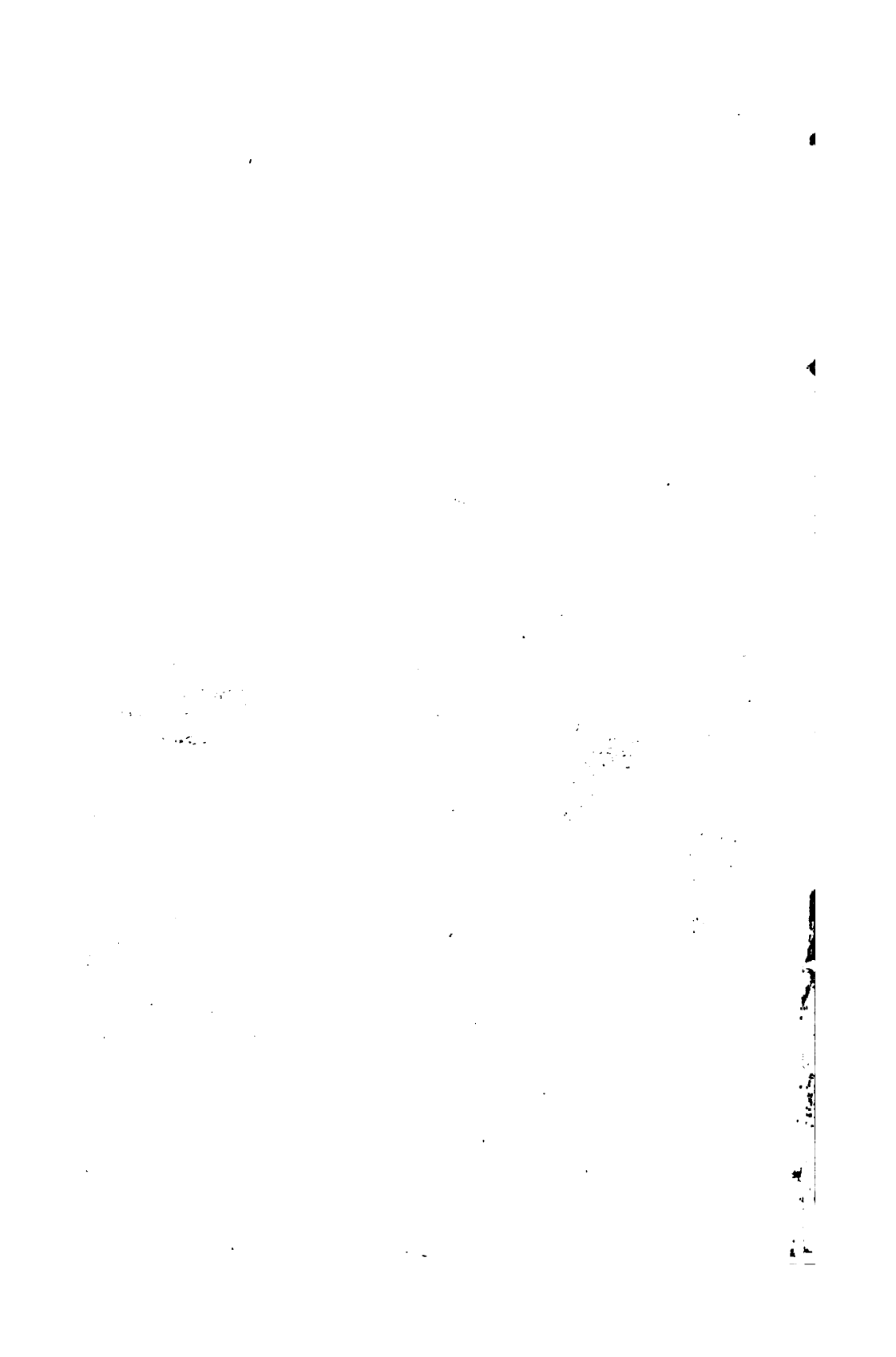




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SIX YEARS RESIDENCE
IN
ALGIERS
BY
M^{RS} BROUGHTON



The British Garden

LONDON:
SAUNDERS AND OTLEY CONDUIT STREET.
1839.

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IN

ALGIERS.

BY

MRS. BROUGHTON.

LONDON:

SAUNDERS AND OTLEY, CONDUIT STREET.

MDCCCXXXIX.

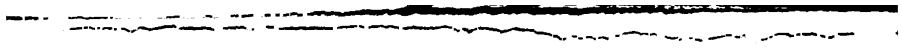
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THE DEDICATION
OF THIS LITTLE WORK,
HAS BEEN, BY GRACIOUS CONDESCENSION,
ACCEPTED BY
THAT AUGUST PRINCESS,
WHOSE FOSTERING CARE HAS BROUGHT TO PERFECTION,
AND WHOSE
ILLUSTRIOUS VIRTUES
HAVE BEEN THE MODRL,
OF
The Grace, Wisdom, and Goodness,
WHICH CALL FORTH THE ADMIRATION OF MILLIONS
WHO GRATEFULLY UNITE IN INVOKING
HEAVEN'S CHOICEST BLESSINGS
ON
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS,
THE DUCHESS OF KENT;
AND NONE CAN DO SO WITH MORE HEARTFELT
EARNESTNESS THAN
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS'
MOST GRATEFUL, DEVOTED, HUMBLE SERVANT,
ELIZABETH BROUGHTON.

NEWINGTON HOUSE, }
Edinburgh, April 1830. }



CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

	Page
Prefatory Address to the Reader—Commencement of the Diary—Departure from Malta in the Hydra Frigate— Arrival at Algiers—Mr Blanckley's first Audience of the Dey—His dignified Deportment properly appreciat- ed by His Highness—Captains Mundy and Jones sail in the Frigate—Discontent of a Maltese Nurse Maid— Possession taken of the British Consulate—Robbery— Algerine Jealousy—Consular Privilege—Three English Sailors rescued from Slavery—Prize captured by the Beagle Sloop-of-War—Aga strangled—Sudden Mar- riage of the Dragoman—The use of a Key—Wedding Visit to an Algerine Bride—Description of her Dress— Visit of the American Consul and his Lady,	1

CHAPTER II.

Caftan of Honour conferred by the Grand Signor—Gala Day in consequence at the Palace—Diplomatic Gym- nastics—Mad Consul—The Dey's Courtesy—Sicilian

	Page
Slave and Infant—Arrival of the Niger—The Pacha's estimation of British Economy—Assassination of the King of the Jews—Mrs Farara, Sketch of her History—The Gitana's Prediction, its singular and tragic fulfilment—Conclusion of the great Mahommedan Fast—Festa at the Palace—Moorish Wrestling—Slight offered to the French Consul—Hapless Fate of the Captain and Officers of a Portuguese Frigate—Our First Visit to the British Garden—A French Privateer captured and brought into Algiers—Marriage of the Cadi's Daughter,	9

CHAPTER III.

Further Proof of the Dey's amicable intentions—Contract for the Trade of Bona, and Possession of La Cala and Il Col—The Consul's Present to His Highness on the Conclusion of the Treaty—Visit to the Sultana—War between Tunis and Algiers—Russian Vessel liberated through Mr Blanckley's influence—Visit to our next Neighbour—The Dey's Satisfaction at a Loan of Money—Rejoicings for the Defeat of the Tunisines—Pretender to the Throne of Tunis—Mutiny at Malta,	26
--	----

CHAPTER IV.

Subscription for a poor Slave—Celebration of his Majesty's Birth-day—Coolness of the Dey in consequence of the Arrest of an Algerine Ship—Ingratitude of an English Domestic—Angela and Angelina—Gratifying approval	
--	--

CONTENTS.

ix

	Page
of Mr Blanckley's Services, and Official Ratification of the Contract by his Majesty's Government,	40

CHAPTER V.

Marabout's Present—Departure of ransomed English Sailors—Mr Blanckley's receipt of their written communication—The Dey's advice to him—Shipwreck on the coast of Gigery—Savage character of the natives; their cruelty and ignorance—Interference of a Marabout—Sufferings of our unfortunate Countrymen—Their ransom effected, and their reception at Algiers—Gratifying Letter from the Ironmongers Company, who indemnify Mr B. for the ransom of the poor Tars—Punishment of Moorish Deserters—Contagious disease prevails—Etiquette respecting the Plague—Exemption in favour of the English Janissary—Vessel wrecked beneath the British Garden—Sicilian Slaves captured by Rais Amido—Siroc wind—Cruel treatment of two Ragusees for their veracity—Delay in the arrival of the <i>Regalos</i> of several Christian Tributaries; consequent ill-humour of the Dey—The Jews fear being pillaged—An Embargo laid upon an American Vessel—An English Gentleman claims the Consul's protection—Arrival of His Excellency Sir Arthur Paget—His Visit to the Garden—Violent and repeated shocks of Earthquake—Ill conduct of a <i>ci-devant</i> English Vice-Consul—Letter from the King of Spain to the Dey,	51
--	----

CHAPTER VI.

Infamous treatment of the Danish, Dutch, and Spanish Consuls—Timidity of our Dragoman—Favourable view

	Page
of Achmet Pacha's character—His personal regard for my Father—The Bey of Constantina sends a superb Arab Horse—Its untimely Fate—Visit to the Marina—Blind Bob—The Pet Lamb and the Jackals—Embassy of the Capushee Bashee—Nephew of the Emperor of Morocco—The Dey's Menagerie—Chivalry of the Lion—The Guardian Pacha owes his Life to my Father's intercession—Assassination of two Beys of Algiers,	72

CHAPTER VII.

The Renegade—Mr Blanckley sails for Minorca—Death of the Dutch Consul—Celebration of Napoleon's Fête—Biographical Sketch of Madame de Thainville—Present from the French Emperor to the Dey—Reprisals on the unfortunate Sicilian Slaves—Mr B. returns from the Fleet—Admiral Lord Collingwood—Capture of 140 Portuguese—Threatened Rupture between the Regency and Great Britain—Liberation and Departure from Algiers of many English Subjects—My Parents' Hospitality and Benevolence—Description of our African *Ménage*—More Clouds on our Political Horizon—Revolution and Massacre of Achmet Pacha—Accession of the new Dey—The Divan—First Audience of the Dey Ali—Jews take Sanctuary in our Town-house—Disappearance of a Cabaili Chieftain and his Followers—Complimentary Visits on the Conclusion of the Ramadahn—Our Mountain Walk—Sidi Cadua's Reverses—The Dey's unpopularity and Court Intrigues—Sidi Omar betrayed by his Wife's Sister—Preliminaries of Peace with Sicily—Fate of a Pet Eagle—Departure of the Spanish Consul—Arrogance of the Turkish soldiery—Ascetic

CONTENTS.

xi

	Page
Regulations enforced—Unreasonable Conduct of Portuguese Officers—M. Barthelemy, A. D. C. to the French Emperor—Earthquake at Bona,	95

CHAPTER VIII.

Another Revolution—Account of the Dey's Deposition and Death—Great Drought—Algerine Ships detained at Marseilles—Monsieur Arago—The new Dey's estimation of a Philosopher—Affliction of Padre Paolo—Capture of several English Ships—A Literary Captain—Seizure of Algerine Vessels, and consequent annoyance and perplexities—The Scrivano Grande purchases his own ransom—The Benefits of Freemasonry—Archibald Dalzel, Esq.—Our Janissary Hassan accompanies the <i>Regalo</i> to Constantinople—History of an Êmpress of Morocco—Honourable conduct of M. Ragueneau de la Chenaye—Sidi Hamdan, an Algerine Savant,	124
--	-----

CHAPTER IX.

Austrian Refugee—Il primo Giorno di Primavera—Execution of a Woman for Poisoning—Torture inflicted upon Criminals—Invitation to the Guardian Pasha's—Arrival of the Cambrian Frigate—Arbitrary Treatment of the French Chargé d'Affaires—The Buzeria—Projected Travels—Cabailli Village—Anniversary of the Birth of Mahommed—The Dey offers the aid of his Troops to England—The King of the Two Sicilies—Letter of Thanks to my Parents—Arrival and Entertain-

	Page
ment of the Portuguese Ambassador—Speedy Termination of Wedded Life—Fish and Honeycomb—Mr Blanckley appointed Consul-General for Portugal—Ceremonious reception by the Dey, of a Letter from the King of England—Festa at Babel-Ouate—Splendid Presents to their Britannic Majesties—Captain Vansittart,	164

CHAPTER X.

Chasseurs Britanniques—Another Conspiracy—Captain of the Port of Pantalaria—Earthquake—Lord Cochrane—Death of Padre Guiseppe,	184
---	-----

CHAPTER XI.

Rais Amido—Native Gentry—Projects; and regrets that they have “not left a wreck behind”—Bacri, King of the Jews—His Brother takes sanctuary in our House—Hassan’s Return—Dissensions with the Bey of Oran—The first Sedan Chair—Consular Regalo—Chicanery of a Dragoman—Ali Rais accepts the Office,	198
--	-----

CHAPTER XII.

Sidi Cadua’s unhappy fate—The Caid of Tesso relieved—Execution of the renegade Escudera—Cruelties of Ali Pasha—Deposition of the Minister of the Marina—Curious Sheep—Honourable Captain Duncan—Tragic fate of three Tunisines—Gallant Conduct of Captain	
---	--

CONTENTS.

xiii

	Page
Williams of the <i>Entreprenante</i> —Departure of old Francisco—The Princess of Tripoli—Jewish Coiner—Return of the Algerine Ambassador—The Dey's discontent at the unsuitable presents sent from England,	213

CHAPTER XIII.

His Britannic Majesty's Brig <i>Onyx</i> arrives with Admiral Scarnicia and Suite—Bey of Tunis successful in quelling a Revolt—Massacre of Durand, King of the Jews—Final Redemption of Portuguese Officers, &c. &c.—Horrible Execution of a Criminal—Shameful Insult offered to the Spanish Consul—Ravages of the Small-Pox—Changes in the Algerine Administration—Persecution of the Bentibe Family—How to become a Bey—The poor Jewess and her Children—Converted Egyptian—Further Distresses of the unhappy Widow of Achmet Pacha,	229
--	-----

CHAPTER XIV.

Christmas Day—A Ghost—A man not a whit the richer for finding a Treasure—Revolution in Tunis—Seven British Sailors ransomed—Death of our Monkey by Hydrophobia—Strict <i>surveillance</i> of the Christian Slaves by our Janissary—Secretary of the Spanish Cortes—Birth of an Ottoman Prince—Arrival of Mr M'Donnell—Assassination of an Algerine Youth; trifling punishment of the Assassin—Capture of Mr and Mrs Delisle—Singular request of a Marabout—The Guardian Pacha—Our last visit to "the Garden,"	243
---	-----

CHAPTER XV.

Departure from Algiers—Excellent Oranges Arrival at Minorca—The Ville de Paris—The 4th of June—Qua- rantine—Cordial reception from our Minorquin Friends —We sail for Gibraltar—Cardinal Gravina and the Duke of Clarence—His Eminence's hat—Reminiscences of Algiers—First and Second Equestrian Souvenirs— Bread and Butter—Our House-keeping—Description of the Houses—Passion for Flowers—Danger incurred from wearing a Rose,	259
--	-----

CHAPTER XVI.

Fantasia, Uzanza, and Mangiado—Description of Algiers continued—Evening Promenade—Our next-door Neigh- bours—Bab-el-Ouate—The Cemeteries—The Dey's Gar- den—Christian Governments tributary to the Dey—Al- gerine Policy—Ostriches—Lettiga—The Bernouse— Negro Festivities—The Antipathies of a Mule—City Police,	279
---	-----

CHAPTER XVII.

Fountains—The Mountain Road—Wild Flowers and As- paragus—Ladies' Travelling Equipage—The Old House —The Conspiracy—Hassan's Solicitude and Prediction ; its Fulfilment—The British Garden—Renegades much despised,	299
--	-----

CONTENTS.

XV

CHAPTER XVIII.

Page

Description of our Country Residence continued Palace of
Mustapha Pacha—Consul Falcon—The immortal Nelson's
Clemency misinterpreted—Mr Wyndham's Letter to my
Father—Governor of Minorca's Persecution—My
Father's Interview with Lord Nelson, . . . 316

CHAPTER XIX.

Vegetable Productions of the Country—Jackals, admirers
of the Fruit of the Vine—The Hermitage and its En-
virons—Our watchful Guardians—Untimely Fate of two
Pigs—The most effectual Charm against "the Evil
Eye"—Irrigation—A visit from a Hyena—Rencontre of
a Marabout, . . . 328

CHAPTER XX .

Our Janissary Hassan—Persecutions of the Jewish Race
—Story-Telling—Murder of Mustapha Pacha—The
Saucer-eyed Lady—The Tailor's Peruke, . . . 350

CHAPTER XXI.

Description of Fruits continued—Tame Hare—Wild Ani-
mals—Birds—Insects—Fish—Catching a Polypus—
Our Bathing Place—Our Flocks and Herds—Depreda-
tion of a Jackal—Our Caballi Servants—Said, . . . 370

CHAPTER XXII.

Page

Biographical Sketch of our worthy Nurse and her stupid Husband—Story of old Francisco and his Sons, .	392
--	-----

CHAPTER XXIII.

Destruction of Documents by Fire—Festivities on the Birth of the Cadi's Grandson—Aquatic Dancing—Moorish Dinners—Receipt for Dressing Cuscousou—Derivation of Vermicelli—Sidi Arabia—Music—Conclusion, .	413
---	-----

A

SIX YEARS RESIDENCE

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CHAPTER I.

Prefatory Address to the Reader—Commencement of the Diary—Departure from Malta in the Hydra Frigate—Arrival at Algiers—Mr Blanckley's first Audience of the Dey—His dignified Deportment properly appreciated by his Highness—Captains Mundy and Jones sail in the Frigate—Discontent of a Maltese Nurse Maid—Possession taken of the British Consulate—Robbery—Algerine Jealousy—Consular Privilege—Three English Sailors rescued from Slavery—Prize captured by the Beagle Sloop of War—Aga strangled—Sudden Marriage of the Dragoman—The use of a Key—Wedding Visit to an Algerine Bride—Description of her Dress—Visit of the American Consul and his Lady.

THE following pages have no pretensions to the character of a regular and connected narrative. They consist simply of Extracts from a Diary of occurrences kept by my mother during a residence

A

in Algiers, from the year 1806 to 1812, while my late father, Henry Stanyford Blanckley, held the appointment of His Britannic Majesty's Agent and Consul General at Algiers. To these Extracts I have added certain Reminiscences or *Souvenirs* of my own, for which I feel it necessary to bespeak the indulgence of the reader. For in undertaking to transcribe, and where necessary, to explain and enlarge my mother's Journal, I rely in the first place upon my memory, to enable me to make it intelligible to others; since, although in almost all passages I have strictly adhered even to the precise expressions of the Journal, yet in others it would have been impossible exactly to have copied its terse annotations, as it was originally written in pursuance of a habit apparently followed up almost from childhood, which the Diary of many years, now in my possession, testifies. My mother, when probably pressed for time, merely noted down abbreviated memoranda of the day's occurrences, whilst at other times she is comparatively diffuse in her remarks. It may perhaps surprise some of those who may be induced to read the fruit of my present undertaking, that the memory of a very little girl could have been furnished with any information respecting many events of a more serious nature than those which usually divide the thoughts of such little people with their doll and

story-books. Therefore let me in all humility intreat their indulgence, not to judge me on exactly the same line with my compeers, from the consideration of the following circumstances.—I was my most indulgent mother's first-born, (although I ranked but as my dearest father's third daughter,) and from a very early period, by the marriages of my sisters, I became the eldest daughter of the house. As the multitude of my parent's faithful counsellors in that distant land was not very numerous, I was necessarily much confided in, and not only allowed, but desired to be often present at conferences held on subjects of a grave nature. This was not only very flattering to my *amour propre*, but had the effect of making me very circumspect and observant in my deportment.

I will now proceed to the Extracts from my mother's Diary, and my own Reminiscences. For the sake of distinction, the former will be enclosed in inverted commas.

“ 30th Sept. 1806.—Sailed in the evening from Malta in the Hydra Frigate, Captain Mundy. Anchored in the Bay of Algiers on the 9th October, when we were saluted from the Dey's battery with 21 guns. We landed on the following day under a salute from the frigate and battery. The Dey received Mr Blanckley very graciously, al-

though on his offering him his hand to salute, Mr B. respectfully, but in the firmest manner, declined doing so, as being an homage he only felt due to his own Sovereign. The Dey looked earnestly at him, whilst the Dragoman interpreted Mr B.'s answer, then good-humouredly held out his hand, and shook Mr B.'s very heartily."

From that moment was my dear father's popularity established. His gracious and firm deportment, his fine countenance and noble presence, ensured universal respect.

"12th October.—Captain Mundy, Captain Jones of the Artillery, and others of our friends, sailed this evening, and left us in this strange land. I have been so much annoyed at the disconsolate conduct of my children's nurse, whom I brought from Malta, at seeing herself surrounded by turbans, that I have been under the necessity of sending her back in a merchant vessel, which fortunately goes directly to Malta. She has never ceased weeping since we disembarked, and exclaiming, I must die, my heart is black, "*il mio cuore sta negro, il mio cuore sta negro*;" so that she has been perfectly useless, and has made my poor children almost as unhappy as herself."

"7th November.—To-day we took possession of our town-house, and discovered that during our absence in the country, casks and boxes, contain-

ing household goods, had been broken into, and knives, grocery stores, &c. abstracted. We had until this time resided at the country-house of an English merchant, who had offered the use of it to Mr B. until his own residence was ready for him. We have applied to the police of the country, but without redress, as they declare they cannot trace the robbery. However, we have had a complaint made to us in return, in consequence of our English butler John having presumed to make his appearance on the terraced roof of the house."

This privilege is only permitted to the Consuls themselves, who out of courtesy, never avail themselves of it, at least after the hour of sunset, when the Algerine belles take their evening promenade, and exhibit themselves and their jewels to their fair neighbours, until the instant that the evening prayer in the mosques ceases. Then their noisy leave-taking, and the clattering of their half-slippers, as they hurriedly descend from the terraces, to welcome home their lords, may be distinctly heard from one end of the city to the other. It is at this time that they take their principal and most substantial repast, the men having been absent from a very early hour of the day, occupied in their several avocations of business or amusement.

" 9th.—Three English sailors were brought to

our house by order of the Regency. They had been brought to Algiers by some Moors, who had taken them prisoners, and conducted them two or three days march across the country. The account they give of themselves is, that they belong to a Spanish prize, (taken by the Beagle sloop of war off Carthagena,) with which they were on their way to Gibraltar in order to get her condemned; and that they had landed to procure water, when they were made prisoners, and as they feared slaves, by the inhabitants of the country: their consequent joy on being brought to the British Consulate was very great. Mr B. supplied them with necessaries, and sent them under an efficient escort back to where they had left their companions in the prize."

"12th.—The Ramadahn, or moon of fasting, from daylight until sunset, commenced amongst the Mahomedans. It was ushered in by the Aga, or commander-in-chief of all the cavalry, being strangled."

"I understand our Dragoman, Rais Ali, was married last night, although he says that he had no intention of the kind two or three days ago. He is a strange being. He served several years in our navy, where he acquired his present *refined* knowledge of the English language. The name he bore was Tom Lee. He professes him-

self to be a most devoted admirer of the English, more especially of the ladies of that country.

“ The three sailors are returned ; the prize had disappeared. I have ordered each of the poor fellows a suit of linen, and I have had beds made up for them, which they stand in great need of, as they have been lying on the bare ground ever since they left their ship.”

“ This morning, I remarked that Rais Ali had a large key stuck in his sash, and enquired what it belonged to. He said it was the key of his house. “ What ! have you locked up your wife ? ” “ Yes. ” “ And who with her ? ” “ Oh ! nobody but the cat. I go to-day to buy her a slave. ” I pitied the poor bride so much, that I offered to pay her a visit, at which the Rais appeared much pleased.”

“ 15th.—I went, according to my promise, to pay my wedding visit to Rais Ali’s wife, but found that he had not yet fulfilled his intention of purchasing her an attendant ; for he unlocked the door himself, let us in, and ushered us up stairs, where we found the lady in lonely grandeur. She was literally laden with pearls, and appeared very passive and contented, merely staring at us. She had on a high gold fillagree cap, from which were suspended on each side of her face long rows of pearls, with many of which her neck was completely covered. Her dress consisted of two or

three open jackets, or short caftans, without sleeves, merely fastened at the waist; very full trousers, and a silk golden striped shawl, two corners of which were tied round her waist in front, the rest hanging down in lieu of a petticoat. The sleeves of her chemise were made of fine embroidered muslin, and of such extraordinary width, that they were drawn behind her caftan, and were tied in a knot, forming a very becoming drapery. Her feet and ankles were bare, the latter encircled with thick gold leglets. The least agreeable part of her appearance, (for she was sufficiently comely to justify my complimenting the Rais on his choice, or rather luck, for he had never seen her before marriage,) was three perforations in the upper part of each ear, and two others in the part where they usually are made; in each of these places she wore enormous round rings, in which stones were set, so that her ears were quite bent down, hanging in the *elephant* style. After we had quite satisfied our curiosity, we took a silent leave of the quiet lady, who was again locked up by our careful conductor.

“To-day I also received a visit from the American Consul and his lady, with whom I am more pleased every time I have the pleasure of seeing her. She is niece to the wife of the celebrated General Washington, by whom she was brought up.”

CHAPTER II.

Caftan of Honour conferred by the Grand Signor—Gala Day in consequence at the Palace—Diplomatic Gymnastics—Mad Consul—The Dey's Courtesy—Sicilian Slave and Infant—Arrival of the Niger—The Pacha's estimation of British Economy—Assassination of the King of the Jews—Mrs Farara, Sketch of her History—The Gitana's Prediction, its singular and tragic fulfilment—Conclusion of the great Mahomedan Fast—Festa at the Palace—Moorish Wrestling—Slight offered to the French Consul—Hapless Fate of the Captain and Officers of a Portuguese Frigate—Our First Visit to the British Garden—A French Privateer captured and brought into Algiers—Marriage of the Cadi's Daughter.

“ 18th.—There are great rejoicings at the palace on the reception of a robe of honour, conferred by the Grand Signor as a mark of his approbation of the Dey's conduct. A salute of nineteen guns has been fired on the occasion.”

“ All the Consuls have to-day paid their respects to his Highness, with the exception of the French. He always paid his court the night before, ever

since the following circumstance occurred. From time immemorial a scuffle for precedence had taken place between the British and French Consuls General, on every occasion in which they had met in the Dey's presence; none of the Envoys of the other Powers, of course, ever presuming to dispute precedence with the representatives of the two great rival nations. The consular dignity must on these occasions, if the account is correct, have been greatly compromised, as it was not by Machiavelian skill that so momentous a point was usually decided, but by the superior personal agility exercised by his Britannic Majesty's representatives; to the no little edification of the long-bearded courtiers, who witnessed the indecorous exhibitions of European gymnastics. It at last happened that Consul Falconer, a gentleman still remembered by the sobriquet of "the mad Consul," was determined that in Algiers at least, a final end should be put to Gallic presumption. On some grand Festa, he therefore arrived at the palace, just before the time of admission to the Dey's presence, and having posted himself at the foot of the great staircase, he there patiently awaited the appearance of the French Consul, who no sooner came up, than the usual race began, until they reached the top of the stairs, and were in the august presence of his Highness, when Mr Falconer suddenly caught his

antagonist round the waist, threw him over the banisters, then composedly walked forward, and paid his respects to the Dey, amidst the shouts of laughter and applause of all present. Happily the poor Frenchman escaped without any other hurt, except the incurable mortification he experienced, which ever after prevented him and all his successors from again entering the lists with John Bull.

“Shortly after Mr B.’s return from the palace, the Dey sent an officer to present his compliments, and a poor female slave, (with a lovely infant in her arms,) to wait upon me. Poor helpless unfortunate, she appears unable to do any thing for herself or child. They had just been brought in by an Algerine cruiser, which had captured them when on their passage from Gaeta to Leghorn, whither she was going to rejoin her husband. She is a pretty girl of only seventeen, her poor babe but three months old. Her whole wardrobe was snatched from her as their perquisite, by the crew of the vessel that captured her. Her money and jewels falling to the Dey’s share, he has, out of compliment to me, given orders that all the latter shall be restored, that by their sale she may be enabled to purchase clothing. This is the first instance ever known of such an act of mercy, and it is considered a mark of high consideration to the British Consul and nation.”

“21st.—We were awakened by hearing a royal salute fired, on the Niger Frigate anchoring in the bay. Captain Hillyer has been sent by Lord Collingwood with a watch for the Dey, and he accompanied Mr Blanckley to the palace to present it. It is much to be lamented that so trumpey a present should have been sent, since it is to be feared, that far from its being of benefit in promoting feelings of good-will towards our nation, it may very probably have a very opposite effect.”

“On Mr B.’s presenting it to the Dey, he drew it from the case, and twisting it between his thumb and finger, eyed it with the most contemptuous expression of countenance, and calling to his head cook, (who, it appears, is a person of consequence in his household,) gave it to him, saying that he made him a present of it, as it was more fit for *him* than *Himself*. Mr B. and Capt. Hillyer were much mortified, and join in regretting that these matters were not better understood at home.”

“24th.—Our friends in the Niger took leave of us, and sailed after sunset. A brig also sailed out of the port, bound for Egypt, having on board a man who has been sentenced to banishment for life, for having some months back shot the King of the Jews. Had he killed the most insignificant individual of another creed, he would not have escaped so easily; but the murderer of the most

exalted Jew (notwithstanding all the efforts for revenge which his own people have made,) has not been thought worthy of suffering capital punishment."

"25th.—I received a visit from a Mrs Farara and family; she has the remains of having been a very beautiful woman."

This Lady's parents were English; she was born at Minorca; her father was a Lieutenant in an English regiment in garrison at Mahon, where he died. Her mother not long surviving, she was left an orphan, and but for the kindness of some benevolent Minorquins, in a state of perfect destitution. Shortly after the death of her mother, a Signor Farara arrived at Mahon; he was an Algerine merchant, although a Christian and a native of the small island of Tabacra, whose entire inhabitants had some years before been swept off by an Algerine Corsair, and taken slaves to Algiers, Signor Farara being at the time an infant of only a few months old. I never heard what had been the fate of his parents, but he had a brother, a child a few years older than himself, who in process of time rose high in the favour of Hassan Bashaw (the Bashaw *who died in his bed*, and whose family and followers, consequently, were permitted to retain their property;) and held the post of Caffidgi or Coffee-maker to his Highness. A ray

of the sunshine in which he basked, fell also on his brother, and they amassed an ample independence, which was at length crowned by the Dey conferring freedom upon them ; and they established themselves as merchants, the younger brother often acting as supercargo on board their own vessel.

On one of these occasions he visited Minorca, and saw our lovely countrywoman, to whom he immediately made proposals of marriage, which the advice of her charitable protectors, and the consideration of her helpless situation, induced her to accept. The same motives also influenced her in complying with Signora Farara's desire, that she would, at the same time, renounce the Protestant faith, and enter the Roman Catholic Church. She was, I know, but sixteen at the time of her marriage, and I do not exactly know how long previously she had been an orphan ; but I should suppose that her knowledge of religion must have been but superficial, and the faith she at that time professed merely nominal, for when we knew her, she was an extremely strict and devoted Roman Catholic. My dear mother believed her to be one of the best of women, and notwithstanding the errors which she held, she was a sincere and consistent Christian. She had suffered much, and ever appeared to seek strength from

on high. Poor lady! I would willingly, although imperfectly, describe her unpretending worth.

Immediately after her nuptials, Mrs Farara accompanied her husband to Algiers, where the general impression was, that he was not always so kind to his gentle wife as he ought to have been; but alas! ere long, besides such secret grief, she had other and more poignant sorrows to endure. A son was born to her,—a lovely boy; so lovely, indeed, was he, that he excited the admiration of all who beheld him. He had just completed his second year, and was one evening at the open door of their house, held in the arms of a Christian slave, who was a hired servant of Signor Farara's, (no Christian being permitted to have slaves of their own,) looking at the passers by, who failed not to pay some compliment, or express some kind wish, as they gazed on the beautiful child. At length came a *Gitana* (a gipsy); she stopped, and looking earnestly at the boy, she said, "It will be well for you if you pass your fourth year." Scarcely had she said these words, when the slave who held the child, and one or two other servants that were standing by him, drove the luckless creature from before them, and entering the house, closed the door. As may be supposed, the circumstance failed not to make considerable impression on their minds; and, in their indignation at

the ill-omened predictor, they told the circumstance to the parents, who were so much affected at it, although poor Mrs Farara said she tried to drive away the superstition as sinful, that they scarcely allowed their darling to leave their sight for an instant. This is not an imaginary tale ; and however futile it may appear, I can only relate it as it was. The fair child continued to increase in beauty and intelligence, and his doting parents in their pride and joy in beholding him, although their hearts failed not to quail whenever the dire prediction shot across their anxious minds.

Mrs Farara constantly declined the invitations she received from the different Consular families, although her doing so was a cause of much regret, so much was she esteemed and respected, especially by the lady of the American Consul, between whom and Mrs Farara there existed, of course, a more than common sympathy of habits and tastes, so that it was with no ordinary self-denial that she returned a refusal to the many friendly invitations from the American Garden ; but one day the hospitable owner called upon Mrs Farara, with a positive determination to make her and Signor Farara return with her. All excuses were negatived, her husband joined in expressing his desire that they should comply with the flattering invitation ; therefore, after giving the most earnest and parti-

cular injunctions to every member of their household, to surround the beloved object of their solicitude with every caution and care, the anxious parents mounted their mules, and accompanied their kind hostess to the American Garden; but ere they had reached it, what were the poor mother's feelings of self-reproach and regret, when she recollected that this was the birth-day of her precious child; that this day completed his fourth year. Oh! why then had she been induced to leave him? the gipsy's prediction was not yet fulfilled, and surely will not be now, added she, as she strove to smile, in answer to some remark of one of her companions. Again, let me repeat, this is not an imaginary story, but one which I have often heard repeated by more than one witness of this sad, but alas! true event; and need I add, that the sorrowful impression with which I heard the circumstances related, has not ceased to keep alive in my recollection all the affecting details.

So careful was every individual of the family, in sympathizing with the strict orders of the absent parents, that they each strove who could best watch over the precious child; and the most confidential persons of the household, the two *scrivanos* or clerks, had desired that the *Carissimo Piccolo* might play about the counting-house, that they

might be enabled faithfully to fulfil their promise of watching over his safety. The playful boy scrambled up the back of their chairs, pinched their hair, then tried to snatch the paper they were writing upon from beneath their pens; their desks were placed parallel to each other; they ceased from writing and gazed, admiring his playfulness; instinctively they both took up their penknives to mend their quills, when, strange, awful fatality! the devoted child, in playful defiance, attacked one of them, who in return pretended to stab him with his penknife; he turned to his other guardian, who as thoughtlessly did the same, and the blooming boy fell upon its blade,—it pierced his little heart.—The dire forebodings of the *Gitana* were realized, and the disconsolate parents were for ever bereft of their only child.

“12th December.—Mr B. went at day-light to the palace to see some *oiled* Moors wrestle, and break their thirty days fast. The Ramadahn being ended, the Dey received the consuls in a gallery overlooking the court, in the centre of which was a heap of sand surmounted by a small red flag. At a certain signal given by the Dey, and amidst the most discordant jar of drums, fifes, and cymbals, the above named shining personages rushed forward, and scattered and spread the sand over the pavement. They then exhibited their prowess

in wrestling, and the Dey conferred a purse of gold upon the winner, whilst coins of lesser value were thrown amongst his less successful competitors. The scramble was farther continued by cold viands being distributed, and seized by them in the same unceremonious manner, to the apparently no small entertainment of the sovereign and his courtiers."

" We understand, that last night, the Dey sent a message to the French Consul, desiring him not to make his appearance at the palace."

" 13th.—Nothing but noise and confusion prevails in the streets; however, we ventured as far as the Swedish Consul's, where we were invited to a ball. I danced with the unfortunate Captain of the Portuguese frigate, taken by the Algerines a few years ago. War between Portugal and this Regency has existed for above thirty years; and several different attempts to effect a peace, and the consequent liberation of the numerous slaves, have been ineffectually made, having failed from the exorbitant demands made by this Government. The hapless Portuguese officers are, by the yearly payment of a certain sum, exempted from labouring at the Marina like beasts of burden,—the dreadful lot of their companions in slavery."

" 14th.—Mr Foley, English Vice-Consul at

Oran, arrived here, to pay his respects to Mr B."

"18th.—Mr Escudera, Vice-Consul at Bona, and a Mr Robinson, an English merchant, also arrived."

"29th.—We dined for the first time at our own Garden, but fear it will not be ready for our reception as a residence for some time. It is a lovely place."

"1st January 1807.—An English privateer has entered the port, bringing in a French privateer, bound to the West Indies. Her cargo consists of arms, and a variety of different merchandise, with many letters of importance, shewing the wretched internal state of France."

"4th.—This evening I went to the wedding of the daughter of the Cadi, or chief judge. The bride is a very lovely creature, a widow of nineteen, and has two beautiful children. Her first husband was strangled, and it has been since proved that he was perfectly innocent of the offence of which he had been accused. But whatever her feelings of regret may have been, she could not avoid entering again into the conjugal state, as singleness or widowhood is considered alike sinful and discreditable. Her family, therefore, have lost no time in finding her another husband. I found her surrounded by a crowd of most brilliantly dressed ladies ;

indeed, my eyes were perfectly dazzled by the splendour of the jewels by which their salmas, (*i. e.* golden caps,) and persons were covered; whole bouquets of roses, jessamines, peacocks' feathers, and butterflies were completely formed of diamonds. In short, my powers of description are baffled, for it would be useless to attempt to give an account of all the wonders on which I gazed. Nor was I less struck with the number of beautiful women amongst them. They are quite as fair as Europeans, and their eyes far surpassed in brilliancy and beauty any I had ever beheld. Nothing could exceed their courtesy, and the politeness of their reception. I was placed on the same low sofa with the bride, but would willingly have exchanged my seat for a higher one, had there been such in the room, for I could not attempt imitating my fair hostesses in their tailor manner of sitting, and the sofa was merely a brocade covered mattress placed upon the floor. The gratification of my curiosity compensated for such trifling inconvenience. Shortly after our entrance, we were served with coffee and sweetmeats. The coffee was served in the most delicately beautiful porcelain cups, about the size of dolls tea-cups; and in lieu of saucers, they were inserted in golden chased cups, which enabled one to hold it without burning one's fingers, the coffee being quite boil-

ing, but disagreeably thick, and to my taste, oversweetened. After we had partaken of these refreshments, a band of female musicians, playing upon a kind of guitar, and a curiously-shaped drum made of earthenware, and covered at one end with parchment, called a Tambouca, and several tambourines, began their strange music; and at the same time a hired dancer stood up in the centre of the apartment, holding an embroidered handkerchief in each hand, which she waved and twisted about, and scarcely moving her feet, she threw herself into various attitudes. After a time, another dancer stood up, performing in the same manner, and both sang a plaintive song, to the apparent satisfaction of the Assembly, for it is inconsistent with their ideas of propriety and decorum for ladies of rank and respectability to dance. And those who do so are inferior persons, whose trade and profession it is to exhibit themselves for the amusement of those who pay them for such performances.

“ After this exhibition had continued some time, the bride, conducted by some of the principal ladies, ascended a few steps to one of the *shelves* or bed-places, which invariably occupy each end of all Algerine rooms; and having seated herself upon cushions, her companions proceeded to make great changes in her toilet and ap-

pearance, some of them adding ornaments to her already highly adorned *salma*, whilst others occupied themselves in actually plastering her lovely face with a profuse quantity of red paint, to which they added patches of gold leaf, so as effectually to mask and disfigure her. I was then invited, through the interpretation of the Italian lady who accompanied me, to pay a visit to the bridegroom, which I very willingly agreed to, and was conducted to a room on the opposite side of the gallery. After having passed under several tier of brocade, silk, and muslin curtains, we found ourselves in the presence of the bridegroom. He was an elderly Turk, with but one eye, and equally great as was the contrast between his appearance and that of his lovely bride, was the change from the noise, show, and company in her apartment, to the quiet and sombre appearance of his, although both were handsomely hung with crimson silk damask. He had only one companion, a middle-aged Turk, and they both looked very dull and stupid, until, on his asking me if I thought his wife (whom he had never seen) handsome, and on hearing my agreeable answer, he stroked his beard with great satisfaction, and said, "Star buono, Signora, star buono." While we sat with him, his friend took his leave; and as the time for the introduction of the bride approached,

we also returned to her apartment, and found her additional toilet quite completed. Indeed, with so many additional jewels had she been decorated, that she was quite unable to bear the weight of her *salma* without the support of two of her attendants, who walked on each side of her, and held her head. At the moment of her leaving the room, a veil of purple crape, splendidly embroidered in gold, small pearls, and precious stones, was thrown over her head. In this array she was conducted to the door of the bridegroom's chamber, amidst the universal cry from each individual present, of *Lai, Lai, Lai, Lella*,—a sound of great joy always raised at marriages by the assembled guests. The curtains were raised, but only a certain number of the company, probably the nearest relatives, entered, and conducted the veiled bride to a seat on the left of the bridegroom, who continued seated. Her veil was then removed by one of the ladies, and for the first time the old Turk beheld his wife, or rather her masked countenance. An old woman, who had taken an active part in the whole ceremony, took from the hands of a black woman a small silver ewer containing rose water, and approached the bride, whom she addressed. The bride then raised her two hands, and extending their hollowed palms, the officiating lady filled them with rose

water out of the ewer. The bridegroom then, turning round, drank it out of the bride's hands. He then underwent a similar ceremony, the bride drinking out of his hands. During all this time, the shouts of "*Lai, lai, lai,*" continued unceasingly both from those within, and those on the outside of the chamber. This ending the marriage ceremony, we and the rest of the company took our leave of this paired, not matched couple."

CHAPTER III.

Further proof of the Dey's amicable intentions—Contract for the trade of Bona, and Possession of La Cala and Il Col—The Consul's present to His Highness on the conclusion of the Treaty—Visit to the Sultana—War between Tunis and Algiers—Russian vessel liberated through Mr Blanckley's influence—Visit to our next neighbour—The Dey's satisfaction at a Loan of Money—Rejoicings for the defeat of the Tunisines—Pretender to the throne of Tunis—Mutiny at Malta.

“*January 7th.*—The Dey sent for Mr Blanckley, saying he had something of consequence to communicate, and that he requested he would come immediately. His Highness began by saying, that he had sent for him, to give a proof of his desire to please the King of England, and to evince the satisfaction he felt at the King having appointed such a Galantuómo as Consul, for he felt it was a compliment; therefore, he had determined upon shewing that on his side there was

the strongest inclination to benefit and please the English ; and he was now going to evince that such were his intentions, by offering to the King that which England's great enemies the French were most anxious to retain, namely, the exclusive trade of Bona, and the right to colonize and take possession of La Cala and Il Col, with the Coral Fishery * on that coast. That the French had for more than two centuries enjoyed these privileges and benefits ; and that the period of their last treaty having expired, he was determined, notwithstanding the French Consul's earnest endeavours to the contrary, to offer to enter into a treaty with his good friends the English ; and that he now made a tender of these possessions to him, upon condition of their paying less than the French Consul was willing to give. Mr B. returned his Highness many thanks for so decided a testimony

* In those days a coral necklace adorned other than chubby baby charms, and continued for some years afterwards a *parure*, not only *fort à la mode*, among Parisian belles, but was even worn in Court costume by the Duchesses d'Angoulême and de Berri ; the latter, as part of her *dot*, having brought with her from Sicily a great quantity of it. I remember more than once having seen Her Royal Highness's whole dress and person decorated with it. And, doubtless, it is still much esteemed by less fashionable persons in Italy, Sicily, and all parts of Barbary. So that the right of fishing on the Coral banks was of no little consequence, both to the owner of the boats and the merchants connected with the trade.

of the sincerity of his regard, and assured him that he was convinced that his Royal Master would be much gratified by his Highness's acting in so friendly a manner, and that he would, without loss of time, communicate the information to His Majesty's Government, who he had no doubt would empower him to accept His Highness's offer. "Write!" replied the Dey, "why *you* must give me an answer now; there is the French Consul ready to sign and seal, and pay me any thing I like, for the renewal of the contract." In vain did Mr B. endeavour to convince him that it was impossible for him to give an answer to so momentous a question, without being authorized to do so; nor, after a long, and on the Dey's part, a most impatient conference, could he obtain a longer delay than the space of 24 hours, after which, if he could not make up his mind to the responsibility of accepting the Dey's offer in behalf of his Government, the Dey said he would be under the necessity of accepting the French offer. "As it is," he added, "think what a risk I am running, to prove to the English that I really am their friend in offering them the contract for so much less than the French Consul would be delighted to give me, when the Janissaries may accuse me of throwing away the public money; so there is but one word, yes or no."

“ 8th.—Mr B. has passed a most trying night ; but so strongly does he see the advantages to be derived by this settlement, and the loss it will be to the French, that he has determined at all events to accept the Dey’s offer, although in doing so, should his conduct be disapproved by the higher powers, he seals his own ruin.”

“ It is over,—and Mr B. has hired a ship to carry dispatches for Government with the treaty.”

Had my beloved father’s patriotic views been sufficiently acted upon, had La Cala been garrisoned and colonized, and placed on the same footing that the French had maintained it in, Algiers would not now be in the hands of France, and Russia would have had another barrier to prevent her ambitious designs in the Mediterranean. I am almost tempted, (when I remember my venerated parent’s deeply felt regrets and disappointments,) to say with Queen Mary, that La Cala will be found engraven on my heart.—(See Appendix, No. I.)

“ 22d.—We had the satisfaction of seeing from the terrace the agreeable sight of two French prizes brought in by an English Privateer.”

“ 23d.—Mr B. went to the Palace to present the Dey with a most superb repeating-watch, set with a profusion of brilliants, and several elegant tissue dresses, on the conclusion of the Treaty between

our country and this, which has been negotiated entirely by Mr B. The Dey requested that Mr B. would obtain for him an English surgeon and watchmaker; for he said that he would like only to have English people about him."

"*February 5th.*—We all rode out to our Garden, and from thence saw the Pylades Frigate enter the Port. She is commanded by Captain Bligh, whom General Villettes introduced at our house in Malta, and with whom Harry afterwards sailed to Gibraltar. He and his officers remained on shore, and we danced most evenings until the 10th, when they sailed."

"*March 5th.*—Our absent soldier this day completes his twenty-second year. The Danish and Swedish Consuls dined here. A heavy fall of snow and hail prevented the ladies of their families from accompanying them. Our Janissary says that it is ten years since any snow has fallen in Algiers."

"*12th.*—Our Janissary has commenced stocking our farm, by buying a cow and calf, for which he paid 24 patacas."

"*13th.*—I and the children went by invitation to see the wife of the Dey. She received us very graciously; indeed, most kindly. Her father was also present, and met us at the entrance. He led us up stairs, and introduced us; and, as he speaks Lingua Franca perfectly, and I begin to

understand it very well, he acted as my interpreter. Her Majesty, or Highness, is twenty-three years of age, very pleasing in appearance, and unaffected in her manners. She has two fine children, both girls. We dined there; a vast variety of dishes of meat, poultry, pastry, and sweetmeats, succeeded each other. Each dish was placed separately upon a small low silver and mother-of-pearl table. I was accommodated with cushions; but the children were quite adepts at sitting in the Moorish fashion, which we all followed in eating out of the same dish. The Sultana appeared much gratified at the admiration (which I could not restrain) with which I observed the splendidly embroidered napkins which were placed on our laps, as also the curious rosewood spoons, tipped with amber, with which we were served; and she afterwards presented me with three of the former, richly embroidered in gold, silver, and various coloured silks, on a curiously wrought linen ground, and with ten spoons similar to those we had used. I understand that it is contrary to the Alcoran for Mussulmans to eat or drink out of silver, although they have not any scruple to have articles of furniture made of this costly material; I was perfectly astonished at the grandeur of all I beheld. When we entered the room in which the Sultana received us, jewels were

strewn all over a carpet, which was of cut velvet, in a pattern of the richest flowers, and most varied colours. Before we left this room, to go to that in which we dined, some beautiful-looking women, (who appeared to be her favourite attendants, and who Sidi Cadua told me were Georgian slaves), gathered up these treasures, and placed them on the shelves of two glass cabinets that stood against the wall at our backs. In the centre of this apartment was a shallow recess, and on its walls were hanging several pistols and swords, whose handles and scabbards were entirely covered with diamonds. At the opposite end of the room from where we were seated was a gilt four-post European-shaped bedstead, on which were placed four mattresses of gold brocade, and the curtains were made of blue tiffany, embroidered with gold sprigs. My E. gave the Dey's eldest daughter a toy watch, with which she was delighted. After our visit to this great lady was ended, we proceeded to pay a visit to her mother and sister; the latter is the wife of one of the Dey's principal officers, and a very beautiful woman. We also saw a third sister, who is yet unmarried; but my eyes were so dazzled with all the splendour I had beheld at the palace, that I felt quite glad when all these visits were concluded. I have, however, cause to be much gra-

tified at having received so flattering an invitation, as I am the first and only Consul's wife of any nation who has been so highly distinguished."

"22d.—At daybreak this morning, a shock of an earthquake was felt in Algiers and its vicinity. An Algerine frigate came into the port from Malta, and brought me several letters from my friends, Lady Ball and Mr Wilkie."

"27th.—Good Friday, very bad weather, constant rain and hail. I am thankful to learn that Dr Triplet has been left behind by the Constitution American Frigate, although I regret that the cause should be his ill health, for we are in a pitiable state, without any medical advice. The father-in-law to the Dey sent me a lamb; he has sent the children several before."

"1st April.—War rages between this Regency and that of Tunis. Many thousand troops have left this, to go against the enemy. I think with greater dread of the effects of earthquakes, than of war, or even of the plague. The shock which we experienced on this day fortnight was slight. About four years ago, a very severe one was felt. On that occasion a village near this city was completely destroyed, and many of its inhabitants lost their lives. A person who was at that time staying at what is now our Garden, told me that he saw the

walls of the house open and close again ; and that he slept for eight nights in a cot, suspended between two trees in the garden."

" 11th.—An Algerine Frigate has brought into port twenty Russian prisoners, whose ship and cargo they had sold at Candia. So bold an attempt has excited much surprise. Mr B. sent a message by his Dragoman, demanding an explanation. The Dey sent word back to Mr B., that it was unauthorised by him, and begged the Consul would write to our Admiral, to say that every thing should, as far as it lay in his power, be restored."

" 12th.—The day proving propitious, our whole family proceeded to take possession of our Garden, where we had scarcely arrived, before our Dragoman Rais Ali made his appearance, accompanied by the Captain of the Russian prize, with a cord (in lieu of a chain) round his leg, as a token of slavery ; which Mr B. perceiving, his ire was much roused, and he ordered it to be instantly removed."

" 12th.—The weather is at last settled. In the evening, I and the children walked to a Moorish house, whose grounds join ours. On approaching it, we perceived some very pretty women, who appeared much pleased to see us, and invited us to walk into the house. We were ushered into a room, where I committed a strange blunder, in

seating myself on a sieve covered with a variety of articles of fine pastry, (which it appears the ladies had been making previous to our intrusion,) and which I mistook for an embroidered cushion. They bore the injury I caused them with great good humour and politeness; indeed, they seemed much amused at the circumstance. They offered us sweetmeats, and sherbet made of orange flower water. The name of the owner of the house is Hadgi Omar;—all who have visited, in pilgrimage, the tomb of Mahomet at Mecca, being afterwards entitled to be called Hadgi, and also to wear a green turban,—green being a sacred colour. We took our leave of our pretty, agreeable neighbours, promising to repeat our visit.”

“15th.—The Swedish Consul called upon Mr B., he said, in his capacity of Agent for Russia. He appeared to be not a little piqued at the English Consul having been preferred by the Dey to adjust the business of the Russian ship. The Dey has faithfully paid the value of the ship and cargo.”

“27th.—Report says that the Algerines are getting the better of the Tunisines. Four days ago, I am told that 40 mules laden with the heads of rebels who had refused to pay a tax imposed by the Dey, of one mesuna each, were brought

into the city of Algiers from the neighbourhood of Oran."

"30th.—The Russian Captain took his leave of us, he is to sail with the nineteen men of his crew, who have been liberated in consequence of Mr B.'s interference; he has even had his watch and the cross of the order of St Ismael, with which he had been invested, as well as his private money, which had all been taken from him, restored by the Dey's orders."

"May 2d.—Mr B. paid his respects to the Dey, by whom he was most graciously received, and the Dey expressed his thanks for the loan of some thousand dollars advanced by Mr B.'s Vice-Consul Escudera at Bona, for the service of the Dey's army going against Tunis, who, on receiving their pay, proceeded with exclamations of 'Viva Inglese.'"

"6th.—I hear this morning that an English frigate is at anchor in the Bay of Algiers. Our Janissary went to town, and brought out a member of our family whose arrival has given us much joy, and Captain Hillyer,—for the frigate is the Niger."

"10th.—Great rejoicings in Algiers,—colours hoisted on all the forts;—six hundred Turks have deserted from the Tunisines to the Algerine army,

and forty-three mules laden with men's heads are forthwith expected at Algiers."

"14th.—An account of a further victory over the Tunisines has been received ; Mr B. rode to town with the intention of congratulating the Dey on the success of his troops. The Dey was very gracious, and said that he considered the English to be his only friends, and added *Viva Inglese.*"

"21st.—The Aga set out from this with the young Bey of Tunis, to establish him on the throne of his ancestors, (succession in Tunis being hereditary, and not elective as in Algiers.) This young man's mother was a Frenchwoman, and one of the seraglio of the late Bey of Tunis, whose favourite she was. When he was dying, he desired this lady, then pregnant, to depart for Holland, and ordering a vessel to be prepared, furnished her with an abundance of wealth of every description. At parting from her, he gave her a silver box, with express orders not to inform the child of its contents, until it should have attained a proper age. It proved a son, who, in accordance with the above directions, remained in perfect ignorance, until he was sixteen years old, of who his father was, when his mother, previous to her death, shewed him the contents of the box, which contained papers written, sealed, and signed by the late Bey of Tunis, and which acknowledged him to be

heir to the throne of Tunis. Immediately on his mother's death he went to Tunis to make good his claims, and turned Mahometan. The reigning Bey would not resign his throne, but detained him, and gave him some servile situation in Tunis, in which station he was forced to remain until, on the breaking out of the war with Algiers, he made his escape, and coming to Algiers, prevailed on the Day to sanction and further his claims to his father's throne."

"27th.—We have been robbed of a considerable quantity of table linen, &c., which had been hung out by the Jewish washerwoman to dry. Our Janissary being on an expedition to the mountains to purchase sheep, we are at a loss how to proceed in making search for the lost linen, as we conclude that the robbery must have been effected by the Cabailis."

"1st June.—The Niger has again returned here from Malta; Captain H. came out in the evening. From him we are grieved to learn that last month the Friburg regiment mutinied at Malta, and fired from Fort Ricasili on La Valette."

"Poor Captain F., and the English Artillery on duty in the Fort, were compelled, by dint of threats, and bayonets being placed at their breasts, to point the guns and fire shells upon the town; they loaded the latter with cartridge balls instead

of powder, pretending that they would do more execution, and in consequence they did not burst. Mr Swartz, an officer of the corps, in endeavouring to bring them back to their duty, was killed in the most cruel manner. Twenty-five of the wretches have since, by court-martial, been condemned to be hanged or shot."

CHAPTER IV.

Subscription for a poor Slave—Celebration of his Majesty's Birthday—Coolness of the Dey in consequence of the Arrest of an Algerine Ship—Ingratitude of an English Domestic—Angela and Angelina—Gratifying approval of Mr Blanckley's Services, and Official Ratification of the Contract by his Majesty's Government.

“*June 2d.*—Mr Blanckley went to town this morning through actual torrents of rain. He is in great hopes of being able to succeed in the redemption of Sicilian slaves.”

“*3d.*—Mr B. and I both slept in town ; we had the satisfaction of contributing fifty dollars each, towards redeeming a poor woman who is in the service of the Swedish Consul.”

“*4th.*—I accompanied my family to town, from whence we embarked in a boat, under the customary salutes of the batteries, to celebrate the anniversary of our beloved King's birth, on board the Niger. All the Consuls whose nations were at peace with England, were there also. The

frigate was beautifully dressed, and a new Royal Standard lately sent to Mr B., made a fine addition. She was decorated entirely with her own standards and those of her Allies. Immediately after our departure, and her firing the parting salute, the frigate sailed for Gibraltar."

"5th.—Our Italian cook, who has been in Mr B.'s service nineteen years, has to-day given us warning that he intends to leave us, as he says he dislikes this country : and that happy as he would be to serve us in any other, he could not exist any longer in a land of barbarians."

"7th.—Mr B. went to town through violent rain, and returned much chagrined at the Dey having excused himself, under some plea, from granting him an audience."

"Three unfortunate Moorish women were to-day drowned according to law, such being the only capital punishment for women."

"9th.—The Dey has stopped Mr Robinson's ship in consequence of an Algerine vessel not having been liberated by the Admiralty Court at Malta, who have referred the case to be decided in England. The great man here is almost mad about it. If it does not terminate in his favour, and soon, our position will be far from being an enviable one ; however, the Consul's conduct is so

firm, that the Dey has ended by agreeing to let Mr R. and his vessel depart in peace."

"11th.—Mr Robinson's ship came under our Garden, and saluted the Colours, and then sailed for Malta."

"12th.—Antonia, (our butler's Minorquin wife,) went this morning into Mr B.'s dressing-room, and demanded a passport for John to go to Minorca, as also for herself and child."

"John appears determined to go, notwithstanding his having 200 dollars a year wages; and as he does not give any plausible reason for this sudden determination, he must, I fear, have some motive for leaving our service, which is at present hidden from us."

"14th.—The dragoman brought out a Mr Bendyshe, Midshipman of the Sea Horse, who came in a small Majorca prize, laden with oranges. He had intended going to Oran, but was driven past that place in a violent gale of wind, and such was the bad state of the vessel, that they could not venture to attempt to tack, from fear of sinking."

"15th.—Our ungrateful servant John and his family sailed."

"16th.—We have made many disagreeable discoveries of John's dishonesty, which it appears the rest of the servants more than suspected, but did not dare venture accusing one who stood so high

in our favour; his wife has also robbed our cook Juan, and even poor Angela."

This John Vos came to my father when he was last at Minorca, in a state of the most abject poverty and distress, representing himself as an Englishman, which he really was; he had originally been bred a hairdresser in some large town in England, and having run away from his master, had enlisted; and either from Minorca, then in the possession of the English, or from some other place, for I do not recollect whence, he had deserted to the Spaniards. He afterwards married a Minorquin wife, and tried to support himself as a barber, but from the account he gave, most unsuccessfully, as at the time he applied to my father, he, his wife, and child, were almost starving. He expressed the greatest contrition for having deserted, and said he had never ceased repenting and regretting having taken such a step, and that his most earnest desire was to be once more reinstated in his right to bear the name of Englishman. Such sentiments, and his destitute condition, failed not to move my beloved parent's ever kind and compassionate heart, and he immediately took him into his service, in which he proved himself a most clever, active, and *accomplished* domestic; for, in short, there was not any thing that John could not do, or teach other less experienced servants. I know that he particularly

excelled in making dolls' wigs, for he made me several. His professions of gratitude and attachment to the family were unbounded, as was almost equally the confidence placed in, and the favour shewn to him. Among many instances was that of his wife and child being, although perfectly useless members, taken into the household, where they continued both whilst we were at Malta, and thence accompanied us to Algiers.

It afterwards was proved that the robbery of the unpacked cases, which occurred immediately after our arrival at Algiers, to which my mother has alluded in her journal, as well as that of a large quantity of table linen, had been committed by John, in conjunction with his wife; but the acme of his baseness was his endeavouring to despoil the unfortunate Angela of a jewel cross, her most valuable possession. His having been thwarted in so laudable an intention, and the consequent fear he entertained of a tardy exposure of all his villany, was the hidden cause of his (to my parents at that time unaccountable) determination to leave their service.

