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VOYAGES

TO

PORTUGAL, SPAIN, SICILY, MALTA,
ASIA MINOR, EGYPT,
&c. &c.

FROM

1796 TO 1801:

WITH

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH,

AND

OCCASIONAL REFLECTIONS.

BY FRANCIS COLLINS,

LATE LIEUTENANT OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP DOLPHIN.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Countries visited by the Author of the following sheets, have always been considered with veneration and delight by every admirer of genius and nobleness of mind. Nay, such is the interest which they excite, that notwithstanding the scores of volumes that have been devoted to their description, *every* modern account of Italy, Greece, Egypt and Asia Minor, will be perused with avidity, from the idea that it will disclose some hidden treasure, some celebrated performance, which has been hitherto lost in the lapse of ages, or which all former Travelers have overlooked.

We will not venture to promise, that any such important communication will be made in the present production, which is the result of those hasty sketches beyond which a Naval Officer has seldom an opportunity of extending his literary inclinations; but it will be soon perceived (to use the words of a Friend of the Author, who has perused his Manuscript), “that he is a man who has written not merely to entertain, but to instruct his readers in the best of things.”

VOYAGES,

ſc. ſc.

CHAP. I.

Departure from England—Arrival at Gibraltar—Brief Description of this extraordinary Rock, and its Inhabitants—Storm.

WITH a favourable wind, ſhip well manned and ſtored, and an agreeable commander, we ſet ſail from Plymouth in the latter end of November, 1796. The expectation of exploring diſtant lands alleviated that ſympathetic regret, ever attendant on a ſeparation from near and dear connections, and one's native country. While imagination was buſy in picturing to itſelf thoſe interesting and delightful ſcenes we were expecting to realize, Divine Providence, in the courſe of a few days, waſted us ſafely across the Bay of Biſcay, and, at the end of a fortnight, to our firſt deſtination, Gibraltar.

The morning of our diſcovery of the Streights, which takes its name from this ſtupendous rock, was as ſerene and delightful, and uſhered in as fine a day as ſmiles on the thick ears of corn in our beloved country at Midſummer. The noble Bay of Cadiz, the African ſhore, the double and triple ridges of mountains on one ſide, the more level and cultivated ſhores of Spain on the other, of this wonderful inlet from the ocean, and, towering above all the other mountains, or perfectly diſtinct from them, the Abyla, and others, preſent their huge ſummits, and ſtand durable monuments of nature's grandeur. With ſuch magnificent and interesting views before and around us, did we paſs from the Atlantic Ocean, through this funnel, or Streights, to Gibraltar.

This wonderful rock is ſituated about the lat. of 36 deg. in the ſouth part of Spain and of Europe, on a remarkable peninſula, and when conſidered, both as to its external and internal appearance, is one of the moſt extraordinary in Europe. But as this place has been well deſcribed by other

and more able pens, and as this is but the beginning of various eventful voyages, several of which will require much elucidation, I would be cautious of intruding on the time and patience of the candid reader, by repetitions which are uninteresting, and would here premise, once for all, that my aim is rather to give a brief sketch of the countries and places I have occasion to treat of, than an elaborate disquisition.

The town of Gibraltar is situate at the north part of the rock; it consists principally of one street, about half a mile in length. The governor's house and chapel are the most conspicuous buildings, together with a Roman Catholic church. The inhabitants are numerous, consisting of a greater variety of nations, perhaps, than is to be found in any other town of the same population—here dwell together English, Spaniards, Portuguese, Jews, Italians, Moors, Genoese, &c. &c. and in one respect, at least, that of amassing wealth, they generally appear in concert.

The air is friendly to the constitution, and the soil, where there is any depth, very fertile, producing, with little cultivation, excellent fruits, vegetables, and herbage. The inhabitants are in general well supplied with live cattle, poultry, and fruit, from the opposite coast of Barbary, and from the Spaniards; but in time of war these supplies are much contracted, and sometimes stopped. At those seasons Gibraltar represents a ship on a long voyage, whose crew are obliged to live on salt provisions, though with respect to vegetables, the stationary company have a decided superiority over their brethren on the ocean.

Having a few days to remain in the bay, I availed myself of it to view the structure and position of this rock, and its interior construction. The east part, facing the Mediterranean Sea, is almost perpendicular, appearing as a mountain divided by some dreadful convulsion. This part is inaccessible. The north side is likewise a lofty precipice; its summit appears to project over its base, adjoining which is an extensive level or sand, which connects Gibraltar with the interior of Spain. The whole of this part of the rock is surprisingly fortified, having port-holes excavated, whereby heavy pieces of cannon are mounted within the solid rock, covered similar to those in a ship. At or near the termination of one of these rows of ordnance, is a spacious hall, where a party of thirty or forty may dine without inconvenience. These batteries command the whole of the neutral ground, or that part which connects Gibraltar with the

Spanish main land. The west side, on which is the town and other buildings, and the principal cultivation being in several parts well laid out in gardens, &c. is by far the most delightful part of Gibraltar. Without the town, to the north, is the old harbour or port, which is the best anchorage: adjoining this mole commence those fortifications, the principal of which was rendered so effectual in repulsing and destroying the floating batteries during the last siege. From the south port to the new mole is a pleasant road: behind this mole and the arsenal are spacious barracks and hospital, which make a handsome appearance: from hence to the southernmost part, called Europa Point, are various other buildings, with several gardens. The top of this interesting rock is divided into three hills, and is very barren: upon these hills are erected watch and signal towers. When the day is clear, the spectator is presented with one of the grandest views imagination can well conceive. The mountain of Abyla, capped with snow, the pleasing verdure on its base; a large extent of the African coast, with prodigious ridges of mountains; the handsome appearance of Ceuta, and adjacent country, the Straits, with the shipping; the fine Bay of Gibraltar, the towns of Algeziras, and the beautiful spot of the orange-grove; St. Roche, on a pleasing eminence, and the vast mountains behind it; the town and public buildings of Gibraltar, with the grateful verdure around, interspersed with trees, and pleasant and safe walks contrasted with the precipices and ruggedness on which the spectator stands, which, in many places, is undermined by subterraneous caverns and avenues, and by a turn of the body, the vast prospect to the eastward, with a delightful country, highly ornamented with cottages and vineyards, and an extensive view of the Mediterranean Sea—these, and many other objects included in the view, present the astonished spectator with something of the magnificence, sublimity, and beauty of nature; and the heart tuned to gratitude will exclaim with the psalmist, “Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man, that thou visitest him!”

The caverns alluded to above, are remarkably curious and interesting, especially that of St. Michael's, a short description of which must suffice at present. This singular and extraordinary phenomenon is situated in the western side of Gibraltar rock. The entrance is small, being about the size of a common arched door-way: this construction heightens the effect of the interior; for on leaving the threshold, the

visitor is surrounded with petrefactions, portraying such variegated scenery, and forming to the mind such a wonderful assemblage of statues, labyrinths, animals, and buildings, which, connected with the solemn gloom, stillness, murmurings, and droppings of the petresying waters, and the impending roof, with the avenues in various directions—arrest every lighter power of the mind, and force the most thoughtless to consider.

I shall conclude this account of Gibraltar, with a sketch of a dreadful storm which happened while we were there. It began with light winds, attended with thick and gloomy vapours, which entirely eclipsed those interesting scenes we had hitherto been admiring, suddenly followed by rain, which admitted but of few intervals for the space of a week: it often poured down upon us in torrents; and the winds so increased, that in the intervals between the torrents of rain, the storm raged in all its majestic fury. The whole fleets in the bay were suddenly in motion, and the sound of alarm and distress were reiterated in every direction. The active mariner, with his usual courage and agility, mounted the tackling, and laboured manfully to ease the towering masts; every power of the body and mind were called forth into exertion, to provide and prepare against the fearful storm. But alas! what are the puny efforts of mortals, even of the wisest and best, without the blessing of Divine Providence to render those exertions effectual, and preserve the weather-beaten mariner in the midst, and bring him through all the dangers of the otherwise irresistible elements; for several of the ships being forced to sea, were precipitated into still greater danger than those at anchor; and during this first dreadful night, one of the finest ships in his majesty's navy was literally dashed to pieces on the tremendous rocks of the opposite shore of Africa, and near four hundred valuable seamen perished. The remainder that were forced out of the bay, were all preserved, and returned to harbour soon after. Many and dreadful were the dangers that several in the bay were exposed to: our case was amongst the most alarming. A sudden gust of wind, which came down the rock with incredible violence, parted our cables, and hurried us to the opposite shore, under the batteries of the enemy. Providentially, here the last anchor brought her up, and secured us from driving on shore. The night was dark, the storm continued, and reduced us to the perilous situation of impending destruction by shipwreck or captivity; but O! for gratitude truly to praise that Almighty Sovereign, who

“maketh the clouds his chariot, and rideth upon the wings of the wind.” When day-light began to appear, and while all human efforts were entirely useless, the gusts ceased for a short time, and then blowing immediately after from the opposite point, in the short space of an hour brought us into complete security.

- CHAP. II.

Departure from Gibraltar—Visit Lagos—Arrival at Lisbon—Description of Lisbon, and its Vicinity—Air—Soil—Fruits—Population—Manners and Customs of the Inhabitants—Government—Gardens.

THE storm was succeeded by weather remarkably fine, and after a stay of ten days at Gibraltar, we proceeded for the coast of Portugal; and before my return to the Mediterranean, opportunities were afforded of sailing its whole extent, and of visiting its principal ports. Our first anchorage was in the Bay of Lagos, near Cape St. Vincent—a place more remarkable for the monuments of superstition, than for that industry and agriculture which denote a people prosperous and happy. A supply of fresh water being wanted, but a dangerous bar preventing the ship from approaching the harbour, the author was deputed with a message to the governor, requesting a supply of water and vegetables. He was received by this gentleman with that politeness and hospitality ever accompanying true generosity, and arrangements were immediately made for those necessary supplies.

Having completed our stock of water, and added thereto a variety of fine fruit, we proceeded for Cape St. Vincent and the western coast. On this cape is built one of the most remarkable monasteries in the kingdom, and, the author was informed, one of the most richly endowed; but the most distressing accounts were given of the poverty and misery of many others, both convents and monasteries, several of which, it appears, can scarcely procure the necessaries of life. The females are very severely tried in these respects, the endowments having, by various means, been greatly reduced, and in some instances annihilated. The women, immured in these spacious prisons, are necessitated to obtain a scanty subsistence by any exertions in their power, and often are glad to execute the most ingenious baskets and

needle-work, for the scanty pittance of two-pence or three-pence per day. A susceptible mind cannot but commiserate their situation, which in many instances is involuntary confinement, and that they are thereby often involved in great misery. Surely the females of Britain, especially, are loudly called on to acknowledge, with gratitude to Divine Providence, the blessings they enjoy in our highly favoured land.

After a few weeks of pleasant weather we arrived at Lisbon, the capital of the kingdom of Portugal, which has one of the finest rivers, and most secure and spacious Harbours in the world. On passing the bar (which is dangerous) it is difficult to conceive a finer prospect than opens, and continues to open, all the way to the upper anchorage, which is before the city; the river is navigable, and bounded by beautiful landscapes for many miles above Lisbon.

Lisbon itself, when viewed from the river, appears beautiful and magnificent, rising gradually from the banks of the river Tagus; it covers several hills, and when seen in connection with the queen's gardens, rope-walk, and all that beautiful country in the vicinity of Belem, must excite sentiments of admiration in every intelligent spectator; but these sentiments are materially lessened on a nearer inspection, for this place is far from having that regularity in its buildings, that cleanliness in its inhabitants, or that order and industry throughout, which its distant appearance seemed to promise; and an Englishman will often perceive a striking contrast to that industry and happiness which blesses his native shore.

Our departures from, and returns to this place were frequent, though we usually remained several weeks at a time. I shall, therefore, to avoid tediousness and unnecessary repetitions, throw the whole of the observations I intend to make on Lisbon and the country into one general description.

The air of this celebrated country is well known for its salutary influence on convalescents. It is indeed friendly to the healthful and the infirm, and it is impossible to convey an adequate idea of the invigorating breezes prevalent here, which are so remarkably medicinal in consumptive and other debilitating diseases; and which prevent Lisbon from being depopulated by the ravages of epidemical distempers.

The soil of Portugal is in general not so fertile as Spain, though the country around Lisbon, St. Ubes, Oporto, &c. may vie with its most fertile parts. Partly owing to the sterility of the soil, and partly want of a true stimulus to industry, in the encouragement of agricultural pursuits,

Portugal is often very deficient in the substantial article of bread-corn; this scarcity is in some measure provided against by public granaries.