Poor Angela, (the young Sicilian sent by the Dey to wait upon my mother), wishing to convert her trinkets into money, with the hope of being enabled to add it to that sum which her husband and relatives in Sicily were then using their utmost efforts to raise towards her and her sweet little

baby's ransom, had requested our Italian cook, Juan, when he went to Algiers to market, to enquire what price would be given for her cross, and she had consequently entrusted it to him the day before that on which he usually went to town. What was Juan's dismay and distress, when on getting up early, he could not find Angela's cross! As he was fearful of forgetting it, he had placed it on his table the last thing before he went to rest, where he could not fail seeing it when he arose. He searched every place in vain. He assembled all the servants, and told them that one of their number must have taken it, and that he was determined that it should be returned, but that if it was at once restored, he would not inform the Consul of the circumstance. He then mounted his mule, and proceeded to the market, leaving, of course, poor Angela in a state of much affliction, enhanced in no slight degree from the necessity, in accordance with Juan's declaration, of concealing her distress from the knowledge of her kind lady and the family; with whom, although perfectly useless in the capacity of a domestic, she was, from her interesting circumstances, and her mild and gentle deportment, a great favourite; and her little Angelina, quite the universal plaything. I fancy I can see the little creature now standing as a Cupid, (decorated, how-

ever, with a broad blue silk scarf,) in the white marble basin of a fountain, whose *jet d'eau* had been stopped, whilst the whole family were summoned to admire the happy-looking little cherub.

On Juan's return, no cross was forthcoming, and he repeated, that if it was not replaced before the following morning, he would abide by his determination of telling the Consul. The men-servants, as well as John, and his wife and child, all slept in a detached house in the garden. The plan of this small house was precisely that of the interior of the large one, the rooms being on each side of a square court, Juan's and John's immediately opposite to each other. Honest old Juan's slumbers were completely broken by the painful circumstances in which he was placed: that by his having perhaps carelessly exposed the poor forlorn young woman's valuable property, she might be prevented returning to her husband and native land, from her present state of slavery, was a dreadful reflection. Nor did he escape the intolerable fear, that should the purloined cross not be ultimately recovered, he who had never had a stain upon his character for probity, could not fail, at any rate, of having suspicion attached to him. With such uncomfortable feelings he passed the whole night, longing for morning, that he might at least have the satisfaction of doing all that now

lay in his power, by informing his master of the robbery.

His bed was placed facing the door of his room, and as usual, the doors were folding ones, and, like all other Algerine doors, did not close very exactly, so that he could observe the approach of any person from the outside. At about five o'clock, he saw his assistant in the kitchen, Mariano, come to his door, and lay down some marsh-mallow leaves, which he was in the daily habit of doing. Juan having been much afflicted with a common complaint of the country, weakness and inflammation of the eyes, had been advised to bathe them with an infusion of the mallow leaves, and he had therefore desired Mariano to gather some fresh for him every morning, and leave them at his door.

Scarcely had Mariano this morning left the leaves, ere Juan observed another person also come to the door, and stooping down, apparently put something among the leaves. This was so strange, that he softly arose, and approaching the door, looked out, and beheld his master's favoured confidential servant, John, in his night clothes, stealthily returning to his own bed-room, which he entered, and carefully and cautiously closed the door. Juan was thunderstruck. He said he could scarcely believe that his eyes had not deceived

him. He had not power to move; but after a little while had elapsed, he opened his door to take in the mallow leaves, and under them he found the lost cross. As soon as he was dressed, he came to the principal house, and confiding to Angela what had passed, returned the valuable trinket, telling her it would be best to ask la Signora Madama's advice with respect to disposing of it, for he would not venture to take any further charge of it. I believe poor Angela was able ultimately to take it away with her,—her husband having raised a sufficient sum for her and Angelina's ransom. I omitted mentioning, that during the time of our residence at Malta, my father had exerted his interest, and made application in the proper quarter in England, for John's being pardoned the crime of desertion. This boon was obtained and received by the hypocrite with apparently the most devoted gratitude for his kind master's exertions on his behalf. I will continue a further account of this worthless servant, so far as my mother alludes to him, by again making extracts from the journal.

“20th.—Mr B. and I went to town, found all our different bed-chambers locked, and not any keys to be seen. We sent for a blacksmith to open them, and on his doing so, we discovered that every thing they contained of any value had

been taken out. On examining the cellar, two pipes of wine were also gone, and the cabailis who accompanied John to town, say that he took four sacks of barley, which had lately been received from Bona, and forty fowls, which, as well as the wine, he told them the Consul had made him a present of. It is a sad reflection, that in a land of barbarians, we should find an Englishman act towards us in so ungrateful and wicked a manner."

"A Sicilian (slave to a Jew) has been recommended to us by Madame Farara, and has to-day entered our service, to receive instructions from Juan, whom he will replace as head cook."

"21st.—We discovered that the father of young Bendyshe, (who is a fine youth), was formerly in the Engineers, and was a friend and companion of Mr B.'s early days; he now resides at Bath."

"1st July.—We were on our way to call at the American Garden, where we saw an English sloop-of-war come from the west. We therefore proceeded to town. The first lieutenant, a Mr Flinn, came on shore with despatches from England, and also from Lord Collingwood, who was off this yesterday, in the Ocean, but is gone on to Malta, and sent the Bittern in here. Mr B.'s mind is greatly relieved on finding that Government has

approved of the Bona and La Cala contract ; and he went, in consequence, to the palace, to communicate the agreeable intelligence to the Dey."

" 3d.—Mr Bendyshe and his sailors sailed in the Bittern, in the hope of joining their Frigate, the Sea-Horse."

" 17th.—A small vessel from Oran arrived with despatches (which had been sent there from Gibraltar) for Mr B., and most satisfactory they are, as he has received the assurance of his Majesty's thanks, and high approval of his zeal in his Majesty's service, by the measures he took against the French interest, in the purchase of the port of Bona, &c. &c."

CHAPTER V.

Marabout's present—Departure of ransomed English Sailors—Mr Blanckley's receipt of their written communication—The Dey's advice to him—Shipwreck on the coast of Gigerly—Savage character of the natives; their cruelty and ignorance—Interference of a Marabout—Sufferings of our unfortunate Countrymen—Their ransom effected, and their reception at Algiers—Gratifying Letter from the Ironmongers Company, who indemnify Mr B. for the ransom of the poor Tars—Punishment of Moorish Deserters—Contagious disease prevails—Etiquette respecting the Plague—Exemption in favour of the English Janissary—Vessel wrecked beneath the British Garden—Sicilian Slaves captured by Rais Amido—Siroc wind—Cruel treatment of two Ragusees for their veracity—Delay in the arrival of the *Regalos* of several Christian Tributaries; consequent ill-humour of the Dey—The Jews fear being pillaged—An Embargo laid upon an American Vessel—An English Gentleman claims the Consul's protection—Arrival of His Excellency Sir Arthur Paget—His visit to the Garden—Violent and repeated shocks of Earthquake—Ill conduct of a *oi-devant* English Vice-Consul—Letter from the King of Spain to the Dey.

“ *August 25th.*—The Spanish Padre Administrador (the Superior of the Hospital founded and supported by Spain in Algiers) came out to

spend some days here. My E. reads Spanish with him, and we give him lessons in English, which he says he is anxious to acquire."

"28th.—Came in two French prizes to the Hydra, commanded by Mr Nares, midshipman, who is grandson of the late judge, and son of the magistrate of Bow Street."

"17th.—The Guardian Pacha and his son spent the morning here. He is a most sensible man, and would do honour to any sect or country."

"18th.—The very unsatisfactory accounts which Mr Blanckley has received of his Vice-Consul at Bona, have rendered it necessary for him to send his Secretary to ascertain the truth of the reports that have been made to him; and he was consequently despatched to-day on board an Algerine frigate going to Bona."

"21st.—A despatch-boat from Gibraltar came into the port this morning with despatches to Mr B. They contained the gratifying intelligence that Mr B.'s spontaneous efforts towards effecting a pacification between this Regency and Portugal, have been so far crowned with success, that a truce between Portugal and Algiers had received the sanction of the government of the former country. Eight or ten different times have preliminaries been entered into between the two governments, and have always failed of accomplishing their object. But, entirely

unauthorised by either his own or the Portuguese government, Mr B., moved by the sufferings and misery of the Portuguese officers and men in slavery in this country, has made use of his influence with the Dey, to effect a pacification and exchange of captives between Algiers and Portugal; and his having so far succeeded as to obtain the present ratification of a truce, fills us, as well as the unfortunate objects of our compassion, with the most lively hopes of ultimately accomplishing their liberation."

"A Marabout (of great celebrity and sanctity) brought a present of some melons, and received in exchange, or rather in return, five sequins; the value of the melons being as many mesunas." *

"22*d.*—The port being open, † Mr Nares went away in good earnest, taking with him in the prizes the thirteen Englishmen redeemed by Mr B. One of the poor fellows, I fear, will not long survive, as he appears to be in the last stage of a consumption. Two others died from the effects of their many sufferings before they could reach us."

* The sequin is a gold coin forty pence in value; the mesuna, a small silver one worth less than three-halfpence.

† For a certain (sometimes undefined) period after the sailing of the Regency's ships, no merchant vessel was permitted to leave the port of Algiers.

A Moor one morning brought us a small piece of bluish white paper, much creased and soiled. On this were traced a few scarcely legible lines, written, indeed, only with charcoal and water, but which were sufficient to corroborate the sad story told by the Arab who brought the missive. The facts that he related, and those my father afterwards ascertained, were as follow :—An English ship, laden with pigs of lead, and some barrels of gunpowder, was proceeding to some port in the Mediterranean, (but I neither recollect hearing from whence she sailed, or whither bound), when she was, by stress of weather, driven on the coast of Barbary, and off *Gigery* she struck upon a rock. The inhospitable savages who inhabit that country were assembled on the shore, to await the final fate of the tempest-tossed ship; and when they beheld her at length wrecked upon a neighbouring rock, they proceeded to throw themselves into the sea; not, alas! with any feelings of pity and compassion for the unfortunate crew, whom they seized as captives; two of them at the same time taking hold of an unhappy Englishman, and dragging him overboard, thus swam with him ashore, and on reaching it, they ceased not to overwhelm the exhausted man with the most cruel treatment, until they had, by overpowering numbers, completely overcome all resistance on the

part of the poor sufferers, who, however, witnessed a just retribution on many of their cruel tormentors.

These wretches were so totally ignorant and barbarous, that a great multitude of them caused their own destruction, in their anxiety to appropriate the ship's cargo. Our countrymen saw several of them take possession each of a pig of lead, and fastening it either on their shoulders, or round their waist, jump overboard, sinking, of course, with their booty, to rise no more. On seeing this repeatedly happen, two of these savages thought that they had discovered a better expedient, and therefore tied one of the pieces of lead between them, and leaped overboard with the same fatal result. On the following day an immense number of them were killed, by their having lighted a large fire all around a barrel of gunpowder they had got on shore, and which, when they discovered it to be injured by the sea, they thought they could thus dry, and were consequently all blown up at once. However, the poor sailors were diverted from watching the self-destruction of their captors by their own extreme sufferings from hunger and cold, for they had been completely stripped of all their clothes.

In a few days a person, who seemed a man of consequence with the savages, (a Marabout,) came

to look at the poor mariners, and by his advice the Gigerans, (to whom he represented that they could obtain ransom for their captives,) sent a messenger to Algiers, (the same who brought the slip of dirty paper to my father,) with a demand for a certain large sum of money as a ransom for these fifteen Englishmen. On this being told my father, he was very indignant, and instantly sent his Dragoon to the Dey, to demand an order from his Highness for the immediate liberation of these his Britannic Majesty's subjects; and with difficulty could my dear father be made to comprehend the truth of the Dey's reply, which was, that he had not the least command or influence with the men of Giger; that they had never been conquered by, nor been under the slightest subjection to, any Dey of Algiers; that they had ever continued a wild and completely savage people; and that had any Algerine subjects fallen into their hands, He, the Dey, would equally have been obliged to pay a ransom for their liberation; and his Highness advised my father immediately to comply with the demands of the barbarians, through the agency and mediation of the Marabout, as otherwise it was impossible to say to what extremities they might be capable of proceeding towards their unhappy prisoners, if they should be disappointed in their expectations of booty. My father having been convinced

that this was truly the case, immediately despatched proper persons with the amount of the ransom demanded, and after a certain number of days, they returned, accompanied by the thirteen poor fellows, (two having sunk under their misery,) who had scarcely a rag upon them; but my mother already had clothing and beds prepared for their arrival. The greatest anxiety my parents experienced was, lest they might be injured by taking too great a quantity of food, after their long state of almost starvation; and they therefore had good soups prepared, and used great caution in having nourishment distributed to them. They remained in our house many weeks, until Mr Nares' departure afforded them an opportunity for leaving Algiers. I believe they all afterwards entered his Majesty's Navy.

My father having heard that the City of London had a fund for the redemption of Englishmen who were in a state of slavery in the Barbary States, addressed a letter to the then Recorder of the City of London, Sir John Silvester, stating what I have just related, and begging to know if Sir John could inform him, whether he might hope that the sum of money he had paid for the ransom of his thirteen countrymen, would be repaid him by the Directors of the Fund, if any such existed. I regret to say, that after an unnecessary delay, my

father received a rather cavalier letter from the Recorder, to inform him that there was no such fund. I do not remember how long afterwards he received a reply to a letter addressed by him to the City of London Ironmongers Company, a copy of which I subjoin; and when we were in London after our return from Algiers, my father was given to understand, that it was the desire of the worthy Directors of that honourable Company, to give him a public dinner, and present him with a piece of plate, in commemoration of his generosity and humanity; but papa, who ever desired to do good for his own inward satisfaction, declined, however much he respected those so inclined to honour him, to receive a reward for what he said no man could have failed to do in his place.

“ Ironmongers Hall, Fechurch Street,
London, 22d Sept. 1808.

“ SIR,—I embrace the opportunity of Mr Archibald Dalzel’s visiting Algiers, of presenting to you, Sir, the cordial acknowledgements of the Ironmongers Company, one of the chartered bodies of this City, for the accurate and satisfactory documents forwarded through Mr Dalzel’s house, relating to the redemption of thirteen British subjects from slavery.

“ Accounts so regularly drawn, and the descrip-

tion of the men redeemed so minutely given, are circumstances which reflect credit on yourself as a man of business, and will, while persevered in, on the part of the Company for whom I have the honour to act, induce increasing confidence in you in future.

“ The company have the control of a fund for the express purpose of redeeming British subjects in Turkey and Barbary, under which description, any person employed fairly in the British service, and falling into slavery, it is conceived properly comes, without reference to the birth-place of the captive.

“ From the good specimen which the Company have had of your activity and integrity, they shall be happy in meeting such demands as shall arise from the redemption of British slaves in future, (who shall not be entitled to their free discharge under the treaties as a matter of right,) who may have the misfortune to fall into slavery; confiding in your cautious and prudent management to husband the funds in the Company's hands, as far as is possible, consistently with the purposes for which they were designed.

“ Both the bills of exchange, one for £423, 10s. 7d. dated 29th July 1807, and the other, dated 13th September 1807, for £32, 17s. 9½d., in favour of Messrs. Hargrave and Dalzel, on John

Silvester, Esq. Recorder of London, were duly honoured by this Company. You will not therefore correspond with the worthy Recorder on the subject of slaves, as the funds in his management are at present inadequate to the object.

“Through the introduction of General Fox, while Governor at Gibraltar, this Company have usually corresponded with the Consul General at Tangiers, Mr Green, but shall esteem themselves happy in your co-operating with him in assisting them in a right discharge of the trust confided to them.

“With thanks to you, Sir, on the part of the Company, for your zealous services in obtaining the redemption of thirteen men, and for your polite conduct and humanity,—I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) T. PELLAT, *Clerk.*”

H. S. Blanckley, Esq.

His Britannic Majesty's Agent and
Consul General at Algiers.

“29th.—Mr B. went to the Dey, who expressed himself pleased at the result of his exertions respecting Portuguese affairs.”

“30th.—I and the children went to the Guardian Pacha's Garden to visit his wife. She is a

mild, amiable-looking woman ; but notwithstanding her husband's great attachment and praise of her, she is not very handsome ; their two little girls are lively interesting little creatures, and they and my children were mutually pleased at meeting."

"30th.—Eleven Moors were hanged together for desertion ; they are sentenced to remain exposed for three days : it is enough to increase the fever which now rages in Algiers."

"2d September.—Sidi Hassan (our Janissary) today saw ten dead bodies carried out by the Gate of Babel Ouate to be interred. A violent sickness rages in the City of Algiers ; I pray God that it may not prove the plague. I dare not inquire, as I find that it is death by the law for any one to report that that horrid disorder exists ; the custom is, after perhaps a month's sickness, for a Marabout to go in form, and inform the Dey that such is the case ; on whose will and *pleasure* it then depends, to make such knowledge public, and then only may it with impunity be spoken of."

"6th.—I went in the evening to the American Garden. Consul Lear informed me that all the Consul's guards were ordered to embark on a secret expedition. On my return I found two men sent by the Dey, to take Sidi Hassan ; they are to sleep here. We are all in sackcloth and ashes at the thoughts of the faithful creature's going."

“*7th.*—Mr B. went with our Janissary to town early this morning, to intercede with the Dey to prevent his going, and fortunately has succeeded. All the other Consular guards sailed, whilst Hassan, to our joy, returned to the Garden.”

“The Major Domo of the French Consul died of the fever which rages on the other side of the city. I thank God this side is at present perfectly free from contagion.”

“*8th.*—A sudden north-easterly wind came on, this evening, with such violence, as to cause a Moorish vessel to go to pieces on the rocks immediately under our house. We witnessed the terrific scene, but mercifully no lives were lost.”

“*26th.*—Came in the Algerine frigate, commanded by Rais Amido, with twenty unfortunate Christian slaves, some of them from Augusta in Sicily.”

“*27th.*—Mr B. went to town amidst a siroc wind, which increased so much, that he was obliged to remain there. The heat and suffocation are perfectly overpowering. The servants tell me they have never known any thing like it.”

“*October 2d.*—Rais Amido sailed in the Algerine frigate, but he had scarcely left the port, when we saw another vessel sent after him to bring him back. I understand all is not right in that quarter. The great man yesterday ordered a Ra-

gusee Captain and his clerk to be bastinadoed, the latter to death, for having brought a letter from the Spanish Consul at Tunis, to one of the Portuguese officers here, which it is supposed contained a version differing from the *official* one, of the actual state of the warfare between the two powers."

"18th.—Mr B. was in town to see the Dey, whom he found in very ill humour, on account of the American, Swedish, Danish, and Dutch Consuls, not having yet paid their annual tribute."

"22d.—We all called at the Danish Consul's, who, I regret to say, looked very cool upon us, on account of the English having taken Copenhagen, and all the shipping and naval stores. We felt much sympathy, however, in his natural and patriotic feelings."

"23d.—I am told that all the Jews are much threatened by the Turks. The Aga is expected to arrive from the camp. God only knows what the result will be, and what fate is reserved for that persecuted race."

"25th.—A Swedish frigate and two store-ships have arrived with the tribute to the Dey."

"29th.—The Dey sent to inform Mr B., that if Mr Escudera, (the English Vice-Consul at Bona, at the time of our arrival at Algiers,) who has conducted himself most disgracefully, did not

leave this country directly, he would put him to death."

"*November 6th.*—An American vessel was brought in by an Algerine frigate."

"*8th.*—After we had dined, a young gentleman, Mr Theophilus Richards, came in. He had been a passenger in the American ship detained by the Dey, on account of the tribute of naval stores not being paid according to annual custom: he brought a note of introduction from Consul Lear."

"*9th.*—Came a message early this morning from the Dragoman Rais Ali, to say that an English frigate was in the Bay. Mr B. went to town, taking Mr Richards with him, with the intention of introducing him as a British subject to the Dey, as he is afraid that he may share the fate of the Americans. The frigate is the *Thetis*, having on board Sir Arthur Paget, our Ambassador to the Grand Signor, and suite. Sir Arthur wrote a note to the Consul, requesting that he would come on board the frigate. Sir Arthur accompanied him on shore, and they afterwards went to see the Dey, to whom His Excellency presented a gold snuff box set in brilliants, worth £500. His Highness in return gave him two Christian slaves. Sir Arthur begged the Consul would decide upon the individuals that he should ask for, and Mr B. had the satisfaction of liberating two of our own ser-

vants, whose unexpected emancipation has almost deprived them of their senses with joy, the price of each being rated at 2000 dollars. Sir Arthur and his suite have promised to dine with us tomorrow at the Garden."

"10th.—We had prepared a delightful saloon for dining in, under the vines in the great court, the sides of the temporary apartment being formed of different standards, which had a very pretty effect, but violent rain has prevented our party from partaking of our cheer."

"Mr Richards proves to be from Birmingham, and a relative of mine."

"11th.—Proved but a tolerably fine day, and I therefore gave orders for dinner to be served in our usual dining-room. Sir Arthur and the rest of his party arrived in due time, and dined us. I am sorry to hear that he has not been successful in his negociations for peace, owing to the intrigues of the French. He was not allowed to land, or even to pass the Dardanelles, and he is now proceeding on his return to England. His arrival has been very gratifying to Mr B., a particular friendship having long subsisted between him and Sir Arthur's father, Lord Uxbridge."

"The Thetis is commanded by the Honourable Captain Gage, (a brother of Lord G.) who, with Lord John Fitzroy, and Lord Fitzroy Somerset,

Mr Berthold, &c. were of the number of our visitors. Sir Arthur expressed much regret at not having it in his power to spend two or three days at our Garden, as Captain Gage considers it unsafe to remain in the Bay during this stormy weather. Our party took an early leave, and sailed this evening."

"12th.—About half-past five o'clock this evening, I was seated on a sofa in the chiosk of our drawing-room, when I was suddenly tossed from off it on my knees upon the floor, by a dreadful shaking of the earth, accompanied by a most terrible and awful noise. The Dutch tiles, which ornament the walls, were falling about my head, and several articles of furniture were thrown down around me. All the various arches in the gallery, and other parts of the house, were cracked through their centres. The shock was supposed to last from twelve to sixteen seconds. When the rocking of the house ceased, I went in search of Mr B. and the children, whom I found, blessed be God! safe, with the other members of our family, and all the servants, under the great mulberry-tree in the garden, where we remained sleeping under alcoves two nights, not daring to venture into the house. During this time, we experienced repeated shocks; but they gradually became slighter,

and of shorter duration, not exceeding three or four seconds."

It was, indeed, an awful visitation. My little sister and I were playing on the terrace, over one of the apartments at the lower extremity of the great court, and our Neapolitan nurse, Maria, was knitting beside us, when we heard a noise resembling the effect of large bowls being rolled in a room above our heads; for it did not sound like thunder, although we were in the open air; and before I could ask Maria what it could mean, my surprise was still further excited by the apparently strange conduct of our Sicilian cook, Salvador, who rushed up the staircase leading to the terrace, and taking up my sister, roughly as I thought, seized me by the arm, and dragged me along the ground after him; for I had resisted his unceremonious behaviour, and had fallen down; but he waited not to pick me up, nor stopped until he had placed us in safety at our father's side in the garden, when the alarming repetition of *il terribile terremoto* was an explanation, and a more than sufficient excuse for the good Salvador's apparent rudeness; every other feeling was absorbed in that of thankfulness that we were all assembled in safety.

My young sister and I were afterwards so far from sharing the fears and anxieties of our parents,

that we much enjoyed the novelty of the circumstances in which we were placed. To sleep under the dolicuor and passion-flower covered alcoves, and to watch "ere slumber's chain had bound us," the animated groups which surrounded our fragile apartment, was to us very delightful; and not long afterwards my sister was overheard asking me, "Don't you wish, E., that there was another earthquake?" I replied in the negative, and enquired "Why she did?" "Oh! because we should have hot bread out of the oven for our supper;" this having been the refreshment easiest to be procured on that eventful evening, without a risk being incurred by going into the interior of the house at a time when the shocks were repeated with but little intermission. I forgot to mention, that when I first reached the garden, I observed that the pigeons, of which we had a great number, seemed quite as much disconcerted as we were, as they flew round and round in circles; and I was afterwards told, that the cattle and sheep, which had as usual been just driven down to our farm house, to be shut up for the night, seemed all much distressed, bleating and running about in an unusual manner.

"14th.—Mr Dalzel went to town, and on his return told us that he found his house very much injured, and that the earthquake had been much

more felt on the other side of the city than on this. The Swedish Consul's country house has suffered so much, that it has been necessary to prop up one side of it, to prevent its falling altogether. Tita, the Italian jeweller, has sent to ask our permission to take shelter in our town-house, as his house has been completely destroyed by the earthquake. Mr Curry was in it when the gallery gave way ; but he, as well as the inmates, providentially escaped. The shock was so severe in town, that several houses are fallen, and six persons have lost their lives."

" 17th.—I feel very weak and nervous from the alarm I have undergone. When Sir Arthur asked me the other day, if I was not very anxious to return to England ? I answered very coolly, that I was content to live where my husband could best serve his king, and the interests of his family. How different would my answer have been, had I then felt as I now do !

" May God preserve me from ever experiencing such another shock as the first was. I can never be sufficiently thankful for our preservation. We still feel slight ones ; but I flatter myself, that as they gradually diminish in strength, they will soon entirely subside. I am told that it is five years since the last serious earthquake, which continued like the present ; shocks having been

felt for the space of a month, which were weaker and weaker, until they ceased altogether."

" *December 1st.*—The feast which terminates the Ramadahn, took place at the palace. Mr Richards returned, much entertained by witnessing the gormandizing, wrestling, and scramble. He is much gratified at having shaken hands with the Dey, and having wished his Highness a *buona pascha.*"

" *6th.*—Mr B. sent his secretary, to represent the conduct of Mr Escudera, the late Bona Vice-Consul, to the Dey, and to obtain a confirmation of the order for his being turned out of the country. His Highness gave a written order to the Bey of Constantina, to put a stop to this man's insolence, in refusing to submit to the Consul's order for recognizing Mr Robinson as his successor, and to desire the Bey to acknowledge him as such, for the benefit of British interests and commerce."

" *8th.*—Mr B. received a letter from the Portuguese Admiral, requesting a continuation of his influence and good offices respecting the desired peace with the Dey."

" *10th.*—The packet brought a letter in Spanish, with a copy of the same in Turkish, from the King of Spain to the Dey, who sent the former to Mr B., as its contents were, that his Catholic Majesty had given an order to the Go-

vernor of Minorca, to deliver up all our property, which he had so long and so unjustly detained. This was in consequence of the representation which had been forwarded in our behalf to the Court of Madrid."

"17th.—There is a report that the Algerines had taken an American ship, with the intention of bringing her here as a hostage for the payment of the tribute ; and that afterwards the Americans rose up and murdered several of the Algerines. Mr Richards thinks this is very likely to be true, as he knew that such a measure had been proposed on board the Eagle, (in which he was a passenger,) when it was so traitorously taken by the Algerines. I congratulated him on his escape from embruing his hands in human blood."

CHAPTER VI.

Infamous treatment of the Danish, Dutch, and Spanish Consuls—Timidity of our Dragoman—Favourable view of Achmet Pacha's character—His personal regard for my Father—The Bey of Constantina sends a superb Arab Horse—Its untimely Fate—Visit to the Marina—Blind Bob—The Pet Lamb and the Jackalls—Embassy of the Capushee Pacha—Nephew of the Emperor of Morocco—The Dey's Menagerie—Chivalry of the Lion—The Guardian Pacha owes his Life to my Father's intercession—Assassination of two Beys of Algiers.

A LONG lapse in the Journal occurs, but I must endeavour to trace a slight summary of some events which I remember to have occurred during the period, of which I cannot at present find any memoranda amongst my mother's papers.

Very late one evening after the gates of the city were closed, my father was informed that the oft-repeated threats of the Dey to put the Danish Consul in chains, in consequence of the non-arrival of the expected tribute from Denmark, had been but too truly put in execution, and that he had been actually torn from his agonized wife and family.

A Chaous seizing him by the waistband, ignominiously shoved him through the streets to the bagnio, where he was loaded with chains.

Mr Ulrich had been a lieutenant in the British navy, and had obtained the rank of post-captain in that of his own sovereign, previously to his having been, as a reward for his services, appointed by the King of Denmark, his Consul General at Algiers. A more gentlemanly and honourable, or a braver man never breathed, and as such did my father esteem him. The just indignation which my father endured at such a breach of that sanctity, and of the privileges acknowledged even by savage nations, as attached to the ambassadorial character, may be supposed to have been almost intolerable for him to bear during that long night; and no sooner did daylight appear, than he mounted his horse with the determination of liberating his friend and colleague from the durance vile, in which the barbarians had placed him. He rode to the Swedish Consulate, and asked Mr Nordeling if those Consuls who were in town, had already taken any steps on the subject; he answered in the negative, for although they had met the evening before at the Danish house, they did not know what to do. My father replied, that he thought there could be but one course for them to pursue, which was for each member of the diplomatic corps to go in a

body to the Palace, and demand the instant liberation of their colleague. "But how is all this to be arranged?" said Mr Norderling, "how are the points of precedence to be decided?" "Points of precedence!" abruptly repeated my father; "are we to be dwelling upon trifles, when our brave friend lies in chains?" And he instantly put the matter to rest, by declaring that he would himself, without any hesitation, go directly and call upon the French Consul, and ask him to meet him and the other Consuls at the Danish Consulate, where their further proceedings could be determined upon. He accordingly did so, (and thus was the ice of the absurd etiquette of political enmity between individuals, really formed to suit each other in no common degree, broken,) whilst Mr Norderling undertook to request the representatives of the other European powers also to attend the appointed rendezvous

I have often heard my father say, that he had never been so unmanned as at the scene of affliction he witnessed on his and Mr de Thainville's reaching the Danish house. Mrs Ulrich seemed scarcely alive; indeed she never recovered the blow she received, and died from its effects; while her lovely children clung round my father, entreating him to save their beloved papa;—with difficulty could he tear himself from the afflicted children, to join their

other friends in endeavouring to effect the desire of their hearts.

When all the different Consuls had assembled, they with one accord voted that my father should be the entire director of their movements, and that he should be their organ in declaring their sentiments to the Dey. My father then, turning to Monsieur de Thainville, said, "I accept the post of honour you and these gentlemen have conferred upon me, upon condition that you, Sir, will take my arm, and *thus* let us proceed through the town, and into the very presence of the Dey ; for let us shew these barbarians, that when all principles of justice and of the law of nations are violated, Christians will unite with one another to uphold and support them." And in this order, the other Consuls following them two and two, they, without going through the usual ceremony of requesting an audience, walked through the streets of Algiers, amidst the astonished and alarmed inhabitants whispering, "Allah ! the English and French Consuls walking together !" — nothing doubting that it would not be long ere the dreaded prophecy would be fulfilled, that when the Christians were all at peace among themselves, the downfall of Algiers was decreed, (and so in fact it was.) But the consternation of the populace and courtiers reached its height, when the cortége ar-

rived at and entered the palace gates, and my father desired an officer to tell the Dey, that they requested to be at once admitted into his presence. An answer in the affirmative was immediately returned, and in the same order in which they had walked, they mounted the staircase, and entered the audience chamber. The Dey enquired what might be the motive of their visit; upon which my father informed his Highness of the determination he and all his colleagues had come to, and of which he and every other Consul, respectfully but firmly, begged to apprise his Highness,—that if the representative of his Danish Majesty was not forthwith liberated, that from that moment they considered all their diplomatic functions to be virtually at an end, and that they would severally write to their sovereigns, to state what had taken place, and to demand ships to be sent to convey them from a country, where the law of nations had been so grossly violated, and where they could not for a moment consider their persons in safety.

The Dey had at first received them with a grave, although rather surprised manner; gradually, as my father spoke, anger lit up his eyes, and with marked impatience he listened to the frightened dragoman's translation; but ere he had pronounced its conclusion, declaring their intention to depart, his rage burst through all bounds; he literally

bounced up from his seat and fell down again, his legs still retaining their tailor position, whilst he pulled his beard, the greatest sign of a Turk's indignation, and uttering words almost unintelligible in Turkish, literally foamed. When this storm had partially subsided, he asked how it was possible that my father could act as he was doing, when He thought he would be glad that He thus punished an enemy. "Was not England at war with Denmark?" "And that is the very reason," replied my father, "that the Government of that country has not yet been able to send the tribute; and your Highness, in defiance of his inviolable character, has in consequence subjected the unfortunate Consul to the greatest ignominy:" and repeating that they were unanimously determined to abide by what he at first had the honour of making known to his Highness, my father said they only waited to know his pleasure. "You may take him," was the sullen reply, and He gave orders that the English Consul was to do as he pleased. A profound salute from the Consular body terminated the interview. They left the Palace in the same manner as they had entered, and so continued their procession to the slaves' bagnio, at the Marina, where it will be needless to say that their feelings of indignation were greatly aggravated, on finding the brave and generous Ulrich heavily ironed, in the midst of

slaves, with a chain round his leg, upwards of fifty pounds in weight; those who had the disgraceful office of his keeping, declaring that such was the violence of his rage, that they had been under the necessity of thus confining him; and with no little difficulty did his scarcely calmer friends prevent him from wreaking, with his once again free arms, his justly excited vengeance upon the slavish instruments of their barbarian master. Mr Ulrich, at daylight that morning, had been obliged to march to the arsenal, to work with the rest of the slaves, saving that they were not loaded with the infamous badge of irons which the Consul alone was obliged to sustain. The order of their march back to the Danish Consulate, was only varied by Mr de Thainville and papa, triumphantly placing the respected object of their anxiety between them, and they thus accompanied him to his expectant family. Mr Ulrich's sufferings for his sovereign and country were fully estimated by the former, who conferred upon him in consequence, the highest Danish order of knighthood; and after his return to Copenhagen, he was nominated to a high official situation, either in the king's household or government.

The same lawless scene in which my father acted a corresponding part, was twice afterwards witnessed during our residence at Algiers. In the

first instance, the venerable Dutch Consul Fraissinet* was the victim; and fatally so, for he never recovered the wound his feelings received, and only lingered a few months. The last was that of Don Pedro Ortiz di Zugarti, the Spanish Consul, lately Consul-General from the Court of Madrid to that of the Tuileries, and now filling the same office in London.

* Mr Fraissinet had held the post of Dutch Consul at Algiers for the long period of twenty-three years. Since I wrote the above account of the outrage on the Danish Consul, I have been so fortunate as to meet with a memorandum in my father's handwriting, corroborative of the statement I have made. From it I extract the following particulars respecting the treatment of the venerable Mr Fraissinet on a similar occasion: "As soon as it came to the knowledge of the Consuls that the Dutch Consul was in irons, they all acted in the same manner as on the former occasion with respect to the Danish Consul, and were absolutely refused an audience. Consequently the day following the Consuls *en corps* waited on the Minister of Marine, requesting he would send their message to the Dey, (as they were refused a personal interview), viz. that if his Excellency the Dey would not give an audience, they were determined to send off a courier extraordinary to acquaint their several governments of the situation in which they were, and to request their recall. This had the desired effect in obtaining an audience, when the Consuls again reminded his Excellency of his repeated breach of faith in the infraction of treaties, and their desire to know if he meant to continue to set at defiance the article wherein is specified that the persons, as also the fa-

The shameful incarceration of the Danish Consul must have occurred sometime before the month of June 1808, as on the fourth of that month the French Consul was one of the guests at a great dinner and ball given by my parents in commemo-

“ milies of Consuls, are to be held sacred. A direct answer
“ to this appeal was waved, and all the excuse that was attempt-
“ ed for this atrocious act, was the reply, *Usansa*. In conse-
“ quence, the Consuls, as a duty incumbent on them, unani-
“ mously have agreed to impart to their respective governments
“ their miserable situation, being in the power of a government
“ on whose faith there is no reliance ; no Consul, of whatsoever
“ nation, at the whim or caprice of such a government, is exempt
“ from the indignities that have recently been offered to the
“ Danish and Dutch Consuls. And will the powers of the rest
“ of the world tamely submit to see their Representatives thus
“ treated ? It is hoped, for the honour of all nations, that some
“ effectual step may be taken to put a stop to such infamous
“ conduct. It is necessary to observe, that the Dutch Consul
“ has resided in his present capacity three and twenty years, and
“ is at a time of life, and with infirmities, that would naturally
“ excite compassion in the minds of any but barbarians. In
“ the tardiness of the arrival of a tribute, or presents, or from any
“ other unforeseen cause, is the personal safety of a Consul to
“ be put to the hazard ? If a Consul trespasses on the laws of
“ the country, let him be amenable to them ; if he is displeas-
“ ing to its government, in God’s name let him be sent away ;
“ but that his person and family shall suffer on account of the
“ disposition of his government, humanity shrinks at the idea.
“ This latter gentleman was loaded with irons round his leg day
“ and night, of upwards of sixty pounds weight, (not the

ration of our beloved Sovereign George the Third's birth-day. Eighty-four persons sat down to dinner, and fifty beds were made in our *poor house*; and with most apparent cordiality did Mr. de Thainville join his Majesty's devotedly loyal subjects in drinking, with all due honours, the good king's health.

I recollect a circumstance connected with the outrage committed on Consul Ulrich, which at the time afforded me much amusement, although my dear father, on his return that day, repeated the circumstance with any thing but a smiling countenance. Our Dragoman, Rais Ali, (alias Jack Lee), who always in his ludicrous English boasted what a brave English tar he had ever proved himself, showed very different colours when he found that it was my father's intention to go to

“ meanest slave in the country but is free from irons !) with
 “ which he was obliged, at four o'clock in the morning, to march
 “ amidst the slaves upwards of a mile to the arsenal, actually
 “ fainting on his way from the weight of irons, and feeble
 “ state of health. *O Tempora ! O Mores !* Farther, this gen-
 “ tleman has been threatened, that if the present does not soon
 “ arrive, his wife and eight children shall be sold publicly as
 “ slaves.”

The services of those who thus exposed the honour and safety of all most precious to them, ought not surely to be lightly esteemed.—*Note of Editor.*

the palace, and all but defy the Dey. For the poor Dragoman looked frightened out of his wits, as he humbly begged my father to recollect that he was not a Turk, being only a Craulie, (the son of a Turk, and Algerine mother), and that he would be very glad if the Consul would for that day only, just that day, get one of the other Dragomans to interpret what he was going to tell the Dey. This petition not meeting a very favourable reception from the Consul, poor Rais Ali was *bongré malgré* obliged to do his fearful bidding, and he brought away his head nevertheless.

A few minutes after having traced the above reminiscences, my conscience accuses me of injustice towards that unfortunate prince, whose tragic fate I ever heard lamented, and whose character was estimated as being a comparatively happy contrast with that of the two other Deys who swayed the Algerine sceptre during our connection with that country; and therefore I am induced, in opposition to a *shade*, to relate a *light* in my sketch of Achmet Pacha. During an audience my father had with him on public matters, he looked kindly and anxiously at him; and alluding to a heavy family affliction under which he knew my dearest father was keenly suffering, he said, "Signor Console, believe me, I have felt very sorry for

you; tell me if there is any thing which I could do to please you."

Achmet was a kind husband, and a very fond father. His failings proceeded from the ignorance that he shared in common with his subjects.

"*February 6th.*—Mr B. went to town, to sleep there for the convenience of going at day-break to the palace Feast, which answers to our Easter."

"*7th.*—A letter came from Mr Curry, (Vice-Consul at Bona), who set out on the 26th to visit the Bey of Constantina, whom he saw in the camp, and who received him in state, and entertained him during his stay in a most princely style. Mr Curry presented him with a brace of pistols from the Consul, and received in return a fine horse."

It was a beautiful animal, but its coat was of a most singular colour. As the sun glanced upon it, it appeared as if covered with a net-work of golden rings. As it was of so perfect a shape, and possessed every desirable quality in a Barbary horse, my father had determined upon sending it to England as worthy of being presented to the Prince of Wales, and most carefully was the beautiful creature tended until an opportunity for safely forwarding it to England should occur. What was then the bitter disappointment he en-

dured, when one morning our Janissary, with a face of consternation, entered the breakfast parlour, and announced that the horse had hanged himself in the course of the previous night! During the hottest season, all our stud was invariably removed into the open air, and remained there by night as well as by day, the grooms suspending their kind of hammocks amidst the branches of the trees which overshadowed the place always chosen for this purpose. It was a shelving piece of ground, forming the lowest part of the embankment, upon the summit of which our house stood; and although the horses had hitherto occupied this champêtre stable in perfect safety, this superb horse was there destined to find an ignominious end, instead of the courtly life for which my father intended him. He had managed to throw himself over the kind of battlement which surrounded this terrace, (for I do not know exactly what to call it), and through the carelessness of his groom, the halter, which was fastened to a tree, was long enough to enable him to do so. I need not say that my dear father was indescribably vexed; but his disappointment did not quite end here. He desired Sidi Hassan to take the skin to town, and have it properly preserved, as even in itself it was worthy of being kept as a curiosity.

A few weeks afterwards, the worthy Janissary

made his appearance, followed by a servant, bearing a large bundle. "The tanner has obeyed Il Signor Console's orders," said he, and forthwith proceeded, with much complacency, to unfold and spread out a large piece of coarse tanned black leather. "What, in the name of wonder, are you bringing this into this room for, Hassan?" exclaimed my father. "I brought it in directly, knowing how anxious, Signor, you were about it." "Me! why what is the meaning of this?" "It is the skin of Il Signor Console's favourite horse." "Take it out of my sight, and never let me hear that horse spoken of again." But he did not readily forget it; and afterwards enjoyed the recollection of poor Hassan's consternation at having so misunderstood him.

"19th.—I and the children walked to the Marina, where the minister of the Marine received us very graciously, and where we partook of coffee and sweetmeats. The Captain of the Port offered us his boat, but we preferred walking round the Arsenal."

This was a promenade, however, we very seldom took, as we had so many ceremonies to undergo from the demonstrations of gratitude from some of the poor Christian captives, and the pressing importunities of others for charity, which we were unable to grant. Poor unfortunates! it

was indeed a heart-rending sight to see them toiling like brutes of burthen; and, on the other hand, we had so much attention shewn us by all the great official personages connected with the Marina, that our visits were few and far between. The poor slaves would gather round us, kissing the hems of our garments, throwing themselves at our feet; and then our Janissary or Dragoman would beat and knock them out of our path, in despite of all our orders to the contrary.

I must not omit mentioning one of the most singular of the Marina characters, who bore the appellation of *Blind Bob*, both from Turks, Jews, and Christians of every nation, pronounced, however, according to the genius of their various native languages, oftenest with the Italianized termination, as *Blindi Bo-bi*. This said gentleman possessed, however, the clear vision of one of his eyes, and failed not, whenever we passed the Marina gate, to elect himself our Cicerone *par excellence*; and great was the admiration he elicited from all the wondering standers-by at his eloquence and volubility in speaking the English language. I cannot certainly vouch for its perfect intelligibility; but perhaps that was owing to our own ignorance of the Attic tongue, spoken in the fore-castle of a Man of War, for Blind Bob had passed the prime of his days in no less honourable

a station. There he had acquired that knowledge which fitted him for filling his present office of Interpreter to all His British Majesty's ships visiting Algiers, and there too he had lost that organ of sight which entitled him to his present sobriquet, and, if I am not mistaken, also to a pension from our Government. The Great Unknown's delineation of Edie Ochiltree has, in more respects than one, reminded me of this old Algerine acquaintance. In their dress there was certainly a decided similarity, as they both wore blue gowns; for although this *ci-devant* British sailor no longer wore the costume of the country of his sometime adoption, he had not returned to that of his native land, but was, in appearance, unlike any other personage I ever saw or heard of, (except so far as his gown,) "the King's Beadsman." On his head he had neither hat, turban, nor *Fez* cap, but only a handkerchief most negligently tied.

After one of our visits to the Minister of Marine, he sent my sister and myself a present of a beautiful tame pet lamb; and a great pet of ours it was, following us wherever it was able, and crying and bleating at the foot of a staircase which we had ascended, until we returned and carried it up. One morning we missed our greatest favourite. Poor Billy was no where to be found, nor his fate to be traced; and not for many

years afterwards, whilst we were in France, did we learn how sad it was, our tender parents having desired to spare us sorrow. The servant boy, whose especial charge the poor lamb was, had omitted shutting it up in the evening, and the next morning poor Billy's skeleton was found close to the gate of the house, out of which he had wandered, and had become the prey of the pack of jackalls which each night surrounded our residence. Nothing can be imagined more dolefully miserable than the whines, the shrieks, the yelps of these nightly tormentors. You constantly fancy, amongst the discordant yells, that you could distinguish the cries of children in agony ; and it was impossible to get rid of them, although they were fired at constantly. Only once was one caught alive, and that was by a young mongrel dog, who dragged it to the parlour door in great triumph, wagging his tail, and expecting the praise he merited and received for his prowess.

“*14th May* 1808.—Mr B. went to town at daylight to see the Capushee Pacha make his entry into the city, as Ambassador from the Grand Sultan, and the bearer of a caftan of honour to the Dey, who from henceforth is entitled to the distinction of Pacha, as after his election by the Janissaries, he had right only to the title of Dey,

until his recognition as such by the Grand Signor."

"16th.—After breakfast we went a large party to the Buzaria, where we had a tent fixed, and passed the day."

"21st.—The nephew of the Emperor of Morocco, accompanied by a numerous retinue, came out to pay us a visit. He seems a young man of superior attainments; he sang, and played us several airs on the guitar."

"23d.—After breakfasting at the American house in town, we went to see the Dey's menagerie, and returned to the Garden to dinner."

This *divertissement* of visiting the royal lions and tigers, was any thing but an agreeable *pasa tiempo* to my sister and myself, for we indulged our curiosity at the expense of our quaking hearts; even those possessing older and bolder than ours, did not consider themselves to be much more secure than if they had been cast into a Roman amphitheatre in days of yore, to have encountered the ancestors of these African lions; for the monarchs of the waste were not confined with either golden, brazen, or even with iron fetters, but were attached to the rings set in the wall of their abode, by a bare rope, only the fiercest of the whole, yclept (I know not why) the Spaniard, was for that quality kept separate from the rest in a

wooden cage ; and to exhibit the excellency of his vocal powers, his keepers provoked him in every possible manner, at the same time opening the door of his den, where he lay unbound—*c'était charmant !* Nor did I more admire the visits that were often paid us by private proprietors of both lions and tigers, (or more properly, I believe, leopards,) who were in the habit of bringing their gentle pets into our house, to favour us with a sight of them, and to ask for a remuneration in return.

When the Dey granted audiences, he invariably had several lion cubs either lying around him, or serving him as footstools. In Achmet Pasha's time, the one upon which he bestowed that distinguished honour, was kept about him to a later period than they usually basked in the Royal presence ; indeed, he was nearly full grown, and my father more than once remonstrated with his Highness, upon his still keeping him about his person. And this *mes-intelligence* was mutual, for this overgrown *tabouret* had as decided an antipathy to my father as he had to him ; no sooner did he catch a view of my father's scarlet uniform, than he would utter a loud roar, and with his tail between his legs, vanish from the apartment ; and as it once happened that the Dey's feet were resting upon his back when my father entered, his sudden withdrawal

from beneath them, caused his Highness to *faire la culbute*, by throwing him back upon his seat or throne. Achmet, who, when pleased, was as courteous in his manners as if he had been the sovereign of a more polished court, instantly recovered himself, and laughing heartily, said to my father, "You see even lions are afraid of the English uniform."

Within twelve miles of Algiers they were not uncommon, but at Bona and Constantina, and in the intermediate country, they abounded.

It is most curious that the superstition was universal, even amongst the most intelligent and sensible of the Turks, as well as Moors, Arabs, and Cabailis, that a lion will not attack a woman,—there is gallantry ! Well may he be termed a monarch, for in his own way, does he not far excel any king amongst men, that we have ever heard of, in sacrificing the indulgence of his own inclinations, ere he would injure helpless confiding woman. Oh, ye self-esteemed *Grands Monarques* of France, would that ye had taken a lesson from so generous an example, and we should not have had to sympathise with the sorrows of a La Vallière, nor turn away with shame when her impenitent successors are named.

I have often heard persons whose veracity I had not any reason to doubt, declare that they had

seen a woman rescue a sheep from within the jaws of a lion, who had leapt over the circle of tents of an encampment, to reach the fold of sheep, which are always placed there for security. I must, however, subscribe my own incredulity of such marvellous and submissive gallantry.

“*5th July.*—(From the Swedish Garden.) A report reached us here, that the Guardian Pasha, and several other influential men, were to be put to death. We instantly set off for town, and as Sidi Hassan had not arrived, we were escorted by the Swedish Janissary. Mr B. sent Rais Ali (the Dragoman) to the Dey, to say that he (Mr B.) would go on his knees to have the life of the Guardian Pacha spared. The Dey immediately granted this merciful request, and he was set at liberty. I ran into the street to meet him.”

“*10th.*—Rais Ali came early this morning, and said that the man who informed against the Guardian Pacha and above a hundred other individuals, was lately Captain of the Port of Oran, and as it has been discovered that he acted from motives of vile treachery and malice, he has fled and taken sanctuary in the tomb of a Marabout. The Dey has given orders that no kind of sustenance shall be given to him, and guards are stationed round the place; but for my dear husband’s timely inter-

ference, the result of his machinations might have terminated very differently."

"12th.—Mr Curry arrived from Bona, who brings the agreeable tidings that *the Camp* is not coming here, as has been dreaded for many days, as the insurrection in it has been quelled by the loyal part among the troops, who killed the chief agitator, the Bey of Constantina."

"Mr Curry says that he enjoyed his dignity but fifteen days. His predecessor (the one who gave the fine horse,) was a stout man, of nearly seven feet in height. The Turks entered the mosque whilst he was at his devotions, and attacked him; three of their number he cut down, and severed the right arm of a fourth from his body; he then ran to a Marabout for sanctuary, but the murderers did not hold his place of refuge sacred, for they even shot the Marabout himself, on his refusing to give up the Bey, whom they murdered. They afterwards went in search of the Aga, who had fled from the mosque, and finding him, killed him. They then went to the camp, and killed the son of Sidi Cadua, and brother to the wife of Achmet Pacha, and also the Vikell."

"The Beys of Constantina live in the style of sovereign princes, the palace, furniture, &c. being very superb."

"Mr C. touched at Bugia, where are the ruins

of a very fine city, four times as large as Algiers, built by the Romans, and which must have contained twenty thousand houses. He says, that between Bona and Constantina, he passed the ruins of four or five cities."

CHAPTER VII.

The Renegade—Mr Blanckley sails for Minorca—Death of the Dutch Consul—Celebration of Napoleon's Fête—Biographical Sketch of Madame de Thainville—Present from the French Emperor to the Dey—Reprisals on the unfortunate Sicilian Slaves—Mr B. returns from the Fleet—Admiral Lord Collingwood—Capture of 140 Portuguese—Threatened Rupture between the Regency and Great Britain—Liberation and Departure from Algiers of many English Subjects—My Parents' Hospitality and Benevolence—Description of our African *Ménage*—More Clouds on our Political Horizon—Revolution and Massacre of Achmet Pacha—Accession of the new Dey—The Divan—First Audience of the Dey Ali—Jews take Sanctuary in our Town-house—Disappearance of a Cabailli Chieftain and his Followers—Complimentary Visits on the Conclusion of the Ramadahn—Our Mountain Walk—Sidi Cadua's Reverses—The Dey's unpopularity and Court Intrigues—Sidi Omar betrayed by his Wife's Sister—Preliminaries of Peace with Sicily—Fate of a Pet Eagle—Departure of the Spanish Consul—Arrogance of the Turkish Soldiery—Ascetic Regulations enforced—Unreasonable Conduct of Portuguese Officers—M. Barthelemy, A. D. C. to the French Emperor—Earthquake at Bona.

“*7th August 1808.*—This morning Mr Blanckley, at the Minister's of Marine, met the unfortu-

nate and unworthy Escudera, dressed in the Turkish habit. He brought tears into the fallen creature's eyes, when he told him of his cruel desertion of his wife and child; but that even such crimes were but secondary to denying his God and Saviour, and turning Mahomedan. His present appellation is Sidi Hassan."

"11th.—The French Consul came to invite us to a grand entertainment on the fifteenth, to celebrate his Emperor's fête. Mr B. is not a little puzzled, as he says *drinking* the usurper's health is perfectly impossible, for nothing shall prevail upon him to act the hypocrite."

"12th.—Before we arose this morning, we were informed that an English frigate had just entered the port. Mr B. went to town and returned to dinner, accompanied by our friend Captain Vincent of the Hind; and he has brought his late perplexity to a conclusion, by determining to return in the Hind to Minorca; availing himself of such an opportunity to visit his Consulate of the Balearic Islands, which, as well as to have a personal interview with Lord Collingwood, he has long been most desirous of accomplishing; and to do so at the present juncture is most opportune, and agreeable to him."

"13th.—We all accompanied my dear husband on board the frigate, where we remained to dine

with Captain and Mrs Vincent ; they sailed immediately on our return to shore."

" 14th.—In the evening our whole family rode to the Swedish Garden. We were inexpressibly shocked on our arrival there, at 7 o'clock, at hearing that the poor Dutch Consul had expired about two hours before. I was on the point of returning home, (concluding that, for decency's sake, the French party in honour of Buonaparte would be put off), when I received a message from the poor Dutch lady, begging that we would come to her. We accordingly complied with her request, and found the French and Swedish families already with her and her poor afflicted children. I remained there until a late hour, and then returned to the Swedish Garden, where I had left the children. I could not close my eyes all night, as the coffin was making under my window."

" 15th.—Poor Mr Fraissinet was interred about 3 o'clock, the Dutch Colours serving as a pall ; all the different Consuls attended it, Mr T., Mr Blanckley's Secretary, representing him. Mr Fraissinet was laid by the side of his sister, who had been married to a former Dutch Consul. Immediately after the funeral, the French Consul returned to escort us to his Garden. Nothing could exceed the polite cordiality with which we were received and welcomed by Madame de Thain-

ville. At six o'clock we sat down to a most sumptuous and splendid dinner. Afterwards we walked in the Gardens, which were very tastefully illuminated. The Ball, which was to have taken place, having been stopped by the death of Mr Fraissinet, at eleven o'clock there was a brilliant display of fireworks, during which a machine on which the French Colours were suspended, caught fire, and we had the pleasing satisfaction of seeing them burnt and fall to the ground.—It augurs well."

How keenly did the fire of patriotism kindle even in the kindest natures, (in those warlike days), since my dear, good-natured mother was thus prompted to rejoice at such a *contretemps* occurring to friends in whose society she had so much enjoyment! With my cosmopolite sentiments, it altogether puzzles me, especially when I remember her oft-expressed feelings of esteem and regard for those really most amiable and agreeable Gallic friends, and the cordial affection with which many years afterwards she sought out that dear afflicted lady; for many were the reverses she experienced in this revolutionary world. In these days *couleur de rose*, dear Madame de Thainville was, in the fullest sense of the word, a charming woman. She was by birth a Mademoiselle Cléry, cousin-german to *deux Majestés*; the one wife of Joseph Buona-

parte, or (as my dear mother would name him) the mock king of Spain, and the other, her sister, still a *bonâ fide* queen, viz. the consort of Bernadotte, the present King Charles of Sweden. These ladies were the daughters of a banker of Marseilles, of great wealth and respectability, and their alliance was considered a very desirable one by both the brother and followers of General Buonaparte, as I believe Napoleon then only was.

Madame de Thainville, from her alliance with the Imperial Court, was, when in Paris, *lançée dans le grand monde*, and it may be supposed, that, to one so fully suited by taste and inclination to delight in all the gaieties and splendid elegance of that bright period of the Court of the magnificent Napoleon, the comparatively monotonous and quiet style of the European society at Algiers could not have had sufficient charms to win her from Paris. Paris! who, that has lived there long enough to feel the full strength of the regret of all, who by birth or adoption have claimed it as their home, will not understand the magic of that word, *Paris! ce cher Paris! il n'y a rien tel que Paris!* and therefore the greatest part of Madame de Thainville's life was passed in that fascinating region, where also she had a strong additional tie, as her only son and her eldest daughter were both left at schools there. Mr. de Thainville joined her when-

ever he was at liberty to do so, and she always returned with him for a few months to Algiers, where her arrival was hailed with great delight by all her more stationary friends ; nor could the sincerity of her female ones be doubted, for amiable and *charmante* as she was, she also was their guide and model in *tous les derniers goûts* ; and even during her long absences, she failed not to compassionate them in their exile, for most kindly and good-naturedly did she execute all their commissions, so that European Algerine belles, (unless an English cruiser happened to capture the last *chef d'œuvres* of the Parisian *artistes* on their voyage), were far more fashionably attired, in accordance to the taste of the undisputed emporium of fashion, than even the most celebrated London leaders and setters of it, who in those glorious days were restricted to follow their own tastes, and sighed in vain for a copy of *Le Journal des Modes*. Of Madame de Thainville's youngest daughter, the lovely fascinating Iréne, I retain a very affectionate and sisterly recollection. She was my sister's and my most favourite play-fellow ; but we have never met since, although a few streets or miles have for years only separated us ; for both the Diles. de Thainville made a determination as firm as it was deeply deplored by all, who loved them for their own as well as their parents' sakes, that they never would, in their reduced

circumstances, have any intercourse with, nor even be seen by those who had known them in their days of prosperity. Their mother was our constant visitor in Paris, after mine had succeeded in discovering her, alas ! most humble, abode ; but never could we prevail on her daughters either to receive our visits, or accept our invitations. Nor was such their conduct to us alone ; the rule was invariable towards all their former friends, not even excepting their father's vice-consul, who had resided in their family for years, and loved them as his own children. I cannot bear to dwell on the sad reverses of this poor family, or I could relate a tale of woe. Both Mr. and Mme. are no more, and their children are lost to me ; but should they yet survive, they have my earnest prayers for their peace and welfare.

“ 20th.—Our Dragoman, Rais Ali, came this morning, bearing an order to take our under-cook, Mariano, to the Marina, where all the Sicilian slaves have been put in chains. Mr T. went to the Dey, to request that this poor fellow might be sent back ; but the Dey said it was impossible.”

“ 22d.—I hear that the Dey is much gratified by a present he has had sent to him by Buona-parto, of telescopes, &c. to the value of twenty thousand dollars.”

“ 23d.—I sent our Dragoman to the Minister of Marine, to beg for the release of Mariano; he replied, that he was very sorry that I should be refused any thing, but that letters had been received from Moorish slaves in Sicily, who were treated so brutishly, that the Dey had determined not to release the Sicilian slaves from chains until accounts should be received of the Moors being better treated by the Sicilian government.”

“ 27th.—Came in the *Imogene* brig of war, with despatches from Lord Collingwood to Mr Blanckley; and a letter to the Dey, which Mr T. and Captain Stevens went to the palace to present. Captain S. asked the Dey to allow the chains to be taken off the Sicilian slaves, but he angrily refused, and said that it should never be until he heard that his subjects in Sicily were better treated. He declared, that when his ship was taken by the Sicilians, that they had dishonourably made use of the private signals agreed upon between his (the Algerine) and the English nation, and that they were cowards and traitors.”

“ 19th September.—Early this morning, Rais Ali sent out word that an English brig of war was in the offing, and that it was supposed to bring the Consul. God grant it may be true. Sidi Hassan sent me word, soon after he and Mr T. went to town, that

the Consul was arrived. We all set off to meet him; but as he went to pay his respects to the Dey, he did not arrive until dinner-time, with the Honourable Captain Walpole and officers of the Pilot, which was ordered by Lord Collingwood to bring him, from off Toulon, whither he went from Minorca in the Cambrian frigate, commanded by the Honourable Captain Fane."

I remember my father's speaking with great admiration of the devotion to the service evinced by that great and good man at the time of my father's visiting him, (I think on board the *Ville de Paris*). Lord Collingwood had not put his foot on shore for the space of three years, and he appeared wholly engrossed by his arduous duties as commander-in-chief of the fleet, and of the Mediterranean generally. His great anxiety, and the object of his cruising off Toulon, was to prevent the escape of the French fleet, which he was blockading in that port.

"11th October.—The Algerine frigates came into the port, bringing one hundred and forty odd Portuguese slaves. There are also some British subjects taken, who were passengers on their way from Gibraltar to Lisbon. A brig appeared from the north, which at a distance was thought to have Algerine colours; but just as we were all mounting our horses to go to the American Gar-

den, she passed by our Garden, and her colours proved English. Mr B. therefore proceeded to town, whilst we continued our original intention of fulfilling our engagement to Mrs Lear. We waited in vain for Mr B. ; dinner was not served till a late hour, and we were prevailed upon to sleep at the American Garden. The brig proves the Cephalus, Captain Harvey, dispatched from Malta by Sir Alexander Ball, to demand the restitution by that Regency, of the prizes taken under British colours upon the plea that they were Sicilian property ; or that a sufficient remuneration be paid for them. The Dey returned a negative to both requisitions ; and Mr B. then said, that the Regency must abide by the consequences of such refusal."

"15th.—A Mr Keeling, a merchant of Gibraltar, and his servant, were amongst the British subjects taken. He had considerable property on board one of the ships, and he therefore remains here until its arrival, as all the Algerine prizes have not yet made their appearance. All the other English men, women, and children, sailed to-day in a ship for Gibraltar, which I trust they will reach in safety ; poor people ! they suffered sad alarm, as they had all expected to be doomed to slavery for the remainder of their days ; they seemed very grateful for all our kindness and hospitality."

In this, and in every other instance, did my excellent parents act a part worthy of the good Samaritan; their house, their purse, and even their wardrobe, being opened, and freely bestowed according to the wants of their unfortunate fellow-creatures; and with the tenderest sympathy did they soothe and guide the many whose forlorn and destitute condition claimed the exertion of their never-failing charity and benevolence. They had in this life their reward, that of a good conscience void of offence towards God and towards men; for never existed two more guileless and upright followers of the blessed Saviour, who was their only hope; and now they have reaped the full harvest of those sure and steadfast promises which He has declared in His holy word to be the portion of His good and faithful servants.

For five of the years of my father's residence at Algiers, he never received a farthing's salary. All the emolument that he had for his arduous duties, was the usual fees upon the entrance of ships connected with Great Britain, (I do not know the exact term,) and his trifling salary as Consul of the Balearic Islands, which appointment he continued to hold, (his Vice-Consuls in the different Islands acting for him.) My father's kindness was not limited to his countrymen, for both previously to his nomination as Agent and Consul-

General for Portugal, and afterwards, he was equally generous and kind to all the Portuguese subjects; indeed, to every human being, he was all goodness; therefore some idea may be formed of the expensive style in which we were living, supporting as he did, in the most liberal manner, the state suited to the representative of the English nation; having to compete with the other Consuls General, who, each according to the wealth of their respective countries, were endowed with most ample allowances; and even attending to the claims of the suffering Christian slaves of all nations. My father, (as I have just mentioned) until the last year of our residence at Algiers, never received any part of the salary attached to the British Agency and Consul Generalship,—neither has he ever received an iota of the twelve hundred pounds sterling per annum, which was conferred upon him, in conjunction with his appointment to the office of Portuguese Consul General,—neither have we ever been repaid the large sums which were owing to him by the Portuguese Government, for money he actually paid out of his reduced private purse, for the service of that Government, and at their express request.

By the long absence from England of my parents, three separate properties, of considerable value, passed away from them and their children.

Therefore, to meet all these expenses, my beloved mother used the most unceasing exertions to regulate her household and family with the greatest economy, rising early and retiring late, so as to superintend our numerous and somewhat heterogeneous household, and to direct the improvements and management of the large tracts of land, both mountain and plain, which my father had hired and taken into his hands, for the purpose of converting them into arable ground, and pasture for our very numerous herds and flocks. From these resources our large family, and constant and numerous guests of all degrees, were in a great measure supported, as it was only for groceries that we from time to time were obliged to apply to distant and more civilized countries. My mother's beautifully arranged English dairy supplied us with all pastoral luxuries; and our bacon and hams rivalled those of Yorkshire, at least such was the testimony of our naval friends. These circumstances will sufficiently account for my father not having increased his worldly wealth, and may excuse his children for delighting to dwell on what cannot be taken away from them, the recollection of their parents' many virtues.

“*1st November.*—We have just been told that an English brig has been detained and brought in as a prize by the Algerines; the vessel was going

from Spain with fruit to London. The Algerines seized her under the plea, that her papers were incorrect; her passport, which had been granted by General Drummond, (formerly Lieutenant-Governor of Gibraltar,) being old and tattered, although equally worthy of respect as one of a later date. Mr B. rode to town, to declare that this outrage was tantamount to a declaration of war, and that he should act accordingly, if the brig was not given up; and he told the Minister of Marine that he was not to be bullied out of reason and right; he gained his point, and immediately ordered the English colours to be hoisted on board the brig. The master's name is Jacob Hare."

"7th.—Our Janissary, Sidi Hassan, returned from town in great consternation, and came into the drawing-room, saying that the Turks had risen, and were going to kill the Dey. Our Dragoman, Rais Ali, has taken sanctuary in our house.*

* Complete anarchy was consequent upon a revolution taking place, and until a new Dey was elected by the Janissaries. All the Moors and Jews were at the *mercy* of the ruthless soldiery, and any one who had reason to fear or suspect that he had an enemy among that lawless body, sought to hide his person and self from their researches, until the rule of misrule ceased, by the ascension of the green standard of the Prophet on the terrace of the Palace, which announced that a new Dey was seated on the warm seat of his massacred predecessor. Probably our heroic Dragoman might have had some reason to induce him, by seeking the protection of

Further accounts, about eleven o'clock, were sent to us from town, saying, that the Pacha Achmet was shot on the terrace of a house belonging to a Jew, when endeavouring to escape; he had succeeded in running over the terraces of several houses from the palace of his wife, to which he had first escaped; and on being pursued thither, he got upon the terrace, and from thence over several others, until he was shot through the body and leg, by a very young Turk. He was then by the soldiers dashed from the terrace into the street; and they cut off his head, and carried it to shew the new Dey, his successor, who is called Ali Pacha."

"In the evening we heard that everything was quite quiet, and the usual order restored in town."

"*8th.*—At eight o'clock in the morning, Mr B. received a message from the Government, to request that he would go immediately to town, and meet all the other Consuls at the Marina; where, it proves, that the right of detaining the English brig as a prize, in the name of the new Dey, was again to be discussed. Mr B. very spiritedly refused his attendance, should the Consuls with whose nations Great Britain is at war, be allowed

the British Consulate, to prove that he agreed in Shakespeare's definition of the better part of Valour. The Jews invariably paid a large ransom to avoid a general pillage.

to give their opinion on the subject; and added, that the advice of no individual besides himself was requisite, for if his King had not thought him competent to the maintenance of His rights, His Majesty would not have done him the honour to appoint him as His Agent and Representative. A judicious Rais, (Naval Commander,) a member of the Divan, who were all assembled, got up and reprobated the conduct of his countrymen, in laying violent hands on the property of their *best friends*.* In short, the English Consul got the better once more, by saying that if any insult were offered to the British flag, he should immediately feel himself justified in declaring war against the offenders."

"10th.—Rain yesterday prevented Mr B. going to pay his respects to the new Pacha, but today he went through that ceremony. He says that he appears a stupid old fellow, ignorant even of the office of Consul."

"15th.—I went to town, and found many Jews and their families in our house, who had taken sanctuary. Even Bacri, the great French adherent, had, it appears, flown to it for refuge during the period of the greatest alarm, but had returned to his own abode, when his fears were calmed

* Read most powerful, and most to be dreaded.

by the restoration of order, on the new Dey being named."

"17th.—There is a report that a Caid, (a chief of the Cabaillis,) who had given displeasure in the higher quarters, was, with some of his followers, ordered on board a vessel, under the belief that it was to convey them back to their own country. It sailed with them last night, and returned this morning without the Caid or his people, and it is supposed that they were thrown overboard."

"19th.—Mr B. went to town, to pay his compliments to the Minister of Marine, on the conclusion of the Ramadan, and the commencement of their *Pasqua*. He sleeps in town, that he may be there at daybreak, as immediately afterwards, it will be necessary for him to attend the Dey's celebration of the annual Feast at the Palace."

"Mr B. says that the scramble at the Palace was, with the exception of the change of the President, exactly resembling those he had previously witnessed."

"24th.—I went to town to give directions for the removal of the furniture of two rooms, to accommodate Bacri, the King of the Jews, who has taken sanctuary in our house, with many of his race; indeed it is almost filled with them, as much is apprehended."

"25th.—To-day was completed a beautiful walk

which Mr B. has planned, and had cut out on the side of the mountain, amidst its own diversified natural productions of shrubs and loveliest flowers; resembling, yet in their spontaneous growth far exceeding in beauty, the choicest productions of our greenhouses. Wherever a tree of larger growth offered its welcome shade, a seat has been placed beneath it. This is indeed a land fair to look upon; and all that it wants, is to be governed by hats instead of turbans. Mr Dalzel, Sen. sent us the pine-apple plant which he brought us out from England."

"26th.—Sidi Cadua, father-in-law to the late Dey, Achmet Pacha, and the proprietor of our Garden, has been stripped of all his immense property and possessions, with the single exception of *this* Garden, and had been thrown into prison; but on the day of Bairam, (the Mahomedan feast answering to our Easter,) he was restored to liberty. Our Janissary, Sidi Hassan, at my desire, called upon him yesterday, and found the venerable old man seated upon a sheep skin, which alone replaced all the beautiful carpets and splendid cushions with which he had previously been surrounded. He was very grateful for the coffee and other necessaries, which I had ventured to send him by Hassan. Such are the vicissitudes of life under this Government."

“ I have, in secrecy, been informed, that in addition to the many tyrannical measures which have of late caused so much misery, it is suspected that to-morrow there will be more bloodshed ; but I hope, (however unworthy of governing the expected victim is,) that the above hinted plot will be checked. The public news is, that Sidi Omar, the very Turk at whose marriage with the Cadi's daughter we were present, and who had, for a length of time back, been concerned in a conspiracy with the present Dey Ali Pasha, has been put to death. This Sidi Omar being a man of great influence with the late Government, Ali, to ensure his co-operation in placing him (Ali) at the head of the Regency, had promised that he would reward him by bestowing upon him the next post in honour and dignity in the country. After Ali was firmly established on the summit of his desires, Sidi Omar claimed his expected reward, and the Pacha in return presented him with a commission, naming him Caid or governor of some distant town and province. Sidi Omar was so enraged at the appointment falling so far short of his expectations, that before the face of the Pacha, he tore the commission in pieces, and leaving the palace, stirred up several Turks, his adherents, to rebellion. On this plot being discovered by the Dey's spies, the conspirators were seized and bastina-

doed, and two of them died in consequence ; Sidi Omar alone was strangled, and sad to relate, I hear that he was betrayed to the Dey by his own sister-in-law. She is in great favour with the Dey at present, having become acquainted with all the details, and even knowing the name of the Turk whom they intended to have placed on the throne, and who proves to be too influential to suffer with his partisans. This Brutus-like lady is, without exception, the prettiest woman I ever saw ; and the recollection of her mild and gentle aspect, with the knowledge of the part she has acted, tends much to excite my wonder."

30th.—Sidi Cadua is again in prison, in consequence of the Dragoman of the late Achmet Pacha, who made his escape to Gibraltar, writing to the Dey, that seven quintals* and a half of gold, and two sarmas of brilliants, were concealed under ground. A black man, slave to Sidi Cadua, who was brother-in-law to the predecessor of, and father-in-law to, Achmet Pacha, impeached his master, and accused him of knowing where these treasures were buried. This Sidi Cadua denied ; and alas ! alas ! even the poor widow, (whom I visited and witnessed in the enjoyment of regal splendour) she too has been (dreadful to think of it !) subjected to the bastinado, to force her to re-

* Weights and Measures used in the country.

veal that of which she declares herself ignorant— 'where the treasure is.' The late Dey's head Piscary has also, from being involved in a similar suspicion, been this morning hanged, after receiving, in the course of the last two days, a thousand strokes of the bastinado."

"*2d December.*—We gave a grand ceremonious dinner to the Spanish Consul, and all the subjects of that nation at Algiers, in celebration of the alliance of the two countries:—The miniature standards of Great Britain and Spain being united on the principal centre ornament of the Dessert, which, with a corresponding whole course of confectionary and sweetmeats, we had sent for and received from Alicant, for this particular occasion."

"*6th.*—Arrived the Acorn Frigate, Captain Clephane, (brother to General C.), with despatches, empowering Mr Blanckley to make proposals of peace between Sicily and this country. The Dey returned a favourable answer. However, had Mr B.'s advice met with earlier attention from the Sicilian Government, he has no doubt that, with Aehmet Pacha, he could have made a more desirable arrangement than he can flatter himself to effect with the present Dey."

"*20th.*—I am told that a Turk was to-day strangled for striking the Guardian Pacha."

"*22d.*—I find that much snow has fallen in

town, some feet deep. There is not the least appearance of it at our Garden—a proof of the mildness of the sea air.”

“ 31st.—The year concludes with very rainy boisterous weather. Political matters in this part of the world are still more unsettled.”

“ 1st *January* 1809—Was ushered in by a very fine mild morning. Mr B. was much mortified by finding that our cook, Salvador, had, by mistake, killed his favourite eagle, instead of a guinea fowl. The children missed their Papa’s pet, or it would have been served at table.”

My father had quite a passion for pets, and as he never failed to give a liberal reward to any Arab or Cabailli who brought him any curiosity, we had a well-stocked Menagerie, and an aviary of all the birds in the air, &c., and when, as in the case of this Eagle, he met with anything worthy of being sent to his friends in England, he valued it accordingly. This was certainly the finest specimen of its species I ever saw there, and my father had destined it to accompany several other rarities as presents to his excellent friend the Earl of Liverpool. But it was otherwise fated. Among the importations to our farm-stock, there had originally been a couple of Guinea fowls; one of them, however, had in some manner long disappeared, and an opinion had been expressed to

Salvador, that the relict of the lost one would better grace his *broche* than thus be left to pine in solitary loneliness. Salvador certainly represented, with his usual humility, that he was afraid il Signor Consolé would find it rather tough, but certainly Sua Eccellenza must know best. The following night our Janissary (near whose room the Eagle was chained) was awakened by hearing a hum of many voices, and nothing doubting but that all the Christian slaves were plotting and effecting their escape, he seized pistols and atthagan, and rushed out in the direction of the noise; and great was his surprise on seeing several of the servants armed with lanthorns, whilst the principal actor, wielding his knife of office in the one hand, with the other grasped the neck of the really noble bird. "What in the name of Allah are you going to do with the Consul's favourite bird, you Christian dog?" exclaimed the enraged Hassan. "Going to kill him," replied the confident man of saucepans, "according to the Signore Console's express orders to me." "Why it is impossible, he is not fit to eat, eater of carrion as he is." "I am only obeying my orders. When I was receiving the necessary directions for the entertainment of the company that are now expected, il Signore Console himself gave me his orders about this bird, it is to be served to-day at dinner." Sidi Hassan

thinking it passing strange, but supposing that Christians are not as delicate in their Epicurism as the Faithful, unwillingly allowed Salvador to do the fatal deed, and the royal bird was killed, plucked, and with many of his peaceable subjects hung up in the well filled Christmas larder. My sister and I, on our return from our usual round of morning rambles, visiting our own and papa's pets, reported that the Eagle's perch was unoccupied, and then came the *denouement*, to my dear father's great regret, and to poor Salvador's everlasting repentance, for—

" Le Cuisinier fut fort surpris,
Et vit bien qu'il s'étoit mepris,"

and although soon receiving forgiveness, he never ceased to reproach himself for having done anything to displease his kind master.

" 8th.—The estimable Spanish Consul Don José Ortiz took a most affectionate leave of us, assuring us of the happiness it will afford him if ever in his power to be of any service, in whatever part of the world he may be. His present ultimate destination is to our Court, and he sails from this on the 11th instant in the packet to Alicant."

" 11th.—The Spanish Consul sailed. Mr B. was prevented by indisposition from accompanying this excellent man to the place of his embarkation.

All the other Consuls, with the exception of the French, attended him to the Marina. He begged Mr Farrara to go to our garden, and assure Mr B. that he was much grieved at not seeing him again, and especially for the cause; and to *abrazar* the whole house for him. However, as Mr Farrara did not meet with any encouragement to the literal fulfilment of the latter part of Don Jose's request, he fortunately abstained from the attempt; for I cannot say that my politeness would have equalled my repugnance."

" 13th.—I find that the Jews are again in fear of another revolution. Several Turks came to our Garden, and the Consul turned them out."

One of the privileges of the Janissaries was, to enter with perfect impunity the Gardens of every individual native or foreigner, not even excepting those of the Consuls, and pillage and destroy whatever fruit or vegetables suited their wanton fancy; and during the summer season, they, in large parties, made a point of visiting and devastating in rotation the different gardens in the neighbourhood of Algiers. My father was the first person who ever thought it possible to resist such an *usanza*, and he did so effectually; he let it be understood, that if they would remain outside the gates of his Garden, and would depute one of their

number to ask for any quantity of fruit or vegetables they wished, he would have the greatest pleasure in bestowing it upon them, and that he had given his gardeners orders accordingly; but that if they dared, without his permission, to enter his grounds, they should not do so with impunity.

“14th.—I find it is determined that in a short time *another great change* is to take place in this Regency,—its present head having become generally disliked, even by those who only think of pleasure, as he has enforced the strictest regulations of the Mahommedan law, wine being strictly forbidden to be imported. Nor is even the sound of music tolerated. His Highness, however, is not a perfect anchorite, as one of his first acts was to divorce his old wife, to whom he had been united many years, and in her place took unto himself two very beautiful young Grecian girls.”

“Some Portuguese officers have written a very disrespectful letter to Mr B., because he would not become responsible, on his own individual risk, for the sum of ten thousand dollars demanded for each of them by the Dey, (that they might be allowed, instead of being locked up every night, to lodge wherever they pleased.) What an absurd demand! for it is possible, and still more probable, that the Regency itself would supply them with a vessel,

and suggest their escaping, in order to lay claim upon the Consul for that sum."

"17th.—The French Consul and family dined with us; they brought with them, and introduced a Mr Barthelemy, a colonel in the French service, and aide-de-camp to Buonaparte. We wonder what he is doing here!"

"19th.—I went to town, to give directions preparatory to our occupying our house. I was informed that two days ago two Turks were bastinadoed, until they confessed that it had been planned that a revolution should be effected, and that one of them was to be Hasnagee, and the other to be appointed to another high office. In consequence of their forced revelations, the person whom they intended to succeed the present Dey, fled, and took sanctuary in the abode of a Marabout, which has never on any occasion been violated. However, the Dey sent two Turks, who shot him dead,—a proceeding which has so enraged the Marabout, that he has put up a black flag. By all I can learn, there will be more black flags, '*poco, poco.*'"

"Whilst I was in town, Mr B. sent me a note, in which he desired that I would send our Dragoon to the palace, to represent that nine Turks had gone to our Garden that morning, and, to the insult of the British flag and Consul, had robbed our Garden. The Dey sent an answer, that a

guard should be sent out to protect us from a repetition of the insult."

"22d.—Two guards, alias sbirros, were stationed at our garden, armed only with attaghans and large wooden mallets, to knock the Turks on the head,—this class of bug-bears never carrying pistols."

"26th.—The Bairam commenced; Mr B. did not go to the palace as usual, being advised that *something* might take place. Sidi Hassan slept in town last night."

"27th.—Our Turk went again to town, and found all tranquil. A Xebeck brought a letter from Mr Clark at Bona, by which we were informed that an earthquake had occurred there on the 18th December, which was so serious, that he says another nudge would have cheated the undertakers, and have raised a monument over him at the expense of the French nation."*

"6th February.—We were awakened this morning by the firing of cannon. The worthy guardian Pacha is displaced, and many other changes made in the government."

"8th.—The admiral is dismissed. It is ex-

* Alluding to the extensive buildings raised by the French during the period that they, by their contract with the Dey, held possession of Bona.

pected that some important event will soon follow."

"11th.—All the different Consular families spent the evening at our house; a supper and great squeeze."

"12th.—A great rout and supper at the Swedish Consul's. We refused going, because it was Sunday."

"13th.—A masked ball at the American Consul's. I went as a black woman, in the complete dress of a Moorish slave."

"14th.—Mr B. accompanied me to a masked ball at the French Consul's. I performed the part of an old woman. We stayed till past four o'clock. I wished to show those persons who ridiculed me for not breaking the Sabbath, that I could be sociable six days out of seven, and no country or custom shall laugh me out of my duty."

CHAPTER VIII.

Another Revolution—Account of the Dey's Deposition and Death—Great Drought—Algerine Ships detained at Marseilles—Monsieur Arago—The new Dey's estimation of a Philosopher—Affliction of Padre Paolo—Capture of several English Ships—A Literary Captain—Seizure of Algerine Vessels, and consequent annoyance and perplexities—The Scrivano Grande purchases his own ransom—The Benefits of Freemasonry—Archibald Dalzel, Esq.—Our Janissary Hassan accompanies the *Regalo* to Constantinople—History of an Empress of Morocco—Honourable conduct of M. Ragueneau de la Chenaye—Sidi Hamdan, an Algerine Savant.

“*4th March.*—We were informed, before we were out of bed, that many people had taken sanctuary under the British flag, and we indeed found the court filled with persons of all persuasions. The Aga has fled for protection to the barracks. We then ascended the terrace, and beheld those of the whole city covered by thousands of women ; we could easily distinguish the houses

inhabited by Jews, as the Jewesses were throwing themselves about in attitudes of the greatest despair, weeping and wringing their hands. After some time, we saw a flag similar to that of Tunis hoisted on the flag-staff of the palace. Soon afterwards, we heard the cannon fire, and immediately the green flag of Mecca replaced the red one over the palace, which announced that a new Dey had ascended the throne. It is said that Ali Pacha, who has only reigned since the seventh of November last, died this morning by poison, and that it is the Hogia dei Cavalli who succeeds him, by name also Ali. Mr Blanckley and the other Consuls have all been to pay their respects to the new Dey ; Mr B., as usual, only offered to shake hands with him. And when the others tendered him the homage of kissing his hand, the new Dey would not permit them to do so ; but followed the example which Mr B. had set, by merely shaking hands with them. From this, he appears to be as yet free from pride ; but the mania will no doubt soon attack him. Free from wisdom I pronounce him to be, or he would never have accepted of an office which, to a certainty, will shorten his days."

" 5th.—I understand that a cup of coffee, containing the powder of ground diamonds, a most effectual poison, was offered to the late unfortu-

nate Pacha, out of respect, as they said ; but he refused to drink it, saying that he did not choose to be accessory to his own death. He, therefore, politely declined the honour which the Turks intended him, preferring rather to be led out by the Chaousses, like a culprit, to the usual place of execution, where he was strangled. A distinction was, however, made in his case, as he was strangled at once, instead of undergoing the usual refinement of cruelty, in being twice revived by a glass of water, and only effectually executed the third time that the bowstring is applied. It is said that one of the Grecian women whom he married is in the family way. Poor unfortunates !”

“ *6th.*—Great numbers of Moors and Jews, to the shame of us, who call ourselves Christians, went out early this morning beyond Babel Ouate, to offer up prayers for rain, which, thanks be to a gracious God, has indeed begun to fall to-day, and so heavily as to prevent our going out to the garden. It is the first that has fallen since Christmas. A famine was dreaded. The Hasna Da was strangled to-day.”

“ *25th.*—It is reported that five vessels belonging to Bacri have been detained at Marseilles ; that three Algerine Raisés belonging to them have been laden with irons ; and that a sailor has

been taken out of one of them, in defiance of the Algerine flag, for singing to his guitar a song against the French nation."

"26th.—News have been received from town that the French Consul has been arrested in his house. Mr Vigne came out, and dined at our Garden. He is very uneasy, as he is under French protection."

"27th.—It is said that no French subjects are allowed to go out of their houses in Algiers."

"28th.—We were to-day informed that a certain Consul of a neutral nation spoke at the Marina of the successes of the French in Spain, when the Minister of Marine told him, that it was a shame for him, an ally of Great Britain, to make such reports."

"April 1st.—The French Consul, his lady, with little Irène, (who was born at our Garden,) and the rest of the French attachés, all came to a breakfast, and left us at two o'clock."

"10th.—The Swedish Consul came out with a Monsieur Arago, to introduce him to Mr B., and to solicit my husband's aid and assistance in getting the latter away from this country with all his astronomical instruments; Mr Arago had a British passport, on account of having been sent by the Institute of Paris to Yarmouth, to find the longitude. He went afterwards to Spain in the pursuit of some object connected with science, and was in

that country when Ferdinand the VII. was decoyed into France; in consequence of which, the Junta having ordered all Frenchmen to be banished from Spain, this clever young man took refuge in this country, the very moral antipodes to the encouragement of the arts and sciences."

"11th.—A priest who has arrived from Sicily, in the hope of redeeming slaves, came out, and remains at our Garden."

"12th.—Mr B. went to town to solicit the Dey to allow Monsieur Arago to quit this country, and endeavoured to make him understand that his researches were for the benefit of mankind in general; and as a proof of the interest felt in his behalf by the English Government, he shewed him *King George's seal* on Mr A.'s passport. But the Dey answered, that if he were of any other nation, he might listen to such arguments, but that no Frenchman should leave this kingdom; and that if he wished to find the longitude, &c., he might take his spy-glass, and go up one of the mountains in this vicinity, which would answer his purpose quite as well as in any other part of the world. And thus terminated the audience with this enlightened prince."

"30th.—Padre Paolo returned from town, much agitated at the violent conduct of a Sicilian slave who had threatened his life; a strange recompence to the benevolent Padre for all the incon-

venience he has suffered in coming here, in the hope of redeeming him and all his countrymen from slavery."

"*May 7th.*—Mr B. received a letter from a Sicilian prince, requesting him, in the gentlest manner he could, to break the following melancholy intelligence to Padre Paolo, that his father, il Barone, died on the 22d of February, and the Baronéssa, his mother, on the 28th of the same month, bequeathing their whole property to their only son Padre Paolo. He, poor man, was in town, whither I went, accompanied by Mr Aiton; and we brought him out with us to the Garden, when Mr B. and I broke the sad news of the death of his mother, for we thought it more prudent not to relate the whole melancholy contents of the prince's letter this evening, as he nearly sunk under his grief, writhing in agony, whilst he repeatedly exclaimed, '*Oh! Mamma mia.*'"

"*8th.*—I endeavoured to prepare the poor Padre for the other part of the fatal news, and as he was obliged to go to town, we recommended his not reading the letter until he saw the venerable Padre Guiseppe, who, as a good Christian, would be enabled to reason with him, and fortify his mind against so severe a stroke of Providence.

Mr Aiton went to town with him, and they both returned in company with a Spanish priest, who also remained to dinner."

"9th.—The good Padre Guiseppe spent the day at our Garden, and took Padre Paolo back to town with him, to perform masses for the deceased. We all walked part of the way with them."

"14th.—The Swedish Consul sent us a basket of fine strawberries, the production of plants raised from the three we gave him, out of the five we received from Minorca, and which we had originally from England."

"22d.—Some Turks came and robbed our fruit trees, breaking off large branches. Mr B. sent to town, and several Sbirros arrived, who took them in custody, saying, that they had orders to have them bastinadoed; but Mr B. and I both begged that they might be pardoned, which they were. A positive order has been issued, that they are never to disturb the British Garden."

"26th.—My feelings are very much hurt, on finding that the large brig which we yesterday morning saw sail into the port, is an English merchantman of ten guns, a prize to a French privateer of only two guns. It was taken before they were scarcely out of the port of Majorca, the guns not being loaded, and a part of the crew having run away in the boat after seeing the rest killed or

wounded. Its cargo was brandy going to Gibraltar. The Captain's name is Howard; he is severely wounded in five different places; his poor wife is with him. The owner of the ship and cargo, a Mr Clark, is almost cut to pieces, and the mate of the vessel has been shot through the shoulder, and one poor sailor had his arm amputated last night. They all came to our house in town, where I went to give them all the assistance I could."

One result of my father's breaking through the trivial etiquette which had previously been established at Algiers, and of his and the French Consul's consequent friendship, was the effecting much alleviation of distress and misery; for they made an agreement, (which, on their representations to their respective governments, was not interfered with,) that a mutual exchange of all prisoners brought into the Port of Algiers by the cruisers of each nation, should take place. By this humane arrangement, many an Englishman returned to his native land, who otherwise would have sighed in vain within the walls of a French prison. For French privateers swarmed between Algiers and Marseilles, until, through my father's subsequent interference with the Algerine Regency, all French privateers were forbidden ever to remain more than twenty-four hours at anchor in the Port of Algiers.

"27th.—Mr B. and I went early to visit our

hospital in town. I left the children under the good Padre's care. We solicited Dr Triplet's attendance; he and Consul Lear both came to see the wounded. I cut out shirts for Mr Clark the merchant."

"28th.—We received a very bad account of poor Mr Clark's wounds, of which he has many; the one in his head prevents his lying down, as the stitches break out. I went to town to give him an easy chair."

"June 2d.—Mr B. went to pay his respects to the Bey of Constantina, who made his entrée into Algiers yesterday; and to make him a handsome present, besides paying him the sum of 1400 dollars, due to him in connection with the Bona, &c. contract."

"5th.—The Swedish Consul and the British subjects all dined and slept at our Garden, to celebrate the birth-day of our beloved King, whom God long preserve."

"10th.—Between four and five o'clock this afternoon I heard and felt an earthquake. I ran in search of my children. No one else perceiving it, I was laughed at except by the Padre, who fancied that he had heard the noise."

"11th.—Mr B. went to town. I was asked by the Swedish Consul if we had felt the earthquake last evening; all their family had in alarm rushed

from the dinner table. It was felt by part of each family, in the whole town of Algiers."

"12th.—Monsieur Arago came to take leave, and obtain an English passport, as he is at last permitted to leave Algiers."

"13th.—We all rose early to go to town, to call upon the French Consul and family, who, however, called and took leave of us at half past six o'clock in the morning. We continued our intention of going to town to visit the wounded."

"21st.—Mr B. went to town to take leave of the French Consul, and he accompanied Madame de Thainville on board. All and every branch of the different Consular families attended them down to the Marina, with the exception of the Danish lady and myself, who were both prevented by indisposition."

"July 10th.—We heard cannonading during and after breakfast; there are certainly ships engaged very near, but the weather being rather hazy, prevents our seeing them. We are all anxiety to know the result, as the two French privateers sailed this morning at 4 o'clock. In the evening came in the ships which we have so anxiously been all day looking out for, and they prove to be one Spanish and two English prizes, taken by that *diavolo* Babastro, who came out of Barcelona only two or three days ago, in a privateer armed with only two

small two-pounders; yesterday, off Alicant, he captured the Spanish ship, on its voyage from Tarragona to the former port, laden with brandy and wine, and our two unfortunates last night, on their way from Malta to England, laden with cotton, shumac, and opium, very valuable cargoes."

"11th.—Mr B. went to town at five o'clock, to protest against the prizes being allowed to be sold in this port. Before he attended the Divan at the Marina, (where all the Consuls were summoned to give their opinion about territorial rights, &c.) the Dey sent Mr B. word, that He himself had seen them taken, from the terrace of his palace in town; and that he wished so well to the English, that he had given orders to the Captain of the Port to go on board, and take with him blind Bob the interpreter. This man, who had for some years served in the British navy, and who still even among his Algerine countrymen, was only known by the English appellation, *Blindi Bobbi*, was desired by the Algerine authorities to tell the English to declare that they were within three miles of the shore when captured. Notwithstanding all this friendly diplomacy on the part of the Dey, the poor, honest, conscientious John Bulls, told the French Chargé d'Affaires, M. Ragueneau de la Chenaye, that they were to a certainty four leagues off; so in consequence, my goodman, the Dey, and the

underwriters were non-suited, except that Mr B. gained his point, in being assured by the Dey, that he would not allow them to be sold here, as they had been taken *cosi vicino*."

"12th.—Mr B. wrote to Mr Raguenneau, to say that he hoped he would abide by the arrangements which had been entered into with Mr de Thainville, and that he would give up the English prisoners, upon Mr B.'s receipt and promise to exchange a like number of French prisoners, should any such be brought into the port of Algiers. Mr Raguenneau wrote a very kind note, and answered in the affirmative. Arrived the Capushee Pacha, bringing the Grand Signor's notification, &c. of His approval and confirmation of the election of the present Dey, who, from henceforth, only is entitled to the distinction of being called Pacha."

"13th.—This Regency having ordered the French prizes out of this port, the prize-master objects to the prisoners being given up, except Mr B. will allow him to sell the prizes here. Mr B. went to pay his compliments to the Dey on the receipt of the caftan conferred by the Grand Signor."

"14th.—There are great discussions and objections made by the French to giving up the English prisoners. Mr B. insists that they shall, and dwells on the point of the privateers having

(in opposition to the Dey's regulation) remained more than twenty-four hours in this port previous to their capture of the English ships.

“ Our janissary, Sidi Hassan, brought home a fine little black boy, about ten years of age, whom he purchased for fifty sequins.”

“ 15th.—Mr B. has gained his point, and the English prisoners, Captains Phillips and Wilson, and twelve sailors, are all liberated.”

I remember being highly delighted with the former of these poor men, Captain (as the masters of merchantmen are styled in courtesy) Phillips, who, with his companion in misfortune, dined at our house, and of course, dwelt much upon their several losses; poor Captain Phillips especially: but what he said he regretted almost more than all besides, “ was the cleverest book that ever was written. If there was any information you wished for, you had but to open that book, and there it was.—Did you ever see it, Ma'am?” said he, addressing my mother, “ it is called a Cloppedda.” “Encee-clo-pee-dee-a Bri-tan-nee-ca, Madam, Captain Pheelups means,” added the correct and more erudite Scotchman, Captain Wilson, blushing for, and thus correcting his friend's incomprehensible account. Captain Phillips has retained a marked place in my recollections, which is always revived

whenever I have occasion to consult a Clopedda."

"16th.—My dear husband is much indisposed, but has been under the necessity of braving the hot sun, and go to town to see that the poor liberated English, fourteen in number, are properly accommodated in our house in town.

"An English frigate is in sight, off to the west, but the wind is against her. About five o'clock, we heard the salute, announcing that the frigate has anchored. Hassan went to town, with dispatches brought by Captain C. Bullen of La Volontaire, from Lord Collingwood; and most annoying intelligence do they contain,—that his Majesty's brig, the Minstrel, has carried off as prizes three Algerine merchant ships, named the Three Brothers Spero, although they had previously been visited by five different English frigates, who had all respected the passports granted to them by Mr B., and which had been obtained on their owners having made oath that the whole cargo was Algerine property. The Minstrel sent these ships into Gibraltar, and Lord Collingwood has sent their crews back in La Volontaire. Sidi Hassan says the Marina is all in confusion."

"17th.—Mr B. went to town at day-light, as he has not been able to sleep all night, in conse-

quence of the vexation and annoyance that he anticipates from yesterday's intelligence. Captain Bullen and four of his officers returned with Mr B. to dinner. They had previously delivered a letter from Lord Collingwood to the Dey, who said that he hoped that the ships would be given up."

" 18th.—A divan was called, at which the British Consul and merchants, the Swedish, Danish, and American Consuls were present. The Swedish and Danish Consuls conducted themselves with great violence, exclaiming against our navy, nation, and government, and its proceedings. The latter expressed his hope that he should yet see them brought low. To this Mr Clark, (Vice-Consul of Bona), replied that it would not be in the power of the Danish nation, nor in that of all the powers of Europe united together, to reduce any thing so powerful and flourishing. The Swedish Consul, following the example of the Dane, said, that previous to the present English Consul's arrival, he had seen his own property brought into this port by an English privateer, and sold before his face. Mr B. asked him why he did not represent these circumstances in an official manner, instead of discussing a subject so irrelevant to the one for which they were then assembled, and before those who neither un-

derstood it, nor were concerned in it. To which the Swedish Consul answered, that he knew that if he had applied for redress, he should not have had any, as the English Admiralty were all a pack of thieves. This intemperate and absurd speech Mr B. treated with the contemptuous silence which it deserved. Mr B. then produced a copy of the Order in Council, and said that Achmet Pacha was made acquainted with it, and the rules and regulations by which alone he, Mr B., could grant passports."

"The Minister of Marine (who, it appears, is secretly the owner, conjointly with David Bacri, the avowed proprietor of the principal part of the cargoes of the seized ships) was very violent in his declamation, and declared that the Regency was ignorant of the English having made such regulations, and that even if they had been informed of them, they would not have abided by them."

"20th.—The Dey has refused provisions to the frigate, under the plea that they are not to be procured. The Consul has desired that Captain Bullen will not say when he intends to sail, so as to avoid receiving the compliment of a salute from *those* who will not supply the usual requisite necessaries to a ship belonging to his Britannic Majesty. I gave Captain B. two pigs, and our

janissary procured two bullocks for the purser of the *Volontaire*."

"21st.—I was under the necessity of going to town by day-light, Mr B. having required my doing so on business for him, as he wishes to avoid going there, if possible, himself, until the return of the frigate, or the receipt of an answer from Lord Collingwood. Whilst I was in town, the ambassador from Tripoli to this Regency came to the British Chancery on business.

"The *Volontaire* had scarcely been an hour out of sight, before a prize was brought in by a French privateer,—a Maltese vessel, laden with soap and oil, which was hardly out of the port of Mahon, on its way to Gibraltar, when it was captured. Just as the prize entered the port, the crew prisoners with one accord jumped on board a vessel bearing British colours, alongside of which they passed. This vessel belonged to the Bona commerce, and had just preceded them into the port."

"27th.—Padre Paolo, on his return from town, told us that the Vickell Hadgee had threatened to put the English Consul and family in chains, if the vessels under the Algerine flag seized by the British should not be given up. A vessel from Gibraltar has arrived here, with the news that the vessels had been carried into that port,

and that the Minstrel, after having safely conveyed them there, had sailed to join the fleet off Toulon."

"29th.—A vessel sailed with dispatches from this government, to the authorities at Gibraltar. Also sailed the brig Louisa Henrietta, which had been repurchased from Mr Bacri by their former owners, Messrs Clark and Howard, who, with all their *ci-devant* fellow prisoners, to the number of twenty, left our house, where they had remained ever since they had been brought in by the French privateer. Dr Triplet and several other Americans accompanied them as passengers on board their ship, bound to Gibraltar."

"30th.—Mr B. went to town (just as we were going to prayers,) in consequence of receiving advice, that English prizes were brought into the port with cargoes of money and powder intended for Sir John Stuart at Naples. After he was gone, I sent my children to the Garden of their eldest sister, and followed Mr B. to town, desiring our servants to do so also, as I was afraid of his again running the risk of riding under the hot sun, a second exposure in which might be very prejudicial. He went to the Marina, and examined all the papers written in Italian at Palermo, and he was sorry to find that 200 barrels of gunpowder and money, &c. were not covered by a single English

passport, nor by any documents which could empower him to lay claim to them as pertaining to the English. Fifty-nine unfortunate men, the ships, and cargo, were all condemned as lawful prizes, although, if what we are told is true, the latter was for the use of the English. There was a letter amongst the papers from General Oswald, but it merely related to his request to have 300 measures of wheat sent to him. There has been a very unpleasant occurrence between two members of our family, namely, our Janissary and Gregorio our Neapolitan gardener, which I fear may end very seriously for the latter, as an order has come from the Admiral Vickel Hadgie, desiring the Consul not to be displeased at their ordering the Italian to be sent to the Marina."

"31st.—The Captain of the Malta ship taken by the French, who with his crew had effected their escape on board the Bona vessel, came out to obtain a passport."

"We had the mortification this morning of seeing an English brig come in as prize to Babastro. We learn that she is laden with barilla and zinc. Her captain was pursued by an English frigate, who fired at her, but afterwards left her to go in pursuit of the good-for-nothing fellow that took her, and three other prizes that follow him.

How I should rejoice to see the pirate taken prisoner in his turn."

"*August 3d.*—Three more prizes of Babastro have arrived, and I am grieved to hear that there are many wounded among the prisoners, for they fought bravely."

"*4th.*—Mr B. went to town to order accommodation for twelve poor prisoners, two out of the number wounded."

"*5th.*—To my great joy, an English frigate is in sight; it is the *Volontaire*. Captain Bullen came out to dinner, and the neighbourhood of our brave tars is no little comfort to me,* as otherwise, the threats which we have lately heard of chains and death, might have been put into execution, for it appears that the Algerine ships are not yet given up, and that they are not likely to be so, unless the Admiralty Court of Gibraltar should decide in favour of the Barbarians."

"*6th.*—Messrs Bullen and B. saw the Dey, and delivered a letter to him from Lord Colling-

* Some conception may be formed of the agreeable anticipation of my parents as to the probable result of the Dey's displeasure at the arrest of his vessels, by the tendency of the signals concerted between my father and the commander of *La Volontaire*, and those of the other ships which at that period were sent to protect the Consul and British subjects at the mercy of the Algerines.—For the Signals, see Appendix.

until he meets with a safe opportunity to convey him to Sicily."

"20th.—Notwithstanding all that has passed, the Dey has ordered Babastro and his two prizes, (in fulfilment of the promise which he had given to Mr B., that they should not be sold here,) out of the port."

"21st.—We hear farther, that the Dey was only yesterday informed that these ships were still here, and that he sent for the Minister of Marine, with whom he was much displeased, saying, that he had made him forfeit his word to the English Consul, and instantly ordered that they should sail from this. I hope and trust that they may meet with an English man of war, who will convey them to an English port."

"26th.—The Padre Paolo Sancta Innocenza, accompanied by the liberated late Scrivano Grande, sailed for Sicily, to bring back the Moorish slaves from that country, in exchange for Sicilian slaves. The only agreement that the Regency here would listen to, was, that two of the former should be exchanged for one of the latter ;—a proof, however, that the Mahometans thus acknowledge themselves to be but half men. Nor indeed can they or any others ever really fulfil the object for which they were created, until they acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as their Redeemer."

“27th.—Before we arose this morning, accounts came from town, that Babastro’s privateer had returned into this port, with the information that an English frigate had retaken the Salerno and Lucy, (the two prizes which had caused so much discussion,) by cutting them out of the port of Bugia.”

“28th.—We hear that the people in town are very angry at the prizes being cut out of a neutral port.”

“29th.—Our Dragoman, Rais Ali, came out with a message from the Dey, to complain about the vessels having been cut out of the port of Bugia. Mr B. desired that he would assure the Dey, that he was much concerned on hearing such a report, and that if his Highness would give him a vessel to bear his letter to Lord Collingwood, he would write to him immediately on the subject.”

Must I, whilst the name of Babastro occupies my pen,—must I, who ranked the name of Babastro amongst the Jack the giant-killers, ogres, hobgoblins, evil genii, spiteful fairies, and *croque mitaines*, who so prominently occupied my young imagination!—must I, in justice and in charity, trace one redeeming trait? Yes, even so; I will, in my dear father’s spirit, who never failed whenever circumstances led him to speak of this one of his arch-plagues, always to conclude by adding the only palliating circumstance with which he was

acquainted ; and from which he deduced a strong argument in support of one of his most favourite dogmas, viz. that great benefit had accrued to mankind by the establishment and continuation of Freemasonry,—of which he was a most decided admirer, and zealous advocate. After the capture of an English prize by this so oft named corsair, and whilst his crew were following their usual honourable practice of stripping our unfortunate countrymen, (to which they induced them to submit by holding over them unsheathed knives,) that they, the gallant captors, might thus exactly ascertain the precise amount of their booty ; it so occurred, that the master of one of the luckless English vessels, whose name escapes my recollection, whilst undergoing this unceremonious robbing, made use of one of those mystic gestures, invisible to all but the initiated brethren of the trowel and apron. Whatever that sign was, it passed not unnoticed, for instantly was his hand clasped in that of Babastro, and an immediate order was given by him to his satellites to release the English captain from their grasp ; and he desired, that whatever property was ascertained to belong exclusively to him, should by all be held sacred, and restored to him. Nor were these professions a mere *façon de parler*, for most strictly were they fulfilled, as I perfectly remember hearing the Eng-

lish Captain relate to us. All I recollect besides, of this chieftain of the privateers which so long infested the coast of Algiers, is, that his master, Napoleon, judged him worthy of being named a member of the Legion of Honour, and that its cross accordingly dangled at his *boutonniere*.

“September 1st.—A frigate with English colours; it is named the Pomona, Captain Barrie.”

“3d.—Mr B. returned with Captain Barrie on board the frigate. Whilst he was there, a line of battle ship appeared, and made signals to the frigate, which, after saluting Mr Blanckley on his leaving her, sailed.”

“4th.—No signs of the English ships. I last night finished packing up all our wardrobes, except what we immediately require.”

“5th.—Whilst we were at breakfast, both the line of battle ship and the frigate appeared in sight. Captains Hallowell and Barrie, accompanied by many of their officers, and among their number, the sons of Lords Spencer, Hamilton, and de Clifford, dined here. Captain H. asked me if I was prepared to embark in two or three days, should the proposals he brought not be agreed to by the Regency. His fine little boy Benjamin has been left with me, to the great satisfaction of my children. The Chaplain, Mr Masters, also remains at our Garden.”

“7th.—An audience of the Dey, who seems in-

clined to peace, even should the ships be condemned at Gibraltar. The question is to be finally settled at the Divan on Saturday."

"10th.—Mr B. and Captain Barrie, went early to town to join the Divan. Soon after their departure, I saw the ships under weigh. Mr B. told me on his return, that every thing is amicably settled, and many personal compliments were paid to Mr B. by many members of the Divan. On the Swedish and Spanish Consuls appearing there, both Mr B. and Captain Hallowell protested against their presence, and after some demurring on the part of the former, they went away."

"5th.—Mr B. received a dispatch from Captain Hallingworth, of His Majesty's ship ——, informing him that he had brought back, and left the Salerno and Lucy where he had taken them from, namely Bugia. So that subject of contention is also set at rest."

"9th.—By the hand of our venerable friend and connection, Mr Archibald Dalzel, and his amiable daughter, we have received most gratifying accounts, that Harry Blanckley, at the taking of Martinique, was the ensign who first planted the British colours on its walls; he was at the moment in advance of his gallant regiment, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and surrounded by clouds of smoke, from which his indomitable standard emerg-

ed, amidst the cheers of his fellow victors ; and, thanks be to God, he escaped unhurt."

Although I refrain, as much as is consistent with fidelity to the office I have undertaken, of transcribing (and in some parts explaining) my beloved mother's journal, from alluding to the individuals of my family ; yet it would be impossible for me to resist copying the last written sentence, relating, as it does, to a brother, whose worth and deeds of glory are almost the only inheritance he left to his orphan children ; one of them is now a follower in his father's noble career, a lieutenant in one of Her Majesty's Regiments in India : And just before I also ceased my usual practice, in fully copying the name of one whose memory will ever be venerated by me, the excellent old Mr Dalzel, (brother to the late Professor D. of Edinburgh), whose talents and knowledge he eminently shared. He was beloved and admired by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. The old, the young, demure or gay, all received instruction and delight in his society. Never has a Christmas eve passed without my affectionately calling to mind him who was the promoter and leader in all our Algerine rejoicings at that social season. Never shall I look upon its like again ; and if I should, there has a little more ice crept into my inward feelings since those sunny days, for there was nothing chilling

in our Algerine Christmas; but I thank God I have yet the power and the inclination to emulate the example of that benevolent dear old man, in viewing with delight, and sometimes entering into, the joyous gambols of those who are yet in the full spring-day of life.

Mr Dalzel had been for many years Governor of Cape Coast Castle, and from his habits of more than common temperance, had enjoyed health in a climate whose atmosphere, to the great majority of Europeans, is as the breath of pestilence. The duties of his situation called forth the exercise of his remarkably well-ordered judgment, and the philanthropy of his disposition; and much was the good that resulted from his Governorship. This I have heard from those who were well enabled to speak upon the subject. Vividly also can I call to mind the affectionate praise bestowed upon this "*dear good master*" by a faithful negro servant, who, although originally a slave reared in his house, when I saw him, was a freeman. Mr Dalzel published a most curious and interesting history of the kingdom of Dahomy, a country previously but little known, and this work he dedicated to his brother the professor, between whom and himself, in addition to the warmest fraternal affection, there existed a very particular friendship and union of tastes.

Mr Dalzel, after many years residence at Cape Coast, returned to England, after having most honourably realized a very handsome fortune. For some reason which, if I ever heard it, has escaped my memory, he was induced to destine his eldest son to the mercantile profession; and in furtherance of this purpose, he not only determined to enter into commerce himself, but set apart a large sum of money for his son to commence business with. Whilst in a state of uncertainty as to what part of the world it would be most advisable for his son to settle in, some well-meaning friend introduced to him a very specious person, whose principal claim to respectability rested (strange coincidences of the fatality by which our future lot is determined) on a certificate obtained, as it, alas! afterwards appeared, (under the belief of perfections which were illusory, and upon false representations of unmerited misfortunes,) from my ever-compassionate-hearted father, whose name then for the first time met Mr Dalzel's eye, as the signature of his Britannic Majesty's Consul of the Balearic Islands. This induced Mr Dalzel to place reliance on the detailed good character of the introduced, and he was led, by this individual's recommendations, to determine upon Algiers as the ultimate destination of his son, and finally to take into partnership this same person, who

brought alone his knowledge and experience into the concern, whilst Mr Dalzel paid down solid cash. The junior partners having proceeded to Algiers, Mr Dalzel remained as the head of the house in London; and when my father first arrived at Algiers, Mr Dalzel, Jun. and his partner were established as the principal British merchants there. The former afterwards became the husband of my much-loved eldest sister, and was to me the open, kind, and affectionate brother of my childhood; but, alas! they and every member of their family had for a long while cause to rue the conduct of the guide and monitor, whom Mr Dalzel, senior, in his unsuspecting goodness, had made choice of for his son.

“ 29th.—This beautiful morning we all went before prayers into the fields, which have now the appearance of those in England in the month of May, the inclosures being not only covered with leaves, but with blossoms also.”

The account of several other English ships being brought in as prizes by the French Privateers, and the consequent hospitality and sympathy of my parents to their unfortunate crews, are repeatedly noted in the journal; but as these details vary so little from those which I have already given, I have passed them over until the following date.

“ *November 6th.*—I, at Mr B.’s request, went to town ; and found all the poor people who had been taken by the French Privateer in our house, to which they came last evening at sunset. I invited the Captain, named Oates, and his wife, an amiable looking young woman, with a baby, (a lovely boy of three months,) to remain at our Garden.”

“ *10th.*—We received information that some people have taken sanctuary in our house in town. Great dismay has seized the whole tribe of Israel, by some Turks having openly uttered disloyal expressions. This evening we were witnesses to the audacity of the French Privateer, (which had but just sailed out of the port,) in attacking a small Spanish vessel, and taking her close under our windows. The Dey is very angry, and has ordered the French Chargé d’Affaires to go off in a boat, and bring them both into the port.”

“ *11th.*—The French Privateer is still off. Her commander is too wise to return into this port, although he was obliged to relinquish his prize yesterday, after having lowered the Spanish colours, and hoisted the French in their stead. The French Chargé d’Affaires, who was obliged to accompany the Captain of the port, to enforce the Dey’s orders, did so, I am told, with a very bad grace.”

“ 12th.—I hear that three Turks have been strangled to-day for *political* offences.”

“ 15th.—Our unfortunate guests left us to-day, to embark for Alicant. I have been busy making several articles of apparel for Mrs Oates and her beautiful boy. I pity them much, poor people, as only a small part of their property was insured, and he was sole owner as well as Captain of the ship.”

“ 21st.—Several Turks have been executed. Some are yet confined in the prison, but others have been so fortunate as to effect their escape. I fear that a certain person, who is very good of *his kind*, is not very secure.”

“ 25th.—A message from the Dey, who wishes to see Mr B.”

“ 26th.—Mr B., in consequence of yesterday's message, waited upon the Dey. It appears that Gallic influence is gaining ground, for the object of the interview was to offer to take back the Bona commerce, unless the English Government were inclined to give the same effectual support to it that the French had done.”

“ 16th.—Sidi Omar came to act as our Janisary, during the absence of Sidi Hassan, who being anxious once again to visit his aged mother and other relatives at Constantinople, is preparing to accompany the Regálo sent from this Dey, and

Regency, to the Grand Signor. This tribute or usual present consists of two beautiful Arab horses richly caparisoned, their saddles and bridles being profusely ornamented with diamonds, and the horses' shoes being made of gold; also a number of lions, tigers, and parrots, several black women, and some boxes of rare jewels."

"Mr B. presented Sidi Hassan with fifty dollars, as a testimony of his satisfaction and approval of the good and faithful manner in which he has fulfilled his duties towards us."

"19th.—An answer was returned from Lord Collingwood, to the request sent by an Algerine vessel from this Regency, that an English frigate might be sent to convoy the Ambassador and Regálo from this to Constantinople. Lord Collingwood expresses his regret at its not being in his power, at this present moment, to spare a frigate, which, however, he will be happy to do when the weather is more settled. The Regency has in consequence determined on freighting an American vessel, which happens to be here, to go on this expedition."

"All the good news of the destruction of the French Toulon fleet destined for Barcelona, is confirmed by his Lordship in his letter to Mr B. Not a sail escaped, with the exception of a single frigate, which got into Marseilles."

"28th.—Late this evening our worthy Hassan

took an affectionate leave, promising that nothing should prevent his returning, and if it was requisite, dying for us, if it pleased God to permit his so doing."

"*January 1st, 1810.*—Commences like May-day in my own dear country. Roses blooming in our Garden."

Three large and most valuably laden English ships were brought in as prizes by French privateers in the course of this month; the crews stripped of all their clothing, the Captains alone being allowed a change of apparel. My mother was obliged to have a number of mattresses made for the poor creatures to lie down upon. One of the Captains even had a ring taken forcibly off his finger.

"*19th.*—Mr Cunningham, mate of one of the vessels, came out to the Garden; we made a point of evincing the respect we feel for so brave a man; he fired a musket, loaded twelve fingers deep, and killed three or four of the enemy when they were in the act of boarding the *Loyalty*, the pirates at the time having the English colours flying on their ship, nor did they lower them until after they had removed the prisoners on board the privateer."

"This same man was three years ago rewarded by the underwriters, with a present of £50 for his courage, in being the principal means of releasing

himself, shipmates, and ship, which was loaded with wine from Oporto, and had been captured and manned by the French; but which he, with an inferior number of fellow-prisoners, retook possession of, and brought safely into an English port."

"21st.—Mr B. received a plan of the fortifications of La Cala, which may be easily repaired, if it meets the approbation of Government."

"Mr Clark told me the following curious story: That when he was at Alicant a galley arrived, which had just escaped from Tangiers with the first or favourite wife of Muli Mahomed, the late Emperor of Morocco, who had lately been assassinated by his rebellious son Muli Ismael. This lady, who, with her attendants, was seeking a refuge in Spain, was originally a Miss Thomson of Cork, and when on her passage from that city to Cadiz on a matrimonial expedition, she had been captured by a Moorish Corsair, and made a slave. Her first intended bridegroom had been a Mr Shee, an Irish merchant settled at Cadiz, who, during a visit which he had made to his native country, had become acquainted with, and attached to Miss Thomson, who possessed great charms; but as some impediments existed to their immediate union, they parted, having first plighted their troth; and with the understanding that at some future period she should join him at Cadiz,

as it would be injurious to his commercial interests for him to absent himself again from the field of his speculations. The lady, in fulfilment of her promise, sailed to join her future husband ; but as just narrated, her destiny was changed by the capture of the vessel she was in, by a Marroquin corsair, which carried her into Fez. Here Miss Thomson was detained as a slave, and closely confined, until a report of her uncommon beauty having reached the Emperor, Muli Mahomed ; she was by his orders removed to the imperial palace, and every inducement was held out to her to embrace the Mahomedan faith, and to accede to the Emperor's desire of making her his wife. Whether it was by persuasion, or from the conviction that her fate was irrevocably decided, her various scruples were overcome, and she became the wife of Muli Mahomed, and subsequently the mother of two sons, who bore the names, the eldest of Muli Ismael, and the younger of Muli Mahomed. She was ever the most favoured of her imperial husband's wives, for he had many besides ; and the number must have been great, as I have heard both from Mr Clark, and Mr Romans, who was at one time established as a merchant in Morocco, that the Emperor Muli Mahomed actually formed a regiment, composed entirely of his own sons, to the number

of five hundred and twenty-three, most of them being blacks. Mr Clark says that this wonderfully fated lady, when he saw her in Spain, was dressed in the Moorish costume ; and strange as it appears, she seemed in all respects to have adopted the tastes of her new country in preference to those of Christendom, for she afterwards returned to Morocco, and there ended her days.”*

* Only a day or two after having copied the foregoing portion of the Journal, I was much tantalized by hearing the name of the Empress of Morocco repeatedly mentioned, by an esteemed friend, who, being seated at the furthest extremity from me of a long table, my curiosity was in no slight degree excited, particularly as the person to whom he was addressing himself, was the sole confidant of my incipient bas-bleuism. A certain portion of previous suspicion as to the fidelity of my chosen *père confesseur*, added to my satisfaction, when (the gentlemen having made their appearance in the drawing-room) I learnt that Mr — had merely been giving a relation of a tour which he had lately taken, and had mentioned “ that a house where the father of an empress “ of Morocco had resided, and in which she had been born, “ had been pointed out to him.” “ ‘ It is situated,’ continued Mr —, ‘ about two miles west from the village of “ Muthill, on the side of a small river, called in Scotland ‘ a “ burn.’ The country around is bleak and cold-looking, with “ scarcely any wood near it, except a few solitary ash trees in the “ immediate vicinity of the little thatched cottage where the fu- “ ture empress had first seen the light, and some stunted bushes “ which strayed down the bank of the little stream. It appeared, “ of all places in the world, the most unlikely spot to have been “ the birth-place of a Moorish empress.” This was all the information Mr — could give me ; but with his usual *amabilité* he

“ 26th.—Mr Ragueneau de la Chenaye, acting as usual, (when in his power,) in the most honourable manner, has agreed to pay the sum of 100 sequins to the crew of the Loyalty, to indemnify them in some degree for their great individual losses.”

said, that he would write to a reverend friend of his, who he believed was better informed on the subject. And a few days afterwards he presented me with the following reply to his letter :—

“ ———, 19th January 1838.

“ Dear Sir,

“ Regarding the Empress of Morocco, I received your letter this morning, and I hasten to answer it. It is quite true that a young woman left the Mill of Steps about fourscore years ago, to settle in America; that on the voyage the ship was taken, and carried to Morocco, and that the Emperor did marry her. I have made particular inquiry on the subject at several of the old parishioners, and have noticed the facts in the statistical account of Muthill, about to be published. The young woman's name was Gloag; her father was a blacksmith; and it was owing to a cruel step-mother that she was *forced* to seek her fortune in a distant land. Only last year the aged farmer died, under whom the Empress' father lived; and his words to me were, that ‘she was a *bonnie lassie*, and he remembered her well;’ also, that presents frequently came from Morocco to the blacksmith. She had two sons to the Emperor, and at the death of their father, application was made to our British Government, to put one of them on the throne of Morocco; and our Government was preparing a force to do so, when both sons fell victims to the evil stratagems of their father's relatives. So far as I could learn of the birth of the Empress, I should suppose that it was about 100

“27th.—The remaining liberated English prisoners were to-day to have sailed in an English merchant ship; but a French vessel is in sight, and for that or some other reason, the Dey has sent to beg that Mr B. would detain them till to-morrow.”

“28th.—The Master of the Mint came and invited me to go and visit his Garden and his wife. We also received a visit from Sidi Hamden, the most enlightened and educated native inhabitant of this realm; he speaks French and Italian with the utmost correctness and fluency. On the death of his uncle, it is said, that Sidi Hamden will be the possessor of property of the value of two millions. He presented each of my dear little girls with a Turkish watch chain.”*

“29th.—A vessel arrived with a supply of Turkish recruits from the Levant, for the Algerine corps of Janissaries.”

years ago. This is, however, all traditionary, as our records are very imperfect of that time.”

This is a somewhat less romantic version of her Imperial Majesty's origin and history; yet, notwithstanding the discrepancies of name, &c. &c. I cannot doubt that both accounts relate to the same individual.

* I still preserve the one he gave me as a souvenir of the surprise with which I heard so much real information and *esprit* from a turbaned head.—*Editor.*

CHAPTER IX.

Austrian Refugee—Il primo Giorno di Primavera—Execution of a Woman for Poisoning—Torture inflicted upon Criminals—Invitation to the Guardian Pasha's—Arrival of the Cambrian Frigate—Arbitrary Treatment of the French Chargé d'Affaires—The Buzeria—Projected Travels—Cabaili Village—Anniversary of the Birth of Mahommed—The Dey offers the aid of his Troops to England—Arrival of the King of the Two Sicilies—Letter of Thanks to my Parents—Arrival and Entertainment of the Portuguese Ambassador—Speedy termination of Wedded Life—Fish and Honeycomb—Mr Blanckley appointed Consul-General for Portugal—Ceremonious reception by the Dey, of a Letter from the King of England—Festa at Babel-Ouate—Splendid Presents to their Britannic Majesties—Captain Vansittart.

“ February 20th.—A poor Austrian, escaped from the French Privateer, and came to seek refuge under the British flag ; he says that he was taken out of the prison of Verdun, and marched with many others to Marseilles, where he was put on board the privateer by force, and that he had

been always trying to make his escape, but had never previously been able to effect it. Mr Blanckley sent him, with our janissary, on board an English vessel then in the harbour, with directions to the captain to hoist his colours."