Their fruits are excellent, abundant, and various; and their vineyards are equal to any in the world: in this respect their industry is worthy of commendation, and of imitation, by those countries whose climate and soil are congenial to the vine. The wine produced by those delicious grapes, when genuine, and taken in moderation, is justly deemed a medicine in many complaints.

The whole length of Lisbon, including its suburbs, is about two miles and a half; the breadth in and near the city about a mile; the other parts not so much. Except a few handsome streets in the city and its vicinity, it is irregularly, and in many parts, to appearance, insecurely built. The abrupt precipices, caused by the tremendous earthquakes which have often convulsed this city and its neighbourhood, in many parts form the foundation of spacious houses; the view from those windows next the chasms, strike a stranger with terror, but custom induces the inhabitants to view it, too often with thoughtless indifference.

The inhabitants are numerous, but at present, and indeed for many years past, have lost that enterprising spirit in commerce, discovery, and navigation, which so remarkably distinguished their ancestors, and rendered them so conspicuous in the annals of nations about three or four hundred years ago. Luxury, pride, and indolence, those inseparable banes, excited by an influx of wealth from the new world, soon produced that degeneracy of character which too much mark the Portuguese at the present day:—from hence has frequently originated the decline and fall of flourishing and powerful states. When man loses sight of what he is, and how he stands connected with his fellow-men—when selfishness, pride, and ignorance, subjugate, and even extirpate those social affections, which endear man to man, so that if self is exalted and flattered, he cares not who falls; the inevitable consequence must be, a death-blow to all the tender ties of life, and unless timely prevented, must terminate in general ruin.

The multiplicity of images of the Virgin, and of departed saints, meet the eye in every part of the city; and the devotion paid them is strange and astonishing; wax tapers accompanying many of the superior sort, and are kept constantly burning; and crosses are plentifully placed in the most conspicuous situations; processions abound too, more

calculated to captivate the senses than impress the heart. The unsuspecting stranger is frequently accosted, by priests as well as beggars, imploring charity in the name of the Holy Virgin; and many of those mendicants, as if to add force to their solicitations, will enumerate a long list of their favourite saints. Why is this mendicancy grown into a system? Because true religion and industry is wanting.

The Roman Catholic is the only religion all over Portugal, and its inhabitants are generally deeply immured in its superstitions; though, blessed be God, the darkness is not so thick as formerly. The horrid tribunal of the Inquisition has lost much of its power.

The Portuguese in general seem to possess a large share of ostentation, affecting all that imaginary greatness and supercilious disdain so congenial to proud nature; deceit and revenge, in their various and dreadful forms, still stalk too often with impunity, yet it is pleasing to observe and reflect, that these evils also are very much decreased of late years, and openness, and sincerity of conduct prevail more and more.

The charge of vanity is mostly applicable to the higher and middling ranks; for among the peasantry and fishermen, the author has with pleasure observed, that honesty, candour, and simplicity, which always command regard; though with respect to many of the lower order, as to ceremony, it is common to see as much ridiculous or unmeaning bowing and scraping, as is practised between fops in general.

The government is vested in the Prince Regent, who may be considered an arbitrary prince, though, to his honour, it appears, he has not exerted his power in that unjust manner which several of his predecessors have done: may we not hope that he will still further see, that the true happiness of prince and people are inseparable and reciprocal, and the only true system of government.

The most airy and pleasant parts of Lisbon are in the direction of Buenos Ayres, which is situated on an eminence rather behind the city, and remarkable for several handsome buildings in its vicinity. The aqueduct is one of those works which combine utility and elegance. By means of this majestic structure, Lisbon is supplied with water; it is of considerable length, crossing a beautiful vale; and by the side of the water is a commodious foot-path, from whence are views of beautiful landscapes; and from the termination of the bridge, which is on rising ground, are prospects still

more interesting and extensive. In the valley beneath is a fine view of its stately arches, the construction of which is admirable.

In the vicinity of this part of Lisbon are several magnificent churches and chapels, and we will select for a short description, that called the Queen's Church. This splendid building, which has been but recently erected, exhibits some master-pieces of sculpture, architecture, and painting. The front is elegant, supported with pillars of the Corinthian and other orders. Round the top are figures intended, I suppose, for the apostles, most of which are in striking positions. The interior is superbly decorated; the altars are adorned with images and candlesticks, several of them made principally of gold and silver. The paintings are strikingly grand. The great altar, or place of worship, is apparently, in several parts, overlaid with gold, of exquisite workmanship; and other places with silver, richly embellished, all which being brilliantly illuminated by a number of large wax-tapers, at a first entrance especially, dazzles the eyes and confuses the mind. From hence towards the queen's gardens, and museums near Belem, are several handsome buildings, beautiful gardens, monasteries, convents, and landscapes, situated on the shore of this majestic river. I shall confine my description to the queen's gardens and museums.

These gardens are situated in a beautiful level, are delightfully laid out, and form a desirable retreat during the intense heat of summer, and the shaded walks are open to the respectable public.

In various parts of the gardens are rare and beautiful animals, and several extensive aviaries, containing a great number and variety of birds, whose beautiful plumage is more remarkable than the harmony of their notes. Fountains and cascades play their pleasing waters into ponds, stocked with numbers of the finny race, whose sparkling bodies vie with the beauties of the feathered tribe. These fountains, cascades, animals, aviaries, &c. are laid out and interwoven with the pleasant walks, so as each to heighten the effects of the other; and as the best effects are excited by those works of art which most nearly imitate nature, the contemplative mind will here find many objects to elevate his thoughts to the God of nature—the source of all perfection.

At the termination of several walks are placed some interesting statues; among which is the Roman daughter, nou-

rishing with her milk her almost famished parent; the story* is so full of interest, that it tends to excite admiration, and afford entertainment to every reader.

CHAP. III.

Museums of Natural Curiosities and Capital Paintings—Egyptian Mummy—Sketch of the History of the Tremendous Earthquake—Unusual Serenity of the Morning—Awful Sound which announced the sudden Visitation—Consternation of the Inhabitants, Forty Thousand of whom perished in the dreadful Convulsions—Reflections—Second Earthquake—Vestiges—Lisbon again very populous—Indifference and Dissipation of its Inhabitants—Old Lisbon—Royal Gardens—Numerous and Prolific Vineyards—Manners of the Villagers.

ADJOINING the gardens is the museum containing a large and choice collection of natural curiosities; also an exhibition of valuable paintings, extensive and well arranged, all well worthy the attention of the curious. The paintings arrested my attention immediately, for the first that was presented to notice was an extraordinary representation of Constantine the Great and his army, arrested by a supernatural appearance in the clouds: if the author may presume to give his opinion, from the effect it had upon his mind; it is one of the most striking in this vast collection.

The artist has so clearly and forcibly portrayed this part of Roman history on the canvass, that the spectator may, in some measure, instantly conceive the effect this solemn phenomenon must have had on the minds of the emperor and his associates, if it be true, which many doubt. The interesting appearance in the heavens, the whole army struck with surprise, and held in anxious suspense, the light striking on the helmets, and horses' hoofs, the horses affrighted and prancing, with their flowing manes, and the riders in consternation, and all big with expectation of the event, give the spectator a good idea of that wonderful relation.

The museum of natural curiosities is very interesting, but

* History of Rome.

would require more time and abilities than the author possessed to do justice to the inspection.

Near Lisbon is another choice collection of natural curiosities, in the possession of a private gentleman, in which is an Egyptian mummy, in a high state of preservation, although it is supposed to have been embalmed near 3000 years ago. It lies in a case made in the form of an human body, with apertures; the author was allowed to introduce his finger, and withdrew it without the least offensive smell.

The awfully tremendous earthquake which happened here in November, 1755, appears to have, in a measure, turned Lisbon upside down. The vestiges of this dreadful catastrophe present to the eye of the beholder ruins of the first magnitude, which, when considered in connexion with the number of inhabitants which perished in this convulsion of Nature, must solemnize the powers, and arrest the attention of every reflecting mind.

The morning of the 1st of November, ushered in this dreadful day; it made its first appearance with remarkable and unusual serenity and calmness. About ten o'clock the awful visitation began, with a rumbling noise, resembling distant thunder; and at the same time the earth received a shock: in a moment the city and its vicinity exhibited a scene of consternation and terror; the astonished and affrighted inhabitants running here and there for safety, without the shadow of a retreat, from the devouring element; while some were rivetted to the spot among the gaping and closing chasms, others were swallowed up; many of the wretched survivors, in distraction and despair, were petrified with terror, and before recollection returned to endeavour a retreat, the earth opened and closed them in.

The large quay, to which numbers had resorted, and fled for refuge, was but an illusive hope of very short duration, for here the sea also combined with the convulsions of the earth, and by encroaching in a rapid manner on its ancient boundaries, overwhelmed the whole of these survivors, who perished in the vortex. Where this quay then stood, the resort and retreat of busy multitudes, is now water, enough for ships to anchor. Forty thousand persons are computed to have perished in this dreadful calamity.

What a fund for reflection is here, when it is considered even with common attention: here we contemplate forty thousand of our fellow mortals quickly enveloped in one common calamity, without a moment for cool reflection, hurried to "that bourne from whence no traveller returns;" here we behold all that the delusive world is prone to call

good and great; magnificence, opulence, talents, &c. all that pride could suggest, with all that power, abilities, and affluence could demand; luxury and pleasure with all its votaries of vanity; and dissipation suddenly and indiscriminately buried in one common ruin, all consigned to this great repository, till the archangels' trump shall sound "Arise ye dead, and come to judgment."

This earthquake was followed in the ensuing month by another, which swallowed up, and overturned precipices, tottering walls, and buildings, which had escaped the general destruction; and even as recently as the year 1791, a shock was felt, but providentially without doing any material damage, or the loss of lives.

The city is again filled with inhabitants, and again exhibits, in general, vanity and dissipation, luxury and folly; and though abrupt and projecting precipices, disparted earth, and unconnected buildings, the vestiges of those dreadful convulsions, meet the eye in every direction, and, as it were, utter a silent and powerful warning, that such events may suddenly take place again: yet such is the prevalent dissipation of thought, among the generality of its inhabitants, that their practical language is, "to-morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant," clearly demonstrating, that unless the judgments and mercies of God lead men to repentance, they, through the depravity of human nature, tend to increase indifference. "Oh! that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end."—Deut. xxxii. 29.

Opposite to the present city, on the southern bank of the Tagus, is a village, commonly called Old Lisbon, between which and Belem Castle, are several beautiful spots, with many warehouses: near Old Lisbon are another range of the royal gardens, more extensive than those already described, to which we had free access. In the vicinity of these gardens, and the village, are some of the finest vineyards I ever beheld; some of them abound with the muscated grape, whose juice has a peculiar richness and flavour. In walking through these vineyards, near the time of vintage, you are surrounded with clusters of grapes, and many of them hanging so low, that the appetite may be satisfied without putting forth a hand to pluck them. We experienced the civility and hospitality of these villagers in a greater degree than from our more refined and polite friends on the opposite shore, and their kindness to our sick, at the hospital in particular, demands a tribute of respect and gratitude.

CHAP. IV.

Leave Lisbon—Proceed to Oporto.—Description of Oporto and its Vicinity—Shipwrecked on the Coast—Sufferings and providential Preservation of the Crew—Return to Lisbon.

WE now proceeded off Oporto, to apprize our commerce of the depredations of privateers, in doing which we explored the whole coast, from the rock of Lisbon to Vigo. Oporto is, next to Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, in extent, trade, and number of inhabitants. It is situated on the banks of the Douro. The entrance of the river is frequently extremely difficult, on account of a dangerous bar, and rocky bottom; on this account shipping have frequently to wait a considerable time for a favourable opportunity. On this bar we were once in extreme danger, but unexpectedly and suddenly rescued from impending death, by that gracious Being, who "holds the winds in his fist, and the waters in the hollow of his hand."

After passing this dangerous navigation, a delightful prospect opens to view, which, having just escaped danger, and being placed in security, heightened the beauty of the landscape, and ought to have raised the mind above these beauties of nature to nature's God, accompanied with language like this, "What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits."

This river is on a smaller scale than the one we had just left, but its contraction in this respect increased the effects of the sweet perfumes from the oranges, lemons, and other fine fruits, on the organs of smell; on either side, the boughs were bending low with their precious burthens. This scene continues for near a mile, and then there opens to view the well-built Town of Oporto and its environs, with a further prospect of the Douro, and its banks.