"21st.—We have just been informed that the poor Austrian has been taken out of the English vessel by the captain of the port, in consequence of an express order by the Minister of Marine. Mr B. sent to claim him, but they would not give the poor fellow up."

"22d.—Mr B. sent a message to the Dey, that unless the man who had claimed British protection were given up, he should be under the necessity of writing for an English frigate to take him, his family, and British subjects away."

"24th.—The Regency having ordered the Austrian to be released, the Captain of the Privateer has set up a claim of 41 dollars, which he asserted were owing to him by the prisoner. The minister of Marine offered to pay this sum himself, provided he would let the Austrian go; and said that he would do any thing rather than offend the English Consul. As the Frenchman persisted in his refusal, he was ordered to sail out of the port, and not to return again."

"27th.—This is the *primo Giorno di Primavera*, a *grande Festa* among the Mahomedans. Several

Turks, with music and dancing women, came out to our Garden; the latter sung and danced, to amuse the children. They were very orderly and civil, and received with many thanks what was offered them. Mr B. supposes that there were thirty thousand people on the outside of Babel-Ouate when he passed by there to-day."

"*March 7th.*—A woman was to-day thrown in a sack into the sea, for administering poison to another woman, who, it is said, had excited her jealousy, by surpassing her in finery of apparel and jewellery. Accompanied by a favourite Negretta, she fled for sanctuary into the tomb of a Marabout. This only delayed, but did not avert her destiny, for by the order of the Dey, her place of refuge was closely guarded, to prevent any sustenance from being conveyed to her, and she was thus, by the pangs of hunger, at length obliged to give herself up to the Chaousses, who put the sentence of her condemnation into execution. The black woman, the companion of her flight, escaped with a bastinado. A few days ago, a Moor was thrown upon the hooks * at Babzoon, for cutting money out of the hood of the Bernouse of another.

* These hooks were three in number, and were inserted in a high wall, from the top of which the wretched criminals were cast, and being caught by these instruments, they there remained suspended until death released them from their agony.

“ 11th.—Mr and Mrs Dalzel dined at the Swedish Consul's. As they were returning home, a Moorish woman gave the latter a slap on the back. She was instantly seized, and taken before the Cadi, who ordered her to be bastinadoed; but Mrs D. sent to beg her off, and she was released on paying a fine to the Cadi.”

“ 12th.—The Guardian Pasha sent an invitation to our family to a great entertainment and ceremony, on his little boy's attaining the age of seven years.”

“ 28th.—The French Chargé d'Affaires has given great offence in promising the cargo of a prize, consisting of oil, to the Dey, and afterwards declining to give it.”

“ April 1st.—The French Chargé d'Affaires was ordered to embark on board an American ship. On his resisting this arbitrary command, he has been compelled to do so, and the Captain of the Port even seized him by the collar. We feel extremely sorry for Mr Ragueneau as an individual, although we are pleased at the breach between this Regency and the enemies of old England. The American vessel was ordered to sail immediately. The French subjects are to be detained as hostages, until the Algerine Cartel returns,—that ship having just departed with the

Dutch lady * and her family, and upwards of seventy French subjects, who had been driven out of Spain, and were not permitted by the Regency to land in Algiers."

"14th.—We went with a numerous party to pick-nick at the Buzeria, and passed a very delightful day."

The Buzeria was a Cabaili village up the mountains, from whence there was a very beautiful view. It was the limit of our travels into the interior of Algiers, although my father had long purposed our going several days journey, as we had been promised a numerous escort to guard us on the expedition; and a tent of large size, lined throughout with scarlet of the same material as the Barbary shawls, had been purchased for our accommodation on this much-talked, and still more-thought of, tour; but my dear father's constant pre-occupation with public business caused the plan to be deferred from time to time, and it was never realized. The women and children of the above-named village were most squalid, uncivilized-looking beings; the fair sex were much uglier than the men; their skin was ornamented with many blue devices, in the manner that sailors adorn their arms, by gunpowder being introduced

* Widow of the late, and mother of the then Dutch Consul, Mr Fraiset, a most amiable and estimable family.

under the skin, through the perforations of a needle. This, with here and there a silver ornament, in the form of an ear-ring or bracelet, and a few glass beads, completed their *parure*. The remainder of their scanty *toilette* was of the very coarsest quality and most primitive fashion, and was certainly not distinguished by *la coquetterie de la vieillesse—la propreté*. I had an opportunity of making these remarks as we passed their wretched mud cabins, at the aperture of which they stood staring at us with listless curiosity.

“ 16th.—We returned from town to-day without the escort of our janissary, who is gone with a company of three hundred Turks to celebrate the anniversary of Mahommed’s birth at the Garden of the Minister of Marine, where there is a grand festa.”

“ 25th.—Our janissary, Sidi Omar, brought accounts of the plague being at Tunis. I pray God that it may not reach this, as the Mahommedan faith forbids them to close their gates, or even the doors of their houses, against it; and they consider it impious to attempt opposing the Divine will.”

“ 26th.—Sidi Omar was sent out with a message from the Pasha, to inquire whether the Consul had received any news from Tunis, as two messengers had arrived from the Bey of Constan-

tina, with accounts that an English squadron had attacked the Goletta* at Tunis. The Dey has offered to send an army by land to assist the English, and Mr B., for his Highness' satisfaction, has, in consequence, written a letter to Mahon, to enquire into the truth of the report."

"*May 13th.*—Arrived from Sicily Il Canonico Turici, (Chaplain to his Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies), with the Turkish and Moorish slaves, to exchange for the Sicilians. In a letter of thanks addressed to Mr B., the thanks of the King of Sicily were also expressed to me, for my kindness and humanity to his unfortunate subjects; and the Society of the Redemption has sent me a present of silks, amber necklaces, boxes of sweetmeats, and a variety of Italian macaroni. Of course, I feel much gratified at these compliments; but whatever I have had it in my power to do in the cause of my suffering fellow-creatures, has been more than amply rewarded in the satisfaction I and my dear husband have experienced in so doing."

"*16th.*—The so-long expected ship, with naval stores from England for the Dey, has at length arrived, convoyed by the Haughty brig-of-war, Captain Harvey. We had a numerous party at dinner."

* Fort at Tunis.

“ 19th.—Came in the *Minorca* brig-of-war, commanded by Captain or Lieutenant Everard, related to our friend Sir George Nugent. The *Minorca* has lately captured a French vessel that sailed from this place for France.”

“ 25th.—Hailstones of immense magnitude, I think two inches in circumference, fell during the thunder and lightning, which has come on regularly for some evenings about eight o'clock.”

“ 26th.—An earthquake was felt last night by numbers of people in town. I apprehended it; but thanks to a merciful Providence, no one at our Garden was sensible of it. The Regency demand two thousand two hundred dollars, previous to any negotiation for a peace with Sicily, and to be afterwards at liberty to make claims for indemnification for the ransom of slaves, &c.”

“ 28th.—The Signor Canonico sailed for Sicily. Arrived the *Comus* frigate, Captain Smith, having on board the Portuguese Ambassador to this Regency, and Mr Casamajor, Secretary of Legation to the British embassy at Lisbon, who have come here to ratify a treaty of peace between Portugal and this country. Admiral Scarnicia introduced himself as an old friend of Mr B.'s father, and says that he has often had Mr B. himself upon his knee.”

“ *June 4th.*—A dinner and ball at our house in

town, in honour of our King's birth-day. The Skiffa * was hung round with colours, and formed a very pretty ball-room. The band of the frigate constituted our orchestra."

From this date, until the 15th of July, the Diary principally relates the entertainments given and accepted by the different Consuls, who all evinced more than their usual warm hospitality on the occasion of the agreeable addition to their comparatively limited circle of society, by the residence among them of the Portuguese and British envoys.

The political result of their arrival was the conclusion of a two years truce between the so long opposed governments of Portugal and Algiers, and an arrangement for the liberation of all the Portuguese in slavery at Algiers. This happy termination was entirely effected by the influence of my father, many previous negotiations on the

* The Skiffa is a marble court surrounded by a double row of white marble pillars. There was usually a small fountain with a *jet d'eau* in the centre, which was removed on this and similar occasions; within the colonnade there was a kind of arcade, into which the doors and windows of the principal sitting rooms opened; above this colonnade was a gallery communicating with the remainder of the apartments, which were usually occupied by the heads of the family, and above the gallery was a flat roofed terrace. The open spaces over the court admitted the sun and weather, except in some of the Consular houses, where an awning was used.

part of the Portuguese having completely failed. At the final audience of the Portuguese ambassador, and Mr Casamajor, the Dey desired that my father would sit in an arm-chair which was placed near him, and at the same moment an attendant brought a splendid Damascus sabre, the scabbard being of solid gold, and the handle of the supposed horn of the unicorn, which the Turks value highly, and believe that if it be introduced into a dish of poisoned viands, that it acts as an antidote. The Dey arose, and holding a green and gold belt by which the sabre was suspended, passed it over my father's neck, saying as he did so, that he begged him to wear it as a mark of his esteem for all his good and honourable services.

“ *July 15th.*—At four o'clock we heard the respective salutes of the batteries and frigate. At six the Comus passed our Garden, on whose deck we could distinguish our regretted friends.”

“ *19th.*—The captain of a Gibraltar privateer, named Luzara, came overland from Oran, to report (in case of misrepresentation) to the Consul, that he had in that port left a prize, whose value is estimated at one hundred thousand pounds Sterling, which he retook from a French privateer, after an action of four hours. It has proved to be the packet from Liverpool to Malta. Mr B. went to the Marina to see that he had justice done to

him, and it was there adjudged a legal prize; as, according to a statement received in a letter from the Aga at Oran, Captain Luzara was eight miles from the shore at the time he recaptured the prize. Mr B. at the same time remonstrated against seven French privateers having exceeded the period of twenty-four hours allowed them for remaining in this port."

"20th.—All the French privateers were ordered to leave this, and sailed accordingly."

"August 13th.—Arrived the Euryalus frigate, the Honourable Captain Dundas."

"24th.—Captain Dundas, accompanied by the finest set of young men I ever saw, has dined with us for several days. A fine little fellow, a midshipman, James Everard Home, (son of the surgeon who attended the Duke of Cumberland, when he was lately stabbed by an Italian servant), has remained constantly at our Garden: only a certain number of the other mids, getting leave by rotation, were permitted to come out here at a time."

"26th.—The Euryalus sailed."

"September 13th.—The Algerine frigate which sailed lately, having lengthened its voyage as far as the Atlantic, has, it appears, taken an English transport and a Torbay vessel with red sails, because, forsooth, they neither of them had a Mahomedan pass, they in their wisdom having imagined that

their patronage extended to other and wider seas than their own. They have, however, managed to give Mr B. some trouble by their ignorance. The really worthy Algerine commander, Ali Rais, has behaved very kindly to the English crews. A French privateer boarded the Torbay vessel whilst she was under the surveillance of the Algerine frigate, and took from the English captain two hundred Spanish dollars, and twenty guineas, as also his watch. The Dey (whose subjects strictly held sacred all that belonged to the English,) is much enraged, and says that the French nation shall pay for it."

"21st.—I received a visit from the Guardian Pacha; he says that the young Moor who was married to Sidi Ali's daughter, Leila Zara, divorced her three days afterwards, and by so doing, has forfeited the valuable presents which he made her previous to the nuptials. These consisted of four ounces of fine pearls, a splendid gold salma covered with diamonds, many rich gold brocade caftans, and various other rich and valuable articles. The Swedish lady also had presented her with eight piques* of brocade, worth seven or eight sequins the pique, and a fine diamond ring. This is much spoken of, as Sidi Ali, the bride's father, is first private *Scrivano* or Secretary to the Dey."

* Algerine measure for cloths, &c.

I well remember having paid several very agreeable visits to Sidi Ali's family at their Garden. One in particular, is always brought to my recollection, whenever I read of our blessed Saviour after his glorious resurrection, having asked his disciples for a piece of fish and some honeycomb, of which they had just partaken; and by eating thereof, convincing them, to their great joy, of His personality and identity, *LUKE*, Chap. xxiv. verse 22. For at a dinner at which I was present at the Garden of Sidi Ali, a dish of fish was served and eaten with honey; but the taste did not please me, for however much I usually liked the excellent cookery of Algerine dishes, I ate it with repugnance. Many of the common usages of daily life in Algiers, are related in the holy Scriptures; and these familiar illustrations, of course, strike me probably with greater effect than they would have struck others, to whom they bring not back

“The thoughts, the hopes of childhood's years,
The words of love then spoken.”

“30th.—The *Comus* frigate, as also a Portuguese frigate, and seven other ships having Algerine slaves from Lisbon on board, are arrived here.”

“October 2d.—The *Comus* brought a letter from our beloved King for the Dey. Also a letter

from the Portuguese Government at Lisbon, confirming Mr B. as Consul General of Portugal, with the same yearly salary of £1200 from the Prince of Brazil, the Regent of Portugal, as he holds from England. Mr B. has gone to present our King's letter. Only a list of the presents sent to this Regency by our King, on Mr B.'s having been confirmed Consul General, has as yet arrived, for the presents themselves have been left at Gibraltar by mistake. The Dey received our King's letter in a royal apartment, (instead of his usual place of audience,) seated in a gilt *chair* of state covered with crimson velvet. Mr B. was requested to read it, whilst his Dragoman translated it after him. It was couched in the most flattering terms to my dear husband, His Majesty recommending him to the Dey as possessing the entire confidence of his Royal Master."

I must not omit mentioning an absurd circumstance connected with this Royal Epistle. The Dey wished to have the letter (originally written in English) translated into the Turkish language, that His Highness might have the satisfaction of perusing it himself. The only person capable of executing the Dey's commands was a Jew, of the name of Bensamon, who having passed a portion of his life at Gibraltar, was considered a proficient in English literature, and to him, there-

fore, was our Sovereign's letter entrusted. My father, however, being very solicitous that the Dey should be furnished with a correct version of a document of such material consequence, requested, that after il Signor Bensamone should have completed the Turkish translation, that he would again retranslate it into English, without referring to the original letter, so that my father might be enabled to judge of its correct execution. It proved to have been perfectly well transcribed, with the exception of the penultimate word, as it thus concluded,—I am your Highness' **LOVELY** Brother, instead of Loving Brother,

GEORGE REX.

“*10th.*—Sailed the Portuguese frigate and two transports, with the first embarkation of Portuguese slaves. When the frigate arrived opposite our Garden, the Portuguese standard was, for the first time in Algiers, hoisted upon our flag-staff, on my husband's being appointed Consul General for that country. It is singular that such an event should have taken place on the anniversary of our landing in Algiers, four years ago.”

“*12th.*—Admiral Scarnicia, who had for the last fortnight been our guest, with his son, a fine youth of eighteen, il Signor Padre, and the rest of the Ambassador's suite, took their leave. I hope the worthy Admiral will have farther promotion,

and be received with at least equal applause on his second return to Lisbon, as he met with after his former successful embassy to this Regency, which gained him additional rank and honour at home."

"*October 26th.*—Captain Vansittart of the *Fortunée* frigate, and several of his officers, came out to the Garden to dinner."

"*30th.*—Twenty-five officers breakfasted with us on their return from witnessing the barbarous feast and wrestling, &c. at the palace,—an annual custom on the conclusion of the Rammadah."

"*31st.*—Such dreadful weather, that the frigate was in danger, and Captain Vansittart has sent to Mr B. to procure permission to have her towed into the Mole, but the application came too late to effect it this evening. Cables and anchors, however, were sent off to secure her. I earnestly trust in God that nothing serious may happen to my countrymen. We cannot keep off the terrace; our anxiety is so great, that we are constantly looking at the frigate."

"*November 1st.*—The storm has subsided. Mr B. went early to the Marina to see the frigate come into the Mole. About one o'clock I passed on my way to the Garden, through a multitude of people assembled on the open space just outside Bab-el-Ouate. It is impossible to give any idea of the strange sights I beheld; some indeed of the

barbarous amusements were unintelligible to me, while I was scarcely less astonished at the childish sports of others, full grown Turks being drawn and drawing one another in boats upon wheels; others were twirled round and round in the air on whirligigs of immense size and height, whilst little boys innumerable ran under our very horses feet with little hand windmills; and in addition to all this, the deafening shouts, and the firing of pistols, (loaded only, our Janissary assured me, with powder,) will ensure my not speedily forgetting my ride to and from the Garden, on a day of Mahommedan Bairam or Pasqua."

"On my return to a late dinner, I found Captain Vansittart at our house, and he was unfortunately shut within the gates. We sent the Dragoman to the palace, to request that the keys might be sent to open them, but the answer was a refusal, as it was not *usanza*, and Captain Vansittart was therefore, contrary to his custom and inclination, obliged to sleep on shore."

"2d.—We dined, accompanied by the American Consul and a large party, on board the frigate, and were all much gratified at the attention and hospitality shewn us by Captain Vansittart. During dinner, he received a message from the Dey, requesting to see him. Captain Vansittart returned an answer, that it was not *usanza* to leave

ladies who had honoured him with their company, while they were at dinner. He, however, came on shore with us, and went directly to the palace, where the Dey presented him with a sword, but did not confer it with the same ceremony as when he bestowed the one on Mr B. It is, however, as handsome, and besides he gave him some beautiful Persian carpets, &c. It is delightful to see the Christian consistency, which Captain Vansittart so beautifully combines with the strictest naval discipline on board his ship. He is the father, pastor, and example to his ship's company, in the heavenly course, as well as their commander and leader in the path of patriotism and devotion to their King and Country;—and whilst we beheld the admirable order which reigned on board this beautiful ship, it was indeed delightful to know that all this was achieved and kept up under the direction of one, eminently distinguished 'as a servant of Christ, doing the will of God from his heart;' and who, therefore, permitted not those under his command to use profane swearing; not an oath is uttered on board his ship, and yet, ye scoffers of the followers of our Lord, the *Fortunée* does indeed, in every sense, deserve its happy name."

The *Fortunée* was sent to convey the Algerine Ambassador and suite to the Court of London,

and also a more than usually splendid present to our King, as well as to Her Majesty Queen Charlotte. Just before these presents were embarked, the Dey sent for my father, and said,—that it was on his account that he had determined to send a present of more than usual magnificence to the King, and one likewise to the Queen of England, which had never been done before: That as he did so to mark his satisfaction at the King of England's having named so honourable and “true” or “real” a gentleman as his representative at Algiers, he wished him to see what the principal presents consisted of; he then arose himself, and said, “This is the King's box, it is much longer than the Queen's, because the guns I have sent require it to be so, and *of course I have not sent any to your Queen.*”^{*} And one after the other did he shew the really splendid contents of the valuable box; among other *beauties*, were several rows of fine pearls, which the Dey said the King could give his daughters, “for I suppose,” said he, “he has some;” and he seemed quite delighted, when my father told him how many lovely Princesses graced their father's court. With the exception of the different kinds of arms, all mounted in splendid jewels, the Queen's

^{*} Perhaps His Highness was not quite sure in his own mind, as English ladies did not veil their faces, what might have been the amusements of their Queen.

box contained almost the repetition of the one destined for His Majesty. When the Dey had himself exhibited the whole of them to my father, he added, "Now I beg you will write, and say that you saw me place every article in the cases myself;" and then, desiring an attendant to bring a hammer and nails, he proceeded to knock one into each of the covers of the boxes, saying at the same time, "and you will say that I myself nailed them up, and that therefore I request as a particular favour, that these boxes may not be opened except in the presence of the King and Queen of England." Besides, there were beautiful Arab horses, richly caparisoned, the bits of their bridles, the stirrups, and even the horses' shoes, being of solid gold; the latter, however, were only to be nailed upon the horses' feet on the day of their presentation. Some lions and tigers completed the regalo. The Ambassador was a fine-looking old man, but, as we afterwards heard, both he and his suite were rather troublesome guests on board the *Fortunée*; and the lions and tigers not the least so.

CHAPTER X.

Chasseurs Britanniques—Another Conspiracy—Captain of the Port of Pantalaria—Earthquake—Lord Cochrane—Death of Padre Guiseppe.

“*November 5th.*—Came in the *Leyden*, a line of battle ship, and a transport, having on board the regiment of the Chasseurs Britanniques, who were on their way from Messina to Cadiz, but had been forced to put into this port on account of stress of weather.”

“*6th.*—Many officers of the Chasseurs accompanied Captain Chetham of the *Leyden* on shore. The Major of the Regiment, De Foe, is a French Royalist; one of the officers is Captain Napier, a very fine young man, with whom Mr Blanckley was much delighted, as it is a long time since he had seen any relative of his friend and old brother officer in the 31st Regiment, Lord Napier.”

“*9th.*—All our naval and military guests took leave of us.”

“ 16th.—Five influential men have been strangled, which, for the present, has prevented a revolution. It appears that the Dey knew of the conspiracy while the *Fortunée* was here, but that he did not think it prudent to give the escort to his embassy an unfavourable impression of his popularity, and of the stability of his throne; and we are assured that his anxiety for their departure had been most intense. The disclosure of the plot offers some excuse for the *brusquerie* and irritability which the Dey had exhibited on one or two occasions, and which had certainly not tended to give Captain Vansittart a very exalted impression of Barbaric courtesy.”

“ 29th.—Mr B. to-day made an offer of the sum of 1100 dollars for the ransom of the unfortunate captain of the port of Pantalaria, who had been kidnapped by an Algerine frigate, which, under British colours, had piratically fired a gun off that port. Induced by the signal, the poor man went out to the frigate, and he and his boat's crew were thus cruelly entrapped and carried off by the Algerines.”

“ *December 3d.*—We had scarcely been seated at breakfast this morning, when we were thrown into the greatest alarm by the rocking of the room, the rattling of the windows and tea-things, by the constant slamming of the doors of the cupboards

and closets, and by our chairs shaking under us. I instantly sent into the next house, where my children were with their eldest sister, and the two families instantly assembled, each individual of them having distinctly felt the earthquake. Blessed be God, it did not last many seconds, but it was more than usually severe. Shortly afterwards, the Swedish Consul called to enquire after us. He says that he felt two shocks: That at the second, (which was the one we felt at nine o'clock,) the beams and rafters of his bed-room cracked in several places over his head. He felt so much alarmed, that he jumped out of bed, and ran to call his family together. Upon my remarking that it rained very hard at the time, Mr Norderling observed, that out of nearly forty shocks of earthquake which he had experienced since his residence in Algiers, he had never before observed it to rain at the time, until yesterday, when it rained very hard all day. We have for several weeks had fine weather."

Well do I remember this event; it was the first time I really felt rational alarm, and fully sympathized with all around me at these terrible convulsions of nature; as previously I used to be frightened only because I beheld awe and consternation upon every countenance, but now I was sensible of the danger which enveloped myself, with all who

were nearest and dearest to me, and I therefore not only shared their alarm, but also their thankfulness, when we were all gathered together in safety. I was in my sister's house, at the time of experiencing the shock, practising on the piano, which was placed before one of the many cupboards which are to be found in all the rooms, and I perceived that, at the same instant, the piano was raised under my fingers, that my chair tottered, and that the carved cedar cup-board doors opened and closed several times with the greatest rapidity. But before I had time to account to myself for such extraordinary occurrences, I was roused by hearing my name loudly called by many voices, who all urged me to hasten to them.

“ 19th.—Came in the *Philomel* brig-of-war, Captain Guyon, having as passengers Lord Cochrane, Captain Harding of the Engineers, and a Mr M'Donald of the Commissariat, with orders (at last) to go and inspect the state of La Cala, &c. Mr B. was most anxious to have accompanied them, as, however tardily, he hopes that something may yet be done to realize all his sanguine hopes of the advantages to be derived from the garrisoning and colonization of that valuable acquisition to old England, who will by thus doing have a secure footing in this fertile land, to the disappointment of France and her satellites. But,

alas ! my dear husband's present severe attack of gout prevents his joining this so long desired and expected expedition."

" 20th.—Lord Cochrane, &c. &c. rode out on our stud to the Buzaria, and afterwards dined with us. Captain Harding is son to the late Colonel H., who served with Mr B. at the siege of Gibraltar, and was his most intimate and attached friend, and consequently is a more than usually welcome guest. Mr B. had much conversation with Lord Cochrane, who appeared to sympathise with his intense anxiety and disappointment at the neglect he has experienced from Ministry."

" 21st.—Lord C., wearing his star and garter as K. B., went to the palace to pay his respects to the Dey."

" 22d.—Our visitors walked out to Babelzoon to see the camels, and brought home some sketches they had made, as also many purchases. We then sat down to an early dinner. The Dey sent letters for Lord Cochrane to the Caids of Bona and la Cala, and the Bey of Constantina, desiring them to afford his Lordship every assistance and information possible. He and Captain H., &c. took leave of us immediately after dinner, and sailed for Bona."

" 2d January 1811.—Padre Guiseppe, and the unfortunate Captain of the Port of Pantalaria,

called and drank coffee. They both said that their earnest prayers were offered up that Mr B. might be restored to health, for the sake of the poor slaves, who all looked up, under God, to him. I told the good Padre, that I hoped God would give him health to take care of their souls, which was of far higher consequence to them than life or liberty. Both of them received an invitation to dine with us the first day Mr B. was able to see them."

"5th.—Poor Padre Guiseppe, I am distressed to hear, has a pleurisy; and the ignorant and obstinate doctors, who bleed on every unnecessary occasion, refuse taking blood from this good man. I am truly distressed and unhappy on his account, and join my prayers to the many which doubtless ascend from the innermost hearts of the poor slaves, to whom he has indeed been pastor, father, and friend, in this moral desert."

"The gun has just fired to usher in the great Mahomedan Feast of Bairam. Fireworks, &c. at the palace."

"6th.—Ships of the line and frigates, six in number, were seen off to the west all day. The Dey, alarmed, sent to Mr B. to know if he supposed they were French or English. The extreme unction has been administered to the excellent Padre Guiseppe. Our cook, Salvador, was

present, as he had gone to inquire how he was. The good man recognised him, and sent by him his respects and his blessing to us all. The prayers and blessing of the righteous avail much. How much do I feel !”

“ 7th.—The humane, the charitable, the man of God, Padre Guiseppe Jesus, is no more. He, at eight o'clock last night, resigned his soul into the hands of his Redeemer, whom he imitated to the utmost of *mortal* power. May my life be influenced by his holy example, and may my death be like his ! My heart is afflicted beyond description at the unspeakable loss the poor slaves have sustained. May the Almighty in his mercy make it up to them !

“ My dear husband was so much affected at the loss of so valuable a member of society, that the gout attacked his stomach ; but thanks be to God, some ether I gave him immediately removed it. I find the mortal remains of the venerable man cannot be interred to-day, (as is the custom among the Roman Catholics in warm climates,) on account of the Moorish feast, and the great concourse of people at Bab-el-Ouate, the gate which leads to the Christian cemetery. The Guardian Pacha came to see Mr B. this evening, and at my request he assured me that all the slaves shall attend the *Marabout* Padre Guiseppe to his grave ;

and he added, that he thanked me for telling him how to testify the respect he felt for this very good man."

"8th.—All the Consuls attended the funeral of the worthy Padre,—Mr D. acted as Mr B.'s representative. There is scarcely a dry Christian eye in Algiers."

Would that I could give even a feeble sketch of the truly apostolic character whose removal was so keenly mourned; but I can only regret my incapacity to give any account worthy of the description of one so very good; and of his previous history I know but the few following particulars. He was, as indeed his choice language and highly polished manners evinced, born of a high and noble family in France; but this he so humbly and carefully concealed, that I believe that the name he had borne was never heard in the land of his voluntary exile. How willingly would I consign the task to an abler pen, could I but inspire the wielder of it with the impression I retain of all that excellent being's worth, charity, holiness, and exceeding humility;—or could I but describe only a small portion of all the acts of love which I used unceasingly to hear related, the eulogium I feel unequal to express would be effected; for his deeds of charity afforded a never-ending theme to the objects of them,—the poor, wretched, destitute

victims of Algerine slavery. There was so much to tell of what advice, instruction, and relief Il Sancto Padre constantly bestowed, that his former life was but seldom thought of. All I heard of it was, that as a man in the prime of life, he had arrived at Algiers in the habit of a religious order; and from the instant he set his foot upon its shore, his every moment had been devoted to the service of his unfortunate brethren in the bonds of slavery; but he brought not alone himself to their relief, but likewise the produce of the sale of all his great landed estates which he had sold, that he might bestow all that he possessed in the ransoming of as many Christians in Mahomedan bondage as his ample means could effect. After thus expending all that he possessed, he remained amongst those unfortunates, for whom he had only prayers and consolations to offer, instructing them by his exhortations, and encouraging them by his holy example, to look beyond this state of trial towards that "better and enduring" heavenly country. So consistent was his whole life, that the Mahomedans undeviatingly shewed him the greatest respect, and spoke of him with scarcely less admiration than the Christians.

He had three different times had the plague, but as long as his strength was inexhausted, he ceased not to attend to the bodily as well as the spiritual

wants of his beloved children,—for so he ever called the objects of his affectionate care. The Moors used to think he had a charmed life, and I believe many of the poor slaves shared that conviction. All those free Christians who were disposed to share a portion of this world's goods with their unhappy *correligionnaires*, willingly made Padre Guiseppe their almoner; from the charitable in France he likewise received remittances for the benefit of the slaves; and by these means he was yet enabled to relieve their temporal necessities, and gladly did he so. I remember that a gentleman, having visited him, perceived that he had nothing but a straw *paillasse* to lie on, and on leaving his cell, he went and ordered two good wool mattresses to be sent to the poor (in this world's sense) old man, and added half a dozen shirts from his own wardrobe. A few days afterwards he repeated his visit, but the mattresses had disappeared. He could not refrain from expressing his surprise to the Padre. "Oh! my son, that *paillasse* is a very good bed for me, so I was very glad to send those nice mattresses to two poor suffering old slaves in the Bagnio;" and he instantly turned the conversation. The disappointed donor afterwards, on enquiry, found that the shirts likewise had accompanied the bedding. His ever-benevolent and cheerful countenance

never assumed a look of sadness, except when, on one of his children asking for relief, he could but open his *tabatière*, and say, "Alas ! my dear son, this is all I have to-day to offer you ; but let us hope and pray the Lord to send us assistance." And I have heard the poor creatures say, that his affectionate look and words failed not to inspire them with submission and resignation, as they well knew how constant were his personal privations for their sakes.

His *tabatière*, my dear Mama, from the time of her first acquaintance with him, ever took care should not be empty, as she always furnished it in kind ; for she knew that money would oftener go to another destination than providing for this, his single gratification. His was a tall and most erect figure, although he was, I believe, about eighty years of age, and his countenance was most benign. He always wore his black religious habit. My dearest parents were never happier than when they welcomed him to their house. Indeed, I believe the whole family felt as if a particular blessing rested upon it, whilst he was under its roof ; and a certain one was surely derived from the benefit of his pious conversation, divested, in our regard, of all sectarianism ; for nothing was more pleasing to him, than to listen to my reading the French Testament, when he never failed to impress upon us

the necessity of attending to its divine precepts. When he was expected, an air *de fête* seemed to pervade the whole household; and when he appeared upon the mule which had been sent for him, all our servants pressed around him, each anxious for his paternal recognition and benediction, whilst they actually kissed his garments, until they each in their turn could press their lips upon his aged hand; and his departure from our house was attended with like demonstrations of love, which, although they, in our own case, partook of a different character, were not less warmly felt. My mother especially, loved him with filial affection. I have often heard her say she had indeed mourned for him as a daughter. She was spared a trial to which I know she would have been keenly sensible, in not having heard (as I subsequently have,) that the French, since their occupation of Algiers, in the formation of a high road, have totally annihilated the former Christian burial-ground; thus disturbing the mortal ashes of the venerated Padre Guiseppe and of the other Christians, whose graves had, even by Mahommedans, been held sacred. With all the admiration which I feel for the French nation, I regret to say that they have had many such accusations deservedly made against them. But it is not only by modern revolutionized France that such sacrileges—

for such all will feel them to be—have been committed. Who that has read of the sufferings of the Jansenist martyrs in the time of Louis XV., and the desecration of the cemetery of the holy nuns of Port Royal by his commands, will not fear that such deeds have been visited upon his wandering, and in themselves good and amiable descendants?

Long since the lamented decease of *il buono Padre*, I was struck with the appropriateness to him, if I can so express it, of the following *cantique* of another soldier of our Lord, marching in a different regiment, but over whom assuredly was spread the same banner. Their spheres of usefulness differed as much as their fields of labour were remote from one another; yet both have been eminent in their conquests over the great enemy of mankind,—even sin, and its consequent train of evils.

Adieu, Chrétien ! pour toi l'heure est venue
 De t'élever à des sites plus beaux.
 Tu vois ce jour le terme de tes maux ;
 Déjà Sion se présente à ta vue :
 Dans ses parvis ton âme est attendue ;
 Là ton *Seigneur* t'invite à son repos.

· PHIL. iii. 20, 21.—Nous attendons des cieux le *Seigneur Jésus-Christ*, qui transformera notre corps vil, et le rendra conforme à son corps glorieux.

Plus de travaux, ton épreuve est finie ;
Aucun devoir ne te retient encor.
Ton âme enfin doit prendre son essor
Vers le *Sauveur*, vers la nouvelle vie.
Ne tarde plus ; entre en cette patrie
Où fut toujours ton cœur et ton trésor.

Clos donc en paix ta mourante paupière ;
Ferme à jamais tes yeux aux vanités.
Vers ces milliers à grand prix rachetés,
E lance-toi loin de cette poussière.
Va voir ton *Dieu* dans la pure lumière,
Et des saints lieux contempler les beautés.

Va recevoir une palme immortelle,
Et pour toujours posséder les vrais biens.
Laisse tomber tes terrestres liens :
Que craindrais-tu ? c'est *Jésus* qui t'appelle :
Il est brillant de la gloire éternelle
Dont son amour veut couronner les siens.

Et nous aussi nous quitterons la terre ;
Nos fers aussi tomberont à leur tour.
Nous te joindrons au céleste séjour,
Car dans ces lieux notre âme est étrangère.
Alors ensemble, auprès de notre *Père*,
Nous chanterons son immuable amour !

APOC. xvi. 13.—Bienheureux sont ceux qui meurent au *Seigneur* ; ils se reposent de leurs travaux, et leurs œuvres les suivent.

— xxi. 4.—*Dieu* essuiera toute larme de leurs yeux, et la mort ne sera plus, et il n'y aura plus ni deuil, ni cri, ni travail ; car les premières choses sont passées.

CHAPTER XI.

Rais Amido—Native Gentry—Projects ; and regrets that they have
 “not left a wreck behind”—Bacri, King of the Jews—His
 Brother takes sanctuary in our House—Hassan’s Return—
 Dissensions with the Bey of Oran—The first Sedan Chair—
 Consular Regalo—Chicanery of a Dragoman—Ali Rais accepts
 the Office.

“*January 13th.*—Late last night a Piscari came, and told us that he had been called to by another over the city wall, who had desired him to inform the English Consul, that a man-of-war’s boat had just landed Il Signore Bensamon. Early this morning Signor Bensamon made his appearance on his return from Bona, whither he had accompanied Captain Cochrane as interpreter. He says that Lord Cochrane has gone on to Malta in the Philomel brig, having found that their landing at La Cala at this season was impracticable. However, Bensamon’s report is, that much wheat is to be had there, if comeatable : he

and Captain Cochrane had visited it, by going overland from Bona, and they were astonished at the extent and magnitude of the buildings which had been erected by the French;—an evident proof, if any were wanting, of what its commerce must have been.”

“Since I wrote the above, the boat of the Myrtle has come in again with Mr Absalom, the Lieutenant, and ten men, as they were unsuccessful in their endeavours to find the sloop. Mr Absalom went to bed, and I ordered a *Christmas* fire to be lighted, and an ample dinner to be provided, to regale and dry the poor fellows, who expressed themselves more grateful for the attentions than was merited.”

“It appears that Rais Amido, returning last night from Tunis, (from whence he cut out two prizes,) met with the boat of the Myrtle, in their fruitless endeavours to find their ship. He therefore took them on board, and to their unexpected gratification, gave them some excellent tea; of which they had scarcely partaken, when they got a glimpse of the Myrtle, and hastily got into their boat, to go in search of her; but unfortunately they lost sight of her again. However, in the afternoon, she appeared, and took her men on board. The weather is very tempestuous, and I am thankful that the gallant fellows are out of danger.”

The Rais was an Algerine, (not a Turk,) and a very distinguished commander, although not the most rigid observer of the Alcoran, as he sometimes chanced to drop in when my father was at the dessert, and never was so bigoted and unsocial as to refuse to pledge him in a few glasses of Madeira. He was one of the finest-looking men I ever saw, and was as bold as one of his native lions. He was one of our nearest neighbours in the country; his house and garden were kept up in the greatest order and beauty. The Turks always appeared to regard and speak of him with no small portion of envy and jealousy; and he fully returned their antipathy, as did likewise all his compatriots, who never ceased to view the satellites of the Grand Signor as usurpers and tyrants; and such sentiments many of them hesitated not to confide to my father, who considered them to be a much injured race. They were indeed a much higher order of men, several of the Algerine gentlemen being of highly cultivated minds, and of a liberal education, especially if compared with the rulers of the country *de facto*, who, with but rare exceptions, were but the black sheep of the Grand Signor's janissaries at Constantinople. One or two, particularly of the Algerines *par excellence*, were men of very superior genius, and gave proofs of having, with their pure descent from the heroes and poets of the

enchanted Alhambra, likewise inherited their noble and intellectual qualities. Part of my beloved father's fondly cherished, and alas so cruelly blasted, plan for securing British domination in this fertile, balmy portion of Mauritania, was to have raised these suffering patriots to their natural position in their native land, and to have established a species of *Suzeraineté*, on the same footing as that which exists between the East India Company and the native Sovereigns. Thus those who held the different provincial governments as fiefs from Great Britain, would have been perfectly qualified and able to hold the natives in entire subjection, and to have raised the necessary contributions to pay *their* stipulated tribute to their supreme lord; and on the other hand, they would gratefully have relied on our King's fostering protection, to preserve them from the vengeance and reconquest of the Grand Oppressor; —the ports of all the Regency being kept in the possession of England, and a determined portion of its territory being likewise in her unlimited power.

How often have I listened and entered into these well-planned views, as my heart beat with delight, to think how highly lauded would my dearest papa be, by his King and country! and so fully did I sympathize in all his schemes for the furtherance of our grand enterprise, that I have constantly

accompanied him round the coast in the immediate vicinity of our Garden, so carefully listening to all his suggestions, and so accurately retaining all the points he marked as most favourable to effect the landing of troops, &c., that at the time of the French expedition, I imagined that I should have been a better guide and directress of their disembarkation, than, begging his pardon, Mr. Le Marechal himself. My father's long military experience, as well as the perfect success of the landing of the British troops, and immediate taking of the Island of Minorca, under the command of my father's dear and valued friend, the late Honourable Sir Charles Stuart, (father of the present Lord Stuart de Rothsay,) which he effected entirely by following the plans my father had taken of the Island, would have been a warrant of the success which might have been anticipated, from any plans or advice by which he would have directed the conquest of Algiers. Would that His Grace of Wellington's spirit had animated Lord Castlereagh, and all our hopes would not have been crushed! Fidelity to truth, however, makes it incumbent on me to express the conviction, that it was not solely owing to those who ruled our King's councils, being wholly pre-occupied with the engrossing opinion, that Gallic power was only to be humbled by the expulsion of their forces from the

Peninsula, that these well-founded views were frustrated. Alas! I have more than strong *suspicion*, that some powerful ear was opened to receive the misrepresented and distorted reports of two individuals, whose self-aggrandisement was the result of their dishonourable detractions of my father's valuable acquisitions to his country; whilst my pure single-minded father was unprepared to combat the treacherous self-seekers, who (to use a homely but expressive phrase,) calculated on stepping into his shoes, (as they did eventually,) and therefore sought to deteriorate the advantages derived from the results of the contract, which ensured to England the possession of La Cala, Il Col, the Coral fishery, and the unfettered and exclusive commerce of Bona.

A subaltern owed his exaltation, and an ungrateful villain, (who had been relieved from deserved destitution by my father's charity), was raised to a post of honour, if such it could be yet called when the false detractor filled it, by each of these individuals having found means to have their mistatements met with undue attention, at the expense of their country's real advantage, and to the heart-rending disappointment of an old and faithful servant of the Crown, in whose service his whole life had been passed, and his blood nobly shed. I must no longer permit myself to dwell on

such a topic, or I should forego the spirit in which I have determined to trace each line of my *souvenirs*, and which to act up to, is the determined course of my life;—not to wound the feelings of others, and to keep the tenor of my own in a state of peace and good-will, by dwelling on the pleasing instead of the mournful.

“*February 5th.*—Our feelings have been dreadfully shocked by hearing that David Bacri, the king of the Jews, has been cruelly massacred at the palace, whither he had been sent for, and at first received with apparent courtesy;—indeed the Dey was almost unusually gracious during the whole time of the audience, conversing on the most indifferent topics; and it was only on the unfortunate victim’s leaving the barbarous Presence, that he had even a suspicion of the dreadful fate to which the smiling tyrant had doomed him. As he descended into the skiffa of the palace, two of the chaousses seized him, whilst a third, wielding a sabre, but too evidently informed him of the sentence that had been passed upon him.”

Vividly are the horrible details retained in my remembrance; for carefully as my beloved mother kept us, to the utmost of her ability, in ignorance of many of the barbarous scenes which passed around us, yet I did hear the shocking particulars of this poor man’s fate. They are too dreadful to be

traced by a woman's pen ; for he was a powerful, athletic man, and he defended Heaven's first, best gift (begging Milton and Eve's pardon,) to the last mortal struggle. Long, long, by night and by day, did his handsome countenance and noble person haunt my sleeping and my waking dreams. I had not seen him very often ; for as he was a devoted adherent and active partizan of France, he only called upon my father on stated seasons, when visits of ceremony were incumbent on certain people to pay to the representatives of the different powers ; but his was not a face or figure to be forgotten, or classed with those of the common herd. You could not mistake his being a son of Israel, for the peculiar characteristics of his race were strongly engraved upon his handsome, noble features ; but he fully realized one's personification of a descendant of the princes of the house of Judah, and his dignified and highly refined address was in perfect keeping with his appearance. However, I do not know to what tribe he claimed parentage ; nor should I think that he had lineally inherited his good looks, as his brother Jacob was of a far less aristocratic aspect.

I do not recollect having heard of what fault the Dey thought it expedient to accuse his victim, or if he even thought it necessary to add anything further on the subject, in addition to the exertion

of sovereign prerogative which doomed the wealthy Jew to "die the death;" but no doubt disturbed the public opinion as to the real motive of his murder; and the consequent confiscation of his enormous treasures, and their immediate translation into his Highness's ready coffers, left no room for hesitation on the subject. David Bacri's wealth was at one time supposed to have been incalculable, although I believe that his expectations of the advantages he hoped to derive from his speculations with Napoleon, who with him individually (so great were Bacri's resources,) contracted a loan, were disappointed, and that he was a loser by the transactions; but yet abundance enough remained to excite Ali Pacha's craving appetite.

"15th.—Poor Jacob Bacri, after hiding in some less secure place, came at dark last evening, to beg to be allowed to take sanctuary in our house. As it is of the utmost consequence to him that his place of refuge should be kept secret, he occupies a room in the most remote part of the house; the faithful Salvador has alone been made aware of his being here, and is solely charged to attend upon the unfortunate man. The Guardian Pacha has just sent us word that our good Janissary Hassan was arrived in an Algerine Frigate. The worthy fellow has since made his appearance, and has presented us with numerous

presents from Constantinople, consisting of shawls, silks, embroidered shoes and handkerchiefs, those of the latter have been worked by the hands of his mother."

"16th.—The Guardian Pacha generally spends three or four evenings each week with us. He has obliged me very much, by appointing our late Janissary, Sidi Ibraim, (who was obliged to quit us, to make room on Sidi Hassan's return,) Guardian of the powder mill, at Hassan Pacha's Garden. He has also kindly appointed Luciano Musmesi, Scrivano there; the latter is the elder son of my worthy protégé, Francisco, whose sole employment is to follow the children about the garden, with his rosary in his hand, unceasingly offering up prayers in their and our behalf.—Good, grateful old man."

"20th.—A vessel has arrived from Oran, having on board all the cargo of the English prize captured by the French privateer, which has been purchased by merchants of this place for the sum of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. This Government persists in keeping this money in their own possession, and to all appearance, will try to preserve it for their own use, under the plea that their tender consciences cannot decide to which nation it should be legally adjudged. The present subject of dispute between the English

and French Consuls here, (who both lay claim to it,) is, whether the prize was retaken by the English near Oran, within or beyond three miles from the shore. The arbitration is left in *indisputable* hands, those of the Dey of Algiers. The conduct of the Bey of Oran has been infamous towards our nation, both with respect to the prize, and in his treatment of the Vice-Consul, Mr Halliday, whom he has again had the temerity to turn out of Oran, with his wife and two children, after having previously refused to give him a house. An English brig of war went into that port, which the Bey saluted with eleven guns, and the salute was returned. But when the Bey afterwards had the impudence to demand eleven barrels of gunpowder as a *present*, the Captain replied that he would give it him, but that it should be from the mouths of his guns. Mr Halliday, as Vice-Consul, justified the answer, by stating the impropriety of such a request. The Bey told him that he was *malo gente*; Mr H. retorted the same compliment on him; and, in short, the Bey ordered him to quit Oran. He had also to combat with the Spanish Vice-Consul, Huigiro, who was in league with the Bey, to injure the English by every means in their power. Disgraceful conduct in the Spaniard, when the English are expending their money and blood in defence of his nation."

“25th.—Although my dear husband’s health is very far from being re-established, he is obliged to make greater exertion than I fear he will be equal to, in consequence of a message received from the Dey, requesting that the Regalo* or Consular present might be distributed, as his ministers, &c. &c. were impatient. Mr B. sent word back, that it was his intention to go in a sedan chair, † and present himself to His Highness *en shalba*.

“28th.—Madama Farara assisted me, under Mr B.’s directions, in opening the cases containing the Regalo, consisting of watches of various value and quality; and bales of cloth, which we measured out into the regulated qualities, according to the personages for whom it is destined.”

“March 1st.—At eight o’clock this morning, my good man set off for the palace, preceded by the Dragoman, in his sedan chair, followed by all our slaves, bearing the royal present. Poor old Francisco is of the number, who I pray God

* On my father’s confirmation as Agent and Consul General, lately received from England, although long due.

† Which my father had just had constructed for the express purpose, after drawings made by himself, with his left hand, his right hand being incapacitated by gout. Never did any thing excite greater astonishment and commendation in Algiers, than this unique vehicle. It was, considering the inexperience of the artisans, a very *distingué* leathern convenience.

may be released from slavery, as Mr B. intends using his utmost endeavours to prevail upon the Dey to bestow the venerable creature upon him. He was most graciously received by the Pacha, who expressed much concern at his long illness; said he must not fatigue himself by entering into any thing relating to business, but bid him ‘*Andar e sentar quieto allo suo Giardino.*’* The Dey returned a present of sheep, carpets, coverlets, sweetmeats, and the largest lion skin I ever saw.”

“*2d.*—The other presents are most of them sent to their several destinations. The Aga, the Casnagée, and Minister of Marine, sent back presents similar to those of the Pacha. The latter sent for me two bottles of fine Ottar of Roses.”

“*4th.*—The Minister of Marine is constantly sending for ‘*Piu Regali*’ for his different officers. Mr B., to keep the peace, has been obliged to purchase, at his own expense, near one hundred piques of broad cloth more than was sent by Government.”

“*6th.*—The Minister of Marine sent me a sheep with the broadest tail I ever yet saw; and at the same a message from him to say, ‘that both

* *Lingua Franca*, the language by which all communication was carried on by the Turks and Moors with Europeans of all nations. It is a sort of *Olla Podrida*, of all the different languages spoken in the various countries surrounding the Mediterranean.

the Pacha and he are "*mucho contento*" with the Consular present, and a great deal more so with *Il Signore Console.*' His Highness's first Hogia paid me the greatest compliment, in the name of them all, as he said that they all said that Madama Inglesa was the cleverest woman in the world; and he added, '*Ma ti no star Muger ti star hombre perche tener judiccia d'un hombre,*'—I hope I shall not have my head turned!"

"10th.—The Captain of the Port of Pantalaria sailed to-day, to rejoin his anxiously expecting wife and children. There never breathed a more grateful creature than he appears to be."

"11th.—Mr B. requested an audience of the Dey, and went to it unattended by his Dragoman, which he could not have effected but from the Pacha's knowledge of Lingua Franca. His motive for this was, to express himself dissatisfied with Sidi Omar, his Dragoman, and to announce his intention of replacing him by some other person, agreeable both to his Highness and himself. He contented himself with saying this without reporting his faults, namely, of cheating our Navy, by charging several dollars more than he actually paid, on the head of every bullock, &c., and his being a stumbling-block in the way of poor slaves being liberated without a premium to himself."

"12th.—The news to-day is, that in conse-

quence of a command from the Dey, the Bey of Constantina, Alifa, and his father-in-law, an Arab Sheik, are both strangled, as it was discovered that large supplies of wheat were constantly sent by them to the Bey of Tunis, with whom this country is at war, and to the injury of the British commerce at Bona."

"16th.—Ali Rais, late Captain of the Port, (in accordance with Mr B.'s wish and request to the Dey) has been appointed by the Dey, Dragoman to the British nation, after every exertion of our enemies to prevent it, saying he was too great a Cabaléro to accept the situation. Nor, by the bye, would Mr B. have thought of him, had I not dreamt that he was made English Dragoman. It was at first thought a presumption. I, to relieve my poor husband's mind, for he is actually almost overpowered with his arduous duties, sent our Janissary Hassan some miles to Ali Rais' country house, and he immediately acceded to our request, saying he was very happy to do any thing which would testify his high respect for the English Consul; and I believe that his high and honourable character would do credit to any country or religion, for there never was a man more respected or esteemed for courage and integrity."

CHAPTER XII.

Sidi Cadua's unhappy fate—The Caid of Tesso reprieved—Execution of the renegade Escudera—Cruelties of Ali Pacha—Deposition of the Minister of the Marina—Curious Sheep—Honourable Captain Duncan—Tragic fate of three Tunisines—Gallant conduct of Captain Williams of the *Entreprenante*—Departure of old Francesco—The Princess of Tripoli—Jewish Coiner—Return of the Algerine Ambassador—The Dey's discontent at the unsuitable presents sent from England.

“ *March 18th.*—The first news this morning was, that our poor landlord Sidi Cadua had been sent for by a Chaous to the palace, where, without any accusation, his turban and shershea were taken off; he was then dragged to Bab-el-zoon, and hanged like a dog. Thus died the head of the most noble and ancient Moorish family, at seventy years of age, whose only crime, it proves, was marrying yesterday his youngest daughter to a Turk, who was Hogia at the palace in Achmet Pacha's reign. The two elder sisters being now widows, the one of Achmet Pacha, who cannot ever marry again, and the other of the late Aga. The bridegroom

has taken sanctuary in the Barracks. The body of Sidi Cadua is to remain exposed for three days."

"The Guardian Pacha called in the evening, but was very grave, as are most of the Turks; such arbitrary acts cannot be long successful without some change."

"19th.—A relation of Sidi Cadua's, the Caid or Governor of Tesso, was this morning seized and taken to the strangling-house. The plot begins to thicken. I just have heard, that fear or policy has caused the Dey to liberate the Caid this evening. His house is so near ours, that we could hear the sound of the women's rejoicing at his unhop'd for return; he has caused a sheep to be killed before his door, and then distributed to the poor. Sidi Cadua's body has likewise been allowed to be buried."

"22d.—Report says that Jeronimo Escudera, now Hassan Renegado, has been hanged at Constantina."

"23d.—Mr B. to-day received a letter from Captain Harding, who has visited La Cala, &c. which we hope will now soon be put into a state of repair. Captain H. requests Mr B. will beg the Pacha to spare the life of Escudera. Mr B. instantly dispatched the Dragoman to the Palace to urge the Pacha to grant him this favour. But he brought back word, that it was proved that Escu-

dera was implicated with the late Bey of Constantina, in a conspiracy to wrest the commerce of Bona out of the hands of the English, and to deliver up that place into the power of the Tunisines, for the benefit of the French; and that further, he, in concert with Antonio Melia, had actually changed the bullocks which had been furnished for the British service, for others much smaller, whilst they sold the former for their own benefit; but that notwithstanding, to please the Consul, he would dispatch an order to spare his life."

"*24th. Sunday.*—My E. read prayers to her father and myself; both the children afterwards went to see Mrs Lear, who sent word back that she hoped I would allow them to remain to dinner. I granted her request, though it is the only house I allow them to visit on a Sunday. I am on that account laughed at by most people here, who call themselves Christians; but if I forget my Maker by profaning His Sabbath, I ought to expect He will forget me. O may He assist my poor endeavours in instructing my children in the true principles of His holy religion, and may He, after I am no more, guide and keep them in the path of rectitude."

"*29th.*—A vessel came into port, which proved to be a French privateer. She soon found to her cost that she had not entered a friendly harbour,

for the Algerines soon unrigged her and took off her sails, and will, they say, take especial charge of her, till the French Consul returns to pay what is owing to this Regency."

"*April 1st.*—My dear husband rode out on his mule, and is, I thank God, in the enjoyment of perfect health."

"*13th.*—A message from the Minister of Marine, to inform the Consul, that before the order which had been dispatched in consequence of his intercession with the Dey, reached Constantina, Jeronimo Escudera had been beheaded; and he added, that besides the former accusations, he had been found guilty of smuggling gunpowder into the country. I am, however, pleased to hear, that after renouncing his Saviour, the unhappy man in his last moments, declared that he died a Christian; had he declared himself a Mahomedan, he would have been hanged."

"*14th.*—The Pacha being at war with the Bey of Felisa, a part of the country which ought to be tributary to him, but which has for some time been in a state of rebellion against the Dey's domination, he yesterday had the heads of fifteen Cabailis, natives of Felisa, cut off, after having kept them in chains for a considerable time; and he takes great credit for his lenity in sparing the lives of two young boys from the same country."

“18th.—Poor Don Sebastiano, a Spanish merchant, was yesterday put in chains by order of the Dey, and sent to work with the slaves at the stone quarry, though, from the weight of his irons, he could scarcely move. The reason assigned is, that in consequence of the failure of a merchant with whom he was connected, Don Sebastiano has been unable to fulfil his engagement with the Pacha, for the purchase of the hides of the bullocks killed for the service of the Dey’s troops.”

I lately met with the detailed account of the tyranny that was exercised upon the unfortunate Don Sebastian, which I will insert in the Appendix in the original French, as it will serve to give some precise idea of the sufferings of the poor Christians in Algerine bondage.

“25th.—The Minister of Marine has been removed from his office, and is succeeded by Sidi Mahomed, Papas della Skiffa. I know not what motive may have caused his dismissal after having enjoyed that most influential situation for the long period of eighteen years. From his having of late manifested great friendship to our nation, he is much regretted by Mr B.; but my own opinion is, that his professions of regard were insincere, and it was well known that he was the principal instigator of all the annoyances we suffered in con-

sequence of the detention of the ships, of which he was the secret yet principal owner, as well as of the illicit trade carried on in them. He was also secretly in league with the Bey of Constantina, who put every impediment he could in the way of British commerce, but in the end was sacrificed by his friend, who has himself crept out of the noose."

"29th.—A Divan was held; for the purpose of taking into consideration the claims of the French on the English prize, which was taken off Oran. All the Consuls were invited to attend, but Mr B. refused to be present, and the meeting was dissolved without having come to any decision."

"30th.—Mr B. has sent his Dragoman to inform the Dey, that if the 125,000 dollars, for which the prize was sold at Oran, and which sum has been deposited with His Highness, were delivered to the French, that the affair would be taken up in the *warmest manner* by the British Government."

"May 12th.—In the evening, the children entreated me to ride with them to see the family of the ill-fated Sidi Cadua, at the house of the late Ben Omar, whose son has lately married a wife of 14 years of age. Our visit presented a melancholy contrast with the former splendour enjoyed by this ancient family;—perhaps, however, with

their creed of fatalism, I felt more for them than they did for themselves."

"14th.—Accompanied by my children, I paid a visit to Hadgi Mustapha, our next country neighbour, on the occasion of his daughter having given birth to a son on the 10th inst. The lady, who is very young and beautiful, was sitting up, surrounded by numberless friends, and four black slaves, who were dancing, and, in lieu of singing, making noise enough to destroy any Christian in the same situation."

"15th.—The Entreprenante cutter, Captain Williams, passed our Garden, conveying a store ship, laden with 1000 barrels of powder for the Pacha. Captain Williams lately bravely fought four French privateers at once, off Cape Sacratif; and although he was all the time likewise exposed to the fire of a battery, he succeeded in preserving his convoy of two prizes."

"16th.—Mr B. rode to town with Mr Halliday, to make complaints of the treatment experienced by the latter from the Bey of Oran. Mr Foley likewise accompanied him, to demand the money due to him many years, which had been acknowledged last year by the present Pacha as a just demand, and payment had been accordingly promised by him; but since the Dey now denies his word and seal, it is evident that the French

presents, as we anticipated, have operated upon the infidel. The only thing which he granted was the liberty of poor old Francisco, which favour Mr B. pressed so as he would not be refused. The Pacha was extremely affable and gracious, and Mr B. sat by him all the time of the audience."

"19th.—Mr B. has received a very friendly letter from Lord Liverpool, to thank him for the present of the beautiful horse. His Lordship says that the sheep with the four horns, and broad tail, died after it had reached London, and he had therefore sent the skin, as a great acquisition, to the Liverpool Museum. His Lordship also says that the Algerine Ambassador has met with great attention, the usual allowance for his maintenance having been much increased beyond what had ever before been allowed by our Government to any Barbary Ambassador, but that he is detained on account of the illness of our good King."

"20th.—Our Janissary went to town at day-break, on account of the information, that two frigates had anchored last evening, and on his return, to the great joy of Mr B., was accompanied by —— . The children are in an ecstasy of happiness; he is much grown, and much liked by his commander, the Honourable Captain Duncan, who, with Captain Rosenhagen of the Resistance,

came out to dinner with a large party of remarkably fine young men."

"24th.—All our welcome visitors took leave of us last evening, and both frigates sailed this morning."

"June 4th.—Consul Lear, and a party of British subjects, partook of our roast beef. Before dinner was announced, an English frigate, like the *Comus*, came nearly opposite our Garden, and fired a salute to the Royal Standard on our flag-staff, and then sailed away to the west. After dinner, when the health of our good King was drunk, the cannon fired from the little battery which we have erected in front of our new dining-parlour."

"8th.—It is said that the Bey of Tunis has taken off the heads of three of his *Raises* for being unsuccessful in the action against the Algerines. These unfortunates, after having been led for three days about the streets of Tunis, with their faces toward the tails of the asses upon which they were tied, were beheaded;—a more horrible report is also current, that after their ignominious treatment they were built up alive in a wall, decapitation being too merciful a death to satiate their tyrant's vengeance."

"11th.—A French Privateer brought in as prize the English *Bombard*, which the Dey had

released only a few days since on Mr B.'s representations, that she had been sent in by Rais Hamido, who had taken her in consequence of her having broken their blockade of Tunis."

"12th.—We have been agreeably surprised at the justice of the Dey, in ordering the French Privateer to release the Maltese Bombard she took off Bugia. His Highness made them, by force, lower the French colours hoisted over the English, and restore every article that they had taken from the crew. She is now at full liberty to sail, with a certificate, that Mr B. entreated the Pacha to make the French Consul give, that the Bombard should pursue her voyage, unmolested by any other French ships which she may chance to encounter. I will now send poor old Francisco to his family."

"19th.—The venerable Francisco sailed in the vessel released by the Pacha. The poor old man's prayers for me and mine brought tears into my eyes, whilst my heart aches for him, at his being obliged to leave his two affectionate and most dutiful sons behind him in slavery."

"29th.—On account of the cutter not appearing to convoy the English vessels waiting here, the horse which Mr B. is sending to H——, was this morning disembarked from the transport, with his fine tail off, which the Captain says was eaten by

the sheep on board. All the sailors of the transport swore in the British Chancery that the tail was not clipped by any of them, but that the sheep ate it !!! —A singular phenomenon certainly.”

“ *July 11th.*—Between two and three o’clock, we felt a shock of an earthquake, but the weather being very stormy, and the wind blowing very hard, we were not quite certain that it was one. In about ten minutes after, another shock, much stronger, confirmed the first to have been a convulsion of nature.”

“ The whole household presented a scene of dismay, as each member of it hastily made their escape out of doors. I took my dear children by the hand, and went in search of their father, and we all retired to the Garden until dinner, which was laid in an outer parlour.”

“ *12th.*—Thanks to a merciful Providence, the night has passed without increasing our fears, for we have not felt another shock ; and the weather, which for many days has been rainy, stormy, and foggy, appears to-day more settled.”

“ *20th.*—Between eight and nine o’clock last night, we felt a shock of an earthquake, accompanied by a rumbling noise. Thanks be to God, it was but slight, and has not yet been repeated. Past 11 o’clock.”

“ *25th.*—Mr B. to-day received the thanks of

the Pacha, on account of the Tripoline prize having been adjudged at Malta as legally belonging to his frigate ; and he further begged that Mr B. would write to Malta, to appoint some *vero* Englishman as Algerine Consul, to whom he would send a handsome present. Mr B. has therefore written to Mr Theophilus Richards, to make him the offer of this appointment ; or should he decline it, to name some other just man ; for whatever these people are themselves, they are good appreciators of character."

" *August 7th.*—Early this morning came in the Wizard brig, convoying a Tripoline princess and ambassador ; the former is on her way to be married to the Emperor of Morocco, and the latter landed here to make peace between the Pacha of Tripoli and this Regency. The lady is niece to the Pacha of Tripoli, and has more than a hundred persons in her suite. She sent on shore as a present to the Dey, thirty-two individuals of the fair sex, *alias* that number of black female slaves."

" *September 6th.*—We hear that the Dionysius of Algiers yesterday condemned a poor Jew to receive twelve hundred bastinadoes, for having disturbed the tyrant by the noise of his hammer, during the night. This poor creature had been ordered to continue working during the night by the Lamine della Ricca, or Master of the Mint, who

employed him to coin or make money for the use of Government; for which compliance the poor wretch was to receive the enormous sum of three Mezunas, 56 of which make a Spanish dollar!"

"9th.—The poor Jew who was bastinadoed is not yet dead, but has been obliged to submit to lose three pounds of flesh from the part where the bastinadoes were inflicted."

"23d.—A line-of-battle ship passed this, and entered the port, which proves the Argo, Captain Warren, from England, with the Algerine Ambassador, Hadgi Hassan, and suite. They have been only sixteen days from Portsmouth. In the evening, Mr B. brought home with him Captain Warren and Major de Courcy of the 1st Guards, a son of Lord Kinsale. He is going in the Argo to Malta, from whence he is to go to Cadiz. They, with several other officers, one of them the Honourable Mr Waldegrave, son of Lord Radstock, remained all night."

"24th.—When Mr B. &c. &c. went to the palace this morning, to present the present from our King, the Dey was in the worst possible humour, on account of not having received an answer to the letter which he wrote to the King, and scarcely would he credit Mr B. when he assured him that he had not received a single line from our Government. When a musical snuff-box, which cost

£500, was presented, he asked if the King took him for a child, to be pleased with *ting, ting, ting*. He ridiculed a beautiful cestus, or clasp of brilliants and emeralds; he also seemed to think very little of a bale of broad cloth, but more graciously received some instruments of death, viz. a splendidly ornamented brace of pistols, but peremptorily asked, "Where is the gun that belongs to them?" No such thing had been sent."

"Had the same expense been bestowed upon a *suitably* arranged present, the interests of our country would have been advanced, instead of weakened, by the disappointment the barbarian now experiences.—Had the opinion of any one versed in oriental customs been taken, a gun, no matter of what intrinsic value, (so that it was brilliantly ornamented, and to match the pistols,) would have been sent, instead of the beautiful *ting, ting* box, and the useless cestus. The result has been any thing but to influence the Dey in British favour. He refused to give liberty to two Christian slaves, which favour Mr B. begged Captain Warren to ask. I had sent poor Ignacio to carry the *regalo*, in the hopes that he would obtain his freedom; but the Dey did not even bestow an aspre upon him, although, on receiving the former present, he gave the bearers of it thirty-six dollars. Captain Warren says that he was charged with very handsome

presents for the Ambassador and his suite, which he gave them previous to their coming on shore."

"All cannot be right, with respect to this Ambassador's having left England so abruptly, for it appears that Captain Warren had on board the baggage of Mr Liston, * (whom he was under orders to convey as Ambassador to Constantinople ;) —when, by telegraph, he received orders to put Mr Liston's baggage on shore, and to embark the baggage, (or from the quantity, Captain Warren concludes, merchandise,) of the Algerine, who was not allowed to wait, (as had been previously intended,) for the Menelaus, Captain Peter Parker, which was under repair for five days only. Seven waggons were required to take his baggage or merchandise down to embark. The Custom-house, having scruples, wrote to represent the matter to the Board in London, but a special order was given to *let all pass free.*"

"Our chagrin is great, at the impolitic conduct of our Government, in sending such dissatisfactory, yet expensive presents here, actually casting pearls among swine; when an old brig or cutter would have been highly acceptable, many of which are falling to decay in our ports. My poor husband feels the mortification to which he is liable

* Afterwards Sir Robert Liston.

from this mismanagement, and is equally disappointed, especially after the hint he had ventured to give in a certain influential quarter. But patience—as the Turks say.”

CHAPTER XIII.

His Britannic Majesty's Brig Onyx arrives with Admiral Scarnicia and Suite—Bey of Tunis successful in quelling a Revolt—Massacre of Durand, King of the Jews—Final Redemption of Portuguese Officers, &c. &c.—Horrible Execution of a Criminal—Shameful Insult offered to the Spanish Consul—Ravages of the Small-Pox—Changes in the Algerine Administration—Persecution of the Bentibe Family—How to become a Bey—The poor Jewess and her Children—Converted Egyptian—Further Distresses of the Unhappy Widow of Achmet Pacha.

“*September 26th.*—Captain Carrol, of the Onyx brig, came out and joined our family worship. He has served many years with Sir Sidney Smith, and appears to be a fine young man. Our friend, Admiral Scarnicia and his son, accompanied by the same priest, afterwards came. The good old Admiral took me in his arms, called me his *Cara Figlia*, and said that he had been very ill, and despaired of ever seeing me more.”

“*October 1st.*—Mr Blanckley went with Signor Scarnicia, to-day, to sue for a permanent peace

with Portugal. They found the Pacha in very ill-humour, * hungry and savage, although they have brought him an immense present. Report says that the Bey of Tunis has got the better of his revolted subjects, and has put to death 3000 Turks, who were janissaries from Constantinople."

"18th.—The king of the Jews, Durand, went this afternoon with the annual tribute or present to the Pacha, who received him as usual, and accepted the present, but immediately ordered him to be bound and beheaded; the sentence was executed in the palace. Sidi Hassan, who was in town, sent us word of this tragic event before the gates were shut."

"20th.—The first Lieutenant and Doctor of the Onyx walked out to dinner, and said that the body of poor Durand remained exposed in the court of the palace, and that it has been much burned during the display of the fire-works at the palace on Friday night. Only yesterday was it removed from thence, and as a great grace, given to his wretched family to be buried. I cannot learn that there was even a shadow of pretence for the poor man's massacre, and it is believed that he was sacrificed to divert the populace from *another* sanguinary act."

* Being the season of Ramadahn, or Mahomedan Lent.

“ 23d.—Our whole group set off early this morning for town. On the road we met a messenger with a letter addressed by the Portuguese captive officers to Mr B., in which they entreated him to come to town, and use his personal influence with the Regency in their behalf; for if he did not do so, that not a single officer would be allowed to be among the number of the slaves who are to go away in the present (first) embarkation of liberated Portuguese captives. Mr B. instantly went to the Minister of Marine, and begged him to go to the Dey, and say that he could not be denied the request, as he had held out hopes to these unhappy Portuguese gentlemen, that in each embarkation a due proportion of officers should be included.”

“ Poor Ali Rais, the English Dragoman, has lost his only son of four years of age, with the small-pox. I trust his three lovely little girls may be preserved to him.”

“ 24th.—The Consul’s message to the Dey has had the desired effect. Signors Paul Frere, Andreada, and Acasto, are to go this time with Admiral Scarnicia, to join their anxiously-awaiting families, after having been here eleven years in slavery. We intended returning to our Garden this evening, but the above fortunate unfortunates

are persuaded, that if the Consul leaves town they will not be allowed to embark."

"26th.—The poor Portuguese are, I thank God, all embarked. Mr B. rose early, to go to the Marina with them. He has indeed much cause for satisfaction at this happy issue to his endeavours in the cause of suffering humanity. Among these liberated Portuguese, who to-day embarked, there were, besides officers, many priests and women. Some of these poor people have been thirty-nine years in captivity; and at least thirty different attempts for their release have been made, by overtures on the part of Portugal to effect a peace with Algiers. But all these efforts for their liberation were made in vain, until my dear husband, of his own accord, and not only unsolicited by the authorities in Portugal, but whilst they were entirely ignorant of his benevolent intentions, first set on foot these negotiations, in which, after repeated disappointments and delays, from Junot's entrance into Portugal having apparently crushed all his sanguine hopes, he has thus far succeeded. I fondly cherish the expectation that his services, and the devotion of his life from early youth to his country, will eventually meet the reward he so well merits. Independent, however, of all other considerations, (for truly one kinder or more charitable never breathed,) he has indeed a source of unalloyed happiness in the inward

satisfaction, which he at this moment enjoys, from the conviction that many of his fellow creatures' hearts are now joyfully beating through his kind efforts."

"29th.—Finding that the Portuguese ship cannot sail to-day, I rode out to our Garden with my dear E., and gave a breakfast to Captain Vas Conzales and his officers. The Doctor of the Onyx told me that he saw a man on Tuesday last at Bab-el-zoon, lying with his face flat upon the ground, with his hands tied behind him. A blacksmith's anvil and hammer were brought and placed near him. This miserable wretch (who had been guilty of murder) was then carried to it, and was compelled to submit to each of his legs and arms being broken in three places. The first blow was struck on one of his ankles. After receiving twelve blows, life was not yet extinguished, and the Doctor fled from witnessing his sufferings. He says, that the same day he saw an exhibition at the palace of three heads.

" Captain Carrol, &c. &c. took their leave, expecting to sail to-morrow. Admiral Scarnicia shed tears on parting with us, and begged I would accept the assurance of his most grateful thanks, (for that under God he owed his life to me,) for all my kindness during his illness last year; he said that he loved me as if I had been his child. Several Spaniards were to-day put in irons on account

of a Spanish vessel having made its escape from Bona. The Minister of Marine, by the Dey's order, slapped Don Pedro Ortiz in the face;—such is the treatment to which the representatives of European Powers are liable at the hands of barbarians.”

“ 30th.—Messieurs Scarnicia, and the priest, embarked this morning. Mr B. accompanied them to the boat, and they sailed immediately in an Algerine ship which carried the redeemed slaves.”

“ Afterwards Mr B. called at the Spanish House, to try to arrange affairs with Don Pedro, who is mortified beyond expression at the shameful insult he yesterday received at the Marina. It is affirmed that seventy-five children, who died of the small-pox, were buried to-day.”

“ November 1st.—A revolution in the administration of this Government has taken place. The English Dragoman, Ali Rais, is once more made Captain of the Port. The Pacha has appointed to succeed him, as English Dragoman, Hadgi Ismail, late French Dragoman, who came out accordingly to pay his respects.”

“ 3d.—Bacri, lately made King of the Jews, has, during the last night, had his store-houses burnt down; it is the first instance I ever heard of a fire in Algiers. It is surmised that the incendiary, is one of the family of Bentibe, who once

was King of the Jews. The Pacha, however, did not hesitate to fix the guilt on him, and without judge or jury, he immediately had his head struck off, and also those of two of the Lamine delli Piscari, *alias* two of the chiefs of the Police, because they had not kept a better look-out. Some other members of the Bentibe family have taken sanctuary in La Cassaria, or Barracks."

"5th.—In the evening, we took a ride to the west, and saw a very fine house, which, on enquiry, we were told was the residence of a Turk, who is surnamed *Bey*, from a very ludicrous circumstance, though a very serious one to the poor Turk. In the time of Mohammed Pacha, he went to the palace, and requested to be made Bey of Constantina, offering the sum of twelve thousand sequins, as an equivalent for the post. The Pacha agreed to the proposal, and desired him forthwith to bring the money, which, he instantly threw into the public treasury, saying, 'You shall be *called Bey* for life. You are a great fool; you ought to have been contented in the possession of such a sum of money, without thirsting for honours. Go home—I am satisfied that this money was acquired here at the expense of my subjects, and it is now again deposited for their benefit.'"

"All the remaining families of the Bentibes were, by an order of Bacri, the King of the Jews,

sent out of the country in a vessel going to Mahon, where they are to be put into a vessel going to the Levant. Poor distressed beings! they were, I find, insulted by the populace as they went to embark. Among the number was one poor woman, only delivered last night, six children in the small-pox, and the widow and children of the Jew who was put to death the day before yesterday. Poor persecuted, unbelieving race! I pity and pray often for them. How fallen from their original estate! the descendants of God's peculiar people, and now despised, and treated worse than the beasts that perish. I think it my duty to shew them favour when I can, and I confidently hope that my example has, in some degree, influenced some of the Turks, in our own immediate circle, to think of these unfortunates with something akin to compassion."

During a season of more than ordinary persecution of this despised race, my dear mother received the following proof that her conviction was well founded.

I think it was after the murder of the unfortunate David Bacri, that she went to her house in town, and found that the report that had been made to my father as perfectly correct, that a great number of Jews had sought sanctuary under British protection: The house was filled with

them, and only the principal apartments were uninvaded by the trembling refugees. She therefore hastily concluded her visit, and gladly descended the principal staircase, to mount her horse, and return to a more thinly inhabited residence ;—when, to her surprise, she found the key in the door of a small room opening on the staircase. In this room our usual ample stores of groceries were contained, for as there were not any European *Epiciers* in Algiers, she was obliged to procure wholesale supplies of these articles from Gibraltar, Malta, Marseilles, and England. A little astonished to find this storeroom unlocked, Mama turned the key, put it into her pocket, and continued her original intention of leaving the house. Just as she reached the large marble hall, where her horse and attendants were awaiting her, an afterthought struck her, that she ought to have examined the state of the open storeroom, and she retraced her steps to satisfy her suspicions. What was her amazement, to find, in the room of all European luxuries, a trembling Jewish woman and three weeping children ! The poor creature threw herself, with hands clasped in supplication, on her knees before my mother, who in vain sought a verbal explanation of the scene, as the alarmed Israelite spoke only in her national Hebrew :—the language of soothing compassion is, however,

cosmopolitan, and ere she sought those who could tell her by what process her stores had been transmuted into a Jewess and her little family, smiles and tranquil looks had succeeded to their previous alarm. The Janissary, Sidi Hassan, at last, wondering what had caused la Signora Madama to return into the house, and to remain there so long, after having ordered the horses to be in readiness, came himself to ascertain the cause, and met her as she descended the stairs a second time. In reply to her inquiries as to what had become of the vanished tea, sugar, &c., and of the cause of the closet being devoted to its present contents, Sidi replied, that he had a great many pardons to ask, for not having informed la Signora of the liberty which he had taken, but that he knew she would not require any apology for the deed itself, as he had acted from the conviction, that in shewing pity to a poor Jew, he was doing what would please her; for when this hapless mother and her infants sought refuge in the Consulate, so numerous were the previous applicants, that there was not a corner unoccupied, and that he therefore had caused all that the closet contained, to be removed into one of the rooms still preserved for the service of the family, and had installed the Jewish family in their place. Mama, of course, praised her convert for his humanity, and the Jewess continued to occupy

her little sanctuary, until a comparatively more peaceful order of things was restored, when she, in common with her brethren, returned to their ever but precarious homes.

“6th.—How thankful I ought to be, that my children have been vaccinated, and have escaped the horrid disorder that rages in town! I hear from our Janissary, that more than 2000 dead bodies have passed the gate of Bab-el-Ouate since the Ramadahn commenced, and it is said that the unusual dryness of the season has contributed to increase the evil. Many hundred cattle and sheep have perished lately from want of nourishment, the dry season having exceeded its usual duration by two months.”

“12th.—Sidi Ibraim came to see us from the palace. He says that the exact report of all deaths in the city of Algiers is brought every evening to the palace, and that since the Luna of Ramadahn commenced, three thousand nine hundred children have been buried of the small-pox.”

“16th.—Sidi Hassan says that he saw at Bab-el-Ouate to-day, twenty children going to be buried at the same time.”

“18th.—The late heavy rains have enabled us to begin ploughing, and I am happy to hear that the ground works well. A man presented himself to the Consul, clothed only in a wretched bernouse;

he affirms that he is an Egyptian by birth ; that he served on board several British men of war for the last twelve years, and was wounded and discharged with a pension of £18, 5s. per annum ; that he is married, and has left a wife and children in Liverpool. He was induced to enter the merchant service, and was on board the Sally of Liverpool, which was lost on the coast near Oran, when all the rest of the crew, eight in number, and all her cargo, consisting of iron, scarlet cloth, &c., were lost, and he only was saved by clinging to a plank. Some Jews took compassion upon him, and nourished him for nine days, until he had strength to set off on his journey hither, which took him nine days more to accomplish. The Pacha, we believe, has not heard any thing of this, and Mr B. is afraid of inquiring into the truth of the *soi-disant* Egyptian's statement, lest the tyrant should put to death this poor wretch, who declares that he has embraced the Christian faith, and was baptised, and called John. He speaks English, Arabic, Spanish, and French. We clothed him, and I have ordered that he shall be fed and lodged here for the present."

" 22d.—Mr B. sent the shipwrecked man to town, in order that he may be embarked on board a ship sailing to Gibraltar, not considering it prudent that he should longer remain here. Mr

E—— D—— arrived last night overland from Constantina, with the Alifa, who has lately married the Bey's daughter. Poor Xalma, the Spanish Vice-Consul, was of the party in chains."

" 24th.—The unhappy Spanish Vice-Consul of Bona continues in chains, carrying stones at the Marina ; he has also been cruelly beaten."

" December 6th.—The Pacha has thought proper to refuse six fowls being embarked on board an English merchant vessel! Mean spite aimed at our Government, on account of his letter to our King not having been answered!!! This however, is not very amusing to my dear husband, who, in consequence of this neglect in England, is but too well aware that his influence with the Dey is much weakened.—*Paciencia!*"

" 10th.—Yesterday, at the Marina, the French Consul insulted Don Pedro, the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires, by asking the Algerine Admiral who that man was? pointing to Don Pedro. On being told that he was the Spanish Consul, he asked, "Where is his king, his country?" and added, "I am the Spanish Consul. Spain is in the hands of the French." However, Don Pedro soon had his revenge, for the French Consul having been summoned, on the subject of the non-payment of twelve millions of francs, insisted upon by the Pacha, the Minister of Marine, it is said,

after spitting in the French Consul's face, called him "*Cane*."

"12th.—The son of the late Sidi Cadua called upon us. How changed is the scene with this young man!—he came alone. Whilst his brother-in-law, Achmet Pacha, lived, he never moved but with a numerous train of attendants. He distressed me much by the information, that his unfortunate sister, the Dey's widow, has just lost her only son in the small-pox, and that her eldest daughter, Leila Feesa, alone survives, as she had previously lost her youngest little girl. How have distresses of every kind accumulated upon this wretched woman since I visited her in all her regal splendour—a proud and happy-looking mother of three handsome healthy children!"

CHAPTER XIV.

Christmas Day—A Ghost—A man not a whit the richer for finding a Treasure—Revolution in Tunis—Seven British Sailors ransomed—Death of our Monkey by Hydrophobia—Strict *surveillance* of the Christian Slaves by our Janissary—Secretary of the Spanish Cortes—Death of an Ottoman Prince—Arrival of Mr M'Donell—Assassination of an Algerine Youth; trifling punishment of the Assassin—Capture of Mr and Mrs Delisle—Singular request of a Marabout—The Guardian Pacha—Our last visit to “the Garden.”

“25th.—A day delightful as the subject, which it more particularly brings to a Christian's mind. Our relatives and friends formed a numerous and cheerful Christmas circle, although we did not require to surround the fireside.”

“January 1st, 1812.—The year commences with incessant rain.”

“3d.—A Piscari came out late last night with dispatches, and remained here until daylight this morning, and has since said that he saw a *giant* apparition as tall as eight men, dressed in white,

come from the burying-ground, and that it followed him to the city gates. Every Turk, Moor, and Jew gave credit to this fabulous story; nor are the Christian slaves, in our family, less superstitious. I dread their communicating the infection of their folly to my children."

"A few days ago, a man found in the burying-ground, two large jars filled with gold coins, which he (fearful of his life) gave up to the Bailic or Regency."

"4th.—The weather is very mild, like April in England. Mr Blanckley rode out to see the barley, which I believe is all out of the ground, as is also a large field of wheat. The vessel brought in by the Algerines, sailed for Malta, with the two Maltese ladies on board, Signoras Francisca and Maria, who offered to bribe me with a ring to induce me to use my influence with the Consul, that he might obtain permission from the Dey for their residing here. How rich I might have been, *could* I have taken all the valuables offered me since my residence in this country! and how much more so, my husband! Had it not been for that little *monitor* within, he might have been enabled to have retired to our own country, and have lived there independent of all, except the above named little gentleman."

"9th.—Consul Lear called, and read us letters

which he had received from Tunis, with the accounts of the late revolution in that country."

"About four thousand Turks revolted, and took possession of the citadel; the following day fifteen thousand of the Bey's troops assembled, some of them scaled the walls of the Casba, obtained the keys of the gates, and let in a large party;—the Turks fled, about a thousand were pursued and killed, whilst the remainder laid down their arms. A great number of these were afterwards strangled, and the rest were spared and allowed to live as subjects of the Grand Signor, but not as Janissaries or Mamelukes. The Tunisines, during part of these occurrences, entrusted the Captain of an English brig in the port with the command of the batteries, and he succeeded in restoring order. Emerging from his hiding-place, the Bey of Tunis then made his appearance for the first time."

"13th.—The Consul has received, by a courier from Bugia, a letter from a poor English sailor, who, with six other unfortunate men, have been cast away on that coast; the vessel, the master, and three of her crew, all perished. The Caid or Governor of Bugia has, in the name of the Consul, passed his word to the inhabitants of the coast, that the Englishmen shall be ransomed for 150 Spanish dollars. Mr B. immediately dis-

patched a messenger to ratify this arrangement, and to free the poor tars from thralldom."

"18th.—More than five thousand children have died of small-pox within the last three months. The Spanish doctor has vaccinated his son and a few other children. This inestimable benefit was introduced into this country a few years ago by a French surgeon,—but most ineffectually, as scarcely any of the bigoted predestinarians could be prevailed upon to submit to the operation. I think that this climate has very much changed since I came here; the summers have become much cooler, the last year in particular, when the thermometer, one day only, rose to 86°; the average was from 78° to 80°."

"20th.—Our poor monkey shewed symptoms of hydrophobia, having refused water for two days, seeming in an agony whenever it was offered him, and holding his paws before his eyes; he was therefore committed to the deep. I saw him a month ago playing with the blood of a dog, which was supposed to have been mad, and was killed by the servants near poor Mocaco's house."

"22d.—A vessel from Gibraltar brought a letter from dear H—— B——, dated on the 27th of May, the day after the battle of Albuera; it was written on the head of a drum; he was then surrounded by 4000 slain, and in the act of super-

intending the dressing of his homely meal, by a fire made of the handles of broken muskets, on a plain where there was not a bush to be seen."

"24th.—Assura, or the first day of the Mahomedan year 1227."

"26th.—The last has been a most awful night; the wind and rain tremendous. The sea before our windows rose mountains high; and as the wind blew directly into the port, dreadful was the damage done among the shipping. A French ship ran foul of an English one, a French privateer was the cause of a Moorish vessel sinking, and many other disasters occurred; but I am thankful that I have not heard of any life being lost."

"27th.—The French Consul has been called upon to pay for the damage done by the French Privateer; on his refusal, all the crew were put in chains, and sent to work at the stone-quarries in the mountains."

"February 17th.—Late last night, several Sbirros* came to our gate, to inquire if three Christian slaves who had escaped the vigilance of their guards, had taken refuge here."

"19th.—We were made very uneasy by Sidi Hassan's reporting, that our Neapolitan gardener, Gregorio, had not slept in the servants' house last

* Officers of justice, or rather oftenest of injustice.

night, as we feared that his absence might have been connected with the escape of the three slaves. Although Gregorio excused himself on the plea of sudden illness, which prevented his reaching the house, Sidi Hassan urged the propriety of his being sent to the Marina, as, should he effect his escape, Mr B. would have to pay two thousand dollars to the Regency. Although we are amenable for this amount to the Dey upon the escape of any slave in our service, I was so fearful lest *the Dionysius* might have him bastinadoed to death, that I intreated my good man to pardon him, and induce Sidi Hassan not to report him. My dear husband's kind heart was easily prevailed upon to accede to my prayers. I hope God will in return hear his, for never had the poor slaves so powerful an advocate as himself; he is daily their slave."

"Young Basnardo called; he has been at Gibraltar and Cadiz. At the latter place, he saw the Secretary of the Cortes strangled in the public market-place, for corresponding with the French. He was condemned to be hanged, but for the honour of his family, was treated with the *lenity* above mentioned."

"*March 5th.*—An intimation has arrived here to the Dey, of the birth of a son to the Grand Signor. There will be great rejoicings in conse-

quence in every part of the world under the dominion of the Sublime Porte, and a splendid Regálo, according to *usanza*, will be sent by the Dey to Constantinople."

"6th.—Mr B. went early to town, and returned, accompanied by Lieutenant Fleming of the Pylades brig, which has been sent by Sir Edward Pellew with despatches from our ambassador at Lisbon, relating to the poor Spaniards who are here in chains. But what concerns us most, is an order from Lord Liverpool, for Mr B. to proceed to England, as soon as Mr M'Donell, in the Commissariat, at Gibraltar, who is ordered to act as Pro-Consul during Mr B.'s absence, and who was one of the party that was to visit Bona and La Cala, arrives here. The object of Mr B.'s going, is to give information respecting the affairs of Bona and La Cala. The Admiral has sent a Mr Gainer, to ask this Government for a supply of wheat and provisions for our fleet. He appears a pleasant and well-informed man, and is very strongly recommended by Sir Edward."

"9th.—We all went early to town, and dined with Captain Fleming on board the brig. As it rained on our landing, the Admiral sent to request that we would take shelter in his hall of audience, where we were waited upon by all the influential personages connected with the Marina, who all

expressed great joy at seeing us, and the hope that we might remain many years in this country. Mr Gainer thinks it advisable that Mr B.'s going to England should remain a profound secret, as, were it made known, until Mr M'Donell arrives, it might very materially prejudice the interests of Great Britain and her allies."

"12th.—Mr B. was at the palace, to demand that another year's truce be accorded to Portugal. Mr Stewart, in his last dispatches, uses very strong language on that subject, but this Mr B. does not consider prudent to impart to the Pacha, without previously consulting with Sir E. Pellew, as he thinks it more than probable that such a message would require to have some men-of-war in the back-ground."

"16th.—We hear that a Turk has just cut a youth of seventeen years of age to pieces in the street from jealousy. He was carried by Sbirros to the Cadi, and there paid the penalty of twenty dollars, which was all the punishment that he, as a *Janissary*, received for taking a *Moor's* life.—Surely there must come a day of retribution."

"17th.—We had visits from the American and Spanish Consuls. Don Pedro is very low-spirited, as the sum of ten thousand dollars due by Spain remains unpaid, and the period has almost expired, at the termination of which this poor man is

threatened with chains. Mr B., however, has reason to hope that the expected arrival of the brig-of-war may protract the time, as the Pacha has written to Sir E. Pellew on the subject."

"24th.—I mentioned to my husband that I thought the Pacha might be seriously offended, if he were not informed by him of his projected departure previous to the arrival of the Pro-Consul."

"25th.—The Pacha is ill in bed, and begs that Mr B. will oblige him by communicating to the Minister of Marine (who is his Camisca) what he wishes to say."

"26th.—Mr B. went to the Minister of Marine, and told him that he was going to England: The Minister expressed, in reply, his hope that Mr B. would soon return."

"27th.—I called at the American, Danish, and Spanish Consuls, and told them of our going to England. Mrs Lear kindly urged my leaving my E. with her until our return. Don Pedro begged that I and the children would remain at the Spanish House; but we hope to remain together until it pleases God to separate us. I cannot be left in a country like this without my dear protector."

"28th.—I went to our Garden to arrange some matters previous to our departure, as Mr B. is so occupied with public business, that we cannot leave our house in town. My children's faithful

nurse, Maria, is broken-hearted about our going away, and asked me to promise that she should remain at the Hospital until our return. I have therefore engaged to pay for her support, and to obtain leave for her remaining there, as she is determined not to serve any other person, so long as she can hope to see her beloved charges restored to her. All our poor servants came in from the Garden; and with those in town, as well as numbers of other poor slaves, presented a melancholy group, exclaiming, 'What will become of us when our benefactors are gone!' I wish that all these scenes were over, for they make me quite wretched."

"*April 1st.*—Two vessels have arrived, one a brig-of-war and the other a transport, with Mr M'Donell and family on board. Captain Bartholomew said that his orders from Commodore Penrose were, to land Mr M'Donell, and afterwards to consult the Consul-General, whose orders he was to follow. If Mr B. was not ready to embark, he was at liberty to cruise until Mr B. should be prepared."

"*11th.*—A farewell dinner was given to us at the American Consul's. I felt so fatigued, that I was obliged to decline an invitation to a great feast at the worthy Guardian Pacha's, which was

given on the occasion of putting their eldest daughter Monie to school."

" 17th.—A Greek prize to the Algerine fleet came in last night, and Mr B. has written me a note from town, that the Dragoman by mistake has conducted to the American Consulate a Guernsey gentleman, his wife, and child, who were on board,"

" 20th.—A Divan was called to-day at the Marina, when Mr B. fought a hard battle, and gained the point of lengthening the truce for the Portuguese with this Regency for another year. He also had a great discussion regarding Mr and Mrs De Lisle, and their little Ferdinand, whom Mr B. insisted to be British subjects, but whom the barbarians wanted to prove Neapolitans, and consequently to retain them in slavery."

" 23d.—Mr B. came out to dinner, and interested me exceedingly with the account he gave of Mr and Mrs De Lisle, and their very lovely little boy. The poor woman is also very near increasing her family. They are staying at Mr Dalzel's until I can clear away our baggage a little, and accommodate them here."

" Mr De Lisle was a native of the Island of Guernsey, and had early in life entered a commercial house in Holland, in which country he had been naturalized, and he was therefore afterwards

enabled to go to another branch of the House which was established in Naples, then in the occupation of the French. He was on his voyage to his native land, (to which he was returning with property of considerable value,) on board a Greek vessel, (which he had on account of its neutrality hired to convey him to England,) when in a luckless moment they encountered the Algerines, who immediately ordered him on board their frigate, and desired him to bring with him all his passports and papers; which he did, leaving his poor trembling wife and child on board the Greek. The dear little fellow, not four years old, tried all in his power to comfort his poor mother, setting his back against the cabin door, and saying, 'Do not cry, dear Mama; I will not let those naughty Turks come into the cabin.' It was late in the night when Mr De Lisle returned, and sad were the tidings he brought. The pirates, on his complying with their demand to see his papers, instantly tore them in atoms, and threw them into the sea.

"The day before yesterday, at the Divan, when Mr B. demanded that, as British subjects, Mr De Lisle, his family, and all his property, should instantly be delivered up, the Minister of Marine replied, 'that he could not be an Englishman, for he could not then have been allowed to reside in Naples, where the French would not permit any

English to remain ; and besides, he added, supported by the whole Divan, ‘ where are his papers to prove that he is one ?’ Mr De Lisle called out in English across the Divan, ‘ that if he were allowed to go on board the Greek ship, he would yet be able to bring satisfactory evidence that he was what he represented. This was most unwillingly accorded, and, to Mr B.’s great satisfaction, he produced his marriage-contract, which proved that they were married in Guernsey, &c. &c. The rage of the assembly was scarcely kept within bounds; whilst they all exclaimed, ‘ that if in twenty years hence it could be proved that Mr B. had claimed them without sufficient grounds, he should be made answerable for the prize, which he thus wrested from their hands.’ The poor lady’s maiden name was Le Mesurier.”

“ 26th.—I and my children went early to town, where Mr and Mrs De Lisle and their little son joined us at prayers. She is a very interesting, lady-like young woman. She entreated me to allow her to leave this with us, as she should not mind what accommodation I could spare her, provided they were not left behind. I feel so much for her situation, that I willingly promised that she should share every thing with me and mine.”

“ May 3d.—A Marabout, through the medium of our Janissary, made a singular request to me,

namely, that I would bring him from England a brace of wooden feet, he having had the misfortune to lose both the original ones."

"15th.—The Guardian Pacha called. I offered to pay him for the support of some poor old slaves a twelvemonth in advance, that they might be exempted from labour. He pushed back the little bag of money I held out to him, saying, 'Take back your money, Signora, you have paid too much for those people already; and believe that such is my respect for you, that whilst I am Guardian Pacha, those old people whom you have protected shall never undergo any labour.'"

This worthy man was one of the first of his countrymen who fell under Lord Exmouth's fire; he was a much superior person to the Turks at Algiers in general, the majority of whom were the outcasts of the Janissaries of Constantinople. He told my father, as did others, that he had quitted his own country from reasons connected with family matters. He was highly connected, and his whole life and conversation, public and private, proved that nothing mean or dishonourable could be associated with him. He would, as I have constantly heard my father say, have been an ornament and honour to any country or creed. He was a most strict Mussulman, yet often, when

he was obliged to call up the Christian slaves in the night during the violent hurricanes to which the port of Algiers is so liable, he would, at his own private expense, bestow a glass of *agua ardiente* upon each of the poor dripping creatures.

In both town and country he was our nearest neighbour, and rarely did a day pass without his paying us a visit. Indeed, when we were in town, he passed almost every evening at our house, and took great delight in hearing stories out of the Old Testament translated to him. He, in common with many of his compatriots, thought my dear mother the cleverest of women. I remember his affording us much amusement one evening, by suddenly putting his hand into one of the breast pockets of his caftan, and when he had drawn it out closed, asking Mama to tell him how much money he held in his hand. She, of course, replied that she could not say. 'Why,' he said, 'I thought that La Signora Madama could tell every thing.' He was very fond and proud of his wife and son, and two daughters, Monie and Howei-sha, and he brought the children constantly to see us. To please Mama, he prevailed upon his wife, much against her will however, only to perforate the lower part of his little girls' ears, instead of also having three ear-rings in the upper part, which odiously disfigures the ears of Alge-

rine ladies, and bends them quite down like those of the elephant. His wife was a nice, amiable-looking person, and was ever delighted when my little sister and myself visited them, which we did with equal pleasure very constantly. Would that I knew what their after-lot has been !”

“ 21st.—After dinner we came out to our Garden. The nightingales were singing all the way. The country looking all loveliness, I cast a long look upon every well-known object. The barley is nearly ready to cut, and the wheat very fine and promising. I pray God that the crops may have as good an appearance in the land we are bound to.”

“ 24th.—We took an affectionate farewell of each of our worthy and attached domestics, and quitted our dear abode, our delightful Garden, perhaps for ever.”

Thus concludes my beloved mother’s Journal.

CHAPTER XV.

Departure from Algiers—Excellent Oranges—Arrival at Minorca—The Ville de Paris—The 4th of June—Quarantine—Cordial reception from our Minorquin Friends—We sail for Gibraltar—Cardinal Gravina and the Duke of Clarence—His Eminence's hat—Reminiscences of Algiers—First and Second Equestrian Souvenirs—Bread and Butter—Our House-keeping—Description of the Houses—Passion for Flowers—Danger incurred from wearing a Rose.

I HAVE but a very indistinct recollection of the period of our voyage from Algiers to Minorca; my heart was receiving its first lesson of lasting regret, and consequently, I was mentally, with my beloved elder sister, and the friends of my happy childhood, from whom I was, for the first time, separated; and completely was every thought, and all my capability of feeling engrossed, with the sorrow I felt, at leaving them, and all my favourite romantic scenes, behind me. I have had some deep sips of this life's bitter cup, but *then*, I nursed my grief; and although passing and varied scenes soon obtained

the attention they claimed ; yet the oft-recurring remembrance of dear Algiers and its cherished occupants, first taught me that a heavy heart is no uncommon companion to a smiling countenance, and that a hearty laugh may smite sadness on a heart, which feels regret that the cause of joy cannot be shared by those who are far away. In the midst of all this sentimentality, passing strange it is, that actually the only occurrence of which I retain any *souvenir*, should be of a most material nature. On the third day after our departure, not an orange could I obtain, although it had been the only refreshment which I had relished since our embarkation. Oranges gathered in their really mature state, decay so quickly, that several sacks which had been brought on board for our use, were all completely spoiled by this time ; and certainly I have never since tasted any of that delightfully refreshing fruit which was comparatively worth eating. Indeed, for a number of years we were all so extremely fastidious, that we did not condescend to eat any either in England or in France ; however, *depuis long temps*, I have become less prejudiced, and can now allow that a travelled Malta orange, although reft from its parent stock ere it had attained all its perfect qualities, is not to be altogether despised.

The excellent harbour of Port Mahon, looked

very beautiful, graced as it was with the presence of many of old England's "hearts of oak;" and among them was the colossal Ville de Paris. These we had the gratification of witnessing, full dressed, and their masts manned with our country's brave defenders, Britannia's favourite sons, on the occasion of the birth-day of our venerable sovereign, (as we were at Mahon on the 4th of June;) and never shall I forget the thrilling sound of the hearty cheers of the gallant tars. Oh! it is a good and pleasant thing to have a loyal heart.

We were, however, obliged to submit to a short quarantine, although its duration was as much curtailed as lay in the power of the good Minorquin authorities; by whom, as by, I believe I may add, the whole population of all ranks, my dearest father was actually adored. Gratifying indeed was their reception, to him, who fully returned the esteem and regard of this worthy and unsophisticated people, among whom he counted some of the dearest friends of his heart.

My father, for nineteen years, was His Britannic Majesty's Consul for the Balearic Islands, which appointment he obtained after sixteen years of active service in the army in the American war, and as Brigade Major to Lord Heathfield, at the siege of Gibraltar. I believe he never ceased regretting having quitted the army, which he was

induced to do, in consideration of the comfort of a very amiable wife and a rising family of young children. On the confirmation of his appointment to the Agency and Consul Generalship of Algiers, for some inexplicable cause, (as in those days plurality of offices were certainly not uncommon, and as during several years he had, with the most entire satisfaction, performed, through his Vice-Consuls, all the duties of the Consulship,) he was given to understand, that in future he would only hold the Algerine appointment;—and to the surprise of all persons *well* acquainted with Tunisine and Algerine transactions, a Mr Hargrave was nominated as Consul for the Islands; for what services rendered to his country, remained entirely unknown.

However, my father and his family did indeed meet with a truly cordial reception from his old Mahonese friends. Our ship was constantly surrounded by boats of kind visitors, whose immediate communication however was, by quarantine laws, restricted to looks of affectionate welcome, and repeated kisses wafted from their lips, by the oft-waved hand. At last, however, an expedient was resorted to. We landed on a small island in the Port, named the Quarantine Island, where, under the vigilant *surveillance* of the Spanish *Douaniers*, we were only separated from these

worthy friends by an extended rope. Watched though we were, the spirit of our mother Eve forsook us not, and greatly did I enjoy the *divertido* of disobeying orders, by giving and receiving many a hearty squeeze from the hand of the charming Catalina M. and other young friends, who were sufficiently tantalized in not being permitted to *abrazar* their little favourites. However, as all things have a term, we at last were allowed once more to put our foot on my little sister's native land; but shorter than our season of tantalization, was that of the unfettered enjoyment of the society of these warm-hearted islanders; for it was but the very day preceding that which my father had fixed for our resailing for Gibraltar, that we were considered free from quarantine.

As I am relating my last visit to Minorca, I feel tempted to add my earliest reminiscence connected with my first residence there, in having knocked off the hat of a Cardinal; and the event was retained in my memory, by being for several years afterwards constantly asked to repeat what his Eminence had done. This question was so often put, that the enquirer might have the satisfaction of hearing my imperfect lisping pronunciation of the answer, 'He kissed me, and he blessed me.'

Cardinal Gravina had visited the island of Minorca, I know not for what cause, but probably had been compelled to do so by winds unfavourable to his continuing his voyage from Spain to the court of the King of the Two Sicilies, whither he was then proceeding, either as Papal Nuncio, or Ambassador from that of His Most Catholic Majesty, I do not remember having heard which.

His Eminence's first visit was to my father, the intimate and very particular friend of his brother, the gallant Admiral Gravina, of whose attachment he renewed the assurance; for his friendship was far from being weakened, from his having, since its first commencement, been made a prisoner by one of our own illustrious heroes. But again my recollections fail me as to whether his conqueror bore the renowned name of Rodney, Howe, or St Vincent; but whichever it was, I well remember hearing that this brave and noble prisoner was not the last to extol the reputation of his victor. More especially have I retained the recollection of the enthusiastic admiration that the Spanish Hero felt, and took constant opportunities of expressing, in the most particular manner to the officers of his own fleet, of the excellent discipline of the British Navy. Often would my father dilate upon the delight with which the Admiral was wont to relate the (to him) justly proud circumstance of

his having been steered ashore, I think, at Gibraltar, by our late excellent Monarch. My father said that Admiral Gravina never alluded to that honour, without his eyes filling with tears. 'Your nation, my esteemed friend,' (would he say,) 'has a right, an unquestioned right, to be the supreme power at sea, when the son of its powerful Monarch, in being subject to the most unqualified discipline and subjection, to those whose professional experience can lead him on in that glorious career which he has chosen, himself condescends to set so glorious an example of devoted patriotism. Never can I forget the astonishment I felt, when His Britannic Highness entered the Admiral's cabin, and taking off his hat, announced that the boat was waiting; and when, on my reaching the boat, I saw the Prince himself take the rudder to steer me, I was so overpowered at the honour, that I could not help remonstrating. Yes, my friend, yours is a gallant nation, thus to honour a captive.'

Alas! a few years after, the illustrious object of this delicate attention fell under the fire of his so much esteemed and generous foes. At that far-famed victory, which cost England the dear-bought price of her dearest son—her glorious Nelson, Admiral Gravina had both his legs shot away, and he considered that it was from unskilful measures that

he did not survive. His last repeatedly uttered expressions were, ' Had I been taken prisoner by the generous English, my life would have been saved, for I should have been properly treated.' The distressing circumstances of this lamented event, which occurred subsequently to my first introduction to the Cardinal, are well and deeply engraved on my memory, as my beloved father was much afflicted at the death of his friend, in whose unfavourable estimation of the Spanish surgeons he fully participated.—But to return to my egotism.

The Cardinal, after dining with my parents, had been conducted to a *Belvédère*, constructed on the flat terraced roof of our house, which commanded the view of the beautiful harbour of Port Mahon, to take his coffee ; and here my presentation took place. His Eminence, kindly taking me up in his arms, bestowed a kiss and benediction upon me, to the delight and edification of my nurse. But her distress, in which the majority of those present fully sympathised, was proportionably great, when they beheld, that far from my being aware of the deference and respect due to the exalted dignitary, who had so condescendingly bestowed so sanctified a benediction, my only aim was to obtain possession of his red hat, whose remarkable appearance had quite captivated me. In making the at-

tempt, which his Eminence gently resisted, that much-envied badge of Prelatic distinction escaped from our mutual efforts to retain possession of it, and it was precipitated into the garden beneath, to the manifest confusion of the whole party, with the exception of the amiable and good-natured prelate, and my unceremonious self.

Of my first view of Algiers, or even of our disembarkation, I have scarcely any recollection, although every previous circumstance of our voyage thither on board the Hydra, I well remember; especially that my breakfasts were more luxurious than usual, coffee and currant jelly having replaced bread and milk. Neither can I define the cause of this blank, for I had nearly completed my sixth year, and I yet preserve the most distinct recollections of the different countries and persons I have seen from almost the age of two years.

The very first event that I can call to remembrance, connected with our arrival at Algiers, was the mixed feeling of awe, for it was not fear, and *gêne*, which I endured, on finding myself perched on the top of a Janissary's Arab saddle, and imprisoned betwixt its peaked pommel, over which I barely peeped, and the whole paraphernalia of the Janissary's silver-mounted pistols, attaghan, &c., which, at every step the horse took, were pressed into my poor side. Even had I not preceded the

whole cavalcade, my strong feeling of *amour propre* would have restrained me from expressing my far from enviable sensations, which are still as fresh in my mind as if I had yesterday endured them. Equally vividly retained are the mountain scenes through which we passed in our ascent to the country-house of an English gentleman, who afterwards became a dear, and now lamented relative. But although I recollect not my first view of Algiers, each house, minaret, and palm-tree of that land of my dreams, is engraven on my inmost mind, for many were the long, lingering looks, ere that ivory city faded for ever from my view.

As I have thus noted my first equestrian essay, my second, I must confess, was of a less exalted description, being *miserere mei* in a pannier slung over a *Borrigo*, to which my younger sister was the *pendant*. But as her weight was less than mine, a stone was added to her comfort, and to restore *une parfaite égalité* between us. Any allusion to our having ever graced such an equipage was far from adding to our equanimity for some few years afterwards; and delighted were we when my dear father's orders, for having a proper saddle *à la Mahonaise* made, were executed, and much did we admire the handsome appearance of its sky-blue silk trimming. Many happy recollections do we both

retain of the rides we have taken together on it, when we busily occupied our infantry attendants, *alias* Cabaillis, in gathering leaves and flowers, with which we delighted in laying out *fancy* dinners on our laps. However, ere three years had elapsed, my ambition soared above such baby pleasures, for I became an independent equestrian, managing with perfect ease an Arab horse.

My next souvenir is again of eating. How anti-Byronian ! *mais hélas c'est la pauvre vérité*. The bread was very disagreeably flavoured, with little three-sided black seeds, the name of which I do not remember, although their taste is not obliterated from my memory, as I afterwards partook of the same bread at all the Moorish houses where I visited. These seeds were kneaded into the flat cakes, into which the bread is invariably made ; a few were likewise scattered on the surface of the upper crust, if crust it can be called, for although the bread has received sufficient baking, it always remains perfectly soft, quite as much so as English hot cross buns or whigs, as I believe they are called, for I do not mean any political inuendo. These loaves are consequently easily divided, by being broken with the hands, without the foreign intervention of a knife, and are thus portioned at all Moorish repasts. The head of the family invariably in this manner distributes it to each mem-

ber of it, as did our blessed Redeemer to His disciples, according to His constant habit of deducing instruction from the most constant and familiar occurrences of daily life.

The butter, when presented on the table, had the appearance of a drowned kitten ; never can I forget its disgusting appearance. The manner in which it was prepared by the natives, was by pouring the cream into a goat skin, which was sewed up with the hair turned inside. The skin was then suspended between two trees, and beaten by two operators armed with sticks, until the butter was formed, which, without farther process, was carried to Algiers, and offered for sale in the market. The Moors use butter only in cooking ; this they do most liberally, but they always melt and strain it previous to doing so, and in this state it will keep good for some time. The only milk we could obtain was that of goats, to which I always much objected. The fruit and vegetables were so excellent, that although they formed the chief part of my sustenance, I do not remember any thing about them ; for in my childish years, I never tasted animal food, except when, *bien malgré moi*, it was put upon my plate as being *good* for me. Few evils in these days equalled my being obliged to submit to the old-fashioned rule, which enjoined children not to leave any thing they were helped

to, however indifferent it might be to them. I remember, however, that many were the complaints of the elder branches of the family, at the unpalatable goats flesh, which they constantly were obliged to see served *en guise* of a *gigot de mouton*. All these gastronomic *épreuves* were soon happily terminated, when we were established at our country house, with a large farm house close to it, to which were nightly driven home numerous flocks of sheep, goats, and many cows; whilst an amply-filled *basse-cour* and dovecot enabled our *chef de cuisine*, an Italian, who had lived with my father for nineteen years in that capacity, to shew off his celebrated talents with due advantage. Moorish fishermen constantly supplied us with the choicest contents of their nets, whilst, besides the *amateur chasseurs* of our own household, native *cazadors* were often more successful purveyors. So that when my parents had the sincere delight of receiving the visits of their gallant naval guests, they had something more than a bare welcome to offer them.

The houses of Algiers are perfectly unlike those of any part of the world I have visited. I will attempt a description of our own. The great door of entrance was within a porch, on each side of which were white marble seats or *ducannas*, on which, in the houses of the great personages of the

country, were usually seated the principal domestics, smoking and conversing, until the return of their lord ; but the only use made of them by us, was from them to vault into our saddles. The door itself was a massive structure of deeply carved wood, strengthened by the heads of large brass nails, with which it was perfectly covered. It was rarely closed when we were in town, as the great hall into which it opened, was usually occupied by our Arab grooms ; and I well remember my astonishment, when one day several servants rushed up stairs, and announced that a strange Turk had hastily looked into the hall, and desired them to close the door and keep it so. This was the first tidings we received that some mighty change was then enacting ;—at that moment was the diamond powder seasoned cup of coffee, offered and refused by the short-reigned successor of Achmet Pacha.

The hall was of great dimensions. On the right hand it opened into several large stables, and on the left, were a succession of marble sofas, if I can so call them. These in Moorish houses were always covered with fine Persian carpets or matting. Seated on one of these, the master of the house usually received mere callers, whilst his principal attendants, generally richly dressed Christian slaves, watched his every look and motion, filling his pipe, and bringing coffee to his favoured guests,

whilst the never-wanting parasite, or eloquent teller of wondrous stories, amused his gracious ear. These sofas or ducannas were about two yards in length, and were separated from each other by a double column of small white marble pilasters. The roof was high and vaulted, and the floor of black and white marble. The light was admitted, not only from the ever open door, but likewise from a glazed window above it; and at the upper extremity was a small court open at the top, out of which were the two principal staircases, leading to the two houses, the one of which was appropriated to the ladies, and the other to the master of the house; the latter being a smaller but perfect repetition of the former, which I shall attempt to describe.

The staircase was long, the steps were of white marble, and the walls on each side were, to the height of five or six feet, lined with coloured Dutch China tiles. This conducted you into the principal ground floor, which was composed of a court paved with white marble, with a fountain of the same material in the centre. The court, I should think, was about forty feet square; round it was a colonnade of double pillars, (of what order, I recollect being much puzzled to ascertain, as a child when endeavouring to realize a lesson on architecture,) of beautifully sculptured

marble. The capitals were Corinthian, the shafts twisted, and their bases decidedly nondescript. However, they effectually supported the gallery above them, and were again surmounted by others perfectly similar. Upon these the terrace rested, which, as well as every other part of the roof of the house, was flat, and served as the only town promenade of all Algerine belles. The centre of this square court or skiffa is uncovered, and from it alone do the whole apartments of the house receive air and light, as there are not any windows, except those which open into the colonnade and gallery. The space of each side of the square formed a room, so, that on the skiffa floor, was our dining parlour; opposite to it was the British Chancery; and the other two sides contained the servants' offices and the kitchen. Above, and entering from the gallery, were our drawing room, my mother's room, those which were occupied by my sister and myself, and another room facing ours. This led into spacious bathing apartments, the principal of which was lined and floored with white marble, and in the midst of it, under a high dome, there stood a large *baignoire* made out of a solid block of the same material. The chiosk or dome was surrounded by small Gothic windows of varied coloured glass, which represented a vase and bouquet of many-coloured flowers,

and produced a beautiful effect. Indeed, in all the principal apartments these are to be seen, as it is imagined that their brilliancy attracts *the evil eye*, the baneful effect of whose *first* glance is alone to be dreaded. This, with a spacious chamber on the terrace, entirely open on one side, where, during the hottest seasons, the Algerines pass the night, constituted the ladies' house. As I said before, the gentlemen's is an exact counterpart of it on a smaller scale, and there our visitors, or the gentlemen attached to our household, had apartments, whilst our servants had ample accommodation in chambers over the stables, and granaries.

All the rooms of the house were lined with Dutch tiles similar to those I described on the staircase; and I remember one of our naval friends, declaring he could not help figuring himself seated in a punch bowl. The roofs of these rooms were of carved cedar richly gilt and painted. When we first arrived at Algiers, each extremity of the apartment was occupied by a spacious wooden shelf, which was surmounted, except a small space at one end to admit an entrance, by a beautifully carved little balustrade about a couple of feet high. These are the Algerine bedsteads, and they are shaded by rich silk or velvet curtains, which are suspended from the roof. They do not make use of any ladder or steps to reach them,

but have a surprising dexterity in ascending them, by placing one foot upon the wall of the room, and jerking themselves up. I was once quite an adept in the practice, for although my father had all of these to us useless accommodations removed, both in our town and country houses, yet those in the upper chamber of the terrace in town had been left undisturbed, and it was our favourite play-room.

The principal chamber in every house has a chiosk or small-domed room, immediately out of the centre of the room, and this, we, in common with all the Europeans, made our drawing-room. In the country we had the enjoyment of three open windows in it; but in town, except in the evening, it was most gloomy, as being furthest from the door and windows. In one of the rooms off the skiffa, (which my father made the Chancery,) were the two only windows, if they can be so termed, which looked into the street. They were about a foot wide, and one and a half in length, and were entirely covered by carved woodwork or trellis, so that one eye might manage to get a peep at a time into the narrow street, and have a chance of seeing a Piscari water-carrier, or some less industrious personage, occasionally pass beneath you. But, as this was not a place within our liberties, I had not many times that enjoyment, although we used occasionally to regret that

it did not form part of our private residence. The rooms were universally narrow, so that we were much *gênés* at table. But when our entertainments exceeded a private party, the *skiffa* was, by hanging a tapestry of flags, and having an awning over the opening, converted into a *Salle à Manger* and ball-room.

The doors of the rooms were of cedar, curiously carved. The top of the door-way was a Gothic arch, and the doors were like those of a church, turning upon pivots fastened into the masonry. Within one of these large folding-doors is a smaller one, so that at night, or during cold weather, the great doors are kept fastened, and the small one only is opened for egress. The Algerines, I believe, never closed these doors when occupying the apartment, as they always have double tiers of curtains, the one of silk, and the other of muslin, suspended before, or festooned on each side of the entrances to their rooms.

I forgot to observe, that in front of the upper gallery, between the marble pillars, there was a carved barrier of cedar; and that, at the four angles of the square, a triangular shelf reaches across the corners, on which flower-pots, containing tuberoses, geraniums, carnations, &c. are placed.

The Turks and Algerines are so passionately fond of flowers, that you seldom see a young Turk

in the country without a bunch of roses in his turban, and very often with a rosebud up one nostril. Our worthy Dragoman, Ali Rais, (both before and afterwards Captain of the Port), one morning, told my mother that she had nearly been the cause of his falling into high disgrace; for the previous evening, when he was receiving the Consul's orders, she had done him the compliment of placing a beautiful rose in his turban, which he had completely forgotten, until when he waited on the Dey to deliver the Consul's message. The Dey looked very sternly at him, and in no very gracious tone demanded, "What made him appear before him with that *fantasia*?" "I put up my hand to my turban, and there was the rose. I threw myself before the Pacha," proceeded Ali Rais, "and assured him that I had, in my anxiety to deliver my message, forgotten that Madama d'Inghilterra had placed it in my turban, and that, of course, whilst in her presence, I had not removed it, and that, in my haste to appear before him, it had quite escaped my memory. The Dey then burst into a laugh, and said, 'For the sake of Madama I excuse you; but another time think of what is on the outside of your head, as well as of what you bear in the inside.'"

CHAPTER XVI.

Fantasia, Usanza, and Mangiado—Description of Algiers continued—Evening Promenade—Our next-door Neighbours—Bab-el-Ouate—The Cemeteries—The Dey's Garden—Christian Governments tributary to the Dey—Algerine Policy—Ostriches—Lettiga—The Bernouse—Negro Festivities—The Antipathies of a Mule—City Police.

THE three most significant and oft-amusing words in the Lingua Franca vocabulary, are '*Fantasia*,' '*Usanza*,' and '*Mangiado*.' So comprehensive are they supposed to be, that all their various meanings are almost undefinable. If the Dey, or any other great man, after solemnly passing his word for such or such an affair, should afterwards determine that it was more to his own advantage that a diametrically opposite course should be observed in respect to it,—it was reckoned perfectly sufficient to say that the Pacha had taken '*fantasia*;' or, that the Minister of Marine would not hear another word, for he had taken '*fantasia*.'

More than once we were deserted by all our Cabailis, who acted in the several capacities of grooms, under-gardeners, farm-servants, cow-herds, shepherds, and wood-cutters. The Janissary (under whose immediate command they all were,) had had a dispute with them, and they had taken '*fantasia*,' and had decamped in the night. As these agreeable occurrences invariably took place a day or two after the receipt of their wages, we never saw any more of them, and Sidi Hassan was consequently obliged to absent himself for a day or two, and take a journey up the mountains, to visit some Cabaili clan, and bring a troop of them back with him, to replace the deserters. If a dandy Turk raised his turban a quarter of an inch on one side, he was saluted with '*Ah fantasia!*' If a countenance sometimes wore a less gracious expression than it was wont, again was the same conclusion drawn, '*fantasia*.'

But assuredly the most imperative of the verbal trio was that most magic sound *usanza*, which was supposed to be rhyme and reason for every piratical, unjust, and tyrannical action,—for every unintelligible, strange, or absurd custom. '*Star usanza*,' and all must bow before its sound.

But though last, yet not least in its comprehensiveness, was '*Mangiado*.' Indeed I cannot attempt to give any due idea of its consequence; but it was

most in vogue when it denoted something irreparably lost, as for instance a spendthrift being in the last stage of poverty. The speaker would recount to you, as such a one passed by, all the wealth he had inherited from his father, and would then merely add, ‘*Todo Mangiado*,’—and you knew the history. If a ship was lost at sea, it was ‘*Mangiado*.’ Shortly after our going to Algiers, one of our naval friends accompanied my father to an audience of the Minister of Marine, to lay claim to a vessel, which had been taken and condemned by the Algerines, previous to my father’s arrival. The vessel was, I believe, a Maltese or a Sicilian, which had some claims to British protection. It had been on its way from Sicily to Valetta, laden with wheat. Captain —— considered himself a good Italian scholar, and therefore dispensed with the aid of an interpreter, as did my father also, for Sidi Yussuf, the Minister of Marine, spoke *Lingua Franca* perfectly in all its eloquent and terse abruptness. The affair of the ship was introduced, and Sidi Yussuf admitted that it had been taken by the Algerines. And what became of the cargo? was asked him. “*Mangiado*.” “And of the ship’s company and the vessel?”—“*Mangiado*,” replied the Effendi, solemnly smoothing down his most superb white beard. “This is too bad,” exclaimed Captain ——, “to dare to treat us with such ri-

dicule. Eat men, ship, and all." And with difficulty could my father, whilst he tried to stifle his laughter, succeed in pacifying the incensed son of Neptune, by explaining to him, that the Minister meant that the ship, crew, and cargo, had been condemned as a lawful prize.

To return to my account of the houses. The terraces are all surrounded by walls higher than people's heads. These are all provided with one or two sets of portable wooden steps or ladders, and offered no impediment to the neighbourly intercourse of ladies, residing in houses in the immediate vicinity of each other. The division of a street was not of more consequence in preventing their near approach, as there are, I should think, but very few spots in the town of Algiers, where even children could not shake hands across the street from one house to another. In many of them, I believe, two people could not walk abreast, and it is only here and there at the corners of the streets, or by virtue of the perfect irregularity of the buildings, that a wider space is obtained, which admits a sufficient portion of daylight, to enable *les passans* to pursue their way. From the majority of the houses, beams of wood cross the street from one to the other. The reason assigned for this close compact, and for these rafters being thus fixed, is, that the buildings may support each other, in case of earth-

quakes. But I should suppose that this may not have been the only motive, for as Algiers is (or perhaps, since French innovation, was) surrounded by walls, and consequently the inhabitants possessed limited space on which to erect their houses, they were of necessity obliged to encroach upon what, in other places, would have been allotted to public thoroughfare. About an hour before the cry of the Muetzins was heard from the minarets of the mosques, to summon the "faithful" to the service of evening prayer, the Algerine ladies were seen to emerge from the interior of their houses, and the terraces presented a beautifully and gorgeously decked *Parterre*. This was more particularly the case on the evening of Friday, the Mahommedan Sabbath.