Oporto carries on considerable trade with the Brazils, and the river is in general well filled with ships from thence, and others of all nations; so that in proportion to its extent, it may equal, if not exceed, Lisbon for trade. The merchants of the factory, &c. appear to possess much of that liberality and generosity frequently attendant on lawful enterprise.

The wine and fruit of Oporto ensure it a considerable trade; their vineyards are in general highly cultivated, and

misery and poverty appeared much less predominant here than at Lisbon. Near the city is a fine quay, close under the walls of the town, where, except in and immediately after the rainy seasons, ships lie conveniently and securely; one of these seasons the author witnessed. The heavy rains at the source of the river and in its vicinity, of which rains we experience but little at Oporto, was perceived suddenly to increase, and every person connected or interested with the shipping, was assiduous in providing against the approaching deluge; but, notwithstanding that many cables were extended for this purpose, several vessels broke adrift, or loose from their fastenings, and were hurried on shore. It was distressing to see the floating bodies of several mariners carried along by the irresistible torrent, without being able to stretch out to them the helping hand. Providentially its violence did not continue long, and we were soon rejoiced to hear that several ships whom we had given over for lost, were safe. The inhabitants near the quay, at those seasons, sometimes pass from house to house by means of small flat-bottomed boats.

Several of the churches here are stately and splendid buildings, and the country round Oporto is very pleasant; fish is abundant, and all the necessaries of life may be had at a reasonable rate. The inhabitants are comparatively industrious, and the higher ranks appear less supercilious and vain than in the metropolis. Their wines are excellent and cheap, yet they are not addicted to intoxication; indeed temperance is a prominent quality in the generality of the Portuguese: a few grapes, with other fruit, bread, and a moderate quantity of small wine, which was sold at sixpence or eightpence the gallon, afforded a good dinner to a whole family; sometimes they have in addition a little fish, but very rarely animal food, and when obtained, a less quantity than would serve a native of Britain will amply suffice, with vegetables and fruit, a family of four or six persons: in this respect they are worthy of imitation by many of our countrymen, who make it their study to pamper their appetites.

The author was witness to several of their superstitious processions, during one of which he was brought into the dilemma of either making his own obedience to the Host, or of having his hat taken off for him, which was suddenly and rather roughly done, and he felt thankful when the whole had passed him without farther molestation. At another, the levity of the spectators was not less remarkable than the solemnity of those who composed the procession. The

principal streets of the city were cleaned and sanded. The fronts of the houses hung with tapestry, &c. The windows and balconies were filled principally with females, whose head-dresses seemed to exhibit the plumage of the ostrich, peacock, and tropic-bird. The writer remarked many of the ladies, at the same time, emulous to outvie each other, and solicitous to pay respect to the spectacle.

Their chief exports are wine and fruit; and both in a peculiar degree of excellence and abundance, are the produce of Oporto and the neighbouring country. The wine called Port, takes its name from hence, and a person who is in the habit of drinking it genuine, can immediately detect the gross impositions practised in most countries on the credulous stranger; who too often, under the name of Port, real Port, genuine Port, &c. swallows a variety of those malignant ingredients, which often produce diseases, especially of the nervous kind.

The air, as at Lisbon, is salubrious. The soil at Oporto, and for several leagues on the coast; is perhaps the most fertile in the kingdom. The view of the river and its vicinity, on the coast, present one of the finest prospects; and though but a few degrees nearer the equator than Britain, the language of the poet on another country, still farther south, may be adopted with propriety to this one.

“ Here sea-born gales their gelid wings expand,
 “ To winnow fragrance round the smiling land;
 “ Whatever sweets salute the northern sky
 “ With vernal leaves, that blossom but to die;
 “ These here disporting, own their kindred soil,
 “ Nor ask luxuriance from the planter's toil.”

GOLDSMITH.

Our departures and visits to this coast were frequent, and during the several months of our visiting it, we had the satisfaction of enjoying much fine weather, of rendering assistance to commerce, and were gratified with pleasing views; but before our final departure, had to experience shipwreck.

The night on which it happened was dark, the swell high, and all but the watch were gone to repose, and, confident of security, most of them in a sound sleep. At ten o'clock a violent concussion was felt—all were soon awake, and the cry, “ the ship has struck!” was instantly felt by every heart. The lead was thrown overboard, and it was soon discovered that our situation was still more perilous than we at first imagined, by finding the ship had grounded on a bank at a

distance from land. While the pumps were clear, and the tide rising, hopes were entertained of its bearing her over the sand into deep water. The masts and yards were brought as low as possible, to ease the violence of her beating; but alas! soon the doleful tidings were secretly communicated, that the ship had sprung a leak; and presently after, that the pumps were choaked. It was now perceived that the violence of the concussions had stove in her bottom. The sea gained rapidly, and notwithstanding every effort to throw out the water, in the course of an hour it caused the furniture to float in the captain's cabin. Nothing now of hope presented itself as to saving the ship, and the best means of leaving her claimed instant decision. Rafts were immediately procured, and kept ready to leave, when the ship was sinking. In providing these rafts, the writer of this account was severely wounded, and so far from being able to assist others in effecting their escape, he was obliged to be carried and supported by those whose professions prevented their more active exertions.

Our situation at length became so critical, that many were for taking to the rafts and boats, and casting themselves on the mercy of Providence, exposed to the dangers of a tempestuous element, on an unknown coast, in a dark night.

But Oh! for grace to mark the hand of a wonder working God! when the water had arisen in the ship to such an height that we were just on the eve of quitting her, an extraordinary swell buoyed her over the bank, and almost at the same moment a favourable wind sprung up, which, together with the swell, urged it, like a log in the water, in a state completely unmanageable, to the main land, where we were fixed, and prevented from sinking altogether in the midst of an awful surf. Mercy still followed us, and the ship was soon thrown with one side deep in the sand, and the other rose considerably above the surface of the sea. As attempting to land in the boats was impracticable, on account of the breakers, or violence of the waves beating over the ship, and with the foam of which we were surrounded, and often covered, we sat on that part of the ship's side next the stern, till day-light appeared, when, through a thick mist, we descried a few large boats on the beach: this revived us again, and as day farther advanced, and cleared away the mist, several men collected on the beach, and appeared to view our distressing situation with more astonishment than sympathy; for none of our signs were effectual.

to induce them to make an attempt to relieve us. At length one of our seamen, with that generosity and resolution peculiar to many of them, offered to run the immediate risk of his own life, to save ours; the offer was accepted with gratitude. He threw himself into the surf, and the foaming billows were commissioned to bear him safe ashore.

After many expectations and promises, even of a hat full of money, if the spectators of our distress would launch down their boats, and attempt our release, they at length consented; but what language can describe the joy of every individual on board our ship, when their endeavours were blessed with success beyond our most sanguine expectations. My feelings above all, were excited by this safe method of conveyance, for had any great exertion on my part been necessary, I should, probably, have perished in the attempt; for having lost much blood, during so many hours of perilous anxiety, I was conveyed to the shore in a state of debility and danger, which confined me to my bed near a fortnight, and from which it took me upwards of two months to recover. On my landing I was surprised to see my chest had been washed out of the ship, and thrown safely on the beach. Our place of retreat was an extensive sand, far from any town of note. The few fishermen's houses on the beach were gladly taken possession of, and the captain, officers, and crew, formed their divisions by means of a few sails saved from the wreck.

An early opportunity was taken to convey intelligence of our situation to our friends at Lisbon, and a favourable answer soon returned.

The three weeks of our remaining in this inhospitable place were occupied in saving provisions and stores from the wreck; at length the joyful news of our being ordered to Lisbon, was received, and vessels arrived to convey us thither. Thus did a gracious God! preserve our whole crew, and my own peculiar preservation and recovery, was astonishing indeed!

We took our leave of this place with little regret, and in a few days again entered the capital, where an abundant supply of fresh provisions, vegetables, fruit, and wine, were provided us. A striking contrast in every respect to our late distresses and privations. A ship being then at Lisbon, bound for Cadiz, we were ordered on board her, to proceed to that station; and with a gentle breeze and fine weather, early in June, we left the Tagus for that purpose.

CHAP. V.

Arrival off Cadiz—Sketch of its Ancient and Modern History—View of the City and its Vicinity—Decrease in its Population—Causes thereof—Pleasing intercourse—Abundant Supplies—Departure for Lisbon—Arrival at Gibraltar.

A FEW days brought us safely into the bay of Cadiz, and amidst a British fleet, when I was removed to a temporary abode, on board the admiral's ship. During my stay, though at war with Spain, the communication with Cadiz was pleasingly open, especially during the period when negotiations for a general peace were on foot; at which my heart beat high in expectation, and desire of its accomplishment.

Cadiz is a place of great antiquity, its commodious harbour and situation for commerce, attracted the notice and attention of those early, and indefatigable navigators known by the name of Phœnicians, who founded a colony here. It was afterwards incorporated with the empire of Rome; till the decline and fall of that colossus; when those dreadful wars between the Saracens and native Spaniards, in a measure terminated in the subjugation of the latter. The Saracens held it, till with other parts of Spain, it was reconquered by the natives; and the intruders were expelled the country. It has ever since been a place of note, especially as to commercial affairs; indeed its spacious and secure harbour, and proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, and Mediterranean sea, may always be said to secure it a degree of notice.

Its trade is considerable in time of peace. The author visited it the latter end of the year 1789, at which period its spacious harbour was well filled with shipping of almost every nation.—A pleasing sight! Since that time its commerce has been rapidly on the decrease, together with the power and prosperity of the whole of this kingdom. Indeed, long before that period, Spain appears to have passed its zenith. Various causes may be assigned for this revolution. The first, and principal cause, appears to be, its extensive and unjust conquests in America, which drew vast numbers from Old Spain, a large proportion of which have found untimely deaths. The indolence and pride of its inhabitants may be

also considered another cause of its decline. The vast influx of wealth from the gold and silver mines, and riches torn from the native inhabitants, have been the bane, instead of the real wealth of Spain. Indeed when the conquest, subjugation, and extermination of the innocent inhabitants of many parts of Peru, Mexico, &c. are considered, it must appear a just retribution, that so many of their tyrannical and cruel conquerors, and of their later persecutors and oppressors, have been so untimely cut off. The inundations and earthquakes which have happened in those devoted countries, call loudly on the nations, to consider the equity of Divine Providence, in punishing nations in this world: Mexico was so dreadfully inundated, that forty thousand persons perished at one time: Lima, &c. are often convulsed by earthquakes, and about the middle of the last century, 3000 perished in the Port Town only, which is small, compared with the whole of Lima, which suffered by it; and several other parts are proofs of the fact.

Other causes may be assigned for the decrease in the population, and consequently in the prosperity of Spain, such as the Popish Inquisition; the expulsion of the Moors and Jews; the celibacy of the clergy, and the numerous convents, where so many female inhabitants are (not frequently) involuntarily immured in the splendid captivity of specious superstition; though, blessed be God, several of these cease to predominate as they did formerly.

The inhabitants of Cadiz have been calculated at upwards of one hundred thousand, which is, at present, far above the real number; probably sixty thousand is now their utmost extent. The Roman Catholic, as may be easily concluded from what is said above, is the prevailing and almost only religion of Spain. They are still enveloped with the night of ignorance and superstition; but they have lately made advances to loosen some of its fetters. As a proof of this, I with pleasure adduce the fact of the decrease of the power of that cruel, and terrible court, the Inquisition. May the Lord, in mercy, soon exterminate it from the face of the earth! It appears that no ecclesiastic can now carry any sentence into execution without the royal authority, which has lately been exerted to curb the haughty spirits of ignorant and licentious priests, and to encourage agriculture, and other arts, intimately connected with the prosperity of nations.

The Spaniards, in general, are swarthy; but often of a pleasing aspect, and there is an expression of dignity, even

about the lower orders, which is rarely discovered in other countries; this dignity, or conscious integrity, when real, raises them above many of those mean and base actions, which too often degrade the populace, as well as the higher ranks of society; but when this appearance is assumed to flatter pride, or to cover a base action, it degrades mankind below the brute.

The government of Spain is in a great degree arbitrary; it has not the happiness to experience the blessings of those mutual checks with which Great Britain is blessed, which conduce so much to the happiness of king and subjects.