When we were in town, I seldom missed making my appearance on our terrace; and rarely does a bright sunset, even now, fail to bring vividly back to my recollection, that season at Algiers with all its associations,—the pattering of the women's slippers,—their infantine chatter,—their prolonged and silly laughter,—the scream of delight at the successful attainment of the highest step of the ladder, (as it rested on the intermediate wall of the house of the favourite neighbour,)—then the shrill interrogative call of "*Leila Monah*," or "*Leila Marium*,"—and

then the cheerful response which delightedly re-echoed the friendly call. Well do I recollect ye!

Yet, do I hear the quickly repeated taps (not indifferently expected,) of the beautiful Zara, and the affectionate Ashweesha, our own next door *voisines*. And I doubt not that the *something* of mystery connected with the rendezvous, and its realization through one of the Gothic pigeon holes (such as I have elsewhere described,) in the upper chamber of our terrace, from which our fond Mahommedan neighbours had by degrees completely annihilated all intervening glass, increased the interest of the interview, and caused a *battement de coeur*, a something inexpressibly delightful, beyond, or at any rate, certainly very different from, what I have experienced in all other *liasons* of *simple amitié*. These meetings with my fair Mussulman friends must have continued at least two years before I left, I was *almost* going to say, *ma patrie*.—Cosmopolite though I am, it surely was that of the first risings of whatever feelings I have least cause to be ashamed of;—for then I delighted in believing the moral world as beautiful as I beheld the physical. But *pour revenir à mes moutons*. This intimacy and natural attachment existed for about such a period between these two warm-hearted, affectionate Algerine women, for whatever was their age, they were both married, and a little

European girl of nine or ten years of age. I know nothing of them, beyond the delight with which they ever sought, and conversed with me, and the anxiety with which I ever ascended to the terrace and chiosk, and listened for their signals; for my dear mother knew of, and once or twice was present at our meetings; *et voila tout ce qu'il me fallait*, to know that I was not doing wrong.

All at once, a sudden panic and silence takes place in one of the previously most animated groups, and hastily do they, one after another, vanish from the terraces. The evening prayer is concluded, their lords and masters are returned.

Our country-house, where we principally resided, was about three miles out of town, which we left by the gate called Bab-el-Ouate; on each side of the archway of which, Turks often people of distinction were seated, attended by their slaves, who carried their carpets, and apparatus for smoking their pipes. This is the grand rendezvous for all the *caquetage* of the court and city, for in Barbary, as elsewhere, idle men are certainly more deserving of the reputation of tattlers and retailers of *on-dits*, than that sex on which they have been pleased so generously to bestow their own better-earned title, of *gossips par excellence*. As we passed these worthies, lowly and deeply did their beards descend upon their bosoms, whilst we all in

return bent to our saddle-bows. Thus are the elders of the cities often represented in Scripture. Our road then passed close to the almost adjoining cemeteries of Mahommedans, Jews, and Christians; that of the latter was unenclosed by any wall.

From the seclusion from all the shadows of life in which our existence passed, our most indulgent parents guarding us with all their love, from even the knowledge, that evil in all its varied forms, stalked, I was going to say, triumphant; but thanks be to the Author of all mercies, and my own experience, both past and present, I have the happy belief, though no longer childish one of inexperience, that even in this life, there are as bright sunbeams in the moral, as in the world we look upon. From real sorrow not being allowed to approach us, superstition availed itself of the vacuum in my head or heart, for, wherein may be the region of our sentiments, philosophers may decide, to possess me with a feeling of terrific awe most indescribable, when word or sign brought home the conviction, that death, the wages of the nature of all, was a reality. Hardly did I strive to drive all such dread intrusions far from me, by dwelling upon all that was bright, and banishing, oh! how quickly, that, alas! all must fade. Under the remembrances of these false feelings, I well call to mind the wretchedness, which I endured whilst pass-

ing by the side of these eloquent memorials,—these Cities of the Dead. From amidst thick mazy wreathes of the blue and white periwinkle, with here and there an iris flag of the same hues, rose the turban-crowned pilaster of snowy marble, marking and distinguishing, by its form, where reposed the ashes of the Dey, Aga, Cadi, or Hadgi, of former days. So associated have those flowers become to me, with thoughts of sadness, that I cannot even now look upon one without a sinking of the heart. Though, when I beheld them as the parasites of the tomb, I had not only never known what it was to mourn, nor even to tremble for the safety of those I loved, they spake the language of the Ban-shee to my heart; though its sound reached not mine ear, and the fulfilment was yet far away.

After leaving this region of melancholy, we passed the Dey's Garden, which however, usually, bore the name of its founder, Hassan Pacha. On our left, and closely adjoining this abode of royalty, (which during our residence in the country, was seldom visited by its successive owners), stood the Gunpowder Manufactory. I have often heard my father remark that it would have been the easiest thing possible for a ship to stand in towards the land and fire a shell, which could not fail to do wondrous execution, for this palace and the powder

works were only separated by the intervening high, though very narrow road, from the sea-shore.

The manufactory of both saltpetre and gunpowder was under the superintendence of a Swedish gentleman. Whilst we were there, a Mr Schaltze filled the appointment, the treaties between Algiers and Sweden making it incumbent on the latter Power to furnish a person capable of directing this establishment ; and that government was likewise subject to a tribute payable at stated periods to this piratical Regency. I believe that, like the Danish tribute, it by agreement consisted in naval stores. Thus were Christian potentates the *Commissaires de Guerre* of a horde of Corsairs. Oh ! it was a disgrace to all Christendom. What would our Palmer ancestors have thought of such servitude to these marauding unbelievers, whose whole aim was to enthrall and make captive those bearing by them, the most abject and despised of names, the Christian !

When fiercest glowed Turkish or Moorish ire —when expended in abusing the meanest Cabaili, by calling him a vile dog, the acme of their rage was thus expressed, '*Caffre, ben Caffre,*'—'Christian, thou son of a Christian.' When this abject term had passed their scornful lips, which, however, was only under the highest provocation, they could add no greater opprobrium,—they were

more than avenged, and with proud satisfaction the pipe was resumed ; whilst the outwardly-subdued son of Mauritania scowled upon the earth. But often as this rankling insult was uttered by the haughty Turk, have I seen a piercing look of deadly hatred flash from the eye of the descendant of the Hannibals and Jugurthas, which made me feel persuaded, that should an occasion offer, the revenge of the Cabaili would exceed the arrogance of the Janissary.

Apparently inconsistent are my feelings ;—for at one moment, I regret, with all my father's patriotism, that his cherished plans for subjecting this land of abundance to the sway of his sovereign, should not have been realized ;—and at another I reflect with pain, that the beauteous scenes I loved so well, are trod by the feet of conquerors ;—and those, neither the brethren in arms of my father, nor of my kindred. But when I recollect what was the cruel captivity,—and how many were the wanton insults, which were heaped upon those who named the name of the Saviour of mankind, only because they were His followers ;—then with undivided feelings do I rejoice, that Algiers has, at any rate, been wrested from Paynim grasp, by the *preux* descendants of the St Louis', the Philippes Augustes, and the emulators of the gallant Bayard.

My father successfully negotiated for the release of 584 Portuguese slaves. Among them were many officers, priests, women, and children, some of whom had been thirty-nine years in captivity. After he had effected the conclusion of the peace between Algiers and Portugal, he was encouraged to use every effort with the Dey, to induce him to make peace with Sicily. But the Dey's answer was,—“ That the Algerines were “ Cruisers, and that were he to do so, he should “ lose his head, as he would be obliged to shut up “ his Marine. That he had already concluded a “ peace with Portugal at the Consul's instance, and “ if they had not a nation to cruise against, it would “ be his ruin.” He immediately afterwards declared war against America, by way of *indemnification* for being at peace with Portugal. Whilst we were at Gibraltar, waiting for the *Alceste* frigate, commanded by the late excellent Sir Murray Maxwell, to convoy us to England, my father received the intelligence that a misunderstanding had arisen between the Dey and the American Consul;—and afterwards, when in England, he learnt that the piratical chief, on declaring war with America, had obliged Colonel Lear, the Consul, to pay for his personal ransom, before he would suffer him to depart. But our cousin Jonathan did not brook such conduct in silence, for

he settled his quarrel to his own satisfaction, and the humiliation of the despot.

My mother's dear friend, (the most partial one of my childhood,) Mrs Lear, wrote to her on their arrival at Gibraltar, with full details of the ill-usage, which they had experienced, but which had accomplished the long-cherished desire of her heart, a return to her dear native land. Since its fulfilment, we never heard again from this esteemed lady ;—but should these lines ever appear in print, and her eye chance to rest upon them, let them convey to her the assurance that she ever was, and is still, affectionately remembered by the friends of “auld langsyne.”

After this digression, and before proceeding on our ride to the British Garden, I will *en passant* trace what I recollect of that of the Pacha. Indeed, with the exception of the actual garden-portion of it, I remember but little of this royal residence. In it was to be seen *the only carriage* that existed in the whole Regency, or its dependent dominions. Even this was not furnished with wheels, but was a gaudily painted, gilt, and in the inside, tinselly-lined and decked *Lettiga* ; and was similar in construction to those I had seen during our visit to Sicily, and which are suspended between two mules. From that country, I believe, it had been procured, and by some, to

me unknown means, had reached this palace. Assuredly it had not traversed the city of Algiers by the usual route ;—for, alas ! the streets were not wide enough to admit of its progress. So by some other way, either by land or water, it was brought to its present tenement, as a useless *apanage* of royal splendour, and to be the wonder of all foreigners and lieges, who possessed sufficient interest, to be allowed to gaze upon the wondrous, cumbrous, useless machine.

Then, there were also the only ostriches in the country, and they were not of greater utility to their owners, as they do not make any use of feathers in their costume. However, my mother did, and she was constantly presented with beautiful specimens of their plumage. The garden I can remember better than I can describe. It was in a high state of cultivation under the hands of numerous Christian-slave gardeners. Among others of its flourishing productions was the sugarcane, which thrived admirably ; but no farther use was made use of it, than to cut a bit, and masticate it for its sweet juice.

So entirely was all Algiers destitute of industry, that, to the best of my knowledge, with the exception of the powder-mills, not a single article was manufactured, in the city and neighbourhood of Algiers, beyond the provision for daily food. All

articles of dress were either imported, or brought from the interior of the country. Of these were the Bernouses, which formed a principal part of the costume of all respectable persons. White ones, varying in quality according to the rank or purse of the wearer, were worn in summer; but in the rainy season, over this was drawn a black one made of coarse goat-hair. The shape of both was the same, and might be described as a large three-cornered mantle, the centre corner being formed into a hood attached to the cloak at its lower extremity. This consequently was drawn over the wearer's turbaned head, whilst the rest of the garment hung down over both horse and rider. These thick Bernouses were as impenetrable to rain as any European modern invention, and might even be compared to a Macintosh itself. The white Bernouses, on the other hand, were only worn by the inhabitants of the city, and its environs, as a mere outward show of ornament, and were thrown negligently over one shoulder. The air with which this was done, the fine quality, and sometimes the most extravagant price of the article, was a very distinguishing test of dandyism, or *fantasia*. The red shawls used commonly as turbans and sashes, and the red scullcap, which was worn under the former by the Turks, and *alone* by Moors, and *Caloulis*, (the sons of Turks and na-

tive mothers, who, by their rulers, were not permitted to wear the full Turcoman costume,) were all manufactured at Tunis. Some other place furnished the stuff called *Alhalk*, which was of a very pretty and curious texture, woven in silk and cotton. This forms the outward envelopment of the Algerine ladies, whenever they chance to appear in the streets; and so completely are they wrapped within its folds, that their figures are undistinguishable, and they look, as an English sailor said, "More like a bundle of clothes going to the washerwoman's than any thing else."

The next memorable object, after leaving the palace, was *the River*,—the only river I can remember seeing, with the exception, indeed, of the limpid Papyrus in Sicily, until I sailed up the Thames;—and certainly *our River* was not very like either of them. During the season of heavy rains, it had some pretension to be so designated, but during the rest of the year, the Scotch term *burn* would be more applicable. On the other side of Algiers, at the eastern extremity of the bay, I was told, that there was another and more considerable river; but I never travelled so far. Over this stream lay a wooden plank, entitled, likewise, *the Bridge*;—and I have reason to speak in its praise, according to the old saw, for constantly did it bear me and my horse over in perfect safety. The

day of our landing in Old England, on our way to town from Deptford, where we disembarked, among the other absurd instances of my sister's and my surprise, at all the novelties of civilized life, none amused our parents more, than my having enquired, with no little anxiety,—whether we should not be obliged to get out of the carriage, and walk over Westminster Bridge as a measure of precaution ;—for although I supposed that English bridges must be on a larger scale than *ours*, so as to be *wide* enough for carriages, yet, that they could be any thing but a plank or planks, had never entered into my barbarian conception.

Continuing our ride, we next came to the tomb of a Negro Marabout, built quite on the road side. Here, at a particular period of the year, all the black slaves, or freedmen, women as well as men, for Negro women are not obliged to veil their charms, assembled in great multitudes. At this time, they enjoyed for three days, as perfect liberty as during the Roman Saturnalia;—exhibiting themselves in the most gaudy paraphernalia,—dancing like maniacs, to sounds of most unsweet discord, resulting from the performances, vocal and instrumental, of the most accomplished amongst them. They, not only, thus amused themselves in public, but entered all houses, where they were likely to

be remunerated for the amusement they afforded, and danced, if dancing it can be called, to their hearts' content, in the Skiffas of the houses they so unceremoniously favoured with their presence. Their pilgrimage to their own Marabout, (for their tombs are named synonymously with the saints themselves,) must probably have been connected with some religious ceremonial, and was doubtless a remnant of their original superstitions ; although I believe, that outwardly, all the slaves professed the Mussulman religion of their masters. At the shrine of the Marabout they sacrificed an innumerable quantity of fowls, if I may judge by the myriads of feathers which lay in heaps, or fluttered in the air in every direction.

I had only on one occasion the *désagrément* to witness this most savage *fête*, to the manifest danger of being thrown from our horses, who, in their wonder at the ungainly exhibition and the strange sounds by which they were assailed, seemed to be almost as frantic as the black votaries of Terpsichore themselves. Although none of the ladies of our party again encountered them, my dear father's duties obliged him to do so ; and then his Janissary was always obliged to make use of another mule, than the one he was in the habit of riding ; for "*la Mula Negra's*" antipathy to men and women bearing her own complexion, when step-

ping on the light fantastic toe, far exceeded that animal's unconquerable dread even of encountering a camel. On both of these occasions she fell down on her knees and trembled, in a most pitiable manner,—nor was it possible to overcome this dislike. La Mula Negra was, in other respects, a most useful creature, and the favourite *monture* of the worthy Sidi Hassan. Camels were never on our side of the city, although they were constantly to be seen, in considerable numbers, just outside the eastern gate of the city, called Bab-el-zoon, where they waited until their owners were ready to re-traverse their desert journies. They all belonged to Arabs or Piscaris, as the inhabitants of the desert are called.

All the water-carriers and porters in the town of Algiers, were Piscaris, as likewise were the night-watchmen, who were stationed, or rather reclined, wrapped up in their *Bernouses*, at the different *interior* gates, which are placed at certain distances across the street. These gates were only closed at night, when the guards took their stations, and took up all offenders, whether rioters, or such as were unprovided with a paper or other lantern, which was *de rigueur* for any one traversing the streets after nightfall.

The recollection I have, of the appearance of these police, on their being roused by our atten-

dants, on our return from evening parties, would have afforded a subject worthy the pencil of a Rembrandt, or a Murillo. The light of our lanterns, and their own being raised, to convoy our party, threw such strong lights upon the strongly-marked features,—the rather short, yet athletic figures, clothed in their bernouses, of this group of the descendants of Ishmael,—that I have often wished that I could convey the impression, to one able to reproduce on canvass, the picture so deeply graven on my mind's eye.

CHAPTER XVII.

Fountains—The Mountain Road—Wild Flowers and Asparagus
—Ladies' Travelling Equipage—The Old House—The Con-
spiracy—Hassan's Solitude and Prediction ; its Fulfilment—
The British Garden—Renegades much despised.

BUT to progress,—a splendid fountain, built by Hassan Pacha, *the Dey*, who ended his days in the vulgar hum-drum way of dying in his bed, always arrested our horses' attention. The two wings of the edifice contained each a long cistern which was filled by the water issuing from the fountain *par excellence*. This fountain formed the centre of the building, and was scrupulously reserved for the refreshment of human travellers. Two copper cups, attached by chains to each side of the fountain, enabled them to allay their thirst, whilst on each side I should think at least twenty horses might at once have been *abreuwés*. Similar fountains, though on a smaller scale, are

numerous, both in the immediate neighbourhood, and likewise generally over the country;—it being considered a most meritorious act for a Mahomedan, to build or bequeath a portion of his worldly treasure, for the erection of a fountain. In such countries,—how much more intelligible are the references of many parts of Scriptures, to the benefits arising from the refreshment of the pure and liquid element,—than they possibly can be to sojourners in these northern, drizzling, snowy, freezing, misty regions!

Many are the bushes, trees, and pretty peeps of the sea that I remember, in our approach to a lovely spot overshadowed by trees, where the road formed as it were an angle, from the middle point of which, a road led up the mountain to the country houses of my beloved eldest sister, and of the American Consul. It was a beautifully romantic pass to ascend,—as we did the whole way to both of them. Here and there, as we wound round the mountains, a flat space would occasionally intervene, amidst natural arbours of sweet-scented *lianes* hanging over our heads, or depending on either side of our path, which was cut through the mountain. At one spot especially, there was a splendid tapestry formed by the passion-flower, which must have extended the length of many feet, the virgin vine,

the clematis and woodbine, at other places predominating; whilst all around, bloomed a vast variety of wild roses, pinks, several kind of cestus', and the narcissus; the latter covering large patches of ground with its yellow and white, most fragrant blossoms. Oh! it was a goodly land to look upon! whilst nightingales, blackbirds, and goldfinches, carolled sweetly around us.

Below this road, immediately at the foot of the mountain, the ground broke down into a hollow, which we surnamed the Valley of Asparagus, from its sandy soil being entirely covered with that delicious vegetable, whose bushes, the growth of many ages, were so thick and woody, that they scarcely bore any resemblance to the cultivated root. But, beneath them were to be found the young shoots in great quantities, equalling in appearance, and to *mon gout* far surpassing in flavour, any I have since tasted in France or England, and quite as large as those usually sold in the streets of Paris. There was another kind (at least I should think so) of asparagus, growing in the hedges, longer and more flexible, not much thicker than hop tops; whilst those of the valley were never edible, after they appeared three or four inches above the ground. Our shepherds daily brought home large bundles of them, as also baskets-full of fine mushrooms. The natives them-

selves, however, never made any use of either the one or the other.

Our road to our Garden then continued to skirt the foot of the mountains, being only divided from them by a succession of villas belonging to the principal Turks and Moors, whither, during summer, their ladies and families were removed. The former, when travelling to their country-houses, sat cross-legged on mules, encaged in a square frame-work of wood, which was open at the top, whilst red Tunis shawls were tightly distended over the four sides. As these are of a fine and slight texture, the fair occupiers were able to distinguish objects on the outside, whilst their concealment was complete. An attendant walked on each side of them, and a third held the mule's bridle, so that no equestrian skill was requisite on the lady's part. I never passed any of these cavalcades, sallying forth, either to, or from town, without hearing, as we passed them, a little affected scream of timid alarm, issue from one or other of these *safes*; for, except in colour, they much resembled a *garde manger*. This was, doubtless, done to attract our attention, and more especially that of the European gentlemen of our party, as it was *de convenance* that every Turk, Moor, Cabaili, or Jew, should turn their heads in the opposite direction, from even the side of the

road, on which the fair immured, and their attendants, travelled.

With almost every proprietor, of these country-houses in our neighbourhood, we were on terms of intercourse, our paying them a visit was always considered a high compliment, and most cordial was the welcome we received. The road which passes these residences, was bordered on either side by high, thick, and both to man and beast, impenetrable hedges. These were double, and were formed first by a row of the plant which bears the names of the prickly pear, Indian fig, or the fruit-bearing cactus, and, secondly, by the aloe, the beauty of whose gigantic flower in the landscape, nothing can exceed. On the other side of this enclosure were vast fields of wheat and barley, these extended to the verge of the cliffs which rose from the sea-shore. The boundaries of the fields were also formed by hedges of aloes and prickly pear,—the flower of the latter being in some plants, in every other respect similar, of a pink colour, and in others of a pale primrose ;—the fruit of either kind was equally palatable.

About the distance of half-a-mile from our house, the land, hired by my father for the purpose of farming, commenced. At this place were the ruins of an old house, whose flower-garden, from the beautiful garden-flowers still springing spontane-

ously in the greatest luxuriance, in a measure retained proofs of its having once been carefully tended. It was, indeed, a wilderness of sweets. The orange trees, too, around it, bore a profusion of delightful fruit and flowers, and it was often the termination of our evening rambles.

One morning shortly after day-break, when my dearest father was proceeding to town, preceded, as usual, by Sidi Hassan, and unaccompanied by any other attendant, he was much astonished at seeing a great number of Janissaries prostrated at their devotions in a field at the back of this old house. Whilst he gazed at them, they simultaneously arose, and drawing their attaghans, swung them round their heads, and then appeared to be uttering some solemn oath or invocation. Before my father had time to enquire from Sidi Hassan the explanation of so strange a circumstance, the latter had fallen back on a line with him, and in an earnest whisper said, " Signore Console, look only before you, and hasten your horse's pace; and for the love of God, let me entreat that Il Signore Console will allow what he has witnessed, to be as if he had not seen it." He then instantly resumed his usual distance in advance of my father.

On their reaching town, Sidi Hassan appeared studiously to avoid being left for an instant alone with my father; but as he was equally desirous to

receive some explanation of the mysterious occurrence, he at length sent for him. On entering the apartment, the Janissary, with a decision of manner most unlike that in which he had ever before addressed his master, interrupted him by saying, in a deprecating tone, "*Signore, you have seen nothing*;—and as I would sue for my life, so let me, with all respect, urge you not to ask me a single question. When I shall be at liberty to answer, you will have nothing to learn." He then impressively put up five of his fingers, and added, '*cinque lune,*' five moons. After this interview, with the exception of a certain trace of anxiety, visible in his countenance, and a seriousness of manner evincing great inquietude, Sidi Hassan, to all appearance, fully acted up to the advice he gave. This occurrence took place very shortly after the accession of the almost imbecile successor of Achmet Pacha;—and exactly at the expiration of the five months, Ali Pacha was offered a diamond-powder seasoned cup of coffee, to which he, however, preferred submitting to the bowstring. Then for the first time Hassan broke through his self-imposed silence. How far it had been altogether voluntary is uncertain, and raising up the same number of fingers, said, "Signor Console, was I not right? But even now let me entreat you, Sir, to remember that *you saw nothing.*"

When we reached the first of our three last last fields, which were all in pasture, we always preferred turning out of the high road, and pursuing the remainder of our way through them, as we thus enjoyed a more extensive sea-view, and I had the unimpeded delight of setting my horse at full gallop, competing for the race with any of our party so inclined. At the extremity of the last field, the road turned down a sharp declivity, which conducted us to the bottom of a small valley, that was formed by the separation of two mountains. These were divided only by a stream, which rushed over a ledge of rocks, forming a very picturesque cascade. When it reached the bottom, it flowed on in a deep and silent stream, amidst the thickets of cane, and of the castor-oil tree, which grew very luxuriantly on its banks;—but ere it reached the lowest extremity of the vale, and trickled into the sea, except after heavy rains, it was scarcely deep enough to cover our horses' feet. However, it gave a sufficient supply of water to a fountain affording refreshment to man and beast, which was erected immediately beneath our lower garden wall, to which, after all my digressions, we have at length arrived.

This poor house of ours, (to use the language of my ancestor Sir Walter Raleigh,) was built on the highest point of the cliff above the sea, or in other

other words, at the point, whence the mountain first began to rise from the narrow slip of plain between the edge of the cliff and the mountain ; so that, to reach our great outward gate from the valley, we had to mount a very steep ascent. This gate was always kept closed, and was overshadowed by a venerable olive tree, the largest I ever saw. It grew on the inside of the gate, and was supported by an embankment of earth, surrounded by a low wall of brick. On passing this gate-way, we continued to ascend *almost* perpendicularly, until we reached and dismounted before the great door of the house, just outside of which was the Janissary's room. When we had crossed the porch of the house-gate, we first entered a court of large dimensions, and of a very irregular shape, which was surrounded on three sides by buildings of various heights. Some of these were of three stories ; others, of two, and a breakfast parlour, only one storey in height, occupied a considerable space in one corner ; and an ascent of five or six steps conducted into a chiosk, open in front, and supported by two pillars.

On the side of the court, immediately opposite to the chiosk, was a very pretty flower-garden, in which stood five very high orange trees, bearing the finest fruit in the country, both with respect to their size and remarkably fine flavour. Just before

we came away, we had also planted some bananas there, by the side of a little rill of water, which was supplied from the superabundance of the large white marble fountain. This fountain stood at the utmost extremity of the court, immediately in front of the breakfast parlour, which it rendered deliciously cool, by its *jet d'eau*, which, when playing at its utmost height, cast a brilliant shower over that portion of the floor of the room which was nearest the door. As this room, in addition to this *arroisement*, had a northern aspect, and was almost suspended over the sea-beach, it became our favourite morning parlour during the great heats of summer. Under the first marble basin of the fountain, was a second, into which the water overflowed, containing numerous gold and silver fish. Around three sides of the court were flower borders, raised up to the height of three or four feet by brick walls, which, as well as those surrounding the court, were white-washed. Facing the door which conducted into the interior apartments of the house, (which were distributed almost exactly on the plan of our town-house, which I have already described,) the court opened into a smaller one, round which were the servants' hall, kitchen, and offices. This, as well as the larger one, was covered by a *treillage*, supporting the branches of magnificent vines,

which grew out of the flower-borders I mentioned.

This beautiful *plafond* was raised about twenty feet from the tiled floor of the court, and from it hung in the greatest profusion bunches of grapes, some of them at least three feet long. They were of a most rare quality. Indeed, I never saw any like them. They were named *Dita di Dama*, or lady's fingers, for each grape was of the length of one, though certainly they were rather more *dumpy* than the strict dimension of elegance demanded. These grapes were quite peculiar to our Garden, as were likewise the green figs, which were of the same kind as the large Turkey figs, that are sent dried to Europe. These had been, previously to our occupancy of the place, invariably sent to the Dey, as being too good for any but the royal palate. But although my parents received some indirect hints of this *usanza*, they took the *fantasia*, of not understanding that they were expected to enact, in any degree, the part of the fox in the fable, and rather preferred, by their own and their visitors' experience, being enabled to pronounce these fruits as luscious as they were beautiful.

We were constantly in the habit of passing the evening under the refreshing shade of these vines; and on occasions of any public entertainment on

the King's or Queen's birth-days, a tapestry of the colours of Great Britain and her Allies was suspended from the *treillage*, and formed a dining and ball room of more than ordinary dimensions and beauty. On these loyal *fêtes*, the cyphers of their Majesties, surmounted with the crown-imperial in coloured lamps, faced an opening made in our *quasi* tent, by the flags being festooned up, so as to admit their view. This had a very pretty effect, and was as agreeable to my parents' dutiful feelings of devotion to their Sovereigns, as it was surpassing wonderful in the estimation of many of their guests, and no less than magical in the eyes of the natives ;—groups of whom were from time admitted within the precincts, to gaze upon the festive scene.

As I have before said, that the interior house closely resembled that in town, of which I have attempted to give a description, I shall only particularize two apartments in it. *En premier lieu*, an *English* dining-room, of very large dimensions, which my father built on the ground-floor. To this admittance was obtained from the northern cloister by a small ante-room. I should imagine that the effect must have been surprising to our English visitors. The contrast was so great in passing directly from an Algerine Skiffa into a thoroughly English parlour, where, if they were possessed of

any fertility of imagination, and could believe that they had been gifted with Fortunatus's wishing-cap, every thing might induce them to entertain the illusion that they were within the sound of Bow-bells;—for every thing in this *salle à manger*, was so completely Anglican, that there was no trace of its having been the work of Moorish artisans. However, it had been entirely constructed by the natives of Africa, with the exception of a register-stove, in which, as may be supposed, a fire was seldom kindled.

I cannot call other than Moorish, a renegade Italian cabinet-maker, who was an expert workman, and as such, esteemed by all his present *co-religionnaires*. I never heard either Moor or Turk ever, or upon any occasion, mention this man, without evincing, (by a gesture of contempt, or the audible exclamation of *senza feda*,) how low was the estimation in which they held this recreant to the religion of his fathers. Such were the terms of the judgment they pronounced upon him, in common with all other proselytes to their own persuasion,—and they never failed to attribute subaltern motives alone, to the renegades' extorted compliance with, and profession of the Moslem faith. Greatly, however, as they thus despised Christian renegades, yet so much more vile were the Jews esteemed, that, as a preliminary to their being per-

mitted to abandon their creed, in favour of Mahomedanism, they were previously obliged to declare, that they had embraced Christianity. Thus was that holy profession made a mere mockery, to soothe the sensitive pride of the haughty disciples of the Arabian Impostor, who felt a lesser degree of contamination, in admitting to a degree of outward communion, one who bore the appellation, so despised in all other instances, of Christian, than that more loathful one of *JUDIO SENZA FEDA* ;—for such a qualification ever followed the word Jew.

The second room which I shall describe, was my own. At the extremity of the eastern (to be quite correct) side of the upper gallery, was a vestibule, supported by pillars which were similar to those round the gallery ; into this we descended by two steps. Three doors in it conducted into the same number of apartments. That in the centre was my own pretty room.

I have since occupied a Parisian *boudoir*, containing eleven large mirrors, divided from each other by carved trees, whose foliage formed the frames around them. But no room of mine do I bear in pleasureable remembrance, as comparable with my pretty chiosk, or, literally, chiosks ;—for there was a large dome in the centre, adorned with many a sparkling attraction, had I needed

any such talismanic charms. But whilst I reposed beneath them, affection and partiality alone, beamed in the eyes of those who passed the glazed door, which filled the space of one of the four smaller chiosks, or recesses, around the larger one. My bed, with its white muslin curtains, *drapé* by violet-coloured ribbons, and *couvrepiéd* of scarlet and gold, occupied a second. The others contained my books and toys. In one of them, there was a window overlooking the sea, which was covered by branches of vine, bearing numerous bunches of the beautiful *Dita di Dama*; for from the court beneath I had caused the vine to be entwined in the iron bars that crossed my window.—An iron grating at your window! may exclaim a daughter of Britain;—I should have fancied myself in a condemned cell. But happily I had not the “folly to be wise,”—and in my ignorance of English unimpeded vistas, admired, through rivetted-iron cross bars, the glittering sea covered with many a snowy sail, and fancied what the countries from which that wide ocean separated me could be like. Yet I but feebly desired to visit them, for all my suppositions respecting them were so vague,—that surely, thought I, they can contain nothing to be loved so much as all who are dear to me at Algiers. And, therefore, I contentedly peeped through my pretty iron-bound

casement, until I bounded off in search of my gazelle, my tame hare, or some other of the thousand-and-one pets, which shared my and my little sister's favour.

Much as we cherished these living objects of our care, my garden had also a very prominent space in the occupation of my time,—for I was proprietress of about a quarter of an acre of ground. In that space I had laid out a *shrubbery*, containing what I was told would be called in my Fatherland *exotics*, such as myrtles, arbutus, and other shrubs, which I had caused to be transplanted from the mountain side. A much larger proportion of my estate was converted into a very carefully-cultivated vegetable garden, from which, I strove always to have the pleasure of presenting my mother with the earliest productions of the season. Their first appearance upon her table were usually from my domain, and the prettiest *bouquets* I presented to my friends, were gathered out of it. I also had the pleasure of offering them a shady seat, for I had superintended the erection of a thatched cottage, *à l'instar* of the idea I had formed of an English one. All around its interior were raised stone benches, which, however, were better suited to very little people, than to grown-up ones; for they were only about a foot and a half from the floor,—as my sister's and my comfort

was the criterion, by which I had judged of the requisite height of these seats. My mother often alluded to the amusement she had had, in peeping in at one of the windows, (for there were no less than two,) and seeing our much-valued friend, the Hon. Captain Duncan, (afterwards Sir Henry,) seated, as my sister's and my guest upon one of these Lilliputian benches, and, whilst his knees were higher than his head, partaking of the fruit we had gathered for him, and served in a dessert set of vine-leaves.

I omitted, in its due place, remarking, that all the windows of houses in town, as well as in the country, are decorated with bars running across one another, not being a foot apart; even the windows looking, as they all do in town, into the interior squares and galleries, are not exempted from such garnishing; those in our town-house were of polished brass.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Description of our Country Residence continued—Palace of Mustapha Pacha—Consul Falcon—The immortal Nelson's Clemency misinterpreted—Mr Wyndham's Letter to my Father—Governor of Minorca's Persecution—My Father's Interview with Lord Nelson.

THE British Garden, of which a sketch is given in the vignette, when viewed from the sea, had the appearance of a strongly fortified place, the different terraces appearing like batteries. As such, it excited no small degree of surprise on board many of the ships of war, which visited Algiers for the first time; "and puzzled were the warriors brave to comprehend the case," when they saw our invincible standard floating proudly on the summit of the supposed fort. For, that Algiers should have been wrested from the iron-hand of barbarian despotism, by the heroism of Britannia's

undaunted sons, would not then have created great astonishment to their *frères d'armes*,—in those eventful times, when crowns and sceptres were so given to *fitting*.

In the time of my father's immediate predecessor, our Garden had been occupied first by the Dutch Consul, and latterly by the French Consul, whose youngest daughter, our dear little companion Irene, was born in what was afterwards our drawing-room. Mr de Thainville, during the period of his residence there, had made a vast number of additions and improvements both to the buildings and grounds. To these my dear father added many others,—so that the house differed very much from the general plan of Algerine houses ; and from the extent and irregularity of its outward architecture, it was very likely to arrest the notice of those who approached the coast, where it occupied a very prominent position, about midway betwixt the city and the *real* fort at Cape Caxines.

At the time that our residence was that of the Dutch and French Consuls, His Britannic Majesty's Agent had the honour of inhabiting a magnificent palace, situated in most extensive gardens, which were laid out in a style of splendour corresponding with the palace.

Its founder, the really princely Mustapha Pacha,

after having expended incalculable sums in its erection, was in consequence accused of having so much impoverished the great treasures hoarded up by his economical predecessor, Hassan Pacha, that he was doomed to die the death, by his envious, ever restless, nominal subjects, and pretended guards, the Janissaries, although, with an ever open hand, he had lavished the contents of that same treasury amongst them, in the vain hope of acquiring popularity. That he did not entirely fail in obtaining a good name, nor merit his tragic fate, from the very objects of his generous bounty, the many stories which I have often heard of his great good-nature, evinced. But as evil eyes without number had cast their gloaring spell upon this luckless palace, it was determined that its marble halls should ne'er be tenanted by a royal host; especially as he might be tempted to have the *fantasia*, to imagine himself, perchance, a sovereign indeed; instead of being, as was the dutiful desire of his loyal subjects, a mere puppet in their hands,—the creature of their hydra will.

The desert mansion of a murdered master, was consequently bestowed upon the representative of their *Buono Amigo el Rey Giorgi*.* And what, to a

* Let it be remembered that it is *Lingua Franca* that I quote, and not any one of the score of purer languages, out of which it is so arbitrarily compiled.

disbelieving *Caffre*, who audaciously dared the utmost power of evil vision, did not in the least deteriorate from the charms of that really delightful abode, was, that the enjoyment of it did not diminish the amount of His Britannic Majesty's Agent and Consul-General's salary ;—for, in an unwonted fit of generosity, the Regency had actually bestowed, or rather lent it rent-free. But to our regrets, this was not the case when my father arrived there. For the French and the English Consuls, from time immemorial, had ever at the Algerine court enacted much such a part as the lady and gentleman in an old-fashioned cuckoo clock, the one being invariably in the background, proportionably to the fair-weather favour of the other. — Although, to riddle out my comparison, John Bull must, like his pet-son, Sir John Falstaff, for once don the kirtle and girdle, as it is the lady in the clock who is the representative of sunshine, and Il Console d'Inghilterra was certainly almost always in the sunshine of favour. As, however, there is no rule without an exception, so likewise did both the British occupiers of Mustapha Pacha's palace fail in keeping their favourable position.

The first of these gentlemen, a Mr Falcon, left behind him a character so celebrated for its many eccentricities, that he was always distinguished by

the grave Moslems as the mad English Consul. So little, indeed, did he and those he had to deal with agree, that they forcibly embarked him on board a ship, and sent him to some neutral port; and it was to force the Dey to receive him again in his diplomatic character, that the immortal Nelson appeared with I do not know how many ships of the line, before Algiers. And absurd as it may sound, the vain-glorious barbarians ever after, when recounting, with high-sounding boastings, their piratical prowess, failed not to add, "Even the greatest admiral in the world, England's great Nelson, was afraid to attack us; for he came here with a mighty fleet, and only negotiated for peace." Thus was the magnanimous forbearance of the greatest of heroes misunderstood, by these audacious Janissaries; but they were taught the truth at last, by Nelson's pupil, Lord Exmouth.

Mr Falcon's successor, Mr Cartwright, also inhabited the same splendid abode. But misunderstandings likewise arose during his Consulship, and terminated so seriously after his expulsion by the Dey, that the Algerines actually commenced hostilities, and took several of our merchant vessels. It was to effect the release of these vessels, that my dearest father received an order from His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,

Mr Wyndham, to proceed to Algiers. Mr Wyndham, in his letter, said His Majesty relied that his (my father's) well known firm, yet conciliating manner, would enable him to carry a negotiation into effect, which would ensure the liberation of the detained British ships, and the restoration of amicable relations between His Majesty, and the Dey and Regency of Algiers.

On the receipt of this letter we were at Malta; whither my father had sought refuge from the unheard of persecutions, which he had suffered from the Spanish Governor of Minorca, who had, in the first place, issued a public order, forbidding any of the native gentlemen or their families to visit or hold any communication with any member of my father's family, and at length posted two sentinels at my father's door to prevent his crossing it; and late one evening, our English butler, having occasion to go a message, was by these sentinels mistaken for my father, and stabbed by one of them in the right arm with his bayonet. All this was done previous to any declaration that hostilities had taken place between Great Britain and Spain. Were I to recount all the breaches of the law of nations committed by this Governor Ramierez towards my father, I should never leave off. They finally ended by his compelling us all to embark on board a wretched boat, at the risk

of our lives, for he would not permit us to await the frigate which we were hourly expecting.

In this trying situation, my father, to ensure some degree of respect to his diplomatic character, caused the flags of different nations to be displayed on the mast of the frail bark; and with such a *gala* appearance, we hove in sight of Nelson and his fleet. The singular appearance of our little vessel, much puzzled our gallant countrymen, and when the immortal hero was informed of the strange sail, "Good God, (was his exclamation,) it must be Mr Blanckley, and the Sea Horse has missed him. Send a boat on board, and with my compliments, beg of him to come to me immediately." As soon as my father entered his cabin, he met him with extended hand. "How, my dear Sir, could you in such weather trust yourself in such a nutshell? Where is your family?" When my father replied that we were all on board, he lifted up his hand and eyes in astonishment, and added, "I give you my word, I sent you the very first frigate I had under my command. The Sea-horse had only returned to the fleet, the very day I dispatched her to you. I am sadly crippled for want of small craft;"—and then beating up, with his one noble hand, the cushions of the sofa, he made my father sit beside him, adding, "But I will not say one word more, until you tell me what

I shall send Mrs Blanckley for her supper." My father assured him that she was amply provided; and enumerated all the live stock we had on board, and among other things, a pair of English coach-horses, which, to our no trifling inconvenience, he had embarked, and stowed on board;—"for if I could not have managed to bring them, I would rather have cut their throats, than that a Spanish dragoon should mount them," was my father's concluding sentence. Lord Nelson laughed heartily at the enumeration of all my father's retinue, exclaiming, "A perfect Noah's ark, my dear Sir!—A perfect Noah's ark!"

Lord Nelson's venerable parent was a very dear friend of my father's. Hence a more than ordinary interest was felt by his son in all that related to my father and his family; and although this was their first meeting, they had long corresponded on terms of intimacy. An end was put to all conversation of a private nature, by my father telling his Lordship that he believed he could give him news of the French fleet. The countenance of the hero lighted up, and starting suddenly up, he instantly rung the little hand-bell on his table,—“Let a council of war be called immediately.”

I cannot, in my lamented ignorance, repeat all the details my father gave of that meeting of heroes;—but I well remember, whatever was the

communication he imparted, that he could not persuade Nelson of its authenticity; for his repeated reply was, "You have been deceived, my dear Sir; I am better informed. *I know* that they are bound for Egypt, for they had Saddles on board." I know not what the result would have been, had he received and acted upon my father's report; but well do I remember, whenever my father alluded to that national calamity, the death of the greatest of Britannia's sons, his sorrowful exclamations of regret, that Nelson had not believed the account he had given of the movements of the enemy.

Upon the subject of the capture of Minorca being next started in the Council, Lord Nelson called for "Mr Blanckley's own plans for the taking of that island." After these plans had been spread on the cabin table, and examined, Lord Nelson said, "Now, Mr Blanckley, when I have settled my business with the fleet, you must go with us to Minorca, and that will be ours in the course of twenty-four hours, and in the next twenty-four hours we will have taken Majorca, to be a cabbage-garden for you."—Such was the playful manner of the hero of a thousand battles.

I may here observe, that it was from plans drawn by my father, that his friend, Sir Charles Stuart (father to Lord Stuart de Rothesay,)

had taken possession of the Island of Minorca some years before, and it remained in the possession of Great Britain until afterwards ceded by treaties to Spain. Several years after this, on our return from Algiers, my father addressed a note to his intimate friend and school-fellow, Lord Falmouth, asking him if he was acquainted with the then Foreign Secretary, Earl Bathurst. Lord Falmouth, in his reply in a note I have by me, said, "He had not the honour of Lord B.'s acquaintance; but, my dear Blanckley," he adds, "you cannot have a better introduction to his Lordship than the charts, which so successfully conduced to the taking of the Island of Minorca, and which, if I am not mistaken, are preserved in the Foreign Office in Downing Street."

Before my father left the *Victory*, to proceed to Cagliari, Lord Nelson addressed a letter to the Prince Regent of Sardinia, recommending my father, in the warmest terms, to his Royal Highness; and he assured my father, that the *Sea-Horse*, immediately on its return, should be sent to convey us from Cagliari to Malta, where my father was to await Nelson's summons to accompany the expedition to Minorca; and he promised that my father should have the choice of any civil appointment there, that he should think proper to take.

To draw this long digression to a conclusion, I will only add, that the Sea-Horse, the Hon. Captain Boyle, arrived, and conveyed us to Malta, where the sad tidings of England's irreparable loss, caused a change in all my father's intentions ; and he was most desirous to return to England, where his private affairs imperatively demanded his presence, when Mr Wyndham's letter arrived. On receiving this letter, as he ever considered it his bounden duty to obey his Sovereign's commands, at whatever personal risk, he went to Algiers. But had he followed the dictates of prudence, by watching over the interests of his children in England, it would have been more to the advantage of his family. Therefore to Algiers we went, and the compliment paid to my father by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, was proved to be deserved by him ; for immediately on his arrival, as I have already mentioned, he obtained the greatest influence over the Dey and Regency. We had not, however, the pleasure of being the inmates of a palace ;—for, on the fall-below-zero of English popularity, the French Consul had obtained the possession of it, and on our arrival, it was entitled *Il Giardino di Francia*. Not, however, on such easy terms as it had been held by the English Consuls, for the French were required to pay

a suitable rent for the honour of playing *au quatre coins* with their rival.

The government of every other nation paid the rent of both the town and country residences of their Consuls ; but my father never received a farthing from his, for either of his houses, nor one sixpence of salary, except for the last year of his Consulship at Algiers. And never for one instant was the dignity or character for hospitality of our nation compromised. No ! with a heart glowing with filial pride, I affirm, that our nation was never before so honourably represented as by my noble, high-minded father.

CHAPTER XIX.

Vegetable Productions of the Country—Jackals, admirers of the Fruit of the Vine—The Hermitage and its Environs—Our watchful Guardians—Untimely Fate of two Pigs—The most effectual Charm against “the Evil Eye”—Irrigation—A visit from a Hyena—Rencontre of a Marabout.

THE small or gentleman's house of our Garden, was not, as in town, or as usually is the case, in the country, immediately adjoining the larger one;—but it was separated from it about the distance of a hundred yards, by a large open space, almost entirely covered by a mulberry-tree of immense size, and bearing very large and deliciously-flavoured fruit;—several alcoves of different sizes, in which were placed commodious seats, and benches and tables, surrounded this fine tree. These arbours, which were placed in almost every walk in the garden and grounds, were of easy construction, as they were made of canes, which grew in great abundance on the banks of the rivulet at the foot of the

mountain. A very pretty creeper, with heart-shaped leaves of a lovely green, and delicate clusters of pink flowers, called Dolicuor, (although I do not know in what language), covered these delightful *cabinets de verdure* so completely, as to exclude both sun and heat. These therefore became our chosen retreats, and bore the names of the different members of the family, or of our most-favoured guests;—and many a happy hour have we passed beneath their fragile roofs.

To the right of the mulberry-tree was a beautiful group of trees, composed of several large cypresses, the beautiful yellow-tufted acacia also wafted its balmy odours, and the jujube exhibited its varnished fruits and brilliant green foliage. On the left, was a large taranja tree,—a tree of the citron tribe, whose fruit and flowers, however, more resembled those of the orange. Its fruit was of a gigantic size, at least as large as five oranges, but the colour was not much deeper than the lemon, whose acid qualities it also shared, as it was not edible except when preserved; and even then, it was more admired as a curiosity than for its flavour. It was the only tree of the kind I ever saw,—it is not the shaddock, which I have since seen in this country.

Our Garden was laid out in its whole extent in a succession of terraces, until the mountain acclivity became almost perpendicular, when it was sur-

mounted by vineyards. From them, however, we did not derive any benefit, as the *Perros di Montana*, or jackals, alone feasted upon their products. These vineyards were too distant from the house, for either watch-dogs or the report of pistols, to have any effect in deterring these nightly marauders, who eat up every bunch as it ripened,—for they thought, like their cousin-german, Mr. Le Renard, that, “*Les raisins verts ne sont bons que pour des goujats.*”

A most picturesque hermitage, erected and decorated with shells, by the taste of Madame de Thainville, lay to the left of “*ces vignobles si bien récoltés.*” It was a most delicious retreat.—A crystal rill, murmured through a channel cut into one side of the rock, and formed a succession of fairy cascades, until it flowed upon a *tapis de verdure*, to which, even during the summer, it preserved, by its refreshing coolness, a constant title to its verdant appellation :—And most delightful was it to the eye, when every other spot was parched up, to rest upon this green sward ;—although it as but a tiny patch, scarcely much larger than the *good people* would require for their nightly revels. Not that I ever heard of any fairies at Algiers ;—if there had been, however, they certainly could not have made choice of a more enchanting *salle de bal.* It formed a little

amphitheatre, facing the view of the broad blue sea; the thatched hermitage was on one side, a beautiful rock overhung by many a beautiful shrub closed the prospect at the back, while at the other side was the waterfall I before mentioned.

Greatly did I regret that this romantic scene was rather beyond the limit of the boundaries set me, where I might be free to roam unwatched,—(for even within the prescribed bounds, it was not a very easy thing for me to have the delight of free agency,—so necessary did our faithful nurse, Maria, consider it, that her charges should ever be under her anxious ken;)—and no bird ever flew more blythely out of a neglected cage, than I used to climb up into a favourite tree, and sit ensconced, pouring over Thomson's Seasons, or the Minstrel Boy, or some other of my limited store of books—whilst far and wide, loud and shrill, was my name re-echoed by *la povera Maria*, and in a lower and more respectful tone by the good old Francisco, (whose whole employment was to accompany Maria, as our attendants, in our perambulations,)—*Signorina, Signorina, Signora E*—, *dove siete*; for both these worthy personages, in their endeavours to find the object of their search, exerted their voices more than their feet; (Maria, from a most decided distaste to the exertion, and poor worthy Francisco, from inability.)

So they both sat knitting—Francisco repeating Aves and Paters, for the liberation of himself and two dutiful sons from slavery, and for blessings upon his benefactors,—often interrupted by his fair companion's breaking out into a barcarolle, or Calabrese canzonette, for she had an admirable voice—whilst they both esteemed themselves fortunate at having their younger charge playing at their feet,—and then in unison, called loudly for the no distant absentee. But they lured me not readily, until I knew my mother expected me, and then delightedly I returned to her ever indulgent presence, to receive her instructions, for she was our only teacher, or to welcome her and my dear father, on their return from town.

In different parts of the grounds were extensive groves of pomegranate, orange, and lemon trees, and likewise of the Bergamotte or sweet lemon. The flavour of the latter is very insipid, scarcely exceeding that of very sweet sugar and water; the rind is filled with the oil, but the pulp does not in the least partake of the same taste. As I mentioned before, our fig-trees were celebrated. We had also some cherry-trees, but very few of the fruit ever attained maturity, as they fell off when green; the small quantity that ripened were very good. Of apricots, of the most delicious quality, and of much larger size than those usually seen in Europe,

we had a greater abundance than could, I dare say, almost be conceived,—the whole space of ground beneath the large apricot trees, being perfectly strewed with the fruit dropped off them from over-ripeness.

Some idea may be formed of the vast quantity thus wasting, from the fact, that two of the pigs that first immigrated within the orthodox Algerine dominions, died from a surfeit of them. My father having desired that the apricots under the trees, should be gathered and given to the pigs, the servants obeyed his orders,—without thinking it necessary to extract the stones. The consequence was, that they were first afflicted with blindness, running wildly about their *habitation*, and knocking their heads about the walls of their *residence*, and refused all farther aliment, to the dismay of the servants,—who knowing how anxious their master was, that his newly imported pets should feast to their utmost satiety, in vain tempted them by all swinish dainties. But alas! their dessert of apricots was their last meal! As in the case of the sudden demise of all much esteemed individuals, many are the surmises as to the cause,—and not unfrequently, at least in distant climes, the suspicion of foul play oft accompanies and aggravates the regrets of the mourners;—so was it the case with regard to these luckless Sardinian travellers. Our Christian servants, with insinuations

“not loud but deep,” tried to impress their master with their surmises, that the death *des nouveaux arrivés* had without doubt been effected, by some Mahomedan emulator of the old man of the mountain, who had determined, at once, to be uncontaminated by the abomination of breathing the same air with the foul animal,—that horror of all “the Faithful,” which had been introduced by the Signore Console. To ascertain the fact, the deceased *Porchi* were opened, and the apricot stones were pronounced to be the whole and sole cause of their untimely fate. Orders were accordingly issued, that in future the stones should be carefully extracted from the fruit before it was presented to any future pigs that might be procured from Europe;—and this precaution being attended to, the different individuals of that refined species, which afterwards arrived from Gibraltar and Minorca, and their numerous generations of descendants, throve most *obesitly*, with a daily dessert of apricots, during the season of their maturity.

Although it required my father’s influence with the higher powers, to overcome the universal religious prejudice, which made swine the most contraband of all contraband articles;—yet when the first of them came to a violent end, a Moor of most respectable appearance, called early the

following morning, and with an air of mystery, required to speak to our head cook. Drawing him aside, he requested, with, however, some confusion of face, that he would bestow upon him one of the tusks of the unclean animal which he had killed the day before. He said that he wanted to suspend it round the neck of a cow that was much afflicted, from having fallen a victim to a glance of the Evil Eye, for he had consulted a Gitano who had prescribed a pig's tooth, if such it was possible to procure, as the only efficient remedy. Our domestics afterwards ascertained, that *the professed Cow*, was no other than the applicant's only son, a child of three or four years of age, who was forthwith invested with the mysterious decoration. But I never heard what was the final result of his father's submissive compliance with the injunctions of the wise man.

The large trees seen in the view of the British Garden, were some of the apricots in the orchard at the back of the farm-house, which, with its surrounding extensive grounds, and the mountain above them, my father had hired. The farm house was only used, the upper floors as granaries, and the lower, as well as the courts, as poultry and farm-yards. The almond trees around the farm were almost as numerous as the apricots, and when all these high and large trees

were in full bloom, they presented a most beautiful appearance.

In the grounds belonging to the farm-house, was a large tall palm tree, but it did not bear any dates. Once I remember being much delighted at observing its summit crowned with a large blossom, resembling a splendid branch of red coral. I flattered myself that fruit would follow; but as I was told that it would not, I desired one of our Cabilli labourers to ascend the tree, and bring it down to me. But alas! it did not then look so pretty, and soon withered and decayed, and I reproached myself for having reft it from its graceful parent stem, where I could so long have admired it. Dates require greater heat and a drier climate, than that of the northern coast of Barbary, but the beautiful trees appear to flourish *malgré leur stérilité*.

This solitary palm stood in a grove of carobba or locust trees. Although they bore abundance of their honey-containing pods, which in Spain are constantly given to cattle, we did not make any farther use of them, than to gather one occasionally for our own sweet fancies. I should think that these vegetable locusts, (although the French translation also reads *sauterelles*,) were those, which, with wild honey, are mentioned as having been the only food of Saint John.

On that side of the mountain, above this part of our grounds, papa laid out a very picturesque walk. This he continued along the face of the mountain overhanging the farm, and it was called *his* par-excellence. Wherever a large olive or other tree afforded its shade, a commodious seat was placed beneath it;—this, except the cleaning from the shrubs, levelling of the path, and overspreading it with gravel from the sea-shore, was the only foreign aid of ornament requisite, to make it the most charming of walks:—For on each side of it there was a wilderness of the most beautiful myrtles, arbutus, and other lovely flowering shrubs, and at their roots were clustered many varieties of the beautiful bee-flower, with other sweet and pretty flowers. I shared not, alas! my dear mother's knowledge of Botany, and all that remains to me of these charming flowers, are some blackened dried specimens, which we still preserve as sacred relics;—but which we have not yet submitted to any Botanist's inspection, and possibly they may be too much injured by time, to be easily distinguished. Therefore, all I can say of the vegetable productions of Algiers, must be in accordance with childlike, uninitiated reminiscences. They furnish me with the remembrance, that I never saw such fine vegetables, nor so great a variety of them, in any other

country. These productions consisted not only of all those vegetables which are common to England and France, as cabbages, cauliflower, (and my father introduced the several kinds of broccoli,) carrots, turnips, onions, leeks, beans, garavansas, and peas, with which we were always well supplied on Christmas-day, French beans, haricots blancs, and artichokes; but also of many varieties of calabashes, pumpkins, cucumbers, and musk and water melons, the latter most deliciously refreshing, with aubergenas, tomatas, several kinds of capsicums, or red peppers, which from some as large as my closed hand, down to the little bird's eye or cayenne, were all most abundant.

One of the nicest vegetables, however, was one not known in France or England; it was called *mullochiah*, and I believe in the West Indies is named *ocra*, (although I am not sure of its orthography.) There were two kinds; one was much larger than the other, and when fit for use, became of a greenish white; whilst the other always remained green. The edible part was a tri-sided pod, which, when cooked, sank into a mucilaginous jelly, amongst which were a few round seeds. When stewed with mutton, they made an excellent ragout, of a rich and most peculiar flavour; they were also stewed down into an equally nice *potage* or *Ministra*.

The small wood strawberry we found in the garden ; but they were not very plentiful. Many years before, my father had introduced gooseberries, currants, and the Chili strawberry, into the Island of Minorca, and he sent there for cuttings and plants of them to Algiers. But the Minorquins, only esteeming the latter worth cultivation, a certain number of strawberry plants were alone sent, and they, from "the dangers of the sea," were reduced to the number of seven. My father having more confidence in the skill and perseverance of the Swedish Consul's gardener, than in that of his own, ceded to him the lion's share, retaining only two of the plants himself ;—but even one of these was lost in its road. The remaining four were however, so well tended, that in the course of another year or two, our, as well as all the other Consular gardens, were supplied with suckers from that of Mr Norderling ; and before we left, we had an abundance of fine fruit. They required a shady situation and much watering, as did indeed every vegetable in the garden. The method by which this is effected, I shall endeavour to describe.

Just below our hermitage was a well of large dimensions, lined within, and surrounded by a low parapet of brickwork, round which again, was a paved circle. Within this well, or *saritch*, was a

large wheel, encircled by narrow earthen jars, placed at regular distances, and an axle-tree passed through the centre. The part of this wheel within the well, reached the water, and in its revolutions the jars were successively filled, and the water was ejected into a channel, which conveyed it to a large reservoir, a little way down the hill. A mule walked round the saritch, and caused the wheel to dip into the water. Close to the saritch, was a larger circle, paved all over, and surrounded by a low wall, where the threshing of the wheat and barley, (for the latter is the only food for horses, &c.) was performed, by being *trod* out, under the feet of mules.

From the large reservoir, a canal cut through the soil, traversed the garden from top to bottom, and as it passed along each terrace or hanging garden, it filled corresponding channels, which communicated with every vegetable and flower bed.— These were, in their turn, intersected by little sluices, leading to the root of each plant, which by these means received a nightly *arrosement*; for this was never done until the sun was nearly down. As the water reached one of the terraces, by the means of a temporary dyke, it was entirely directed into the channel, and ran along its whole length. The gardener and his men were stationed at the head of each terrace, and flower or vegetable

square, with spades, with which they removed a quantity of earth, sufficient to allow the water to flow in until it reached every plant;—when again the little embankment was replaced, and the water continued its course to another bed;—and so on, until the whole face of the garden was renewed,—orange and lemon, pomegranate, apple, and pear trees coming in for their portion of the refreshing element.

For the first year or two, all our potatoes were imported from England,—but latterly, we had them excellent of our own growth. The first crop was, however, a complete failure, from their having been left too late in the earth, owing to my father's absence of a few weeks, to visit his Balearic Consulate, and to avoid the *corvée* of drinking the health of the *Gallic usurper*—as he styled him. This being in the month of August, the gardener left the potatoes where they were, until his master's return, by which time they were all actually burnt to a state of pulverization;—they were always afterwards taken up before the hottest season was over, and they were of very good quality.

Our gravelled walks were bordered by thickets of the most lovely roses,—high hedges of geranium, interspersed with innumerable white lilies,—all flourishing with a luxuriance of beauty, and exhaling odours, far surpassing those of the same flowers,

in more northern regions. Myrtles are so superabundant, that the ovens for baking bread are invariably heated with their wood, on account of the agreeable flavour it imparts,—as well as from its being the commonest shrub on the mountains, which are thickly covered by it and the arbutus.

The olive and madder are, with the exception of fruit trees, the largest trees in the country ; but the brush-wood covers the mountain so completely, that there is no want of verdure. A small evergreen prickly oak is also common. The madder bears a small red berry, of a strong, peculiar, aromatic taste, upon which the red-legged (indeed only species of) partridge almost entirely feeds ;—they are consequently most strongly impregnated with the same flavour, which may most likely be very unpleasant to those unaccustomed to it, but I have scarcely yet become reconciled to a partridge without it, for *malgré que ce soit toujours perdrix*, I cannot but think the partridges of this country tasteless. Sloe trees are very common ; and following up the ravine above the cascade, there were many wild vines, bearing small bunches of diminutive black grapes of a most honied sweetness. In all parts of the country the fanlike palmetto sprung up spontaneously, in the greatest abundance ; it is a very useful root, as its leaves are employed to many purposes, making baskets, brooms, fans for

fanning charcoal fires, and several other uses, and its root is very palatable.

Perhaps the most curious vegetable production, and one which I believe is peculiar to Algiers, grew upon shady banks amongst short grass. It was merely a single, slight, light-green leaf, which, without any stem, sprung out of the earth. This leaf was about the size of a large orange leaf, but of a much more fragile and grassy texture, if I can so express myself. Out of the centre of this leaf, by a short green fibre, was suspended a round bright scarlet berry, of the size of a large pea; there was but a slight pulp over the stone; for it was not a kernel, as it is not hollow, but is quite solid. They are gathered and turned into beads, which are strung into rosaries, and are those most preferred by devotees who cannot afford those of pearls or black amber. These seeds, when turned, have much the appearance of Mocha stones, as they are interveined by black strokes on a white ground, in a most fanciful manner, never two of them being alike. The Algerines are not pleased at Christians purchasing these rosaries, but my mother obtained a great number of them, and presented them to many of her friends in England, as they were much admired, and I have several still in my possession.