The treasures of America are, if possible, regularly imported every year to Cadiz and other ports, in vessels well known by the name of galleons, or register ships; but as the Spanish manufacturers (owing greatly to the causes above assigned) have not ability to purchase them, other commercial nations have, in reality, the chief advantage; the power of justice may here be said to take place in a remarkable manner, in making their treasure circuitously to fall into other hands; all their attempts effectually to prevent this traffic have been hitherto unsuccessful. This indolence, and negligence of the Spaniards, has hitherto made it advantageous for other enterprising nations, that such immense treasures should rather belong to Spain than to them. But to the honour of many of the Spanish merchants be it spoken, that in consequence of their strict integrity, and justice, advantages have been seldom taken, in confiscating the property of merchants belonging to belligerent powers with whom Spain has been involved in war.

The city of Cadiz is built on an island connected with the continent by a bridge; it is well walled in, and has a good quay; near it I once fell overboard, and was preserved from injury, though exposed to imminent danger. The town has a handsome appearance from the harbour and bay. The inhabitants often experience the inconveniences of being obliged to obtain supplies of water from the opposite shore, where is a town of considerable note and extent, called St. Mary's.

The view from the bay, in fine weather, is of the first description. From the vicinity of Seville, on one side, to the Streights of Gibraltar, on the other, is an extent of many leagues. The principal part between, are Rota, villages, the harbour, shipping, and city of Cadiz; the vast mountain behind the harbour, and the table land from Cadiz towards the Streights, which, with numerous shipping at

anchor, and others sailing in all directions, form prospects pleasingly contrasted, and sweetly harmonizing.

During my stay of three months, we were plentifully supplied with fresh beef, from Barbary; fruit and vegetables from Portugal; and fish from Spain.

Near the conclusion of 1797, anxious to get to England, I joined the *Dolphin* at Lisbon; but contrary to my wish, in the ensuing spring, we again entered the Mediterranean, and previous to our farther destination, again anchored in Gibraltar Bay—took a farther view of this wonderful rock—was much struck with the many wonders of St. Michael's cave, which had escaped my former observation. New scenery, statues, buildings, and animals rose to imagination; and the solemn gloom and awful stillness which pervade every part, except where the droppings interrupt, and add to the effect of the whole, call even the thoughtless to reflection.

CHAP. VI.

Leave Gibraltar—Arrive at Minorca—Observations on the Coast between—Capitulation of Minorca—Description of the Island—Leave Minorca—Arrive at Sardinia—Return to Minorca—Departure for Italy.

HAVING completed stores and provisions, we joined, in October, an expedition whose destination was supposed to be for the island of Minorca. In about a week we passed Cape Pallos, and close in with the land about Alicant, which is situated at the bottom of several mountains, of which there are several immense ridges, rising above each other, in this neighbourhood; and also about Cape Pallos, and on towards Carthagenæ. These mountains near the coast serve to repel the violence of the sea winds, which sometimes prevail here. Alicant is a place of considerable extent and trade; its exports are wine, fruit, and several manufactures; and it imports various articles of foreign manufacture, with considerable quantities of fish from the northern fisheries. The wind continuing favourable and brisk, we quickly passed the islands of *Fromentaria* and *Ivica*, which are not of much interest, the former having little valuable produce, and the latter being but thinly inhabited, and neither of them possessed of a good harbour.

On the 7th of November we arrived off Minorca, and soon after the whole fleet anchored at Port Daya, and landed

four thousand men for the reduction of the island, which was happily effected on the 19th, without the loss of a man. After the capitulation, the fleet proceeded to Fornela, and Mahon; the garrison was immediately embarked, and conducted to Spain, and the inhabitants of the island became subject to Britain.

Minorca, as is well known, is a small island of about one hundred miles in circumference, possessing one of the best harbours in the world; the entrance is rather difficult, but when within, you are safe from all winds and weathers. Fort Philip, which endured a memorable siege under general Blackeney, is in ruins, and another has been raised on the spot, named Fort George, in honour of his majesty. On the opposite side of the entrance, is a handsome lazaretto, or quarantine warehouses. Near Fort George, is George Town, a place well laid out, but indifferently built. Almost opposite, on an island (destitute of fresh water), is the hospital, which is an extensive and commodious building, and about a mile from hence is the neat town of Mahon, whose inhabitants are remarkable for industry and cleanliness.

Barrenness and sterility of soil, prevail on the higher parts of this island; but the vallies, in general, are complete gardens. Fruit arrives at great perfection, owing to the intense heat of the sun during summer, and vegetables spring up as from a hot-bed; and on many of these, otherways barren parts, the sweetest herbs are produced; from which, those winged artists, the bees, extract that substance which gives the Minorquin honey its superior richness and flavour. It will not, when there is a good crop, produce corn sufficient for the consumption of its inhabitants; but this deficiency is seldom severely felt, owing in a great measure to the active disposition of the Mahonese, &c. in commerce. Winters are frequently severe, and when the keen easterly winds predominate, agues greatly prevail.

Port Fornela is the next harbour of note to Mahon, but not much frequented, as the former is the mart for commerce. The village is pleasantly situated, and the inhabitants exhibit much of that contentment which arises from industry.

Cittadela, situated at the north end of the island, is an ancient place, whose inhabitants appear more attached to old customs, than those of the other parts, which may be accounted for from their more insulated situation, and having no good harbour for the encouragement of commerce;

they do not possess that spirit of enterprise, or those habits of industry, which distinguish the Mahonese.

The Roman Catholic is the established religion all over the island; but the inhabitants, especially the Mahonese, are not charged with being so bigotted and superstitious, as they are in many parts of the continent; hence the toleration granted to those of other sentiments.

Nearly under the walls of Mahon, is a good quay, and water for ships of burthen close to it. The town has several handsome churches, and contains about eight thousand inhabitants. Opposite is a noble arsenal on a commodious island. In short, this harbour will contain many fleets at a time, without inconvenience to each other.

After wintering at Mahon, in the spring of 1798, we set sail to the eastward for Sardinia; and after encountering a smart gale, in about a week arrived safely in the great bay of Cagliari, the capital, and anchored under the town. This island gives title of king to one of the House of Savoy, who, during the recent revolutions on the Continent, has enjoyed little more than a nominal sovereignty, except in this insulated part of his dominions. The appearance of the town and vicinity, from the anchorage, is handsome; it rises from the shore, where are good moles for shipping, well fortified, and stands on a commanding eminence; but on a nearer inspection, the interior does not altogether correspond with its first appearance, the streets being not so wide, nor so regular and clean as might be expected.

The inhabitants are not numerous; seem restricted in commerce, and appear to possess much of that indolence always visible in the absence of active industry; which arises, no doubt, in a great measure, for want of those encouragements with which countries more happily situated are blessed. The soil in general is unpromising, and in many parts mountainous and barren.

The air, in summer, is often hot and sultry; during winter, frequently cold and damp, which, near the fenny and marshy parts, occasion agues to prevail.

There are several good harbours in this island; besides Cagliari at the south-east*, are Palma and St. Peters at the

* Between the south-east end of Sardinia, and the small round island of *Maritimo*, off the western end of the island of Sicily, and Cape Bon, near Tunis, lie those dangerous sunken rocks called *Esqueres*, or *Sculkers*, which should be carefully avoided by all that are sailing in this direction. I make this remark, and give this caution to my nautical readers, the more because a vessel may be very near them, even in a pretty clear evening, without perceiving their bearings.

north-west; Oristan, &c. All the coasts abound with fish, and coral is said to be found here.

A few leagues to the south of Sardinia is a small island, named Galletea: it is at present but of small importance, but offers a friendly port, secure from violent northerly winds. Before our return to Minorea we experienced in its vicinity a tempest, which being accompanied with squalls, prevented our carrying that press of sail we should otherwise have done; we were in consequence driven considerably to the southward of Galletea, and with anxious concern perceived our ship fast verging towards the rocky shores near Algiers, and thereby, under apprehensions of soon falling on its inhospitable coast, exposed to all

“The impervious horrors of a leeward shore.”

But while the considerate mind was forming plans to prepare for the worst, that almighty and beneficent Being, who, “maketh the clouds his chariot, and rideth upon the wings of the wind,” stayed the violence of the tempest, so that we were enabled to increase sail, and thereby soon lost sight of those fearful dangers, and reached our desired haven in safety.

What an awful scene is a storm, especially when beating the almost unmanageable ship towards the impending rocks. The otherwise thoughtless mariner, at length roused to consider, views, with dreadful forebodings in a dark night, the brightening foam and yawning gulf, or the latent rocks, far from shore; he sees every judicious effort rendered ineffectual, every plan of security baffled by the fury of the irresistible storm—art has done its all, the conflicting elements, roused into fury, seem to contend for their prey.

But when, to apprehension all is over, and she is about to take her last plunge, and before she is convulsed, by striking on the rocks, and the cry of “Lord have mercy on me,” is at length extorted, an unexpected lift of the wave frees her from the sunken rocks, or a cessation or change of wind bears her clear of the leeward shore.

The astonished mariner views the wonderful deliverance with pleasing surprize. The sails are again enlarged, and she cuts the rocking swell, and ploughs the sea with alacrity. The thought still continues, but with fainter impressions of gratitude. The sea now gets smooth, and the extra sails court the favourable breeze, and the ship in safety is borne auspiciously along.

But where is the performance of those vows made in the hour of extremity?—where is that reformation then promised?—where is the fulfilment of those resolutions, to turn from evil, and learn good? Alas! my friends, to seamen I now speak, are not those impressions, in general, as transient as the morning cloud and early dew, which soon vanishes away, like the recent furrows of the keel, which are almost immediately lost to view; you know this is the fact; experience proves, that the resolutions of the generality of seamen in a storm, are too often in proportion to danger. When the storm is perceived, for an interval, to cease, but still hangs over the ship in dreadful form, good resolutions seem to hold their weight in the mind, but as the danger continues to abate, those resolutions become fainter, and when, at length, the Almighty Preserver has made the storm to cease, and brought them into the haven where they would be, what is their conduct? then you know, my friends, it is general, in direct contradiction of the vows made when you were expecting, every moment, to drop into an awful eternity. (Eternity! what an inconceivably awful thought is eternity! a state of everlasting happiness or misery!) You know it is in direct opposition to that all merciful God, who hath saved your lives from so many deaths; for instead of thanksgiving to your gracious Benefactor, and prayers for grace to repent, and flee to Christ for salvation, in which true happiness alone consists, you are vainly and madly attempting to find satisfaction where it never, in the nature of things, can or will be found; for the end of those sinful pleasures is death. May this friendly admonition, which is accompanied with a fervent wish for your present and everlasting happiness, be received, and the important subjects briefly mentioned, be sincerely and earnestly attended to, by seamen as well as landmen. Above all, may the Lord, in mercy, set the convictions of their truth home upon your heart, and then you will know what salvation is, experience joy unspeakable, and be full of glory.

Sardinia has a prominent feature in history. Its antiquity is great, being first colonized by the Phœnicians. The Greeks, also, soon after visited it, and established colonies also; these penetrating people raised it into considerable importance, and by them it was named Icanusa.

The Carthaginians succeeded the Phœnicians, and Greeks, in whose possession it continued many years. It was made of consequence enough to afford a principal pretence for one of the Punic wars; the last of which reduced Carthage,

the once overgrown and unwieldy Carthage, to a Roman province.

At length the Saracens, whose kingdom was founded by Mahomet, and who were made scourges to a great part of the civilized world, reduced this island to their subjection. From them it passed over to the dominion of the Genoese, and others; and from them to the house of Spain. After several other revolutions, it was conferred on the duke of Savoy, in lieu of the island of Sicily, in whose family it still remains.

The roman catholic is the predominant religion. May civil and religious liberty soon visit this dejected island; that their hearts may be revived, their countenances brightened; industry, with all its happiness follow, and make their country smile again.

Having, in some degree, failed as to the object of our voyage, we revisited Minorca; and having completed our provisions and stores, soon proceeded to visit the fertile and interesting coasts and islands of Italy.

CHAP. VII.

Pass the Gulf of Lyons—Description of the beautiful Coast of Provence and Italy—Perfumes washed from the Shore—Views of St. Honore and Margaret—Antibes—Villa Franca—The Var—Monaco—Oneglia—Productions—Farther Views and Descriptions—Description of Savona—Sketch of its History—Alps—Enter the Gulf of Genoa—Rise and Decline—Inhabitants—Manufactures—Commerce.

WE passed the gulf of Lyons with a fine breeze, and shortly made the high land of Toulon, and the Hieres islands. At the conclusion of a charming day, we entered on the coasts adjoining it, and amidst the fragrance of a land breeze which enabled us to keep close in, we passed gently towards its shores. From our recent adieu to the gulf of Lyons, the change was so grateful, that more senses than one were engaged on the various beauties presented. The eye dwelt with delight on the extensive gardens and pleasant villages between Hieres and the Var. The smell was as if in a garden of perfumes; and the air

was highly gratified with gentle undulations of the air and sea, all

“ To the heart inspiring
“ Vernal delight and joy.”

MILTON.

The next day, with a beautiful morning and fine breeze, we sailed pleasantly along by the islands of St. Honore and Margaret, which are situated in a fine inlet or bay, and present a pleasing appearance. Margareta is almost covered with trees and verdure, interspersed with several handsome buildings. The more barren and lofty parts of St. Honore, heighten the contrast, and form with the adjacent coast, a very interesting prospect.

Farther to the east, and nearer Italy, is Antibes, situated as in a garden; a sea-port town of considerable extent, with a castle and mole for shipping. The harbour is shallow, except near the mole. It is an ancient place, and has now a considerable trade.

About twelve miles from Antibes, and in the same beautiful bay, is the noted town of Villa Franca. It is built on a beautiful declivity, and the effect is much heightened by the ranges of mountains which lie at its back, and near it.

Near Villa Franca is the Var, a river celebrated in history; which separates Italy from France.

Near the Var, in a continuation of the same garden of a country, is the neat and pleasant town of Nice, which has for many years been governed by a senate; but is now, together with all this country, under the controul of France.

A few miles higher is the town of Monaco, easily known by a remarkable eminence near it, which resembles a plain on the top, and therefore called Table Land, by sailors; this also is situated on a beautiful declivity.

With pleasant breezes, and the same agreeable views, we continued to be borne by Oneglia, a handsome town, laying near or between two pleasant rivers, on to Cape Delle Melle, which terminates this part of the coast of Italy. It is almost needless to observe, that all this country produces abundance of fruit, wine, and oil.

We continued to explore the still more interesting parts of this beautiful coast. Passing Delle Melle, another commanding prospect burst on the sight, and we soon entered the delightful bay, the shore of which contains the neat and handsome villages of Lican, Final, Orebo, and Noli.

From Cape Noli to Genoa is another fine bay, near the

bottom of which stands the ancient, large, and beautiful town of Savona, whose present degenerated state calls for commiseration. It long since sunk, in a great degree, in proportion to the rise of Genoa; but since the decline of that extraordinary city, it has sympathized much with its decay; and the sand injuring its harbour, has combined nearly to remove its commerce into other channels.

While treating of this coast and country, I feel myself impressed with the interesting history of its former inhabitants, a sketch of which I would present to the consideration of the attentive reader. These wonderful characters are known by the names of the Albigenses, or Valences, Valley-men, because they principally dwelt in the valleys of Piedmont. I say principally, for, like the diffusive religion they possessed, they reflected its sweet influences in many dark and superstitious countries; surrounded with persecution, they were enabled to hold up this divine light and life to their bitterest oppressors, and extend the healing beams of the Gospel over many, very many, of those habitations of violence and cruelty. Ever since the twelfth century, these Valley-men, who in the eighth century, or according to some historians, much earlier, had refused to participate in the daily increasing depravity of the Roman church, have been called Waldenses, from their union with the followers of P. Waldus, through whose means a great awakening took place in France. From them descended the ancient church of the United Brethren*; and they appear the honoured instruments of connecting primitive christianity and the dawn of the glorious reformation by Luther and his associates.

In this neighbourhood are to be seen a part of those stupendous mountains called the Alps, the highest in Europe, many of whose majestic tops are whitened with perpetual snows; they divide Italy from France and Germany, forming a good natural barrier, but which mad ambition and the desire of conquest has often surmounted. Ancient history presents an uncommon instance in the case of the Carthaginian general, Hannibal, who, with great difficulty and danger, passed them, not without the loss of many of his bravest men, and the imminent peril of his whole army, who were perishing in these inhospitable mountains.

Modern history also informs us of crossing and recrossing these mountains, by invading and retreating armies, and

* Known also by the name of Moravians, whose labours among the heathens are known to all the churches.

states quickly overrun, and in several instances overturned, by those unwelcome obtruders.

Genoa, which is so much distinguished in ancient history, still exhibits remains of its former magnificence and opulence; its extent and population is even now considerable, and some of its palaces have a majestic appearance. It is situated in the bottom of a gulf of the same name, and rises gradually from the sea, in the form of an amphitheatre. The church of St. Lawrence is very conspicuous.

The harbour is formed within two handsome and useful moles, which repel the heavy swell from the gulf; on one of these moles is an elegant light-house, which considerably adds to the general beauty of the view, and altogether constitutes Genoa an interesting prospect.

Before the discovery of a passage to India by the Cape of Good Hope, Genoa had arisen to the zenith of its prosperity as a commercial nation. Its commerce and colonies were astonishing, considering its small extent of country at home. They were rivals of the Greeks, Venetians, and Turks, and for a considerable period engrossed the trade of the Indies in Europe. The produce of the East was brought into their ports, and from thence conveyed and distributed to other parts of the world; by which means they principally rose to such eminence in maritime power. Luxury and pride, the constant attendants upon great influxes of wealth, had however, begun secretly to undermine the prosperity of the country, when the passage to India being discovered, turned the trade of the East into new channels, which, combining with several other causes, gave a deadly shock to the power and commercial prosperity of Genoa, which, except a few short intervals, has continued to decline ever since, and from which depression it is not likely soon to recover.

The government of Genoa had long been aristocratical, and it was customary to elect the chief magistrate, called the Doge, every two years.

Since the revolution of France it has generally partaken of the same form of government: it remains to be shewn what good effects will arise from it, for bettering the condition of this country, and especially in ameliorating the circumstances of the lower order of its inhabitants.

The air and soil of Genoa partake much of the salubrity and abundance so conspicuous throughout all Italy, though it is not so fruitful as its neighbouring country Leghorn, which partly arises from its moun-

tainous situation, and partly from the want of good cultivation. In general seasons they have not a sufficient supply of corn, which deficiency is supplied by the public granaries.

Their chief manufactures, in some of which they excel, are silk, velvet, damask, &c. which they frequently export, together with large quantities of fruit, chiefly the produce of the country, and, with sufficient encouragement, its exports might be soon increased.

CHAP. VIII.

Description of Leghorn—Liberality of its Government—Delightful Vicinity—Various and abundant Productions—Prevalent Religion—Reflection—Brief Account of its History—Illustrious Magistrates—Improvements in Criminal Code—Influence of France—Lucca and Pisa—Return to Minorca.

SCARCELY had we bid adieu to Genoa, when we were gratified with a view of Leghorn, and all its pleasing vicinity and dependencies.

This interesting place rises majestically on the borders of the Tuscan Sea, and equals, if not surpasses, every other port in Italy, in navigation and commerce: the reasons are obvious. Here is a free port and toleration. The merchandize brought hither is passed over without that rigorous and vexatious inspection which proves a check to liberal trade. The inhabitants are computed at sixty thousand persons, consisting of various nations and denominations. The Greeks, Jews, and Armenians, have their several places of worship. The Jews are computed at upwards of ten thousand, of which there are numbers of the first respectability, who, although they labour under several disadvantages, from imposts, &c. are notwithstanding in a prosperous condition. Near the town is a capacious mole for shipping, and not far from it an elegant light-house.

The country adjacent to Leghorn is delightfully interspersed with several towns and villages, all which are enlivened by and partake of the general benefits of their common port. The air is salubrious, and the soil very fertile. It produces in abundance, corn, oil, delicious and sub-

stantial fruits and vegetables, which, with quantities of fine silk, and other valuable productions, form the principal articles of their trade.

The roman catholic is the prevalent religion; but is there not reason to hope, that the liberal spirit so conspicuous among the inhabitants of Leghorn and its neighbourhood, may, under Divine Providence, tend to bring in genuine Christianity, and that it may extend, in all directions, till superstitious Italy is evangelized?

The ancient history of Tuscany is closely connected with that of Rome, of whose empire it formed an integral part. We may date its modern history from the reign of Charlemagne, who possessed it at the close of the eighth century. After which it became subject to Germany, whose monarch appointed the viceroy, till a pope, famous for political as well as ecclesiastical intrigue, encouraged these governors to render themselves independent of their masters, and accept of his protection against the emperor. Hence the beginning of two powerful factions, which about the middle of the twelfth century divided the whole empire, which was not confined to Italy alone, but extended its desolating ravages to Germany also.

Several states, tired of the contention, wisely withdrew from the distressing scene, and established a government consonant to their wishes.

At length John de Medicis, a popular and enterprising nobleman, gained so much on the affections of the Florentines, that they invested him with sovereign authority.

After him succeeded Cosmo de Medicis, justly named the father of his people. He was bred to a mercantile life, but soon exhibited such abilities, integrity, and benevolence, as proved him to be an able statesman and legislator; but envy soon shot her shafts at him, and being grieved at the ingratitude of his countrymen he removed to Venice, where he was received in an honourable manner. His countrymen soon relented, and invited, yea, entreated him to return; he complied with their wishes, and presided over the commonwealth upwards of thirty years, and died universally lamented in 1464. Over his tomb was placed this inscription: —“Father of his people and freer of his country.” An admirable lesson for princes and governors, to “Go and do likewise.”

Cosmo was succeeded by his grandson, Lorenzo, another illustrious character, treading in the steps of his great progenitor, who was likewise bred a merchant. His public ser-

vices so recommended him to his countrymen, that they made him chief of their republic: and he was so universally esteemed by the princes of Europe, that they often made him arbiter of their differences. What a blessing are such magistrates and princes, who are more solicitous to settle differences by arbitration, than to draw the dreadful sword, which too often widens the breach, and deepening the prejudice, exhibits that animosity so contrary to peace and happiness,

The government continued in this family until 1737, when the last, called Gaston, died without issue. It was then transferred to the duke of Lorrain, in lieu of that dutchy.

In the year 1786 an excellent code of criminal laws was issued, which in a great measure abolishes capital punishments; judging wisely, that the frequency of capital punishments, by weakening the effects on the criminals, counteracts the intention of preventing crimes, and therefore they substitute more visible and permanent sufferings. Torture is prohibited, confiscations declared unjust, as often involving the innocent with the guilty. Proportionate penalties are inflicted for slight offences, and a more equitable mode of trial established, particularly with regard to evidence.

In how many respects is this code worthy of imitation? The good effects were soon felt in this country, by a spirit of subordination and cheerful obedience.

Various changes have recently taken place here: it is now much connected with the government of France, and is likely to be still more under its influence.

Lucca and Pisa, situated on a beautiful plain near Leghorn, are pleasing prospects. The former is well known as a republic, at which time it contained a population of upwards of one hundred thousand people, in the circumference of one hundred miles. The town of Lucca, at present, is supposed to contain about twenty thousand inhabitants, is about three miles round, and presents a picture of industry; they have considerable manufactories, and partake of the spirit of trade exhibited so largely at Leghorn.

Pisa, stands on the beautiful plain which bears its name, is a small town, and chiefly remarkable for its delightful situation and extraordinary tower.

The view of the papal dominions, bordering on Tuscany, naturally drew my attention to this extraordinary country and its government. It extends about two hundred miles on a beautiful coast and country, the soil of which is so fertile, that it produces, almost spontaneously, a sufficiency

of the necessaries of life for the subsistence of its inhabitants, who are in general so slothful, owing principally to the little encouragement given to industry and agriculture, that their indolence is become proverbial.

The discouragement of agriculture and trade may be said to be interwoven with the constitution of the papal government.—Their arbitrary power, and monopoly of grain, in which selfishness is often so predominant; their pride and indolence which so generally prevail, infect the lower orders, who commonly prefer begging and imposing on strangers to honest industry and usefulness, in relative and social life. It has frequently been observed, that there is more toleration in Rome than perhaps in any country in Italy except Leghorn; in this respect it deserves a tribute of commendation.

Before the reformation, it is well known, the Pope reigned paramount over all the nations of Europe. He excommunicated and dethroned kings and princes at his pleasure. So abject has been the submission, that a king of England thought himself honoured, by being permitted to put the pontiff's foot into the stirrup when mounting his horse. Their spiritual bondage was such, that a bull from his holiness had more influence on their benighted minds than the commands of Almighty God. Blessed be God, who by his gospel has so wonderfully chased this thick darkness from so many nations. Our highly favoured land has been long distinguished in this respect—may its inhabitants show their gratitude, by the emphatical language of holy lives, and rejoice in the anticipation of the fulfilment of promises and prophecies:—that “the heathen shall be given to the Redeemer for his inheritance, and the utmost parts of the earth for his possession.” And that his gospel shall continue to increase in the hearts of mankind, till “the knowledge of the glory of the Lord shall “cover the earth, as the waters cover the sea.”

“ Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
 “ Does his successive journey run;
 “ His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
 “ Till sun shall rise and set no more.”

WATTS.

During our voyage we beheld ruins of various majestic buildings of antiquity, several of them the wonted retreats of the Roman emperors, whose tottering vestiges loudly proclaim the transitory nature of human grandeur.

" Worn on the edge of days, the brass consumes,
 " The busto moulders, and the deep cut marble,
 " Unsteady to the steel, gives up its charge ;
 " Ambition, half convicted of her folly,
 " Hangs down her head, and reddens at the tale."

BLAIR.

" ——— The pilgrim oft,
 " At dead of night, mid his oraison, hears
 " Aghast the voice of time ! disparting towers,
 " Tumbling all precipitate down, dashed,
 " Rattling around, loud thundering to the moon."

DYER.

Before our return we passed near the islands of Elba and Corsica. The former is about twelve miles in length, and rather narrow. It has an excellent harbour, named Porto Ferrajo, and produces fruit, fish, &c. and the town is of considerable note.

The latter is divided from Sardinia by a very narrow and dangerous channel, and is very mountainous. It is about eighty-five miles long, and in some parts fifty broad. The soil is rather barren, especially near the mountains ; but the air is much superior to that of its neighbouring island Sardinia. It produces considerable quantities of corn, oil, wine, and chesnuts ; the inhabitants are very temperate in their food, and patient in enduring hardships.

The Corsicans have formerly made great struggles for their liberties, especially during the government of the Genoese, who, in the plenitude of power, frequently oppressed the natives ; till at length, by repeated acts of injustice, they so kindled the indignation of the Corsicans, that a general revolt ensued.

They fixed their attention on their countryman Paoli, who had before given proofs of his integrity and abilities for their leader, who established the revolution, and under whose government justice and equity was administered. The spirit of the inhabitants being thus revived, agriculture and commerce soon followed, and the people experienced the protection and blessings of a mild government in an eminent degree.

Their former unwise governors were now ready to tremble at the very men whom they had recently treated so severely, and they thought it convenient to give up to France what they could no longer retain themselves, and which in reality they no longer possessed.

Notwithstanding this, confiding in their native courage

and strength, the Corsicans defended themselves against France itself upwards of a year; at length persuasion in a measure effected that which open force could not, and the generality of the natives surrendered themselves to its government; but many securing themselves in their fastnesses were not easily reduced; and several have, perhaps to this day, escaped the involuntary surrender of their liberty.

During the early part of the revolution in France, the people of this island appeared desirous of uniting with Great Britain; which union was effected in 1794. Soon after, from a variety of circumstances, it again became subject to France, under whose government it still is, and is likely to continue.

It gave birth to the present phenomenon of the day, Buonaparte, who, by the rapidity of his advances towards the summit of ambition, has astonished the nations.

It is but thin of inhabitants; they are robust and laborious, especially in traversing the mountains in quest of animals, of which there are many that are good for food. The Italian language prevails, especially on the coast, where are several excellent harbours, as Bastia, the capital; Ajacio, and Calvi, all which are towns and places of note.

The time for our visit to these delightful countries being for the present nearly elapsed; towards autumn we steered our course for Minorca, which we reached without any thing very material happening during the passage, and began to prepare for a visit to other parts of Italy, &c.

CHAP. IX.

Departure—Arrival at Sicily—Description of its Extent—Ancient History—Wonderful Granary—Italy in Miniature—Air—Soil—Climate—Inhabitants—Critical Situation—Providential Escape—Extraordinary Islands of Volcano and Stromboli, eclipsed by Mount Etna—Situation—Extent—Fatal Eruptions—Reflections—Departure.

HAVING remained a few weeks at Minorca, and completed our water and provisions, we set sail again to the eastward for the celebrated island of Sicily, which afforded an opportunity of seeing, as it were, Italy in miniature.

Sicily is the largest and most fertile of all the Italian islands

Its triangular position extends from $36^{\circ} 30'$ to 38° degrees north latitude, and from $12^{\circ} 07'$ to $15^{\circ} 58'$ east longitude, in the neighbourhood of Malta, Calabria, and Naples. A full account of this interesting country would fill a volume. A brief account, according to our plan, only can be given here.

Without entering into the fables of the poets, we may date its original history from the Sciani; from whom it passed into the possession of the Trojans and Greeks, who jointly inhabited it.

But those who are properly called Sicilians, and who gave the name of Sicily to the island, came from the adjacent continent, inhabited it for several centuries, and at length gave way to the Greeks and others. The Phœnicians also spread themselves along the coast and in the islands adjacent, and formed small colonies for the benefit and convenience of their navigation and trade.

This island was the seat of many wars between the Romans and Carthaginians, until the overgrown power of the former prevailed, and Sicily became a Roman province.

It has always been celebrated for its extraordinary fertility and interesting situation, and the different nations who have successively possessed it, have invariably considered it as a granary.

The climate is inviting, and the soil so productive, that with little cultivation it produces all the necessaries of life in abundance. It was, in a peculiar manner, the granary of ancient Rome and Carthage for corn, and still produces such an abundance of that essential article, that it continues to supply Naples, Malta, and several other parts of Italy with it.

Not vales only, but the hilly parts of this fertile island, are frequently covered to the very summits with verdure; the valleys and more level parts are exceedingly fruitful, vineyards, olive-trees, Indian corn, and all kinds of vegetables flourish, and a variety of the finest fruits invite the traveller in every direction.

Though frequently intensely hot, the island is very healthful, the salubrity of the air purifying any noxious qualities which the heat may produce from corrupted vegetation. Their winter is so short and mild, that it may rather be denominated a spring; chilling winds are seldom felt, but transient storms are frequently experienced during the months of February and March: and here I am forcibly reminded of the imminent peril our ship and lives were exposed to

during one of these storms; and would thankfully acknowledge an over-ruling Providence, who gave presence of mind, and rendered the means used effectual to rescue us all from our dreadful and apparently desperate situation.

The ship was at anchor between Palermo and Messina, near the extraordinary volcanic islands of Stromboli and Volcano. And with respect to the winds, at least, judged to be in perfect safety for the night, and therefore the watch was only on deck. For though the thunder was loud and the lightning vivid, yet from the comparatively moderate state of the wind, no serious apprehensions were entertained. It was about the solemn and awful stillness of midnight, rendered still more awful than the thick darkness, because heightened in dread by the frequent flashes of lightning, which made it indeed, "darkness-visible"—when an alarm that the ship was on fire, echoed from every part: in a fit of despair many run to cut down the boats along-side to escape; but orders were instantly given to the contrary, and obedience to them ensured by others of more presence of mind, and the affrighted parties obliged to assist in extinguishing the flame, or perish in the attempt. The danger was considerably increased by the exaggerations of fear, and the flames were said to be approaching the hatchway and magazine, which in part was literally true; no time was now to be lost, and some of those most collected and firm, rushed to the spot from whence the flames were said to issue, and with hammocks, blankets, &c. smothered the dreadful danger, and all were providentially preserved.

Storm, tempest, and even shipwreck itself, with all its dreadful danger, must sink in the comparison with the state of peril faintly described above. What gratitude then ought to be excited in the breast of every recipient of such wonderful mercies! but sad to reflect, little of this was felt, and few, very few ascriptions of heartfelt thanksgivings were given to that benignant and sovereign Arbiter of the universe, who suggested, gave energy to, the means used, and caused them to be successful in saving upwards of one hundred persons by so great a deliverance.

The fire was discovered to have arisen from the negligence of a seaman leaving his candle burning among the ropes in the cable-tier, the dangerous tendency of which, without a safe lanthorn, is alas! but too little regarded by the generality of seamen, and often but slightly attended to by those whose duty it is to inspect and report the safety of the interior of the ship, especially during the night.

The Lipari islands were the next day seen, and we soon after approached the shores of these phenomena. Volcano exhibits smoke as if rising from a large furnace.

Stromboli frequently vents itself with greater violence, and sometimes throws from its bosom fire to such an extent as to render an approach dangerous. Lipari, the capital, has many inhabitants; all the islands appear connected with volcanoes, and produce sulphur and a variety of fine fruits.

What extraordinary scenes are here collected in the midst of the sea; that islands, whose greatest circumference does not exceed a few miles, should form a release to such a mass of fire.

But on another view of the subject, may we not consider these awful appearances evidently calculated to answer very important and beneficial purposes; for these eruptions being almost invariably found in countries subject to earthquakes, in some measure answer the purpose of chimnies to something within the earth, which, if confined, would burst it in pieces.

But all these wonders are eclipsed by the magnitude and violence of the neighbouring volcano of Mount Etna.

“ Th’ infuriate hill that shoots the pillar’d flame,
 “ And rous’d within the subterranean world,
 “ Th’ expanding earthquake, that resistless shakes
 “ Aspiring cities from their solid base,
 “ And buries mountains in the flaming gulf.”

THOMSON.

This mountain, which during so many ages has continued to emit such a body of fire, and still burns unconsumed, is situated about twelve leagues from Messina, and within about six leagues of the sea. It is computed to be twenty leagues in circumference, and ten thousand feet in height, of a circular form, and its top like a sugar-loaf, and in clear weather can be descried an hundred miles off.

At the top is a bason of burning sulphur, said to be four miles round, and the upper part or circle of this burning mountain is covered with snow.

The lower parts are very fertile, producing the more substantial articles as corn and vegetables; the middle is more woody, and abound with olive-trees, chesnuts, grapes, and other fine fruits.

Its fiery eruptions have frequently occasioned dreadful destruction around, and have even reached the neighbouring

continent. The greatest eruptions marked in history are those of 1536, 1556, 1579, 1669, when fourteen towns and villages are said to have been destroyed. By that of 1693, several towns and villages, with 18,000 people, were supposed to have perished.

But the last eruption, which happened as recently as 1783, appears to have far exceeded all others. It extended its dreadful effects over great part of the island and on the opposite shore. It destroyed many towns and villages, and forty thousand inhabitants are said to have perished by its terrible ravages.

The fiery liquid, issuing from this dreadful volcano; earthquake succeeding earthquake; mountains, cities, towns, and villages overturned in an instant; must have been a scene which imagination cannot conceive, much less language describe. A scene which should remind mortals of that infinitely more awful and tremendous day, when—"The heavens shall pass away with a great noise, the elements melt with fervent heat, the earth, and the works also that are therein, shall be burnt up." Peter, last chap.

" Amazing period! when each mountain height,
 " Outburns Vesuvius; rocks eternal pour
 " Their melted mass, as rivers once they poured;
 " Stars rush; and final ruin fiercely drives
 " Her plough-share o'er creation!—

" Great day of dread, decision, and despair!
 " At thought of thee each sublunary wish
 " Lets go its eager grasp, and drops the world;
 " And catches at each reed of hope in heaven."

YOUNG.

" Lo! the heavenly spirit tow'rs,
 " Like flames, o'er nature's funeral pyre,
 " Triumphs in immortal powers;
 " And claps his wings of fire."

WESLEY.

Beyond conception bless'd are they;
 Who enter now the vail; and see
 The Saviour, Judge, their everlasting Friend.

During our stay on the coast, we experienced considerable hospitality from its inhabitants; and having accomplished the object of our voyage, which was to obtain a supply of wood, with which this island in many parts abounds, we returned by a beautiful coast, picturesque in a high degree, to Palermo, which is now considered the capital of the island.

CHAP. X.

Description of Palermo—City—Suburbs—Royal Gardens—Botanic Museum—Manners and Customs of the Inhabitants—Comparisons between the Capital and the Villages in this respect—Sketch of its History—Preparations for leaving—Reflections on the Whole.

THE town or city of Palermo is situated in the bottom of its fine bay, and from its bosom forms an handsome appearance. Its level position, stately buildings, and beautiful vicinity, of public gardens, and public walks, with a mole well filled with shipping, all contrasted with a chain of mountains, of which there are many ridges, whose tops and cones tipped with snow, heighten the effect, and, altogether comprehended in one view, form what may be deemed a complete whole.

On visiting this pleasant spot I had an agreeable walk to its suburbs and entrance, and proceeded to investigate its interior; but here, as at Lisbon, in Portugal, I did not altogether realize what its external appearance led us to expect; but enough was presented to awaken curiosity, and reward inspection. A coach was obtained at the moderate price of a crown a day; the coachman, according to custom, transformed himself into a footman, and thus equipped, we were borne along by interesting scenes, but which are often eclipsed by extremes of misery and disease on one hand, and vain parade on the other.