At stated periods, I believe, either every second

or third year, *our* mountains were purposely set on fire. In the first place, to obtain firewood from the roots of the consumed shrubs, as well as to improve the pasturage for our flocks and herds ; and also with the hope of dislodging some of our nightly serenaders,—the *perros de montana*, from their favourite dens. For a time this latter purpose was effected ;—but they soon forgot their fright, and returned as usual.

On one of these illuminations, when my father was walking in the garden, he was astonished to see our really brave janissary actually flying towards him, with looks more alarmed, than if a squadron of rebel Arabs were at his heels. Before my father could question him, he had thrown himself on a bench in the walk, and casting off his turban, sat pale, and apparently speechless, until at length he replied to my father's inquiries, " It was as big as the small *borrico*, and its eyes were as coals of burning charcoal, and there it was in that bush ;"—pointing to a clump of myrtles, about a hundred yards off. He at length intelligibly explained, that, on passing these myrtle bushes, just as the flames had reached them, a large hyena bounced out upon him. The animal must have been more dismayed than himself, for it cast not a look behind, but scampered off, as the labourers, at a short distance, declared, in an opposite direc-

tion from, and with equal speed with, Sidi Hassan himself.

After this unexpected discovery of a more redoubtable *voisinage* than we were aware of, my sister's and my promenades became more and more circumscribed ; and strict were the injunctions, that we should not for an instant evade the surveillance of Maria and Francisco. We never left our own grounds without this escort being strengthened by the janissary and two or three other servants, unless we accompanied my mother and the gentlemen of our party. I do not suppose that any danger was apprehended, but only that it was *usanza*.

However, shortly after the hyena-visitation, we prevailed on our guardians to accompany us outside the gate, on the highroad leading to Cape Casine, just beneath the walls of our house, as we assured them that we should there be quite safe from any wild beasts ; and they, having found a commodious place of repose, plied their wires, most unremittingly, whilst we pursued our play, until they were interrupted by the arrival of a character of no little celebrity at the court, the camp, the cabin, and the palace of the Regency of Algiers,—no less a personage than the maddest, and consequently most influential of Marabouts in existence. We had often heard his wondrous freaks recounted,

but this was our first introduction to a little grey-bearded, wild-looking old man, clothed in a long robe of splendid gold brocade, with a turban of corresponding magnificence, but put on in a very unusual manner. He was followed by a black slave leading a *borrico*, with apparently well-filled panniers, as was indeed proved to us. For this strange vision, addressing us in the most abrupt manner, (but evincing his knowledge of who we were,) ordered his slave to produce the choicest contents of their *garde-manger ambulante*, and in a manner not to be refused, pressed upon our acceptance handfulls of dainties, such as *bonbons*, dates, dried figs, and candied fruits *assaisonnant ses dons*, with a strange jargon of praise and prediction as to our future lot. But so overpowered was I by astonishment, mingled with no slight degree of awe, that they reached but my outward ear. After having thus favoured us with his presence for about a quarter of an hour, he continued on his way, and we not unwillingly saw him depart, and turned our steps homewards.

A few days after our unexpected *rencontre* of the Marabout, my father had one also; for as he was having an audience of the Minister of the Marina, this *soidisant* saint unceremoniously joined their conference, in the same style of splendour in which we had seen him. His Maraboutship

was not always so gorgeously habited, as it depended upon the fitful generosity or cowardice of his disciples ;—and in accordance with the prompting motive for the votive offerings, these gifts consisted of aspres, or sequins,—and consequently, according to the superstitious state of the minds of his *clientèle*, the worthy recipient was either in tatters, or brocade ; for a Marabout *remplit les divers rôles* of priest, averruncator of evil, predictor of it to enemies, and manufacturer of talismans and amulets, &c. &c. &c.—His many ordinary and extraordinary privileges, would surely tire the most voluble herald to enumerate. Not the least in point of consequence or profit, is that of his being able to accord sanctuary to any criminal, whether innocent or guilty, and even under the ban of sovereign displeasure, who may have succeeded in crossing the threshold of the Marabout's chiosk,—his dwelling-place in life,—his tomb in death, and which even then continues to preserve its protecting sanctity. Coffee, as usual, was ordered to be served by the minister. When the first-cup was presented to my father, Mr Marabout took *fantasia*, and when one was offered him in his turn, he almost knocked it out of the hand of the Christian slave who served it, and in a voice of pettish rage screamed out, “ I'll have none of your coffee,” and forthwith directed

his own slave to make him some. Whilst it was preparing, he leant over to the minister, and produced a singular-looking drawing out of his bosom, handing it to him for his inspection. From the glimpse my father caught of it, it excited his curiosity, and he begged to look at it. No sooner did the minister offer to give it into his hand, than up jumped the Marabout, and almost tore it from his grasp. "Neither you nor that Caffre shall cast your eyes upon it," exclaimed he, whilst he foamed with rage; then summoning his slave, amidst threatenings and abuse of the minister and my father, he left the palace. "More rogue than fool," (said the minister to my father), "but we must submit to all this to please those,"—and he pointed to the troop of common people seated at the entrance around the door of his hall of audience.

When my father had concluded the business that brought him to town, he mounted his horse on his way home, and had reached a certain turn in the road, when he was again surprised by the Marabout suddenly making his appearance, and walking into the middle of the path, so as to intercept my father's progress. He said something in Turkish in a tone of great bitterness, which Sidi Hassan, who always preceded his master, no sooner heard, than he wheeled his mule round, and

drawing his sabre, menaced the Marabout with it, abusing him at the same time most energetically. All this was inexplicable to my father, who did not understand a word of Turkish. And in vain did he call upon Sidi Hassan to cease his threatenings, until the Marabout, with somewhat fallen crest, stole away. "How do you dare, Hassan, thus to abuse a saint?" "If you knew, Sir, what that old rascal has said, you would rather wonder that I have confined myself to words;—but woe betide him, if he ever dares to cross their path again. He told you that he would waylay your two little girls, and cut off both their heads;" and poor Hassan writhed at the repetition of the unrevenged threat.

I need not add, he had a fully sympathizing auditor, who no longer wondered at the faithful Hassan's unbounded rage. We were not told of the full extent of the danger of meeting our *quondam* kind friend; but strictly were we, and the servants, enjoined never to leave our own boundaries. This man has more than once gone to the palace, and struck the Dey; but this was submitted to in their policy, as I believe this Marabout, as well as all those who possessed more than ordinary influence over the multitude, were in fact mere creatures of the Government, exceeding in utility the most expert *agent de Police*.

CHAPTER XX.

Our Janissary Hassan—Persecutions of the Jewish Race—Story-Telling—Murder of Mustapha Pacha—The Saucer-eyed Lady—The Tailor's Peruke.

THE so often named Janissary, Sidi Hassan, ever proved himself a most faithful and attached creature in our service, which he entered immediately on our arrival in the country, and continued in it until our departure, with the exception of the visit he paid to his aged mother at Constantinople; whither he accompanied one of the regalos, or tributes, sent to the Grand Signor by the Dey. He always spoke with much patriotic affection of Stamboul, and he would willingly have used all the interest he possessed, to have remained there, but for the promise he had made my father, to return at a stated period. This promise he faithfully performed; bringing, on his return, each

member of our family a present, varying in value according to our respective rank: and notwithstanding his regret at leaving his mother and native land, he seemed most sensible of the cordial reception he met with from his employers.

Although I have sometimes used the term master and servant, when speaking of his relative position to my father, yet they were not strictly applicable; and could he have heard them, with all his devoted respect to il Signor Console, it would without doubt have caused him no ordinary accession of a fit of *fantasia*, for scarcely would a janissary have had the humility of acknowledging the Dey himself, by such a title.

These Turkish soldiers, constituted in Algiers the self-elected aristocracy of the country; if he were capable, each member of their body was equally eligible to fill the envied, not enviable, and most precarious office of head of their turbulent democracy, provided he were able, by subtle artifice and intrigue, to hatch, and by promises of high preferment to their most influential, and free largesses to their inferior partizans, to bring to maturity, a conspiracy sufficiently powerful to effect a revolution, the murder of the reigning sovereign, and his own exaltation to that uneasy throne.

The majority of the janissaries, when once a commotion in the state had fairly commenced, ever

sided with the strongest party. This rarely was that of the government, as the conspirators warily and surely ascertained their power, ere they attempted their *grand coup*. Of course, many were the incipient revolts which were crushed by the timely revelations of some traitor or faithful subject, as he might be named by the extreme *gauche* or extreme *droite* of the opposing parties ;—for in Barbary, as well as elsewhere, it could ever be said that

“ Treason never prospers,—
What’s the reason ?
If treason prospers,
None dare call it treason.”

Whenever it was seen to promise success, a revolt was heartily joined by all the rest of the Turkish soldiery, who, always, when a new master mounted his *trone sanglant*, received from his hands no stinted bounty ;—and during the brief period of an inter-reign, had by dire *usanza*, the lawful, lawless right of pillaging the whole Jewish population ; unless they could be prevailed upon to accept an extravagant compensation which was levied by the king of the Jews, upon each member of his persecuted race.

This arrangement was, at least whilst we were at Algiers, always entered into betwixt the leaders

of the revolution and the wretched Israelites. The former were influenced to it by dread of the consequent ruin of all the commercial interests of the country,—and their followers were prompted by the conviction, that it was more advantageous to make such a bargain, than to run the chance of seeking out where were the hidden treasures of the wary *Judeos*, who, whatever Golcondan mines they may be owners of, both in their dress and in the furniture of their residences, ever affect an appearance of a fortune below mediocrity; the Jewesses, of whatever rank, never having other than silver salmas, and but few ornaments of value.

Never did I behold grief so demonstrative as that of the Jewish women, which we witnessed from the terrace of our house in town, on the occasion of the murder of the old Ali Pacha. The terrace of every house inhabited by these wretched people, was covered by women and children, who evinced the most frantic distress, beating their breasts, tearing their hair, and invoking protection from on high, on their bended knees. It was most heart-rending to behold. By the mercy of God, the hearts of their oppressors were softened, and the usual compromise was accepted ere the green standard of Mecca floated on the palace staff, announcing, that though *Le Dey est mort*, it could be

added *Vive le Dey*, and this—one, who by his tyrannical vigilance, so quelled all cabals, that he did indeed live long enough to emulate even Nero himself, in the atrocity and number of his crimes.

Nothing can be a greater contrast to the generally reserved and grave deportment of the Turks, than their caressing manners to children, to whom they yield in every thing,—a Turkish child actually tyrannizing over all the other members of their father's household, if the term tyranny can be applied to express the influence exerted over those, who rendered an ever willing submission to the sway of childhood's caprices.

Sidi Hassan possessed a no small share of this *bonhomie* ; for he was ever ready to enact the part of a roaring lion, as he issued out *sur les quatre pattes*, from behind one of the drawing-room window curtains yclept his den,—whilst we enacted those of poor defenceless lambs, or travellers, as the different characters happened to suit our passing fancy. Above all things, he surpassed as a teller of stories : some of them were not concluded in less time than the evenings of a whole week ; and when they were wound up to a finale, our regrets were only soothed by prevailing on him to promise to begin another the next night.

During the first years of our Algerine existence, we used sometimes to prevail on our nurse

Maria, to take us to pay a visit, between tea and bed time, to Sidi Hassan, in his own room. I am often amused at the recollection of the *tableau*, which was there composed by the *dramatis personæ*,—for the floor of the upper half of the room was raised about four feet from the lower, and on this honourable station sat upon carpets and cushions to the right of the *groupe*, Sidi Hassan, with his lighted pipe in his right hand in the intervals from using it,—during which he related to us some of his fascinating tales of *genii*. To his left were placed, Maria in her Neapolitan dress, my sister and myself, in our plain English white frocks and cropped hair, listening with ears and eyes most intent; whilst two or three of our Christian servants, and the upper Arab grooms, surrounded the *Brasero* of ardent coals, which stood in the centre of the lower part of the chamber. Above all our heads, floated many a waving cloud of smoke, which having the effect of imparting its aroma to our persons and dresses, was the cause of our visits to the Janissary being at last strictly forbidden by my mother.

One of these stories was the life and adventures of a certain orphan watchmaker's apprentice, who *à force* of ill-usage from his master, one *beau jour* in despair, took *la clef des champs*, and fled far away, until his fears of being pursued, and his

strength, were so much diminished, that he ventured to repose himself under the shade of a tree;—there, whilst meditating that he had neither had a meal, nor was likely to have a supper, to his joy, at a little distance he beheld, wasting its verdure in the desert air, a fine large plump cabbage. He darted on the wings of hunger, and forthwith attempted to extract its fibrous roots from its parent soil. Alas! his efforts were no sooner crowned with success, than up started a gigantic negro, of aspect most repulsive. Not so was his address, for with many a lowly obeisance did he beg to know what might be the commands with which he would be pleased to honour the slave of his slightest will. Then followed almost another edition of Aladdin's lamp, with some variations, the catastrophe being, that the *quondam* regulator of wheels, having become the Grand Vizier of his liege lord the Sultan, was sent to convey his sovereign's only daughter, and as *de rigueur*, also *la Dame de ses pensées*, the gazelle-eyed Fatima, to the Court of a hunch-backed, one-eyed, king of another region. The gallant Mustapha so far fulfilled his mission, as to embark with the princess and her suite on board a galley procured at a moment's warning, by his submissive magical attendant, the cordage of which was of pure gold, and the sails and awnings

of the richest purple, *parsemés* with many a jewel bright, &c. &c.

When he had brought the fair Fatima in safety to the dominions of her Cyclop *fiancé*, he, with due attention to etiquette, landed first to acquaint the expectant lover of the arrival of the adorable princess, bearing in his hand a regalo worthy of royal acceptance,—a golden cage, containing a bird of the most exquisite workmanship. For although its plumage was entirely composed of diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, it could ruffle all its feathers, flutter its wings, turn upon its perch, and perform cantatas of the most delicious symphony. But these were not all its precious qualities; for, (after, having gone through all the various ceremonies attendant on the presentation of an ambassador of so mighty a sultan, on so auspicious an occasion, he presented to the ungainly monarch this last best gift but one,) the *ci-devant* watchmaker begged to be allowed to whisper in his royal ear a magical phrase, by repeating which to the wonderful bird, his Mightiness might obtain the realization of his most unbounded desires. What that was, which the hapless monarch instantly demanded, remains unknown; but to a certainty it never could have been in compliance with Vizier Mustapha's directions. For no sooner had the bird hopped upon the Royal hand, and been

raised to the king's lips, who apparently muttered something, than the apartment was filled with a host of brethren of the genii of the cabbage, armed with enormous clubs, who with one accord attacked the hunch-backed bridegroom, and beat him to death. They afterwards administered a slighter proportion of the same discipline to all his subjects,—until they one and all joined in calling out “ Long live the great Mustapha, our Sultan, and his fair Sultana, the black-eyed Fatima.” On this fortunate termination to his long tried love, Mustapha the Fortunate, with all due modesty, ascended the vacant throne of his ill-favoured, ill-fated rival. In another story, I well remember there was a woman whose eye-lashes were so long, that she always swept the floor of her chamber with them.

Passing strange as was all we listened to during these *veillées*, we did so with an unmingled delight, which has not even yet subsided, when we sometimes recount some snatches of them to each other, and think of

“ *Ces jours si promptement passés.*”

Some of the realities of Hassan's life, however, were perhaps almost as incredible as these romances ; but before I attempt giving an *esquisse* of one of these marvellous passages of our Janissary's

memoirs, I will relate one of so tragic a nature, that the vivid recollection I have retained of it has caused me many a shudder.

Sidi Hassan had entered the corps of Janissaries at Constantinople at the age of sixteen, and almost immediately afterward was drafted into that portion of them which received the Sultan's commands to form the contingent of Turkish soldiers, which, in his quality of Suzerain of the Regency of Algiers, he was required to provide to sustain his power in that Pachalick. The young recruit's arrival in that country, was in the latter days of the reign of the munificent Mustapha, in whose assassination, he, in common with all the junior members of the soldiery, was, by the orders of their immediate commanders, called upon to act in conjunction with the chief conspirators, who had at length determined upon taking a demonstrative part. In obedience to the commands of the Alifa, or lieutenant of the Janissaries, Sidi Hassan was posted at the corner of one of the streets which led towards the most celebrated Marabout tomb. It was situated in the close vicinity to those of the seven Deys who each successively bore that title, and perished in the course of a single day ; for an eighth candidate occupied the throne, whilst they became the inmates of these Mausoleums raised in commemoration of this

grande journée, and which far surpassed, certainly, in the number of *événemens*, the more modern "*trois grands jours*" of the ultimate successful governors of the land.

In those days of undisputed Turkish sway, *l'ordre du jour* received by the young Turkish sentinels, who were posted at every avenue leading to the Marabout, was,—that, should their denounced sovereign pass, they were to fire upon him, under pain of death to themselves should they disobey these sanguinary dictates. Most unwillingly did Hassan receive them. For, more than one kind word had been addressed to him by the now hunted Prince ;—but, repeating to himself a Turkish adage of like import with—"What can't be cured must be endured,"—he primed his fusil, and stood where he was placed, inwardly hoping, "that as the Pacha's *day was come*," he might not escape the fire of all the preceding sentinels. But so it was not fated :—Mustapha Pacha Dey, although he had already received a pistol wound in the back of his neck, rushed round the corner where Hassan was stationed, and when he perceived that the lad hesitated in firing his piece, he went up to him, and imploringly offering him a ruby ring of great size, said, "Take this, my son, it is all I have to bestow, for all my gold is gone ; take it, and spare the life of your father

Mustapha." "Fly!" was Hassan's reply, as he pushed the proffered jewel back, and with the other hand hid his eyes; "I see you not." And it was a truth; for sick and faint was he at heart, and filled were his eyes with burning tears. Ere he had recovered the pitiful sight, the fugitive had pursued his wretched course;—a long one it was not,—for but a minute or two elapsed before the sound of repeated shots announced that it was at an end. In a few more, the mangled corse of him, who, but the eve before, could have pronounced his murderer's doom, was dragged before the sickening sight of the compassionate Hassan. But here must end the repetition of my reminiscence of the tale he told; for the details of the appearance of the remains of the, but so lately, handsome, portly Pacha, are too harrowing even in thought to dwell upon—

"'Tis too dire a conjuring up of horrors."

Yet frequently have I heard individuals gifted with a due share of common sense, make the declaration, (when they have heard Europeans express their surprise, that any one could be found mad enough ever to accept the office of Dey,) that with joy would they, without a moment's hesitation, undergo any hardships and trials, to bear that oft-courted title, for even the space of twenty-

four hours. So fully did they believe that their exaltation above their fellows ceased not with this transitory existence; but that also in the paradise so glowingly pictured by their fallacious prophet, would they likewise be distinguished from among the common herd of his proselytes.

Upon reflection, I am rather uncertain whether I ought not to have related Sidi Hassan's account of the assassination of Mustapha Pacha, subsequently to the anecdote, which I shall now try to give, as nearly as possible, in the worthy Janissary's own words—only prefacing it, by expressing my conviction, that by none of his good qualities was the faithful creature more distinguished, than by a strict adherence to truth, in all his words and ways. Although he was, as I mentioned, ever ready to contribute to our childish amusements, he was in his manner to others, and in his general habits, a man of serious aspect, and of a grave and reserved address;—as is indeed the case with the majority of his countrymen. Notwithstanding that such was his character, yet two or three times have I heard him distinctly repeat what follows, not only seriously, but as it were, with no slight degree of distress and *malaise*, as if the repetition were most painful to him.

“Very shortly after I landed in this country,” said he, “these strange circumstances occurred

to me. From not having any acquaintances in the town, I was every evening in the habit of frequenting Bab-el-ouate, to hear the conversation of the persons who assembled there.

“About a fortnight after I had constantly made my appearance at this rendezvous of gossips and listeners, I remarked two middle-aged men, dressed in the costume of the Arabs, who appeared strangers to all the other *habitués*, whom, however, they much interested by their conversation. I was struck by perceiving, that on my joining the group, I appeared constantly to attract their particular attention ;—for they would both fix their eyes upon me, and then exchange significant glances with each other, although they never once addressed themselves to me ; which I, being so young a man, did not of course expect, in the company of my elders and superiors.

“When I returned to the Casaba, the singularity of the manner, in which, I perceived I was regarded by these strangers, would so puzzle me, that I could scarcely close my eyes in sleep for many nights ;—and although this marked notice was disagreeable to me, I always returned on the ensuing evening to the city gate, in the hope that perhaps they might offer me some explanation.

“Perhaps,” I thought, “I might resemble some of their relations or intimate acquaintances in

their own country,—or something else might have particularly struck them in my appearance,—and in short, many other were the suppositions I formed. They still only continued to look at me, and spake not, until one day, when I was taking a solitary walk a little distance outside of the city, and was thinking at the moment of these strange men, I heard some one following me. I turned round, and the oldest looking of them was behind me,—he bowed and smiled,—and for the first time broke silence, by asking some indifferent question, as, whether I had had a pleasant visit to the country house of some acquaintance. I replied that I did not know any one who was so fortunate as to be the proprietor of one, for that I had but very lately arrived from Stamboul. He then proceeded to question me about my mother, and indeed upon all my prospects and concerns;—and at last he said, that he and his brother had taken a great liking to me, from the very first time they had met me at the gate of the city. And that if I were willing, they would prove the interest and regard, they both felt towards me, by something more than empty words,—and that if, the next day at the same hour, I should be inclined to meet them under the same fig-tree, under which we were then seated, they would impart that to me, which would make me a great and rich man. But that if I did not promise the

most absolute secrecy, they could do nothing for me, as, our intended meeting being divulged to any other person, would be an immediate breach in their friendship for me. I promised the strictest silence;—and indeed I had not a single acquaintance with whom I was sufficiently intimate, to have any desire to announce to them the brilliant prospects thus held out to me.

“ You may suppose, Signore Console, that that night was a long one to me, and that long before the appointed hour I was already at the fig-tree. The result of my conference with these two plausible strangers was, that they bound me by the most solemn of oaths;—in the first place, that for the ensuing fortnight, I was neither to eat nor drink anything whatever, except what they should themselves give me, and that I was therefore not to partake of my meals at the Casaba, (or barracks,) but should meet them at their lodgings, the address of which they gave me;—and in the second, that I was to observe the most rigid secrecy and mystery in all my relations with them. As an antepast of my future treasures, they supplied me liberally with gold sequins; and these arrangements were strictly adhered to, both by them and me.—The meals which they served me were of excellent quality, until the three last days before the expiration of the fortnight, when they supplied me with coffee alone,

assuring me at the same time, that the period of probation being so nearly terminated, I must submit to this regimen, and only feast upon the anticipation of all the wealth which I should enjoy as a reward for my present self-denial.

At last the eve of the long-desired day arrived, and we so arranged it, that I did not sleep at the *Casaba*. Just before the gates were closed, I left the city, accompanied by my two conductors, and we journeyed on to the east of the Bay until midnight, when we arrived at the ruins of an ancient palace, not far from the sea-shore. There they invited me to sit upon a broken pillar, and forthwith proceeded to strike a light and kindle a fire, immediately under the only part of the wall of the building which yet stood erect. They then prepared coffee, of which they offered me a cup, and as soon as I had drank it, they, with many strange gestures and ceremonies, walked round and round the fire. After which they commanded me to rise and stand close to the wall, which when I should see open, I was boldly to enter the breach, and bring away the prizeless treasures I should there behold. As soon as one of them had pronounced these injunctions, in the most authoritative tone, his brother, whilst he repeated aloud words of magic spell, cast some odorous incense into the fire, which instantly blazed up in a wonderful manner, and at

the same instant, the wall of the ruined palace was with a loud crash rent asunder, and I felt myself pushed into the chasm, and in a strange-looking vault brilliantly illuminated, whilst heaps of jewels and gold were scattered around me. Instinctively I stooped to grasp them, when, between me and the tempting treasures, arose a lady of surpassing beauty, who smiled most charmingly upon me, until I again attempted to possess myself of the precious objects she thus guarded. Then her whole aspect underwent a change,—for her, at first, lovely eyes, were angrily fixed upon me, and as she looked they became larger and larger, until, as in terror I gazed, they increased to this size, (and he formed a circle by placing the thumbs and fore-fingers of his hands together,) and the ghastly sight so overcame me, that I fell senseless.—Thus for many hours must I have continued, for when at length I awoke from this trance, the sun had risen, and the only trace of my treacherous guides, were the ashes of their fire. With much difficulty did I rise upon my legs, for I felt as if I had been violently bastinadoed from head to foot, and it was evening ere I could make my way back to the town.”

When Hassán concluded this recital, he appeared as if almost overpowered by his recollections, and shortly after left the room. The first time he

mentioned it was after he had been two years in our service, and afterwards, he would willingly have avoided repeating it. His having ever done so, was most incomprehensible to my parents, as it was so out of keeping with his principles and universal conduct. Long afterwards, my father having alluded to it in confidence, to our then Dragoman, and late Captain of the Port, Ali Rais, he laughed and said, "Oh Signore! were you not aware, that at one time Hassan was the most celebrated of opium-eaters, although, both for some years before, and since he has attended you, he had quite abandoned the practice."

The Janissaries in the other consulates always dined with the family; but it suited both my parents' as well as Sidi Hassan's really diffident nature, that he should be served in his own apartment, except on particular occasions, when he always dined with our guests. This he also did whenever we were ourselves invited, taking precedence of all the Janissaries of other nations; for they were always called by that which they respectively served, as the English Janissary, or the French, or the American.—As a most strict regard to etiquette was on all occasions observed amongst the different Consuls in their intercourse with each other, my mother was the first lady handed out;—I sat above all the other demoiselles,—and Sidi Hassan

headed the Janissaries at the lower end of the long, numerous-flanked, and hospitably-covered tables of the representatives of the various European powers.

One evening, on his return from town, Hassan made his appearance in our dining-room, with astonishment marked in his countenance; and as soon as he had reported the result of his morning's fulfilment of the orders he had been charged with, he added, "Now, if I was not certain that Il Signore Console and La Signora Madama know that I am incapable of telling an untruth, I would not venture to tell them the most extraordinary sight my eyes ever beheld. Your Excellências have seen the little Jew *sartore* (tailor), who was dressed like a Christian. Well, then, just as I was mounting my mule, he was at the door of the house in town, speaking to a man: When—what did I see him do? You will, I fear, scarcely credit it,—but he lifted up all the hair of his head off with one hand, whilst he held a handkerchief in the other, and wiped the skin of his head, which was as bare of hair as this," holding out his hand. It was with no little difficulty that he could be made to comprehend the possibility of such a circumstance without any supernatural intervention.

CHAPTER XXI.

Description of Fruits continued—Tame Hare—Wild Animals—
Birds—Insects—Fish—Catching a Polypus—Our Bathing
Place—Our Flocks and Herds—Depredation of a Jackal—Our
Cabailli Servant—Said.

I OMITTED mentioning, in my slight horticultural remarks, that in my sister's garden, which was situated some way up the mountain, there was an abundance of apple and pear trees, bearing fruit of as fine a quality as I have since seen in any part of Europe. She had also several *bosquets* of lilacs, which I never met with in any other garden in Algiers. The year we left Algiers, my father had caused some apple trees to be transplanted into our garden, and there was a very fair promise of a *bonne récolte* on them. All fruit was required to be gathered in the morning before sunrise, for, if deferred until it became heated, it was liable to ferment, and was consequently very unwholesome.

The immense superfluity of fruit generally, but most especially of apricots, was so surprisingly agreeable to all European Johnnie Newcomes, that they frequently gratified their *gourmandise*, without reflecting on the serious consequences of such indulgence; and many have been the consequent fatal results of such childlike intemperance. Indeed, so numerous must have been the examples, that the natives commonly called apricots by a sobriquet, signifying Kill-Christians. An absurd, although painful circumstance, occurred to one of our English friends, the first day of his arrival. He was following our Janissary, with a number of his companions, on their way out to dine with us, when his curiosity tempted him to gather one of the innumerable prickly pears which grew within his reach. This he successfully accomplished, as doubtless his glove was not of kid, and greedily thrusting it within his mouth, he roared out in agony, for scores of sharp poignant prickles filled his lips, tongue, and cheeks. In great distress did he arrive at our house, where tweezers, patience, and charity, were immediately put in requisition, to alleviate his sufferings. After the extraction of the needle-like thorns, nothing so effectually relieved his burning mouth, as the prickly pear itself, divested of all its offensive *entourage*, or well-guarded thick

rind, which encloses the edible part, and preserves it in a state of the most icy coolness, rivalling *à peu pres*, if I may judge by my refreshing *souvenirs* of a warm day, and a well-heaped dish of nicely prepared *Fichi di Mòro*, even the productions of the famed Tortoni himself.

I must also notice a gigantic plant, which I have never seen elsewhere, called by the natives *cuzboure*. Its flower is umbilical, and in all respects, except in size, it resembles common hemlock, or the wild parsnip. Its stem attains the height of eight or nine feet, being often at the root above a foot in circumference, and it is lighter than cork. My father often used to *attraper* his visitors, by asking them to hand him that long pole, when they were much astonished at its being but so slight a burthen. It is, however, a good firm walking-staff, and the natives make use of it for many purposes.

Hares were very numerous, leverets being constantly caught in our garden. At the season of harvest, many of them were daily taken in the thrashing-floor early in a morning, where they were found nestling and feasting under the straw. We frequently tried to bring them up as pets, but were very unfortunate with all our nurslings, with one exception, who turned out a very accomplished character, and certainly was the favourite, *par*

excellence, over all the numerous other candidates for our regard and care;—and not only by us was Puss so distinguished, for a most devoted attachment and alliance existed between her and a beautiful little white and brown spaniel of my mother's, surnamed Rich. Rich and Puss were inseparables, and nothing could be more singular and amusing than to watch one of their most favourite pastimes,—hunting the cats, as they lay basking in the sun, or under the vines in the great court. As soon as puss espied one of them in a state of perfect repose, she would bound out of the breakfast parlour, and with the swiftness of lightning speed her way to *Madama Gatta*, on whose extended sides she would beat a tattoo; and, ere her canine admirer, who had, with wagging tail, been watching her proceedings, at that signal could be at her side—up scampered the poor object of their enmity up the vines, where she stood with bristling fur, and sparkling eyes, looking the picture of spite and ill-will,—whilst, after a bark or two, her successful opponents pursued their gambols, coursing one another round and round, and tumbling over each other, until they thought proper to return to our company, to wait for the appearance of another cat. This really interesting creature was in our possession for nearly three years, and its ultimate fate ever remained a mystery. During one of

our prolonged visits to our town house, poor dear puss disappeared, and although the servants, left in the country, had been most strictly enjoined to bestow every possible care upon her, they never could give any satisfactory account of what befell her. We suspected that the cats, taking advantage of the absence of her protector, (for Rich was in town,) had revenged all their old feuds, by making a meal of their gentle enemy. Words did not express my sense of his loss, when in vain we sought our pretty pet.

Partridges, woodcocks, snipes, quails, wild ducks, and teal, were very abundant. The only game which I have not seen elsewhere, was a large fowl, which was only to be met with in that part of the country to the south-east of Algiers, from whence our *fournisseurs de Gibier* procured them for us. They were of whitish-grey plumage, which was slightly tipped with black at the extremity of their rather downy feathers. The flesh beneath them was of a pinkish hue, but in form, and size, and flavour, these birds very strongly resembled the pheasant. Occasionally we were offered a wild boar killed in the interior, and before the importation of civilized swine, our purveyors were encouraged to bring them more frequently. On a few occasions a roasted porcupine graced our board; but as it was not generally admired, we

seldom had such uncommon fare. It tasted very like a dish I dislike above all others, a roasted pig, and therefore I am not an unprejudiced judge of its merits.

Besides the *Perros di Montana*, the greatest enemy to our *bassecour*, was a very wild savage mountain cat, bearing, however, but very little similarity to the domestic one, except in name. It was a much larger animal, especially in length, and its head, although much less than that of the fox, was more of that shape, but more decidedly triangular. Its long fur and immense bushy tail, was of a dark greenish gray, and striped like the tiger's; it was the fiercest looking creature I ever beheld. Vain were my father's repeated attempts at endeavouring to tame them, or at least to make them submit to the confinement of a cage, of which he had several ones constructed. For frequently have the ever restless prisoners so completely gnawed through wooden bars of the thickness of two or three inches, as to have succeeded in escaping;—and when all their attempts proved abortive, they, by refusing every kind of food, have starved themselves to death. The effluvia in the neighbourhood of their cages was overpoweringly offensive, being, as it were, the very quintessence of that oppressive atmosphere, which I think is always perceptible, on

visiting the dens of wild beasts in any confined place. I have elsewhere mentioned our eagle, and I believe also a very fine silver fox, which formed part of my father's menagerie, which he took so much pleasure in collecting, that numerous were the offers made to him of birds and beasts of every denomination that the country contained,—so that our house was often aptly compared to Noah's Ark.

The land tortoise is very common. We kept several of them in our court, and in the interior flower garden. The first we introduced there, had been in our possession for two years, when one of our servants wantonly drew a brush across its back, with some green paint on it, with which the railings of the flower garden had been just painted; he was reprov'd for so doing, and my father feared it might kill the poor reptile. Shortly afterwards Greenback, for it was so distinguished, disappeared, and we concluded that the misapplication of the paint brush had been its death. But lo! after the interval of three whole years, the tortoise appeared again, so much increased in size, that we should have had many doubts of its identity, even if we had not received it quite as a stranger, but for the large patch of green paint in the centre of its shell.

I am not aware that there were any birds pe-

cular to the country. Nightingales, blackbirds, thrushes, linnets, and goldfinches were very numerous, and filled our groves with unceasing melody. But our most remarkable visitors among the feathered tribes, was an annual arrival of an innumerable host of starlings, which covered the whole sky for so considerable a space, as literally to darken the whole face of nature, while the noise from their wings had a most singular effect. We had likewise an immigration of species of winged creatures, at a stated season of the year, in the shape of large black ants, and two or three different times the swarm settled in one particular side of the upper gallery of our country house. Gradually they disengaged themselves from their aerial conveniences, which fell in a little heap beneath the place to which they had fixed themselves; after which, although they were evidently in a weak and feeble state, they followed their leader or queen in regular order, until they disappeared from my observation.

Our house was also much infested with white ants, particularly my mother's bedchamber,—from the ceiling of which, numbers of their nests in a morning depended. These, being constructed by these singular insects in the course of a single night, would, in that short space of time, descend to the length of several inches, and although as soon as they were ob-

served, they were regularly destroyed, yet if we were absent for a day or two, they increased greatly, and I have heard since that our house has almost entirely fallen to the ground, (I hope the report may not be correct, for I like to think of it as it was,) and, doubtless, the ravages of these diminutive, yet but too efficient, sappers and miners, must eventually have greatly, if not entirely, contributed to its destruction.

We experienced great annoyance from the small black emmet, in our store-rooms and pantries. But the wasps were much greater devastators; for as there were not any grocers' shops in Algiers, we were obliged to procure all our *epiceries* from other countries. As long delays often occurred in the execution and arrival of the orders sent to one place, a duplicate or triplicate commission was given to correspondents at Gibraltar, Marseilles, Alicant, or some other not too distant port. It sometimes even then chanced, that we were much distressed by none of these luxurious necessaries of life, making their appearance in due and expected time; whilst at others, they would all arrive, almost at once. Thus it once happened, that having a superabundant stock of brown sugar, a large hogshhead containing it, was not examined for a considerable time after it was placed in the store-room; and when it was at length opened, in lieu of its sup-

posed contents, it was found to be three parts filled with dead wasps. During the hot weather, they abounded in every part of the house, constantly stinging us. I once underwent that *petit supplice* thrice in less than as many minutes.

In comparison with Gibraltar and Malta, we were not much annoyed with musquitoes and sand-flies, and even then, only in the warm weather.

We were well supplied with fish, such as the red and grey mullet, and a species of cod, which, with a great variety of other small fish, quite swarmed amidst the rocks, all along the coast from our house to the eastern point. The only kind which I recollect as peculiar, was of excellent flavour, and of rather larger size than the mullet; when dressed, its bones were of a blue colour and almost transparent. There was also a curious production of the sea, which made an excellent *frittura*. It was found floating on the surface of the water close to the shore, and from its stinging effect upon the hands of its cullers, it was denominated *ortiche del Mère*, (for although, from its appearing like one jellied mass, I use the singular pronoun, it is, I believe, an amalgamation of many creatures,) and does not present a very *appetissant* appearance; but is, as I said before, excellent *à manger*. We also had very good lobsters; but sea cray-fish were more common. The crabs were very diminutive,

Turtles were often presented to us by the captains of merchant vessels, who had taken them at sea.

The most singular piscatory treat we had, was a fish caught in a manner more novel than agreeable. In the little baylet immediately under our house, we were enabled to enjoy sea-bathing with great comfort, as the sea ran into a large natural cave, where it was of sufficient depth for us to bathe, without its being possible for any person to observe us; and during the whole time that we were in it, servants were stationed in the high road which ran along the top of the cliff, to prevent any intruders on our privacy. An excellent flight of steps had also been cut out for our accommodation. On one of these occasions, we were all thrown into a state of great alarm, by my dearest mother screaming out, that something had seized one of her feet, and was dragging her down into the water. Sharks and every other marine monster instantly seized our affrighted imaginations, until our nothing daunted handmaid, Maria, (who, *par parenthese*, could swim as well as any *pescatôre di l'onda* could be supposed to do,) flew to her assistance, and dragged her out of the watery element. Then we discovered the hitherto invisible monster, to be a large polypus, whose many limbs, each covered with innumerable mouths, were so firmly entwined around my mother's foot and leg, that a

considerable time elapsed, ere, by dint of pulling and cutting with penknives and scissors, we succeeded in releasing her from so pertinacious a parasite. Whilst we were thus employed, Maria ceased not to address my mother and the strangely ensnared fish, alternately, "*Non bisogna, temere Signora Madama,—gia ch'è così farete una buona Mangiata non houmái visto úna pui cattiva bestia, &c.*—and under her own immediate superintendence, was the object of her invectives served up at our table, under the denomination of a well seasoned *matelotte*, and those who tasted it, pronounced very favourably of its palatable qualities.

We were told that persons bathing, have, from a similar *rencontre*, been drowned, the polypus having succeeded in bearing them down to the bottom of the sea.

This, however, was a singular *desagrément*, as we bathed uninterruptedly at all seasons, although shortly before we left Algiers, we were warned by one of our naval friends, to be on our guard, for on his visiting us in his gig one morning, they had seen a large shark, within a few yards of our bathing place. The brave sailor said that he quite trembled at the bare thought of our being liable to the vicinage of such voracious neighbours.

My little sister and I had so great a horror of ever partaking of any fish guilty of cannibalism, that

whenever one of large proportions made its appearance at dinner, my sister was overheard by the elder members of our family, to appeal to me in a whisper, "Do you think, E——, that that fish is large enough to eat a woman?" and my opinion of the question, determined whether either of us accepted any of it or not. For as we sometimes heard of unfortunate women having been sentenced to be drowned, sewed up in sacks, (such being the only capital punishment awarded to the weaker sex,) we naturally objected to tasting one of their *quondam* devourers. Our delicacy on this point, afforded so much amusement to our seniors, that these overheard whispers passed apparently unnoticed, as otherwise their repetition would have been exchanged for some masonic sign, had we been aware of the ridicule we were likely to incur by our fastidiousness. I think I should be just as prone now, as then, to ascertain the probable propensity of our finny comestibles, for

"Je ne suis pas de ceux qui disent ; ce n'est rien !
C'est une femme que l'on noie."

The beach adjoining our bathing cave was covered with fine small gravel, on which we constantly found pretty shells, as likewise many small sponges. All along the coast, westward, was the Bay divided, by rocks covered with samphire and

other plants, into separate strands, of greater or lesser extent, and of varied form,—in some places the sea running farther inland than in others. One of them was particularly romantic and beautiful, as it contained a font of Nature's own construction, which seemed as if it had served as a model for many I have seen in Roman Catholic temples;—the niche, above the limpid fountain, being richly clothed with the delicate capillaire, surpassing in verdant brilliancy and delicacy, the richest tapestry, of bright green velvet. The recollection of that sweet beach, has ever been a favourite haunt of my imagination, when this world's turmoil has induced me to seek the mind's repose, by beguiling it back to these bygone times and calmer scenes.

My father found the broad-tailed Tunisine sheep much to be preferred to those of the country, both with respect of mutton, the better quality of their wool, and their larger fleeces. So that latterly, the greater part of our flock was of that kind, for he originally imported a number of them from Tunis; and they rapidly increased, and as well as our twenty cows, prospered on the fine aromatic pasturage our mountain afforded, on whose shrubs our flock of sixty goats also browsed. Rarely did we miss the gratification of witnessing their return to the farm house, at the gate of which, Sidi Has-

san was stationed, with a long wand in his hand, with which he carefully counted over their number; all the Cabaili labourers around him, used their utmost efforts, to prevent any self-willed goat or frisky kid, from having the presumption to enter the farm yard, until every sheep had had the established precedence of being first counted over, and admitted within its precincts. Forcibly is this animated pastoral scene recalled to my mind's eye, whenever I read or hear that sublime declaration of the blessed Saviour, in Matthew xxv. 15.

Among the goats, there was one which evinced, towards myself and sister, the most singular affection and attachment. From what cause it originated, we never could understand, although after this friendship was appreciated by us, it was not so unaccountable, why Phillis, the moment she perceived us at any attainable distance, flew with almost the lightning's speed, to rub her head gently against us, and receive from our willing hands, the tenderest branches of the almond trees, or any other within our reach. But before she was thus welcomed, she had evinced towards us this distinguishing and incomprehensible regard, for she was perhaps the ugliest goat in the whole flock, having a dusky and rough coat, and nothing whatever prepossessing in her appearance, except the expression of her eyes, which certainly possessed

a gleam of more than goat-like intelligence. Poor Phillis—must have missed her favourites, who long regretted her among all else they cherished at Algiers.

It was but seldom that our flocks were found to have decreased in number since their morning's *sortie*, as almost daily they returned with additional lambs and kids.—But when Sidi Hassan did miss either goat or sheep, fiercely did his wrath kindle towards the poor trembling herds, who were forthwith despatched o'er mountain and dell, until they either discovered the wanderer, or could bring back conclusive evidence, that the animal had either fallen over a precipice, or had become a prey to the ever watchful jackal. In the latter cases, the usual fate of the careless guardian, was a violent beating and dismissal. A very beautiful Spanish goat, of a large size, given to me by my friend Donna Agustina di Zugarti, fell a victim to the *Perros di Montana*, a day or two after she had sent it to me, although it was in the middle of the day, and in an inclosure close to the farm house, where workmen must have been passing frequently.

I was one day walking with my mother in the garden, and when we came near the farm, she observed, “Look, there is the antelope among the poultry,—how could it have got there?” But the

next instant we discovered the supposed gazelle to be a jackal;—for, amidst the most tremendous cackling and screeching of the whole feathered assembly, we beheld sly Renard's *proche parent*, seize, as it afterwards proved, the plumpest fowl of the whole party, and jerking it over his shoulder, leap the fence which surrounded the *day nursery* of our *volaille*, and with great speed, make towards the mountain; where some of our woodcutters, attracted by our exclamations, instantly gave the pilferer chase, and the foremost of them succeeded, by throwing a log of wood, in causing him to drop his ill-gotten prize;—but the poor thing was already dead. This was about two o'clock in the afternoon. At night, all the poultry were, of course, put into more secure quarters.

A strange bandit-like scene could every evening be witnessed under a large open porch, which formed an ante-chamber to our stables. There, after all the labours of the day were over, all the Caballis in our service, assembled around a large wood fire, lighted in the centre of the *local*. On this was placed a kettle, containing boiling water alone; the *cuisinier officiant* from amongst their number, being employed in breaking up into small pieces, their individual allowances of the black, (for brown it was not,) bread, formed into small loaves. Each of these I could perfectly cover

with my hand. I do not know how many of them was the portion allotted to our Caballis;—but the wretched Christian slaves at the Bagnio, had but three of them for their daily bread and sole food.

A large circular and deep wooden trencher received the bread thus divided; over this the hot water was poured, and it was allowed to soak in it for a time, when, at a given signal, the eager *convives* closed the circle around the smoking mass; to which was then added a copious stream of oil, poured out of the spout of a tin can; and then came, not the *din* of war, for their well-plied implements fell and rose noiseless, for *ils se servaient tout simplement de leurs doigts*, neither spoon or fork encumbering them in their gastronomical enjoyment. However, sometimes their repasts were varied, on particular occasions, such as on our Sovereign's or a family birth-day. My father then ordered a sheep to be given them, and at all times he desired the gardener to let them have as many vegetables as they chose to use; but, from habit, I believe they were perfectly contented with their dingy Panada.

These people have but one single garment, which is of a very coarse woollen cloth, originally of the natural hue of the sheep's fleece, but seldom to be seen of any definable tint, the vesture of course varying in shade, according to the length of

time it had *drapé* its wearer. A piece of straw rope, twisted round their waist, completed the Cabaili costume, and wherever we went, several of them acted as our running footmen, surrounding and following our cavalcade. Those who immediately attended to our orders, were two upper grooms, who, although of the same people, were dressed in the usual Moorish habit of Caftan, trowsers, red Morocco cap with a blue tassel, and shoes on their feet. I do not remember whether I mentioned that Turks alone, or Algerines in office under the Government, were entitled, or rather permitted to wear turbans. Not even the sons of Turks and Algerine women were allowed this distinction.

During almost the whole time we were at Algiers, a Cabaili, named Said, was our principal groom, as well as the personal attendant on Sidi Hassan. Once, after an occurrence of *Fantasia* between them, Said left our service for a few months, and apprenticed himself to a gunsmith. But as he really was the Janissary's right hand in superintending the rest of the out-of-door servants, his wish to return was met half way, and he not only remained with us until our departure, but with tears entreated my father to take him to England; and as he was useful to take charge of a very pretty barb horse, leave was

obtained from the Dey for him to go with us. Before our embarkation, Mr Said had so much *fantasia*, as in secret to have quite a splendid Turkish costume, turban and all, *confectionné* by one of the tailors most in repute amongst the Algerine exquisites.

On our landing in England, Said shone most gallantly and bravely, every inch a Turk;—and like the jack-daw in the fable, he endeavoured to enact the very part of his outer covering, to our indescribable annoyance; for Said, for several days after our arrival in London, attempted to take upon himself the office of our Janissary in the streets of London, pushing and shoving all before us, to the astonishment of the lieges, and to our no trifling dismay, expecting every moment that a mob would collect, and prevent our escape. This, however, we effected, by entering a shop, and sending our self-elected *avant-courier* home with a message, and leaving it ere his return. This, I believe, wounded his feelings and sense of propriety to a great degree:—That the Signora Madama and the Signorini should just walk about like other people, instead of allowing him to clear the way, as the Dragoman and Janissary always did, wherever we bent our steps, was as vexatious to him, as it was incomprehensible. He was at

length obliged to submit his better judgment to the uncivilized usages of European customs.

The first time we visited Astley's amphitheatre, our two servants, Said and our enfranchised cook Salvador, were there likewise. Watching their looks of wonder, greatly engrossed our attention from the performances in the circus and on the stage; whilst theirs seemed equally divided between the wonderful sights and our box. As soon as they saw us rising, they made their way out from the centre of the pit, where they had sat to be ready to attend us. But so arbitrary were they in facilitating our exit, and reaching our carriage, that they were very near receiving a lesson of John Bull's consideration for foreigners; their master's timely orders, however, made them submit to our being somewhat incommoded in our passage. When they returned home, Said asked his fellow-servant if he really believed that all the wonders they had beheld were realities. On Salvador's replying in the affirmative, he added, "Be assured that they were not, but the effects of the art of some great magician;" and this conviction he ever retained.

When at length the day of his departure came, (for an agreement had been made, that he should only be absent from Algiers for a certain length of time,) the poor creature's heart seemed ready

to break. Again, and again, did he run up the stairs, raising my father's hand to his forehead, then again to his lips, three several times repeating this ceremony, the usual salutation of inferiors, and then casting himself upon the ground before each of us successively. He kissed our feet, praying that every good might attend us, and with difficulty was he at last prevailed upon to enter the hackney coach. From Portsmouth we received a letter from the master of the vessel which was to convey him to Gibraltar on his way home, in which he said that he had, at the grateful creature's request, written to tell us that he was well, and that he never should be happy again. At the end of this epistle was a long nonsensical scrawl, which we concluded was of Said's penmanship, for it was just like a baby's performance,—a mere scribble of the pen, but which doubtless passed with the captain of the ship as pure Arabic, and had the effect of impressing his shipmates with a high opinion of his erudition and scrivenership.

CHAPTER XXII.

Biographical Sketch of our worthy Nurse and her stupid Husband—Story of old Francisco and his Sons.

HAVING thus noticed a *palfrenier*, I cannot resist also giving a slight biographical sketch of a member of our household, who filled a much more confidential situation in it,—our own warm-hearted, as well as somewhat warm-tempered Neapolitan nurse Maria, and will, *en premier lieu*, attempt her portrait. She was a decided *brunette*, of a clear transparent complexion; the roseate tint, however, positively predominating in her plump cheeks. Her black eyes were *bien fendus*, and bright at all times, but brighter still when we presumed to disobey. Her jetty hair was turned back from off her full forehead, and fastened in a knot at the top of her head by a large silver bodkin, two long curls alone being allowed to escape,

and hang down from her temples ;—and yet Maria was not a beauty,—she was rather what the Scotch would denominate *sonsie*, for her nose, mouth, and proportions generally, were on too large a scale. What her age was I do not know, and children are so apt to fancy their seniors so much older than, as they themselves rise in the scale of humanity, they afterwards find them to be, that I shall not say what my own presumptions were on that delicate point, to which a *femme de chambre* is as susceptible of an unfavourable misconception as the fairest and most courtly of dames.

Reggio in Calabria was our worthy *Bonne's* birth-place, and she always wore the costume peculiar to it, namely :—On great *festas*, her hose were of red silk, ornamented with golden clocks,—her high-heeled shoes, of crimson and blue satin,—her rather short petticoat was of striped white dimity, —and her tightly-fitting laced bodice, of the same materials and colours as her shoes. She at all times wore large gold ear-rings, and never for one instant, night or day, did she separate herself from a row of coral which surrounded her olive throat. To this she attributed many supernatural qualities, as I have often heard her declare, that when any evil, either of sickness, or of the other innumerable calamities our nature is prone to, were on the eve of occurring to her,—these became of a paler

hue, and only recovered their usual deep red colour, after the evil they so truly prognosticated, had passed away.—Colourless indeed, then, should they have been on the fatal night, when their poor hapless wearer occupied her couch, in a small fort on the Calabrese coast, for the last time ;—where her husband, Antonio the Stupid, commanded in the capacity of Sergeant of veterans, and it being his duty each night to raise the draw-bridge, he, with his usual regularity, left it in that convenient state, that made it quite unnecessary to let it down in the morning. In short, Antonio thought raising and lowering the *ponte-levatojo* a mere work of supererogation, and the other four veterans under his command, with true Neapolitan love of the *dolce far niente*, of course, were not so mutinous as to interfere with their sergeant's duty. The consequence of this perfect good understanding in the garrison, was, that one starry night a boat's crew from an Algerine frigate landed ;—and the first sight our good Maria saw, was her chamber filled with Turks ;—the next instant, ere they perceived her, she had slipt from her husband's side, down the *ruelle* of her bed :—While she lay beneath it, scarcely alive from fright, her husband and little boy of seven years of age, were seized, and with everything of any value their room contained, removed out of it. Scarcely did she be-

gin to breathe and think that she was at any rate spared to her daughter, (by a former marriage, who, at the time, was on a visit to her grandmother at a village, a few miles in the interior,) than she heard some one re-enter her chamber, and a Turk stooping down with a drawn attaghan, proceeded to flourish it under the bed, and in so doing, he discovered the trembling unfortunate, as he had anticipated. For just as they were leaving the fort, the thought had struck him, that some one might have been under the sergeant's bed, especially as the poor boy's cries of "*La mia Mama, Mama mia dove siete,*" gave him to understand, that such an individual was missing. As all these veteran watchmen were married, and had all of them families, this proved a most successful harrying to the Algerines.

Maria, on her arrival, was consigned with her little son, to the house of some Turk in office, where she lost her poor child before the second year of their captivity elapsed. She always spoke of the great kindness she experienced, as indeed is universally the case, for all private individuals, always treat both Christian and negro slaves rather as if they stood in the relation of children to them, than in a state of bondage. How dreadful is the opposite picture, that we have heard drawn of the conduct of those, who bear the outward name of

disciples of Him, who for our sakes became poor, that we through His poverty, might become rich,—heirs of life eternal; and the test by which we are to be distinguished as being legitimately so, is,—that we love one another.

The Ethiopian, whom nothing hindered to be baptized, must have been of the same complexion as our negro brethren, who in republican America are not, in the temple of the living God who is of too pure a nature to behold iniquity, permitted to sit in company with those who call themselves followers of the meek and lowly Jesus;—but are considered as unclean by those who, surely, in so far must be entitled Pharisees.

During the period of Sidi Hassan's absence at Constantinople, he was replaced by a Sidi Ibrahim; and a most violent scene followed his first installation as our Janissary, for in him poor Maria recognized the very Turk who had sought her in her hiding-place. These hostile demonstrations were frequently renewed during the whole time that Sidi Ibrahim was a member of our Establishment. He was one of the easiest-tempered and best-natured of men, and he did all he could to conciliate her whom he had captivated, in the usual sense of the word;—but in vain did he protest that he was, from his heart's core, sorry so to have done; that it had been his first youthful

essay "in warlike deeds," and that therefore he had been anxious to distinguish himself in the eyes of his commanders, by doing all his *possible* to increase their booty; but a deaf ear was turned to all his propitiatory arguments, however subtle, and Sidi Hassan received an additional welcome, as the harbinger of the departure of his deputy.

Maria entered our service immediately on our arrival, and remained, even after our departure, for some time nominally in it, as I have quoted from the journal. But in vain did we try to find an occupation, suited to the abilities of her husband. To please my mother, the Christian head gardener at the Dey's garden, caused him to be removed from the wretchedness of the Bagnio, and entered on the list of slaves employed under him. Vainly, however, was any labour, however trivial, given to the stupid old man, for he invariably acted in direct opposition to the orders received. The last, and condemning deed, was to pull out and throw away every small cauliflower plant out of a bed he had been given to clear, and to leave all the weeds behind; and therefore a respectful intimation came, that it was impossible to retain Antonio in the Dey's garden. He was, in consequence, removed to ours; but there he conducted himself with even more misapprehension than in the royal service; and as a last resource, and to his wife's

satisfaction, he was installed as the porter at the gate of our town house. Not long had he filled that situation, ere he proved that he had, at least, profited by the last *bévue* he made at Reggio ; for on the occasion of two English gentlemen (who had for some time been staying with us in the country, waiting for a vessel to sail,) coming into town, to embark that morning for Malta, Antonio so strictly adhered to the general injunctions he had received,—never, when we were out of town, to leave the house door open,—that he carefully locked the two gentlemen in, and took a promenade, and visited his several acquaintances ;—and they, in a state bordering on distraction, knowing that the hour for the ship's sailing had elapsed, were kept in thralldom until the faithful Cerberus leisurely returned to receive their any thing but courteous encomiums. Sure enough, the vessel, after waiting some hours, had sailed without them ; but they were, notwithstanding, by freighting a small boat, fortunate enough to overtake her, and their already embarked baggage.

The grave and reverend Antonio must have been considerably older than his buxom spouse ; but his locks of snowy white, and hers of raven black, offered not a more decided contrast than did the dispositions and manners of the incongruous pair. For if the ex-sergeant had ever been taught to march,

the only remaining trace of such an accomplishment, consisted in his ever keeping his *nez en l'air*, whilst he dragged his feet on in the even tenor of his way, in a movement betwixt a slide and a shuffle. His *chere Moitié*, on the contrary, was a most agile dancer, particularly excelling in her national tarantella, and at all times, "decision was in all her steps," as well as tones and acts.

Notwithstanding these discrepancies, I believe they formed, upon the whole, *assez bon ménage*. One instance of Antonio's conjugal tenderness I well remember witnessing. Maria, although of so vivacious a character, was rather addicted to taking a *siésta* at most undue hours, when, instead of so reposing, she was in duty bound to give her attendance to my sister and myself. When she was remonstrated with on the subject, she constantly exculpated herself, by pleading sudden indisposition,—a fainting or hysterical fit giving proof positive, that mere indolence had not caused her to neglect her charges; and the most compassionate attentions then followed the scarcely-pronounced reproof. On one of these occasions, my mother expressed her regret at her being, by so severe an attack, prevented from enjoying a dance that evening; for the guardian Pacha having sent out some Christian musicians to offer their services, my parents, with their ever-ready indulgence

towards their servants, had determined, as it was the season of Carnival, that they should have an *impromptu* ball. Maria's only reply was a repetition of the groans she had for some time so eloquently uttered; but as she shortly seemed more composed, the ladies of the family left her room. In about an hour afterwards, on hearing the orchestra play an animated English country dance, the denizens of the parlour were induced to honour the servants' hall with their presence for a time, to have the gratification of seeing our poor captive servants forget their bonds for a season. As we expected, several of them had attempted to disguise themselves, by adopting costumes the most unlike their usual garb. Men were attired in that of the gentler sex, and *vice versa*; but our attention was rivetted by the *gambades* of a personage habited in one of my father's cast-off uniforms, and cocked-hats, who was the sprightliest leader of the giddy maze, but who, to our great surprise, on a closer examination, proved to be no other than the *pseudo*-invalid, the languid Maria.

Two or three other such suspicious attacks, and rapid recoveries, had caused my mother's sympathy to be in a degree weakened towards our, in all other circumstances, really worthy nurse;—but as she did not think it desirable to impart her suspicions to us, we were both of course much

grieved whenever Maria was indisposed. One day in town, when, after dinner, we could neither find her in the room in which she usually sat with us, nor could by any means summon her attendance, we both determined to go in search of her in her own room, and there, to our dismay, we discovered her extended on her bed, to all appearance perfectly inanimate, and so she continued, notwithstanding all our efforts to rouse her. We then went in search of her husband, who, as soon as he entered her chamber, seized a water ewer, and filling his mouth with water, forthwith proceeded to sputter it all over Maria's face and person;—but he needed not to repeat the experiment, for scarcely had he begun the operation, when up started his indignant spouse;—and bitter, loud, and many were the reproaches that she showered upon him, for his presuming thus to treat my sister' and her. My hearty laugh at the novel and successful stimulant, did not at all abate her ire; but her health received essential and lasting benefit from this *douche*, and she never again was liable to *svenirsi*.

The last tidings I heard of her, were of a mixed nature. She was going up the side of a vessel, to return to her dear daughter in their native land, after Exmouth's glorious victory had reft asunder the chains of all the Christian captives in Algierne

bondage, and the good creature had placed a well-filled purse of gold sequins, the fruits of her faithful services to us, in her bosom ; this by some fatality was, in her ascent up the vessel, jerked out from its concealment, and fell to the bottom of the sea. The account of my affectionate nurse's agony, at being thus deprived of her honestly-gotten gains, was the last I ever received concerning her. For many a long year did we promise ourselves the delight of seeking her out in Calabria ; but as numerous were the disappointments that prevented the realization of so agreeable a project, and the wish yet remains ungratified.

I should be wrong were I to attribute entirely to her husband's experiment, Maria's perfect exemption from her rather suspicious attacks of illness. When she entered our service, she did not know a letter of the alphabet ; but as she was of a most quick and intelligent nature, under my dear mother's benevolent instructions, and my sub-teaching, she soon became a very expert reader of the New Testament, in the perusal and explanation of which she took the greatest delight. Besides this, her confessor (however such an office may sometimes be misguided,) was the truly excellent Padre Guiseppe ;—and never did he permit her or others to approach the Sacrament, without insisting upon, even the least deviation from the law of

Christian love, being expiated by an earnestly-sought reconciliation with the individual, whom, in thought, word, or deed, they had erred towards. At such seasons, therefore, Maria failed not to seek her beloved mistress, and with humility and tears to entreat her pardon for such and such faults.

I must not be misunderstood :—From having passed the greatest part of my life amongst Papists, I am so well aware of the great dereliction of the Church of Rome, from that of our blessed Lord and his apostles, that I rejoice with joy unbounded, when I hear of any sincere converts from its errors. But not stronger is my happy conviction, that among its members are many, like Padre Guiseppe,—true and most faithful servants of the Lord Jesus.