There are four capital streets, whose handsome buildings, regular order, parallel directions, and extraordinary length, commanded attention; did Palermo, as a whole, consist of an assemblage of such streets, it might vie with Westminster. We proceeded to view the architecture of several churches; though some few form a majestic appearance, the major part have nothing interesting. Several of the fountains are elegant, and seem to furnish an abundant supply of water; all the necessaries, conveniences, and superfluities of life, are here in abundance.

In every direction were placed images, and paintings of the Virgin and saints, and every where were to be seen friars variously habited, and variously conducting themselves.

It is strange to see the superstition of the generality of the inhabitants; though apparently devout, yet they display such a mixture of levity and seriousness, of trifling, and devotion, of apparent veneration, in the worship of God, through the intercession of the Virgin and their saints, and transitions to the vain impertinences of man, that their character must appear mysterious to every considerate stranger; until, by a more mature consideration and inspection, he has penetrated and discovered the latent principles and springs which set all their wheels in motion.

The inhabitants are computed to be upwards of one hundred thousand, and in general present the extremes of vanity and pomp, or abject poverty and wretchedness; a chasm lies between, which such countries as Britain only know how to appreciate; I mean the middle link in the great chain of society, which, connecting high and low, makes a nation social and happy; I have often thought, and am confirmed in the thought by observation, that a just estimate may be immediately formed of the happiness of any nation, or commonwealth, by this single criterion of the connection and comparative independence of each rank on the other.

During our visits I did not observe that simplicity and hospitality among the inhabitants of Palermo, which we saw and experienced among the villagers, happily separated from the contagion of the capital. Many of them exhibit the honest and teachable manners of rural rusticity so pleasing to a reflecting mind; and were they less under the influence of superstition, and had a free use of that inestimable book the Bible, under the blessing of God, they would soon emerge from that darkness of soul in which these countries have been so long enveloped, and feel the service of God to be perfect freedom, because it is a freedom from the slavery of sin—a freedom

- “ Which monarchs cannot grant, nor all the powers
- “ Of earth and hell confederate take away;
- “ A liberty, which persecution, fraud,
- “ Oppression, prisons, have no power to bind,
- “ Which whoso tastes can be enslaved no more.”

COWPER.

Having proceeded to examine the curiosities in the vicinity, my attention was first drawn to the royal gardens and museums.

The great water-work at the entrance is very handsome; the top resembles an urn, with a number of apertures, for the water to play in every direction; near the base the waters fall in large regular sheets, and have a pleasing and striking effect on the beholder.

The walks are well laid out, interspersed with shrubs, and kept in good order, but the noble and majestic view in this vicinity, solicit the spectator to leave the works of art, to view the grand and magnificent in nature, which rises behind Palermo, like a vast amphitheatre.

The entrance into the Botanic Museum appears well designed, and its portals and interior contain statues, representing some of the principal adepts in medicine, botany, &c. The whole of this building is marked with simplicity, elegance, and uniformity, and, with others in the vicinity, is well worth the inspection of the virtuoso.

The more modern history of this country, also, is well worthy notice:—in the dark ages, emphatically so called, when the pretended infallible successor of St. Peter was apparently all powerful in Europe, here appears to have been formed a powerful and respectable obstacle to his ambition and overgrown power; for while Europe in general was plunged into monkish ignorance, here was a government which exhibited striking proofs of liberty, civilization, and commerce.

At length, by intrigue and flattery, a revolution in behalf of the see of Rome, was effected, and the government transferred into the hands of the earl of Anjou, and the French, who were dispossessed by the Spaniards, in 1504, and ever since the night of superstition has enveloped this fructuous country, though its gloom is not now so thick as formerly.

Such is the degeneracy of character in Palermo, &c. that the dreadful eruptions that have so recently taken place, and threatened with instant death the inhabitants of this island, have but little effect; for such is the thoughtlessness and folly, vice and dissipation, generally prevalent here and at Naples, near Vesuvius, that these loud calls and tremendous warnings and vestiges of destruction, which are continually to be seen, and may lead them to expect another visitation of Providence, are regarded with indifference.

After replenishing our stock, we again left the fertile coasts of Italy, a country which contains so much of the beautiful, stupendous, and terrible in nature; abounds with

the choicest productions in art—which formed the seat of empire to ancient Rome, a sketch of the history of which would fill a volume; whose history, also, exhibits modern events no less striking; and a power and an authority far more extraordinary and extensive.

We shall take our leave of this garden of Europe with part of Goldsmith's description, which, with a few exceptions, already briefly noticed, may be applied to the most parts of Italy during the author's visits.

" Could nature's bounty satisfy the breast,
 " The sons of Italy were surely blest;
 " Whatever fruits in different climes are found,
 " That proudly rise, or humbly court the ground;
 " Whatever blooms in torrid tracts appear,
 " Whose bright succession decks the varied year,
 " These here disporting own the kindred soil,
 " Nor ask luxuriance from the planter's toil,
 " In florid beauty groves and fields appear,
 " Man seems the only growth that dwindles here;
 " But small the bliss which sense alone bestows,
 " And sensual bliss is what the nation knows;
 " Contrasted faults through all their manners reign;
 " Though poor, luxurious; tho' submissive, vain;
 " Though grave, yet trifling; zealous, yet untrue;
 " And oft in penance planning sins anew.
 " Evils here contaminate the mind,
 " That opulence departed leaves behind;
 " For wealth was theirs, not far removed the date,
 " When commerce proudly flourished through the state:
 " At her command the palace learnt to rise,
 " Again the long fall'n column sought the skies.
 " The canvass glow'd, beyond ev'n nature warm,
 " The pregnant quarry teem'd with human form,
 " Till more unsteady than the southern gale,
 " Commerce on other shores display'd her sail.
 " Yet still the loss of wealth is here supply'd,
 " By arts the splendid wrecks of former pride;
 " From these the feeble heart, and long fall'n mind,
 " An easy compensation seem to find.

" Each nobler aim, repress'd by long controul,
 " Now sinks at last, or feebly mans the soul;
 " While low delights succeeding fast behind,
 " In happier meanness occupy the mind,
 " As in those domes where Cæsars once bore away,
 " Defaced by time, and tottering in decay,
 " There in the ruin heedless of the dead,
 " The shelter-seeking peasant builds his shed;
 " And wondering man could want a larger pile,
 " Exults and owns his cottage with a smile."

CHAP. XI.

Leave Gibraltar—Touch at Malta—Description of its Capital—Interesting Harbour and Vicinity—Sketch of the Soil—Produce—Situation—Religion—Manners—Origin—Antiquity and Hospitality of its ancient Inhabitants—Dreadful Wars with the Saracens and Turks—Pleasing Instances of Amelioration of Character—Confidence of the Inhabitants in the British Government—Paul's Shipwreck—Ample Supplies—Departure for the Regions of Mahometanism.

NEAR the close of the year 1800 we once more set sail from Gibraltar into the Mediterranean, unconscious of my ultimate destination, but, as it eventually proved, we were to visit countries rendered still more interesting than Italy itself—countries peculiarly marked in history as the most interesting on the globe, and which will continue to occupy the review of man till time shall be no more.

After a pleasant and safe passage, we entered the harbour of Valetta, the capital of Malta, and my attention was fixed on the extraordinary appearance of this wonderful island, harbour, and town.

An opportunity soon offered for a visit to Valetta and its vicinity. We landed on a fine quay, and proceeded under an archway, through a narrow entrance, which introduced us to the foot of the leading streets, which lie through the city; the ascent is rather steep, and the pavement narrow, but on the other hand, there were several good streets, with a variety of shops, but in general confined. I continued to ascend the hill until near the summit, when a noble prospect began to open to view, and many objects excited attention: after viewing them, and gaining the extent of the town, another beautiful landscape opened on the sight, which, with the view of the harbour and shipping, and opposite villages, with a fine champagne country at the head of it, agreeably surprises the mind, and renders Malta highly interesting, especially to a stranger.

The principal streets are regular, a few of them well paved; the houses are in general lofty, and being built of a white stone, peculiar to the island, have a noble appearance. The churches are remarkably well and elegantly built, and

the handsome stone gives them an air of grandeur rarely seen in brick, and inferior stone buildings.

The principal church is called St. John's; this majestic building stands on an elevated situation, near the summit of the hill: It has an handsome and elegant appearance, and is more remarkable for its extent and uniformity, than for useless ornaments. The interior contains many superb embellishments, of all which the Mosaic work on the pavement is said to be the most admirable.

The inhabitants are catholics; they are generally superstitious, but not so bigotted or revengeful as the inhabitants of various parts of the Continent. There is an openness and candour in the generality of the Maltese, which might be an example to many countries.

It is worthy of remark, that in the very interesting description given of St. Paul's shipwreck, by Luke, we find this faithful servant of the Lord, placing their hospitality in a striking point of view.—“ And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita, and the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold. In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and lodged us three days courteously: And it came to pass that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever, and of a bloody flux; to whom Paul entered in and prayed, and laid his hands on him and healed him; so when this was done, others also which had diseases in the island came and were healed: who also honoured us with many honours, and when we departed, they laded us with such things as were necessary.” See 28th chap. Acts.

Here is an interesting and pleasing account of its ancient inhabitants; may its modern inhabitants also increase, not only in hospitality, but in all other christian graces, which most dignify and adorn human nature. Traditions of St. Paul are often cited, and his memory is highly venerated by many of the Maltese.

During the recent revolutions in France, Italy, &c. this island has passed into the hands of the English, whose government the inhabitants in general highly esteem. May their confidence in, and happiness under it, continue to increase.

This port is capable of containing an immense number of shipping; the main harbour alone, will probably contain

three hundred sail, and in addition to this there are two inlets or harbours from it, which will contain many more; in one of these inlets is the arsenal, and every convenience for careening ships of the heaviest burthen.

The view of the city and its neighbourhood, with the fine landscape at the bottom of the bay, is noble and pleasing. Malta abounds with the most delicious fruits, oranges, lemons, olives, figs, melons, and pumpkins, are easily obtained, and pease, beans, pulse, roots, herbs, and other garden produce, rise from a very thin surface of earth, with little cultivation; cotton also abounds in various parts; indeed the whole island may be compared to a hot-bed, as to the sudden appearance of its productions. It is about twenty-one miles in length, and twelve in breadth, and all its vicinity produces a variety and abundance of fish*.

The air is clear, and though excessively hot in summer, is very healthful. The refreshing breezes which are almost constantly prevalent during the hot months, are so refreshing and invigorating, as suddenly to raise the body from a state of lassitude and debility, to comparative strength and activity. How graciously has Divine Providence tempered these hot climates!

The attentive reader will consider a sketch of its history, as not uninteresting; the earliest accounts say it was peopled by the Carthaginians; and several old inscriptions in Punic characters have been discovered.

St. Paul's shipwreck on this island, described with all that sublime simplicity peculiar to the Bible, in the 27th and 28th chapters of the Acts of the Apostles; has, through the depravity of nature, caused a superstitious reverence for this remarkable island; it was given to the religious order of the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, in 1530, whose predecessors distinguished themselves in those absurd and impious wars falsely called holy.

When the Christians were driven out of Palestine by the Saracens, these knights retired to Cyprus; they afterwards

* Sailing to the westward of the island, we had an extraordinary visit of porpoises; our ship was sailing in a fresh gale and lowering atmosphere, at the rate of six or seven miles an hour: notwithstanding her rapidity, these ploughers of the ocean kept pace with ease, and played their gambols for hours successively. Whether their appearance always presage a tempest, according to a received opinion among seamen, I will not undertake to assert, but that soon after our arrival in port, much tempestuous weather was experienced, is certain.

took the island of Rhodes from the Turks, and defended it against almost the whole of their unwieldy power for two hundred years. At length, after an arduous siege of a whole year, during which the Turks lost eighty thousand men, though the knights were reduced even to six thousand men, they capitulated on advantageous terms, and retired to Malta.

Almost ever since their establishment in this island, they have been at perpetual war with the Turks. Solyman invaded them with an immense army, and after many exertions to gain possession, was obliged to abandon his last effort with the loss of twenty thousand men. This small island was hereby made the means of setting bounds to the overgrown and unwieldy power of the Ottómans, since which the horrors of warfare have been considerably softened, and in general have been confined to predatory excursions.