Another really excellent being, was old Francisco Musmeci, Maria's coadjutor in our out-of-door guardianship, with some account of whose history I shall conclude my biographical anecdotes. When our Italian *chef de cuisine* Juan left Algiers, he was replaced in that office by his assistant Salvador,—a good creature, whose *affranchisement* was granted by his owner, Bacri, King of the Jews, as a favour to my mother. For among the many incongruities of Algerine *moeurs*, an Israelite was so vilely esteemed, that ere he was permitted to de-

clare himself a Mussulman neophyte, he must previously have borne a somewhat less base denomination than that of Jew ; and he therefore was called upon, first, to abjure that profession which rendered him scarcely on a par with the brutes that perish, and to declare himself a Christian. And yet, although those of the latter persuasion were prohibited from becoming the proprietors of slaves, professing any creed whatsoever ;—Jews were freely permitted to purchase any Christian slaves, on exactly the same terms as Mahomedan private individuals ; and as they were able to pay a high price for them, therefore the slaves belonging to the Jews were, like all their other possessions, of more than ordinary value. Such we found Salvador ; for there never was a more attached or faithful creature.

On Mr Bacri paying us visits on such occasions as the New Year, or any other notable days, when he, in the usual courteous *parlance* of southern foreigners, declared, in paying his compliments to my mother, that all that he possessed was at her service, she never failed, in mood of half seriousness, half *plaisanterie*, to say, “ I shall be very glad to take you at your word ; and tell my cook, Salvador, that he is at liberty, for that you have made me a present of him.” The repetition of this *burla* ended by the poor

eagle-killer being restored to liberty, of which he had been deprived at the age of twelve years, under the most afflicting circumstances.

He was an only child, of respectable parents, natives and residents at Cape Passaro, in Sicily. Two days before he was made a slave, his father died; and, as is usual in those countries, he was buried on the following day, and the poor child gave way to such uncontrollable grief, that his poor mother gladly consented to his accompanying her brother to the country-house of a friend, which was situated close on the sea-shore, hoping that the change of scene might in some degree divert his mind from the irreparable loss that they had both sustained. That very night did Tripoline Corsairs effect a landing, and the abduction of all the inhabitants of the village, whither Salvador's uncle had conducted him. What tidings for his broken-hearted, widowed parent! Their captors sailed away with them to Tripoli, and there they were both sold to a wealthy native merchant, who, after a year or two, in one of his trading voyages to Algiers, sold the younger slave to Bacri, in whose possession he remained, although hired out by him to us, until my mother's persevering humanity obtained his liberation:—And he continued as a happy freeman in our service, until after our arrival in England, where, notwithstand-

ing his most natural anxiety to be once more reunited to his only surviving parent, he declared himself but too happy to remain and serve us to his latest breath. But besides the wish to indulge his dutiful filial feelings, which were unabated, my father also considered, that in another respect, it was more desirable for the poor fellow's comfort, not to avail himself of his services, for we were in future to reside with a dear venerable relative, whose household establishment was composed of aged servitors, who would probably have eyed him with suspicion, as an outlandish character; and hitherto he had been our *major domo*, the head and arbiter of our domestics, and it would have been no trifling trial, notwithstanding all his grateful attachment, to have sunk into an inferior station in our service. He, therefore, took a not less affecting leave of his benefactors than Said, shortly after the departure of the latter.

I have given this account of Salvador, as an introduction to what I am going to relate concerning old Francisco, as it was from Salvador's recommendation that we first knew anything of him; for on Juan's departure, a new assistant to the cook being required, Salvador used his interest for a young Sicilian, named Marianno, to be hired in that capacity. I happened to be in my father's study, when he was brought there for my father's

approval, and I shall never forget the earnestness with which the poor half famished looking wretch, pleaded to be allowed to become our scullion ;—he sunk upon his knees, and with bitter tears entreated for God sake, that his *illustrissima Eccellenza* would, in mercy and pity, not send him back to the Bagnio. My father, who never could endure to witness the abasement of a fellow-creature, in vain bid him rise, until Salvador by force made him do so,—telling him at the same time, that he was incurring the Consul's displeasure.

This affecting scene ended in the poor creature's obtaining the object of his earnest prayers,—the office of our scullion. Some conception may therefore be formed of the unhappy existence of the slaves, who laboured at the public works, and shared the public rations granted them by their implacable masters. After Marianno had been a short time at our Garden, my mother was informed of the following particulars, which, with the uniform good conduct of each individual to which they relate, excited in her that interest of which they ever have proved themselves most deserving.

Francisco Musmeci was the father of a family of three sons and six daughters, and a citizen of the pretty town of Aci Reale, (formerly Acis Aquileja,) distant about ten miles from Catania, in Sicily. He was a man of some substance, which, however,

was principally embarked in a small vessel, of which he was also the Padrone, or captain. The crew which manned the little vessel, were all his near relatives; in her they traded constantly between Aci Reale and Malta, carrying wine, fruit, and other provisions to that island. The great ambition of both Francisco and his wife, was to devote their eldest son and eldest daughter to the service of the Church, and as their children's inclinations cordially seconded this, according to their conviction, pious wish, they were educated in accordance with such a determination. But as both their son Luciano and his sister, were yet under the required age for admittance into the religious profession;—the young lad, since the completion of his studies, had accompanied his father for the last several voyages in their bark, acting as the *scrivanno* of their mercantile transactions. As the time approached when he and his sister were to enter their noviciate, which the religious parents had determined should be at the same time, it was also agreed, when they last quitted their beautiful romantic town, that it was to be Luciano's last voyage. But man proposes, and God disposes. They were all taken by an Algerine corvette, and condemned to bondage. Their more than usually aggravated misfortunes, and their excellent character, induced my parents to do all in their power to mitigate

their undeserved unhappiness. Luciano obtained, through their interest, the situation of Scrivano at the Dey's Garden, in which his good education enabled him to give much satisfaction;—and the office of my sister's and my footman was made expressly for the venerable old Francisco, who, to the best of his ability, never for a minute lost sight of us when summoned to attend our promenades; although both he and Maria preferred a stationary to an active *surveillance*, as each vied with the other in manual industry at the same time, and Francisco was as expert a knitter as his companion.

After many abortive attempts to propitiate the Dey in behalf of the poor old man, whose wife and daughters had sold all they possessed in the world, to send the products to Algiers, in the hope that it might suffice for his ransom; though, alas! it fell so far short of the fixed large sum, that the Dey would not hear of its acceptance;—my dear father, on a particular occasion, (what exactly I do not now recollect,) on which, according to *usanza*, the Dey was bound to make a present of value to the English Consul, as was his constant practice in similar circumstances, made a public request that his Highness would graciously be pleased, instead of any other offering, to bestow upon him a Christian slave.—

This, in royal courtesy, even in Algerine etiquette, the Pacha could not refuse, and Francisco, as well as several other equally fortunate slaves, were granted to his request, although the Dey latterly said, "Take care, Signore Console, that you have not to reproach yourself with the loss of my head, for I fear I may with justice be accused of being over-generous in thus parting with the property of the state."

When the old man was on the point of leaving us, my father asked him, if he should ever find a propitious moment in which he might prevail upon the Dey to grant him the liberty of one of his sons, on the payment of the hitherto considered inadequate sum of money which had been forwarded for the purpose of his own ransom, to which of his sons the preference should be shown? "Ask me not, Sir," replied the agitated father; "I cannot make a choice between two children equally dutiful and affectionate, and equally dear to me."

An opportunity for the furtherance of my father's benevolent intentions did at length occur, and he named our own servant Marianno as the object worthy of being benefited by the Dey's liberality; and in consequence, his passage was engaged on board a ship going to Malta. He took a respectful leave of the family, and we

all looked at the vessel as it sailed out of the bay,—of course believing that it contained our honest *sotto cuoco*. But to the astonishment of the whole household, Marianno entered the drawing-room that very evening, and throwing himself at the feet of my parents, he exclaimed, “ Pardon me, my benefactors, if your servant “ has thus presumed to deceive your goodness. “ Luciano was my elder brother, and in every respect more worthy, and capable of being more “ useful to our parents than I am ; and I have “ therefore, against his own will, by proving to “ him, as he is able to do more good, that it was “ his bounden duty to go in my place, with difficulty persuaded him ; and believe me, that it “ is far happier for me ; and I hope it may please “ God to let me serve you while I live.”

Tears of mingled sympathy and admiration were the only answers to this model of fraternal piety, whose last wish was, however, unfulfilled ; for Marianno was one of the weeping group that escorted us to the Marina on the evening of our embarkation at Algiers, and he was one of Lord Exmouth’s triumphant proofs that Britannia rules the waves. Afterwards he did serve one of my father’s children, as he entered the service of my beloved eldest sister at Malta, and that was the last we heard of the Musmecis. But it was not,

however, the only confirmation which we received of the gratitude they professed to feel for the benefits they had received. For after the aged Francisco's return to Aci Reale, he set his wife and daughters (the eldest of whom renounced her intention of entering a convent, that her required dowry might be applied towards the ransom money,) to spin and weave three tablecloths and twelve napkins, which they sent as a present to my mother, as a trifling *memento* of those on whom she had conferred such everlasting obligations. Carefully have these articles been preserved, and I hope my child will never look upon them with an indifferent eye or heart; for in mine they are more precious than rubies.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Destruction of Documents by Fire—Festivities on the Birth of the Cadi's Grandson—Aquatic Dancing—Moorish Dinners—Receipt for dressing Couscousou—Derivation of Vermicelli—Sidi Arabic—Music—Conclusion.

It might have been in my power to have given information of much higher interest, had not an untoward event deprived my father of all his most valuable and particular documents, relating to the discharge of his official character, as His Majesty's Agent at Algiers. For almost immediately after we arrived in London from thence, my father's friend and my eldest brother's schoolfellow, Sir William A'Court, now Lord Heytesbury, being on the point of visiting the different Regencies of Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli, as His Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary on an extraordinary mission;—my father, who was most desirous that the fullest advantages should be reaped from

Sir William's embassy, put into his hands not only all his memoranda which related to public business during his Consulship at the former of these places ; but likewise all the original letters he had received from His Majesty's ministry during that period, in which were contained his orders and directions for the ratification of the treaty with the Dey, for the cession of La Cala and Il Col, with the commerce of Bona and the Coral Fishery, to Great Britain ; and on account of his successful and zealous services in the furtherance of these affairs, the high and gratifying reward of His Majesty's thanks. All these, to my father most invaluable documents, perished while in Sir W. A'Court's possession, by a fire which took place at the Hotel in St James's Street, (if I am not mistaken):—and strange, and to us ever to be deplored, fatality ! on a beloved relative endeavouring in some degree to palliate this, to us great misfortune, by at least procuring the copies of these letters, which had been addressed by His Majesty's Government to my father ; he was, with but too certain authority, informed, that a year or two before his application, all these papers had likewise perished by fire. For one of the offices in Downing Street requiring to be repaired or painted, the gentleman who had the charge of the books containing the copies of all the letters which

had been written in that part of the correspondence of the Foreign Office for a certain number of years, had, on the eve of these repairs or improvements, removed all these books to his private residence, and his house taking fire, they were burned, and among them were all the copies of every letter written to my father.

As these (to us) ever-to-be-deplored circumstances, are more fitting to furnish matter for a memorial to Her Majesty's Government, than suited to interest the reader, I shall turn my thoughts, and guide my pen, to whatever else I can remember about the manners and customs of the country I have attempted to describe:—Although I think it most probable, that the final separation of my quill from these pages, will be attended with similar regrets and self-reproaches, to those with which one is so apt to accuse oneself, after parting with a friend in whom it is delightful to confide,—when so frequently, either mentally or verbally, is ejaculated, “Oh how sorry I am I forgot to say so and so,—just the very thing of all others that I should like to have told.”

I have a very lively recollection of attending a *grande festa*, given on the birth of a grandson of the Cadi, and which was celebrated at their country-house. The weather was so extremely warm, that we all reclined on cushions, around

the reservoir of water, I have elsewhere spoken of as being in every garden, and from whence all vegetation was *arrosté*. The hired dancing-women were standing in the water, which was almost all let out, and there was only enough left just to cover their golden leglets;—the poor creatures must have suffered dreadfully. What amused me very much, was their coming forward, after each dance, and going the round of the company, to have pieces of gold stuck to their foreheads. I was myself so over-fatigued and overpowered with the heat, that had it not been for this particular circumstance, I should have probably forgotten this entertainment altogether, as it was followed by the first illness I remember to have suffered. The remedy advised for this, was a vapour bath, the effects of which too are well remembered; it was the last I ever underwent, for I much preferred a simple warm-water or sea one.

The *empressement* of the Moorish ladies to be on terms of intimacy with us, was far from diminishing during the years of our residence amidst them; but my mother only occasionally availed herself of their pressing invitations, whilst nothing afforded my sister and self greater gratification than being conducted by our nurse, to our near neighbours, (both in town and country,) the worthy Guardian Pacha's,

whose wife and children received us with the most constant and affectionate welcome. The interior of this family presented a very beautiful picture of domestic felicity; for nothing could exceed the delight with which the three children ran forward to the happy-looking father's embrace on his return after the evening prayer; their mother looking the picture of happiness, as she presided at the amply-served supper, which is their principal meal. It usually consisted of the following bill of fare, and earnestly were we welcomed, and pressed to partake of it; our good Maria, during the repast, being seated at a little distance from us. Each dish, as it was removed from our table, was successively placed before her. As she was no little of a *gastronome*, she was not wont to make her usual objections to any proposal of locomotion, as she ever willingly resigned her true Neapolitan gusto for the *dolce far niente*, when she thought of the savoury couscous which would be the reward of her consenting to accompany us.—But to return to the field of action.

The head Negress (who indeed usually as much domineers in the family, as any favourite lady's-maid amongst ourselves,) first made her appearance, with a silver basin and ewer, from which she poured water, slightly scented with rose-water; over each of our hands, a second slave follow-

ing with towels. Immediately afterwards, we all drew round a small silver and mother-of-pearl octagon table, which had just been placed in the centre of the room. A long napkin was then spread on our laps, which went the round of the circle. We all, *bien entendue*, being seated *a la moda delli Sartori*, a large tray was then placed upon the low table, in the centre of which was a tureen, or large bowl of soup, of either rice, semoulla, or vermicelli. On the tray were also a number of rosewood spoons, the tops of the handles being tipped with either amber or coral. Although we all introduced our individual spoons into the tureen, we each of us had a spoon to ourselves; and most excellent was the result of our application, as they certainly excel as concocters of *potages*, especially of the last-named, vermicelli. I hope I shall not be considered too presumptuous in supposing, that a small proportion of my readers may be so totally ignorant of Italian, as to require to be informed, that Macaroni paste is so named, from its similarity to little worms, *vermicelli* being the diminutive of *vermi*. In illustration of the perfection attained in their confection, I will repeat an anecdote which was related to me shortly after my first arrival in the "Land o' Cakes."

An old beggar-man having found his way to the

kitchen door of the villa belonging to a gentleman in the environs of Edinburgh, gently knocked at it, until it was opened by a braw young lassie, filling the situation of cook in the household, whose compassionate nature was so moved by his hungry appeal to her benevolence, that her reply was, "sit ye doun there, honest man," pointing to a wooden bench, "and bide a wee, till I go ben and see if there's just onything to gie ye;" and in this soft mood of melting charity, the damsel proceeded to her pantry, from whence she brought out a basin of Vermicelli soup, the remnants of a dinner given the day before by her master to a party of friends; and forthwith, having carefully heated it, she again transferred it to the bowl, in which she placed a spoon, and saying to herself, that "it would do the puir body's hairt gude," she, beaming with all kindliness, appeared before the expectant object of her bounty, and presented him what she "had made ready." The beggar no sooner raised the spoon towards his lips, than he let it fall, and with a tone of indignation pushed it towards her: "Na, na, lassie, puir as I am, and gay and hungry, I'm no just up to supping kail foo o' wurrums yet."—"Eh Sirs, but ye're unco fashious then I'm thinking," retorted Jessie, "as the kail's just owre gude for the like o' ye, when yestreen, there was at my maister's table, as gude

gentry as ony o' the land, Hawker o' Hawkshall, Brown o' Brownlee, Johnston o' Joppa, &c. &c. &c., and they, ane and a', said it was awfu' gude ;" and to prove her words, betwixt each laird's name, she swallowed a spoonful of the despised dainty. " Weel, weel, lassie, ye need no be sae sair affronted, but ye ken I'm no acquaint wi' yon outlandish kail, and sae if ye'll just gie me a *piece*, I'll gang my ways and nae trouble ye mair ; but ye manna tak offence sae reedeely, ma bonnie woman, where nae offence was eentended." Miss Jess, with an indignant toss of the head, re-entered the house, out of which she shortly again appeared, bearing a large thick slice of *wheaten* bread.

A slice of bread of any thickness, is termed a *piece* in Edinburgh *patois*.

Mais, mais, ou est ce que j'en etais j'ai fait il faut en convenir un terrible saut, from my Algerine suppers to Scotch *gouters* ; therefore, without loss of time, I will *revenir à ces meilleurs repas*.

Couscousou, diminutive round paste balls, less than the smallest gun-shot, is made of the hardest and finest part of the red Barbary wheat, called *semoulla*, (not *vermicelli*, as a modern voyager has termed it) ; and this being the principal ingredient of the national Barbary dish *par excellence*, has consequently been given as the title of the follow-

ing combination of edibles. The receipt for which I will try to give *secundum artem*.

Procure a lean breast of mutton, a fine fowl seasoned with several spices, a large cauliflower cut into pieces, the bottoms of six artichokes, a clove of garlic, two carrots, and a handful of Garbázos. Let these be put into a saucepan, and covered about two or three inches with cold water. On the top of the saucepan, let a proper fitting steamer be fixed, such as is used for dressing rice, then moisten in water the cuscous paste, by letting it steep a few minutes, to moisten to the degree to which it would have been when newly made; then dry it in a cloth, after which let it be well rubbed with fresh butter. It is then prepared for being put into the steamer, where let it remain until the vapour from the viands and vegetables beneath, is seen to ascend through the cuscous, when it should be removed, and butter again rubbed through it; let this be done thrice, and the whole will be sufficiently cooked. It must be done over a stove with charcoal fire.

The cuscous must be heaped around the inner edge of a deep dish, the fowl, mutton, and vegetables occupying its centre, their gravy being poured over them. This arrangement, with the addition of hard boiled eggs, cut lengthways in quarters, as a garnish, constitutes the favourite *comestible*,

and I may also add, *cosmetique* of Algerine belles : —For I have heard from those who were better able to decide the fact, that one of its highest recommendations, was its having the quality of increasing their *enbonpoint*, and thus rendering them the fattest of the fair, at sixteen, outvying those who, at forty, possessed this first attribute for the admiration of the most refined Prince of modern Europe.

Ragouts of mutton cut into small bits, and a variety of well-seasoned dishes of vegetables, pilaus, and sweet dishes followed, and were in their turn succeeded by roasted partridges, so *well done*, that the host or hostess were able, without any foreign aid of knife or fork, to divide and present a wing or leg to their *convives*. This *rôt* was often succeeded by a dish of fish, seasoned and garnished with honey and the honey-comb. So excellent and delicate is the Algerine *cuisine*, that this was the only specimen of it that I never could relish, notwithstanding the approval and zest with which it was partaken of by others. When revolutions and changes overturn empires, and the most profound systems of human religion and politics,—yet the simple habits, customs, and tastes of every-day life remain unaltered, the same yesterday, to-day, and while time is, or will be ;—so that our blessed Lord's partaking

“ of a piece of a broiled fish and of a honeycomb,” would not appear singular to those whose habits of life have continued unchanged from those of their distant ancestors.

Our Saviour availed himself of another of these customs, to serve as a type of what He Himself vouchsafed to be unto us, the staff of our life, the sustainer of our souls to all eternity, and He was graciously pleased to deduce and take advantage of an event of constant daily occurrence, that it might never be forgotten, but continue to give a lesson to the most simple. I allude to the custom which the head of each family still practises at the commencement of every meal, when he divides and portions out to each individual of it, their share of daily bread, by breaking those soft crusted loaves, which I have already described.

A salad seasoned with olive oil and lemon juice, instead of vinegar, concluded the repast. Of this we partook, as of every other dish, by adroitly introducing a morsel of bread between our thumb and finger into each of them, and extracting with due decorum, a portion of their contents. And let me assure the uninitiated, that a well-bred person can be as easily distinguished in the observance of the *convenances* of a repast, thus served and thus partaken of, and that certain rules of strict polite-

ness, are as well understood and exacted, as amidst those whose European fastidiousness would unfit them for enjoying their perfect ease at a Moorish entertainment, which was ever followed by a porous earthen jar, which had the quality, when suspended in a draught of air, of cooling the water it contained, to almost an icy freshness. This vessel, either containing the pure element, or a sherbet of orange flower water, was passed round to each of the company, who in turn offered it to the person who sat next to them, after having drunk from it. Thus again are we brought to another illustration of our Lord's taking "the cup after supper." But the many instances of adherence to the olden customs, which the holy Scriptures constantly exemplify, are too numerous for me to attempt to enumerate. The return of the attendants, with the ewer, basin, and towels, was the conclusion of the evening's meal, and the signal for Maria to summon us to take leave of our kind friends.

With two or three other families we were on terms of intimacy. Of the number was that of a Sidi Arabie, one of the most polished and well informed among the real native gentry, and one of those persons I particularly alluded to, when I expressed my father's estimation of the upper class of Algerines, and his opinion of the part they would

have acted, could his patriotic projects have met with the success they merited. This young man had passed a considerable time on the Continent of Europe, and not only spoke the French and Italian languages with fluency, but was enabled to admire and appreciate their literature; and with deep and bitter feeling, have I heard him deplore the abject state of the land of his birth, under its foreign and despotic masters, which the comparison he drew between its condition and that of other countries, made him more keenly regret. His father, mother, himself, his wife, and two married sisters, passed the last two or three summers in the nearest country house to ours. He was much gratified on my mother complimenting him, on the beauty and elegance of his lady's figure, on our first introduction to her; her beauty being of a European style, and the expression of her sweet countenance much more intellectual (doubtless from receiving her talented husband's instructions,) than is the character of the beauty of her country-women. Sidi Arabie was not less sensible to many improvements desirable in the *mœurs* of his own nation, in which he would willingly have made some alteration. His two brothers-in-law could neither associate, or even see each other's or his wife; and whilst the rest of the family constantly formed a

happy circle, these two young men were secluded from its enjoyment ; with these and many other such points of etiquette, he would constantly express his discontent, and admiration of our more social European habits.

At the season of the Bairam, which is one of feasting, immediately following the Ramadan, or Mahomedan feast, we were in the habit of receiving great presents of sweetmeats and delicate pastry confections, by the fair donors' hands, the wives of the principal officers of the Dey and of the *élite* of Algerine society. There were in every one of these seasonable *cadeaux*, two or three very pretty baskets, made of pastry, and containing coloured eggs. I wonder if any antiquary has ever traced the origin of this presentation of Paschal eggs, which thus continues to be a cosmopolite custom ; at least I have remarked it as universal in all the countries of which I have been a denizen. At the time of the Jewish Passover, we were also presented with a great quantity of cakes of unleavened bread, from the most opulent Jewish families, many of whom were strangers to us even by name. These cakes were, in shape and taste, very like our common water biscuits, except that they were frosted over with sugar.

All the music that can be extracted from the noise of an Algerine band, is most monotonous. I



ALGERINE AIR.

The musical score is presented in two systems. The first system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the piano and a bass clef staff for the violin. The piano part begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 2/4 time signature. The violin part begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The second system also consists of two staves, with the piano part in the upper staff and the violin part in the lower staff. The piano part includes first and second endings, indicated by brackets and the Roman numerals 'I' and 'II' above the staff. The violin part continues with its melodic line. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots at the end of both staves in the second system.

once possessed the written notes of two of their airs, but one of them I have unfortunately lost, and the original of the accompanying copy I preserve amongst my most valued relics of “the days of Auld Langsyne;” for many is the throb “of kindness yet;” and unchanged is the love in my heart for its most amiable and accomplished writer, Miss E. D., now Mrs D.,—

“ —The generous friend sincere,
Whose voice still vibrates in my ear,”—

the last member of our once numerous family circle, who yet lingers on the shores of Africa.

Now, having traced almost all my souvenirs of that country,—so celebrated in ancient annals, as the very nucleus of piracy,—so restless under the march of civilization,—and of yore so passive under its barbarian rulers :—And having said, to the best of my poor ability, my *say* of “all its birds of the air, and of all its fishes of the sea;” I will, ere I lay down my pen, express the wish that I may not have been altogether unsuccessful in interesting the indulgent portion of the reading world, while I have in the meantime beguiled many a passing hour in retracing those of a happy childhood; and I would fain hope that the *agrément* I have experienced in the performance of my self-

imposed task, may have been in some degree shared by (to express myself in old-fashioned *par-lance*) my courteous and gentle reader,—to whom I will now say—

FAREWELL.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

THE town of La Cala, stands on a peninsula of spongy rock, ten leagues to the eastward of Bona, N. W. and S. E. by compass. The harbour opens to the N. W. and is about fifty fathoms wide, with rocks on each side ; its length is one hundred and fifty fathoms. The town is walled round, and has three gates, the principal of which communicates with the country, and the other with the quay. The main street, which is well paved, divides the peninsula longitudinally, and is about sixty feet wide. The buildings on either side consist of a church, Governor's house, various private buildings, large magazine, and several granaries for corn, a cattle mill, guard-house, barracks, cisterns, &c.

Most of the houses are two, and some three stories high, substantially built of stone, and covered with tiles of European manufacture ; many of them are habitable, and some of the granaries fit for the reception of corn ;

others have the walls perfect, but want roofing. The quay is in a dilapidated condition, and the bastion to the northward is in ruins ; the guns, of which it appears to have mounted three on each face, are dismounted and useless. There is plenty of room for additional fortification ; the new part of the town is in a ruinous state, yet the whole may be made habitable at a moderate expense. At the bottom of the harbour there are several detached buildings ; among the rest a mosque and burying ground, a lazaretto, an excellent wall in good repair, and two gardens with a well on each side of them ; the whole of these are encompassed with a good wall. On an eminence to the westward, there is a windmill, which serves as an excellent landmark.

The adjacent country consists of hill and dale, rocky and forest land ; the soil near the settlement is light and sandy,—the gardens are planted with orange and lemon trees, also vines in great numbers.

Extract of a private Letter from a Gentleman resident at Bona, in 1810.

“ La Cala, which was the chief source of those numerous advantages enjoyed by the French African Company, during a period of 166 years, ought, I think, to be the first object of his Majesty’s Government. This fertile district produces an immense quantity of grain, particularly excellent wheat, fit for supplying Great Britain with seed, besides barley and beans in the utmost abundance. The Arab Sheik who governs in this neighbour-

hood, is the firm friend of England, and declared enemy of France, so that it is of importance to cultivate his friendship. Besides grain and pulse, this country is capable of producing hemp and flax of a superior quality, and in any quantity, by proving to the Arabs that it would be their interest to cultivate those plants. But the most important object appears to be that of ship timber for our navy. I have seen many of the trees that grow in the vicinity of this place ; they are all of live-oak. The forests commence near La Cala, and extend eastward, along the sides of the mountains which divide Algiers from Tunis, and westward along the extensive plains towards Bona. This timber, I have been assured by a person of experience, is infinitely superior to English oak ; the roads which were made by the French for its conveyance to La Cala, might be easily repaired. This place, during the time France possessed it, was usually garrisoned by 500 men, besides the inhabitants. The expense of putting it into repair, would not, I think, exceed 15,000 Spanish dollars.

“ With respect to Bona, where I have resided for some time, I have to observe, that in the hands of the English it may be made a market of great consequence for the introduction of colonial produce, and British manufactures of every description.”

The following list of articles exported from Bona in the course of one year, while the French African Company was there, may serve to give you an idea of the re-

sources which might be drawn from that particular quarter, independently of La Cala and Il Col, which is a few leagues to the westward of it :

viz. 10,000 quintals of wool,

5,000 quintals of flax,

50,000 bullocks' hides,

100,000 measures of corn, each measure equal to a Winchester bushel.

From its military position, and the many valuable resources of the surrounding country, this place will, I trust, ere long, become a most useful and important acquisition to Great Britain ; and the following hints relative to the commerce of this interesting part of Barbary, were communicated to me by a person who resided at Bona, as British Vice-Consul, for some time, and are so intimately connected with the subject of La Cala, that I cannot doubt of their being acceptable.

Constantina,* the Cirta of antiquity, is about sixty leagues south of Bona ; † it contains about 30,000 inhabitants, consisting chiefly of Turks, Moors, and Jews. The surrounding country is rich, and every where covered with ancient ruins. The district or province is governed by a Bey, who holds his appointment from the Dey of Algiers, and pays him a yearly tribute of 200,000

* The province of this name was under the dominion of Tunis, till about the sixteenth century, when it was conquered by the Algerines.

† Bona was garrisoned by the Spaniards, won after the capture of Tunis by Charles V. ; but retained only a short time.

dollars,* which sum is levied and extorted from the Arabs. The Bey can bring nearly twenty thousand men into the field, half of whom are cavalry, generally well-mounted, as the breed of horses is excellent. As a military position, Constantina is unequalled, being built on a high hill, which, if properly fortified, would be altogether inaccessible. Its present defences are very miserable, though they answer the purpose of Moorish warfare. You enter the city, towards the north, over a stupendous Roman bridge, having three rows of lofty arches; and when inside the town, are every where struck with the remains of its former splendour; granite pillars, broken friezes, pedestals, and innumerable Greek, Latin, and Punic inscriptions, are frequently met with. The well known jealousy of the Moors, has prevented excavations from being made near this place; but a proper application would soon remove the difficulties that have hitherto operated against that.

During the winter, the river which passes the town is both deep and rapid.

The commerce of this province is paralyzed, by the same cause that exists all over Barbary,—that of a cruel and tyrannical system of government, which is an enemy to every species of improvement; yet a considerable trade was formerly carried on between this country and the French Company at La Cala, as also with the Genoese at Tabarca. The productions exported from Con-

* Equal to three shillings and sixpence each.

stantina, consisted principally of the following:—wheat, barley, *malavances*, beans, bees' wax, hides, wool, camel's hair, tallow, ostrich feathers, goat and sheep skins, ship timber, bullocks, sheep, poultry, horses, mules, &c. &c. And wheat, if the exportation was properly encouraged, so as that the people had any inducement to cultivate the land, might be had in very large quantities, at least one hundred thousand quarters annually. The quality varies; that which is most esteemed, sells at the rate of twenty-four Spanish dollars the *caffizo*.* Barley, in a similar proportion, might be exported for nine Spanish dollars the *caffizo*. Bees' wax is very abundant; 300 cantars of Malta might be exported per annum, at the moderate price of twenty-six Algerine dollars each. The wool of Constantina is very much esteemed in Tunis and Algiers; from 800 to 1000 cantars may be exported annually, at six Algerine dollars the cantar. A trifling duty is exacted by the Bey, on the export of these articles. Hides of a good quality, 60,000 per annum, at three dollars and a quarter each; goat and sheep skins, 40,000 yearly, one quarter of an Algerine dollar each, are all ready articles of export.

Camels' hair † is not very abundant, as the greater

* Two quarters and a half English, and two *salmas* three quarters Malta measure.

† *Cachemere goats* it is supposed, with which the Tunisine shawls, used as turbans and sashes, as also the *Fes caps*, are made.—*Editor*.

part of that article is carried to Tunis. Ostrich feathers may be got in large proportions at a cheap rate.

Ship timber grows in great quantities in the vicinity of La Cala and Tabarca, also between Bona and La Cala. It is bought for a mere trifle, and consists of fine oak, fir, and beech. Bullocks of a large size are bought from the Bey of Constantina, at from ten to twenty Algerine dollars per head, those of the Arabs are sold much cheaper. A duty on cattle is paid according to the previous stipulation of our government; it seldom exceeds five dollars of Algiers per head. Sheep in the greatest abundance are sold, at from one to two dollars per head. Poultry, is one Algerine dollar per dozen, in any quantity.

The imports consist of all those articles, whether of our colonies, or native manufacture, which are imported at Algiers and Tunis.

The vent for them depends on the internal state of the country, and character of the Beys, many of whom dislike much intercourse with Christians, though they are invariably influenced by a well-timed bribe, which is of course always given under the title of present—*regalo*.

The people of Constantina possess a great share of hospitality, and respect the name of an Englishman very much;* that of a Frenchman is, on the contrary, detest-

* I believe that I may, without flattering myself, ascribe *British popularity* to my father's exalted representation of the national character, as certainly, previous to his Consulship, the English had not of late been much esteemed.—*Editor*.

ed. Travelling in the interior, is performed with great safety, and at a trifling expense. It is also remarkable, that the country people of this province are of a distinct character from those who live on the coasts, who are addicted to imposture and theft, while the former exhibit a considerable degree of frankness and honesty. Hemp and flax thrive remarkably well, on every part of this coast.

The coral fishing alone, independently of its being a most lucrative branch of commerce to the nation, would more than pay every expense which can possibly attend the garrison and establishment necessary for its protection. The great utility of La Cala would consist in opening a commercial intercourse with the interior, both of Algiers and Tunis, by which a large proportion of our manufacturing and colonial produce must be introduced; supplies of corn and cattle might be easily procured, and many useful articles of commerce exported at a cheap rate. The facility of procuring horses and mules would also be very great, more particularly as the best breed is found in this province. The exports would consist of those already mentioned in the commerce of Bona.

Although the multiplied events of this war, added to a considerable increase of our political relations in other parts of the Mediterranean, may have retarded the establishment of a mercantile company in La Cala,* the

* Mr Blanckley, to whose ingenuity and talents as a negotiator we are indebted for the nominal possession of La Cala, Bona,

great importance of that place, both in a commercial and political point of view, will not, it is hoped, be much longer overlooked or neglected : its occupation has for some years been an object of solicitude with his Majesty's Government ; and the British Consul at Algiers, Mr Blanckley, was directed, in 1807, to negotiate with the Dey upon the terms under which we might take possession of it : a sum of 50,000 dollars per annum was accordingly stipulated to be paid, on a supposition that

and Il Col, and a Mr Dalzel, formerly Governor of Cape Coast Castle, have elucidated most clearly the resources of these places, and the many advantages which would accrue to Great Britain, in the event of their being colonized. A gentleman whom I have met at this place, has also favoured me with a very interesting document, calculated to exhibit our situation with respect to them, and at the same time, to show how differently things were managed by the French. " It appears that Mr Blanckley, for the
" British Government, contracted with the Dey of Algiers
" in 1806, for the possession of La Cala, Bona, and Il Col ; sti-
" pulating to pay the annual sum of 50,000 dollars, (L.11,000.)
" for the same, and that since the above period, no other benefit
" has been derived from these valuable acquisitions, than the ex-
" clusion of the French. That the Mercantile Company of the
" above nation, held La Cala, &c. &c., for 166 years, keeping
" 12,000 tons of shipping and 1,000 seamen, constantly employ-
" ed between them and France. That they enjoyed the exclu-
" sive privilege of importing the manufactures of France, and of
" exporting wax, wool, hides, corn, ship timber, &c. &c. with
" the liberty of purchasing cattle, and sole right to fish on the
" coral banks. That the colony in its worst time, supported it-

the coral fishery alone would more than repay that sum, and reimburse Government, independently of those numerous and still more important advantages to be derived from a commercial intercourse with the interior of Tunis, Constantina, and Algiers. Singular, however, as the fact may appear, we have continued to pay the money without having reaped the smallest benefit, either from the fishery, or the place itself; on the contrary, several hundred French and Neapolitan coral boats have been incessantly employed on the banks of Tabarca, as well

“ self entirely independent of any aid from the French Government : That the coral fishery alone, would reimburse the British Government for a great portion of the annual payment to the Dey.

“ That any quantity of cattle might be supplied for Malta, Gibraltar, and the British forces in the Mediterranean : That British manufactures and colonial produce might be introduced to a large amount, for the supply of the interior of Africa, &c. : That the export of wool, hides, wax, &c., holds out a most lucrative field for mercantile enterprize : That the territory of La Cala, &c. &c., produces hemp and flax of a very superior quality, and with proper encouragement, might be grown in any quantity : That the article of ship timber alone, is an object highly deserving the attention of a maritime country like Great Britain ; and here it would be found in any quantity, particularly live oak, with which the arsenal of Toulon was formerly supplied : That in point of salubrity of climate and pure air, these districts do not yield to the south of France or Spain.”

By a more minute calculation of the attendant expenses, and commercial benefits to be derived from the three above mentioned

as La Cala, and with the greatest possible success. Our possession of that place was officially notified to the respective powers in this country; and Sir Alexander Ball, at that time Governor of Malta, was directed to send a proper person there, in order not only to examine the spot, but to concert with the Bey of Constantina as to our obtaining live stock and other articles from that province. Owing, however, to the same manner in which this negotiation was conducted, the English agent was seized, and conveyed to Constantina, where he was forcibly detained for six months: being at length liberated,

places, the unaccountable delay in occupying them, becomes still more extraordinary, as will be seen by the following estimate.

Annual value of exports from Bona,	£ 28,575	0	0
Do. from La Cala,	3,500	0	0
Do. from Il Col,	10,100	0	0
	<hr/>		
Total prime cost of exports,	£ 42,175	0	0
Total expense of maintaining and paying for the three Settlements,	18,133	15	0
	<hr/>		
Total first costs and charges,	£ 60,308	15	0
Total net produce of all the exports in a European market,	102,300	0	0
	<hr/>		
From which the costs and charges being deducted, there is a profit of	£ 41,991	5	0

The exportation of grain and cattle of all kinds from La Cala, is to be unlimited and duty free.

he returned to Malta, and notwithstanding the harsh treatment he had experienced, yet from the opinion he was led to form of the many advantages which would accrue from the possession of La Cala, his report to the Governor and merchants was so extremely flattering, that the latter immediately formed a company, and subscribed a considerable sum of money to carry on the proposed commerce, while the former gave an unequivocal promise to support the infant undertaking in his capacity of Governor and Port-Admiral, which would at all times enable him to grant convoys and the necessary passports. It was at the same time fully expected that a military force would occupy and fortify La Cala, so as to render it a fit place for the reception of inhabitants, and afford proper protection to the coral fishery.

This part of the scheme, from a variety of causes, many of which are unknown, has never been put into execution, while the commerce with Bona has experienced unusual depression, and those merchants who contributed to its establishment, lost a great part of the money subscribed. I should be sorry to attribute blame to any quarter, from the failure of the original plan, and have only to express a hope, that, whenever a favourable opportunity offers, the utility and importance of this place will be duly appreciated ; for if the colony is established on such a footing as to secure its stability, and not to excite too great a jealousy on the Bey of Constantinâ's part, we may in a few years open a source of opulence to the British merchant, not to be obtained in

any other part of Africa. The political effects of our having a good military position, are, I presume, too obvious to require any further illustration. As to the Bey of Constantina, he will always be kept in good humour by the interposition of *douceurs*, and the advantages which he must necessarily derive from the commerce of his subjects with the colony.

In a political point of view, it is scarcely necessary to add, that the possession of La Cala* would create an influence which we have not hitherto had in this country, and which, from the successful intrigues of our enemies, is now rendered an object of the utmost importance.

As a military position, this place possesses every advantage. The heights in its immediate vicinity might easily be rendered impregnable, so as to give it ample protection against either a naval or military attack; and an abundant supply of water, and most salubrious climate may be added amongst its other conveniences.

During the present war, every attempt to establish the coral fishery has proved abortive, although very considerable sums of money have been expended for that purpose. The number of enemy's privateers, together with the war between Tunis and his Sicilian Majesty, have operated as a bar to this most useful branch of commerce; yet on every account it is necessary that we

* Or Bastion of France, the possession of which by Napoleon might have enabled him to make another attempt upon Egypt.—
Editor.

should speedily avail ourselves of the benefits to be derived from it, and exclude the French, who reaped a most profitable harvest, from its possession during the last and present centuries. As a nursery for seamen, it has perhaps been more important than in any respect.

During the first year after Mr Blanckley's negotiation, there were sixty-three boats collected on the fishery, all of whom paid a certain duty towards the annual sum of 50,000 Spanish dollars.* In the succeeding years, those who attempted to send boats have failed, owing to a want of proper protection, (and no establishment being formed at La Cala) ; it may be hoped that British enterprize will yet surmount these difficulties, as in all other instances. The probable number of boats, when an equitable arrangement is made for their protection, and they have an asylum to take refuge in, will be at least five hundred : this number would be all supplied from Cagliari and Trapani. Each boat contains, on an average, eighteen men ; so that nine thousand men, the greater part of whom have families to look to them for support, would be annually employed, while they would be at the same time fitted for all the duties of the naval profession.

Extracted from Letters from the Mediterranean, by E. Blaquier, Esq. published in the year 1813.

* 200 Spanish dollars each boat.—*Editor.*

No. II.

THE Ship, before she makes any signal, will shew her Number, which you will answer by a Union Jack, and haul it down when the Ship's number is hauled down.

SIGNALS FROM THE SHIPS TO BLANCKLEY HALL.

Blue Ensign at the Peak.	} My dispatches are not favourable, therefore be on your guard.
White Ensign at the Peak.	} Good news; keep up your spirits.
Red Ensign at the Peak.	} A force will soon be here to pro- tect you.
Union Jack, Fore- top Mast-head.	} Meet the Boat at the Landing-place yourself.
Union Jack, Mi- zen Top-mast Head.	} Prepare yourself and family, also the Merchants, to send their effects and selves on board.

SIGNALS FROM BLANCKLEY HALL TO THE SHIPS.

Union Jack.	} All remains as before.
St George's En- sign.	} I have been threatened, or I am ill treated.
Spanish Jack.	} Send your Boat on shore, but do not come yourself.
English Pen- dant.	} They have seized my property, and also the Merchants'.

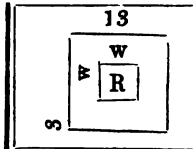
French Jack.	}	The Algerines have brought in English vessels.
Royal Standard.		}
English Jack over Spanish.	}	
English Pendant over French Jack.		}

Pomona's Signal, No. 981.

Pomona's distant Signal,

A Flag, blue pieced white,

Pieced red.



Volontaire's Number, 1425.

Union Jack Pendant, 4, 2, 5.

No. III.

Relation donnée par un esclave Européen, délivré du Bains d'Alger, du traitement que le feu Dey Hadgi Ali lui avoit fait éprouver, ainsi qu'à quelques prisonniers natifs du pays.

La relation donnée par Don Sébastien Patron, négociant espagnol à Alger, et l'un des esclaves qui a obtenu sa liberté par la victoire éclatante de l'amiral lord Exmouth, nous offre le résultat suivant :

Don Sébastien Patron avoit passé un contrat, il y a environ six ans, avec le Dey d'Alger, pour l'achat de peaux de bœufs dont il devoit effectuer le paiement d'avance, d'après le système arbitraire constamment pratiqué par le Dey : malheureusement la maison de commerce avec laquelle Don Sébastien étoit en rapport en Espagne suspendit ses paiemens, et il lui fut impossible de remplir ses engagements. Don Sébastien fut aussitôt arrêté, cruellement chargé de chaînes, et confondu parmi les infortunés captifs, quoiqu'on ne lui eût encore délivré, ni en totalité ni en partie, la marchandise achetée.

Le consul général de S. M. Britannique, M. Blanckley, qui résidoit à cette époque à Alger, ne perdit pas un moment pour faire des démarches dans l'intention d'obtenir du Dey la mise en liberté et la fin des souffrances du malheureux Don Sébastien, proposant de devenir sa caution, s'il étoit envoyé dans sa maison ; mais le barbare Dey se

refusa constamment à toutes ses sollicitations, et le fit conduire immédiatement aux carrières les plus pénibles, jusqu'au moment heureux où lord Exmouth, par son triomphe glorieux, brisa les fers de tous les esclaves victimes du tyran d'Alger. D'après le rapport affligeant et véridique de Don Sébastian, la condition des captifs étoit horrible, et leur traitement, inhumain au-delà de tout ce que l'imagination peut se figurer. Leurs travaux commençoient à la pointe du jour, et continuoient jusqu'à la fin du service religieux des Turcs, deux heures et demie avant le coucher du soleil ; une demi-heure leur étoit accordée pour leur dîner, qui consistoit en deux petits pains noirs, et durant lequel un gardien veilloit sur eux, et les traitoit avec caprice, en les frappant sans cause ni aucune provocation : deux cents et quelquefois mille coups de bâton leur étoient infligés, presque toujours sur la plante des pieds ; après quoi l'infortuné captif étoit chargé de chaînes encore plus pesantes que celles qu'il portoit auparavant.

Quand les chants religieux étoient terminés, les esclaves étoient ramenés à leur prison ; et après avoir examiné s'il n'en manquoit aucun, on leur distribuoit à chacun un petit pain de la même qualité.

Est-il possible de croire que ces barbares supposent qu'une si mauvaise et si insuffisante nourriture puisse soutenir les forces des malheureux condamnés à des travaux aussi pénibles, sous un soleil brûlant, et exposés à toutes les intempéries des saisons ?

Le pain distribué aux esclaves captifs, tous les soirs, n'étoit pas même un bienfait du Gouvernement d'Alger, mais un don charitable d'un Aga (ou généralissime de leurs troupes), qui dans son testament avoit légué pour cet objet une somme d'argent ; par cet acte généreux les captifs recevoient la même ration de pain à chaque fête des musulmans, attendu que les travaux étoient suspendus, et que le Gouvernement ne faisoit ces jours-là aucune distribution de nourriture. Leur prison (appelée Bagne), dans laquelle ils étoient encombrés, avoit des appartemens séparés, dont le plus large n'avoit que vingt-trois pieds de long et dix de large ; dans ce local, trente esclaves passaient la nuit : mais ceux qui n'y trouvoient point de place étoient forcés de dormir comme ils pouvoient sur les places publiques, dans les corridors ou dans les escaliers, exposés à toute la sévérité et à l'inconstance des saisons.

Le même Don Sébastian nous trace le tableau suivant du feu le Dey d'Alger (Hadgi Ali Dey), qui fut assassiné par un de ses esclaves noirs. Peu de jours avant, il avoit mis à mort cinq enfans grecs, dont le plus âgé n'avoit que douze ans, et n'avoit pu par conséquent donner aucun sujet de plainte. Une telle atrocité ne devoit pas être confiée à un subalterne : le monstre aidé par son esclave noir, se chargea lui-même de cette exécution, et cet exécrationnel sacrifice dura autant de jours qu'il y avoit d'enfans à égorger ; trois de ces innocens furent brûlés à petit feu, et furent réduits en cendres. Il soupa en

morceaux les corps des deux autres, qu'il conserva dans le sel ; ils furent trouvés dans cet état quand le Monde fut délivré de ce monstre affreux.

Il est à remarquer qu'en plusieurs occasions ce barbare avoit précédemment détruit un grand nombre d'enfans de nègres par des cruautés incroyables et variées ; les corps de ces victimes étoient jetés dans les égouts publics, conduisant les immondices dans la mer.

En violation de la loi, il avoit caché dans son palais deux jeunes filles qui n'avoient pas atteint leur seizième année ; il avoit inhumainement massacré le père de l'une d'elles, avant de la faire enfermer dans son palais.

Cette jeune infortunée, de la race des blancs, fille du Bey de *Tyleré*, fut trouvée en prison et exténuée de faim, après la mort du Dey Hadgi Ali ; l'autre malheureuse étoit une négresse qui fut trouvée dans le même effroyable état, sans habits, et son corps couvert de plaies ; d'après le rapport du nègre, il paroît évident (et la nature en frémit) que le monstre avoit l'intention de se procurer une jouissance journalière en opérant des blessures nouvelles sur tous les membres de sa victime, jusqu'au moment où une mort cruelle et précoce viendrait mettre un terme à sa vie et à ses tourmens.

Témoin lui-même de tant de cruautés, et craignant d'éprouver à son tour un pareil sort, le nègre déjà cité saisit l'occasion d'étouffer le monstre dans son bain.

Hélas ! à quelles souffrances inouïes les chrétiens n'ont-ils pas été trop long-temps exposés sous le règne barbare, capricieux et tyrannique de ces cruels usurpateurs !

TRANSLATION.

Account given by a European Slave delivered from the Bagnio of Algiers, of the treatment he experienced at the hands of the late Dey Hadgi Ali; likewise of the cruelties inflicted by him on some unfortunate natives of Algiers.

The account given by Don Sebastian Patron, a Spanish merchant at Algiers, and one of the captives who obtained their liberty by the glorious victory of Lord Exmouth furnishes us with the following particulars. This gentleman, about six years ago, contracted with the Dey to purchase bullocks' hides, for which he had regularly paid. Unfortunately the commercial house in Spain, with which Don Sebastian was connected, stopped payment, and he was unable to pay, (beforehand, as is their constant custom), and therefore was unable to fulfil his engagements with the Dey. Don Sebastian was consequently instantly seized, most cruelly and heavily loaded with chains, and thrown amongst the rest of the wretched captives, although he had not even received any portion whatever of the article, for which he was called upon to make payment. The then British Consul, H. S. Blanckley, Esq. lost not a moment in requesting the Dey to liberate him from so ignominious a situation, offering to be responsible for his person, provided he was sent to his house; but notwithstanding repeated solicitations to this effect, the Dey refused, and immediately sent him to work at the stone-quarry, where he was constantly kept to the hardest labour, until happily released by the glorious exertions of Lord Exmouth. The situation of the slaves, according to Don Sebastian's

afflicting, yet faithful account, was most lamentable, and the treatment they experienced, more inhuman and dreadful than it is in the power of imagination to conceive. Their toils, it appears, began with the morning dawn, and continued until the conclusion of the religious service of the Turks, about two hours and a half before sunset. Half an hour was allowed them for their dinner, which consisted of two very small loaves of black bread.* During this scanty meal, a superintendant guarded them, and at his own will and pleasure struck them, without cause or provocation of any kind: two hundred blows were inflicted, and sometimes a thousand, almost always on the soles of the feet, after which the unfortunate captive was put into irons heavier than those he previously bore. When the religious chant terminated, the slaves were conducted back to their prison, after a due examination by their guards, to satisfy themselves that none were missing; they then had one loaf of the same kind of bread distributed to each of them.

Is it possible to believe that these barbarians can suppose, that so scanty an allowance of unwholesome food can be sufficient to support human nature, after such laborious toil under a burning sun, and exposed to the inclemency of all seasons?

The bread distributed to the captives in the evening, was not even bestowed by the Algerine Government, but was owing to the benevolence of an Aga, (or Generalissimo of their troops), who, to relieve their miseries, appropriated money for that purpose by testamentary

* The palm of the hand would contain each of them, and the colour was actually black.—*Editor*.

bequest ; from this same benevolent source, they received similar refreshments on Fridays, and on every other Mahomedan festival, on which days no work being done, there was consequently no supply of food furnished by the Government. The prison in which they were confined, (called *Il Bagnio*), had separate apartments, the largest of which was about twenty feet in length, and about ten in breadth. In this place, about thirty slaves passed the night, but those for whom there was not room, were obliged to rest as well as they could in the public squares or staircases, subject to every change of season, however severe.

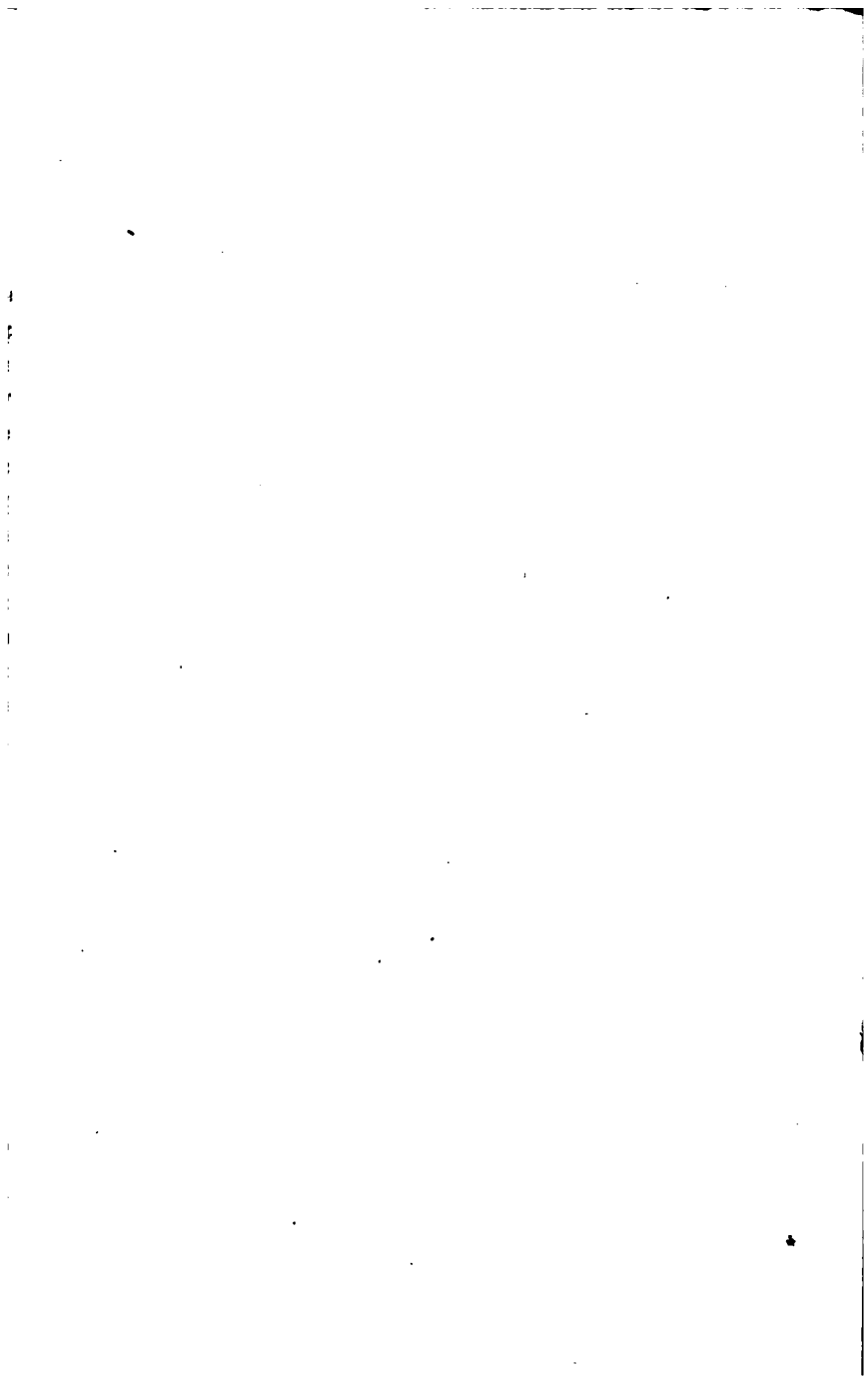
The same gentleman, Don Sebastian, gives the following account of the late Dey of Algiers, (*Hadgi Ali Dey*.) He was murdered by his own Negro slave ; a short time before his death, he wantonly put to death five Greek children, the eldest of whom was not above twelve years of age, and consequently could have given no cause of provocation. These atrocious acts he would not confide to an inferior executioner, the monster therefore executed them with his own hand, assisted, indeed, by the Negro slave before mentioned ; and the execrable sacrifices lasted as many days as there were children to assassinate. Three of the unfortunate innocents, horrible to relate, he burnt over a slow fire, till they were literally reduced to cinders. He cut up the bodies of the other two, which he preserved in salt, and in this state they were found, when the world was delivered from this atrocious monster.

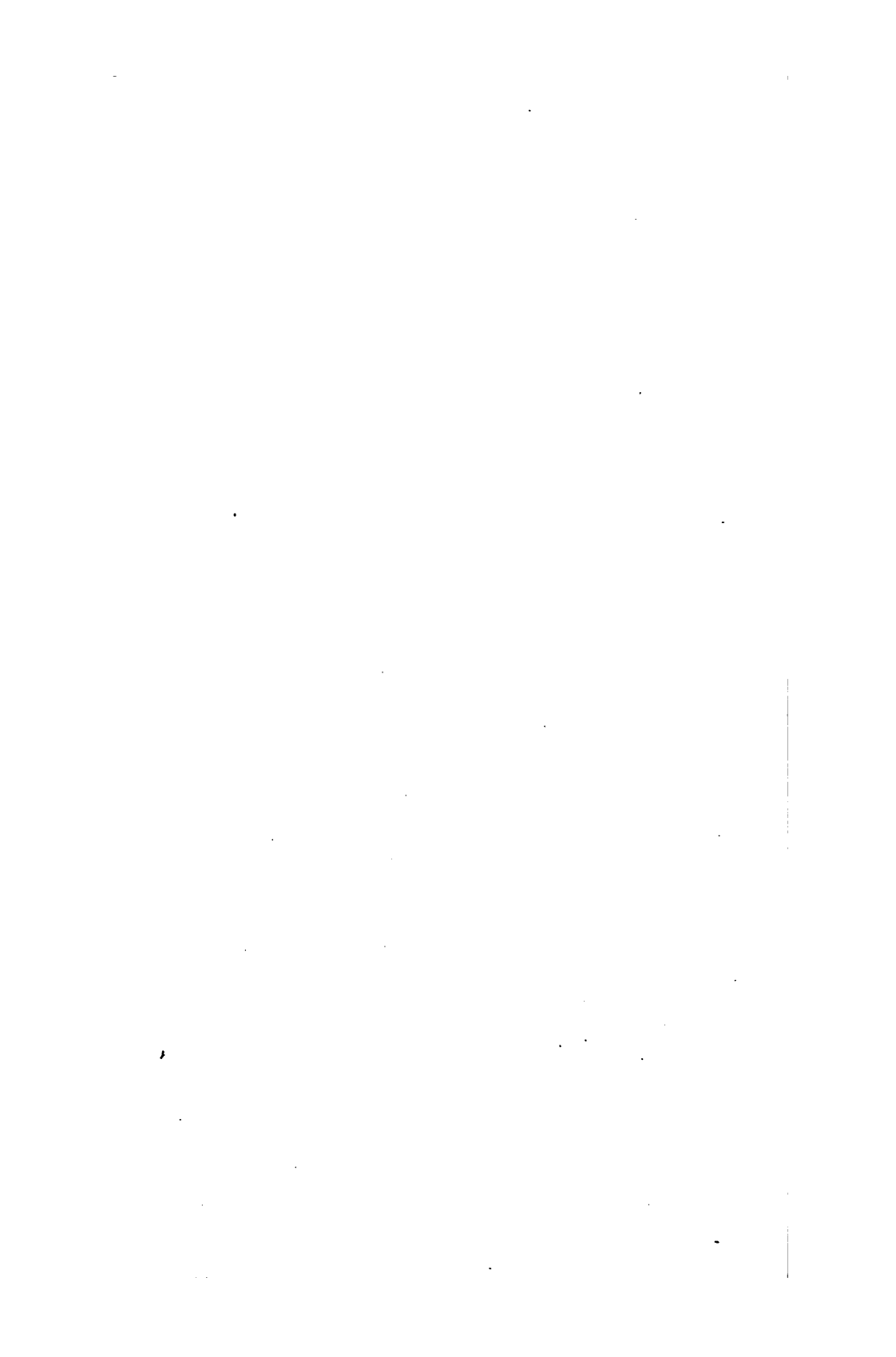
The wretch had previously destroyed, on many occasions, a great number of Negro children, by a variety of modes of inconceivable cruelty, and their corpses were

consigned to the common sewers which flow into the sea. In violation of the law, he had secreted two young girls in his palace, both of whom were under sixteen years of age; and he had barbarously murdered the father of one of them previously to ordering the daughter to be carried to his palace. This unfortunate young lady was a white, and the daughter of the Bey of Tytiri; the unhappy girl was found on the death of Hadgi Ali Dey, closely imprisoned, and nearly famished with hunger. The other poor girl was a Negress, she was also found in the same nearly famished state, without any covering, and with her body full of open wounds; and, according to the heart rending statement of the Negro, (which causes one's heart to shudder, and one's hand almost to refuse to write,) it was the intention of the monster to indulge himself every day in inflicting new wounds in a similar manner, until a cruel and untimely death should release her from his barbarities. Being a daily witness of these enormities, the Negro already mentioned naturally apprehended that the same untoward fate awaited himself, and consequently took advantage of an opportunity of the monster's unguarded state, whilst in his bath, and there effected his purpose of strangling him.

Among my father's papers, I have, however, found a more accurate account of the end of this atrocious wretch. Instead of his having been murdered by the Negro slave, his own cook, (a high personage in the household of the Deys,) suffocated him in the bath; and on the first discovery of the assassination, he, to save his head, gave it out that the Negro was the murderer, upon which he was instantly hanged.

FINIS.







ETON
KINDER
BURGH