The dreadful sentiment of perpetual warfare, and of extermination, has caused terrible devastation and bloodshed. War among the most civilized states is always a scourge; but, when waged under the idea of rooting, as it were, a nation out of the earth, it becomes horrible indeed.

But blessed be God, this monstrous sentiment of perpetual warfare, has lately considerably lost its predominancy, especially among the Maltese; their generosity in this respect has been manifested; for, to their honour be it spoken and recorded, they have lately kindly treated as friends many of that nation, whom their less enlightened ancestors, were wont to consider as their constant and perpetual enemies; and the Turks, in many instances, have made a pleasing return to this truly noble conduct of the Maltese.

The author was present at several interviews of this interesting description, and was truly gratified to perceive the delightful sentiments and expressions of friendship and mutual benevolence, triumph over the fierce passions of revenge, animosity and rancour; which destroy all the sweet feelings of humanity, and make a man miserable and wretched in himself, his own tormentor, and a plague to others.

After being amply supplied, and much gratified by our visit to this beautiful and interesting island, we set sail to the eastward. I soon perceived by our course of sailing, that the present object of our voyage was still more remote,

and that we were steering from the fertile regions of Italy, filled with superstition, for the once fertile shores of ancient Greece, now generally barren, and enveloped in the thick darkness of Mahometan imposture and oppression, and immured in the multiplicity of absurd ceremonies and superstitions, which so generally mark the ritual of the Greek church, at the present day.

My mind is impressed with the distressing idea, and ready to plunge into the labyrinth of conjecture. Why is it so? Why are these interesting regions so deeply sunk in superstition and error? Scripture answers the question.—I check my roving imagination, and rejoice in the anticipation, that the time is hastening, when the gospel of Jesus shall again visit these once highly favoured lands, its light dispel the darkness of the mind, cheer the heart, and make known a way of obtaining a blissful immortality to the soul.

CHAP. XII.

Pleasant Passage—Discover Candia, the Ancient Crete—Former State and Commerce—Causes of its Declension—Degeneracy of its Ancient Inhabitants—Visited by St. Paul, who planted the Gospel here—Modern History—Memorable Siege—Situation for Trade, and extraordinary Fertility—Gloomy contrast on its present Appearance—Rhodes—Its Situation—Extent—Antiquity—Siege—Colossus—Declension—Present State.

IN about a week, with breezes generally favourable, land was announced, and soon discovered to be the eastern part of the island of Candia, the longest island in these seas.

This Crete of the ancients, was soon perceived by our sailing along its coasts, to be in a state of comparative barrenness, being very far short of its ancient prosperity; on a more minute inquiry, we found it now in a state of abject servitude, and the soil, in consequence, generally abandoned to sterility.

What a gloomy contrast to its ancient state of prosperity, when it could name its hundred cities, and was governed by wise and equitable laws: laws so admirably adapted for

the public good, as to be adopted by those penetrating judges who inhabited Sparta.

“ These laws were originally formed by Minos, (whom fable calls the son of Jupiter), who gained possession of this island, about the year of the world 2720, and about 1284 years before Christ. He was a wise, gentle, and powerful prince; and according to Strabo, the end which he proposed in the establishment of these laws, was to render his subjects happy, by promoting virtue. He banished idleness and luxury from his states, with effeminacy and vicious pleasures, the fruitful sources of all vice, and the ruin of nations.

“ The happiness Crete enjoyed, under the wise and equitable government of Minos, did not expire with himself; the laws he established subsisted in vigour, even in Plato's time, nine hundred years after; another proof, Plato observes, of this legislator's wisdom, is the benefits which accrued to Sparta, by the imitation of these laws. Sparta was a neighbouring country, and at that remote period the most celebrated state of ancient Greece, except Athens.

“ Lycurgus had regulated the government of Sparta, on the plan of that of Crete; and it subsisted, generally, in a uniform manner, for several ages, without experiencing those vicissitudes and revolutions so common in other states of Greece*.”

The principal defect in these laws, appears to have been, that war was too much had in view; though Minos himself attempted to remedy this evil, by ordaining that war should only be made for the sake of peace.

But kingdoms as well as men are marked and interwoven with frailty, for soon after Plato's time, the people of Crete began to degenerate very much from their ancient reputation, so much so as to produce an entire change of manners. Avarice and luxury, covetousness and collusion, became so predominant, that no gain was considered base, however obtained; hence lying and knavery was so notorious, that to cretise became a proverb among the Greeks, implying to lie and deceive. This was their awful state, when St. Paul so severely reproved them, and cited the testimony of one of their own poets against them.

After planting the Gospel here, Titus was left to model the churches according to Apostolic rule, and ordain in all the churches proper pastors, who should be diligent in

* Ancient History.

their vocation, that by the blessing of God on their labours, the gross notions of religion, which the inhabitants had imbibed, might be removed; and they be taught, by the glad tidings of salvation, to worship "God, who is a Spirit, in Spirit, and in Truth."

After various revolutions it became subject to Rome, and after many other important epochs in its history, it fell under the dominion of Venice.

This island had long been in possession of the Venetians, who for a series of years had an astonishing extent of colonies, and influence in maritime affairs.

After one of the most arduous and dreadful sieges recorded in history it was conquered, or rather gained by the Turks, for after holding out against the bulk of the unwieldy force of that empire upwards of twenty years, during which the Venetians lost upwards of eighty thousand men, and the Turks upwards of one hundred and fifty thousand, it at length surrendered on favourable terms. What a melancholy and shocking consideration to a benevolent mind is such a scene of human misery :

"What ruin from afar

"Mark the felt tract of desolating war."

During the extraordinary power and commerce of Venice, it largely partook of its prosperity, and being nearly equidistant from Europe, Asia, and Africa, it was well situated, and by its ports calculated for a rendezvous of shipping, and by its own fertility it frequently served the mother country, as well as other nations, as a granary; but since its subjugation, it has lost these advantages; its principal harbour is now choked up, and comparative oppression and barrenness desolate the land; so that we may again quote the poetical sailor :

"Here art and commerce with auspicious reign,

"Once breath'd sweet influence on the happy plain;

"Now sad reverse! oppression's iron hand

"Enslaves her natives, and despoils the land."

Many parts are mountainous, whose sides near the coast exhibit much of that sterility arising from the want of cultivation; several vallies appear cultivated, and Candia still produces vineyards, myrtles, oranges, lemons, and other fruits, and considerable quantities of corn, pulse, and herbage; and when favoured with mild governors, it begins to

excite industry, and feel the dawn of liberty which it once so fully enjoyed. May the time soon arrive when these benighted and superstitious countries shall experience not only all the valuable blessings of their ancient liberty and happiness, but also that infinitely superior liberty which is produced by genuine christianity alone.

The wind and weather continuing favourable, we soon passed Candia, and came to the extraordinary island of Rhodes, and remained some time in its bay. From its ancient history, and its present state, I surveyed this once wonderful island with a considerable degree of interest; and would wish to give the reader some idea of it also.

It is about eighty miles north-east from Candia, and a short distance from the southern coasts of Asia Minor, about sixty miles in length, and twenty-five in breadth.

When the antiquity of its origin and government; the power and prosperity it enjoyed for several centuries; the wisdom of its ancient laws, especially several of that part of them called maritime, and its extent of commerce, with the small domain contained in the whole island, are collectively considered, it becomes less matter of wonder that it should have been so celebrated in history.

This island was peopled in a very early age; historians are not agreed as to the names of its founders, yet acknowledge that it was first peopled by the immediate descendants of one of the sons of Noah.—They many years constituted part of the Athenian dominions; but three hundred and fifty-six years before Christ, obtained their independence, and for a long period were celebrated for gratitude and courage.

The fertility of its soil, and commodious harbours, were admirably calculated to increase its commerce, which extended to almost all parts of the known world; and being situated, as well as Candia, at a convenient distance from Africa and Europe, and approximating the continent of Asia Minor, it was thus admirably formed by its situation, constitution, and government, to possess prodigious trade, and even frequently to become the arbiter in the differences that subsisted between overgrown empires, wisely observing a strict and honourable neutrality, and carefully declining any declaration in favour of one nation against another; in the wars which arose in those early periods, its friendship was courted by most princes and chiefs;—such is the noble testimony frequently given, either secretly or openly, to integrity and justice.

The Rhodians, by persevering in this noble and prudent conduct, had rendered their city and island very prosperous and flourishing; all the Mediterranean states contributed to the increase of their commerce, and consequently of their opulence; but experiencing the most advantageous branches of their commerce flowed from Egypt, they probably, as it were imperceptibly, became attached to that government; this preference and attachment at length drew on them the displeasure of Antigonus, one of Alexander's successors, who, demanding of the Rhodians succour in his war with Cyprus, was answered by entreaties not to declare against their ancient friend and ally; but this answer, wise and prudent as it was, drew upon them his displeasure, and he vauntingly and vainly boasted that he should reduce them to obedience; for which purpose he assembled a large army and navy, with a vast apparatus of light and heavy machines to batter the city, which was well fortified, and besieged it with sixty thousand men; while the inhabitants, capable of bearing arms, did not exceed eight thousand.

The Rhodians defended themselves with remarkable firmness, during a whole year, when Demetrius, after having experienced repeated defeats, raised the siege, and the islanders obtained an honourable and advantageous peace.

Demetrius before his departure, to give them a proof of his reconciliation, presented them with all the machines of war which he had employed against them in the siege; these the Rhodians afterwards sold for a vast sum, which, with an additional sum of their own, they employed in making the famous colossus, which was esteemed one of the seven wonders of the world: it appears to have been a statue intended to represent the sun, from which the island is supposed to have taken its name, sun signifying Rhoda, and was of such immense magnitude that ships of burthen, in full sail, passed between its legs; its height was one hundred and fifteen feet. Sixty years after, it was destroyed by an earthquake.

The loss sustained by this earthquake was immense; but an uncommon generosity was exhibited by the different nations to whom they sent for succour and relief, who seemed to vie in a noble emulation, who should excel in liberality towards the distressed inhabitants; an example worthy imitation, but too seldom followed.

Rhodes, in consequence of this well-timed and extended liberality, was re-established in a few years, in as much opulence and splendour as before; but the colossus, for which

large sums were given, was not replaced; indeed, instead of replacing it, they pretended that the oracle of Delphos had forbidden it, and given them a command to preserve that money for other purposes, and by this hypocrisy they enriched themselves.

The harbour of Rhodes was fifty fathoms wide; at the mouth on each side was placed one foot of the statue; the face represented the sun, to whom it was dedicated, and in one hand it held a light-house, for the information and direction of mariners; after the earthquake the colossus lay long neglected on the ground.

About the middle of the seventh century, Rhodes became subject to the Saracens, who rapidly over-ran a great part of civilized Europe, Asia, and Africa. The Turks succeeded the Saracens, under whose government it still remains; the natives in general are so depressed; that few of them appear to have any traces of their once flourishing state impressed on their minds.

It appears from this brief account, that Rhodes was a kind of phenomenon, amidst surrounding nations; its alliance was courted even by Rome itself, when at the summit of its prosperity.

In the serious deliberations that followed the defeat of Philip of Macedon by the Romans, and the restoration of the Grecian States, they were occupied in preserving their liberties, which were ever peculiarly dear to them; when one of the most important affairs that ever attracted the attention of the senate was submitted to their consideration and decision. The Rhodian ambassadors were powerful and successful pleaders for the liberty of their countrymen; the Greeks settled in Asia Minor, &c. in opposition to Eumenes, king of Pergamus, whose interests were closely connected with these countries.

In a following war between the Romans and Persians, the last king of Macedonia; the neutrality of Rhodes was courted by the latter. Persens sent ambassadors to the Rhodians, and exhorted them to remain quiet, and to wait as spectators only, till they saw what resolutions the Romans would take.

The ambassadors of Persens were received with great respect, but were answered, that—"In case of war the king was desired not to rely upon the Rhodians, nor to demand any thing of them, in prejudice to the alliance they had made with the Romans."

But, during the same war, the Rhodians finding their trade streightened, and consequently their revenues reduced,
 COLLINS.]

sent ambassadors to Rome, stating that "they were no longer able to support such considerable losses," and with the extraordinary information, that they had sent ambassadors into Macedonia to king Persens, to inform him, that "the Rhodians thought it necessary that he should make peace with the Romans, and that they were also sent to Rome, to make the same declaration; that if either party refused to come into so reasonable a proposal, the Rhodians should know what they had to do." This declaration failed of its intended effect, the Romans rather treated it with contempt, and intimated their displeasure in strong terms, by depriving them of several privileges, and otherways reducing their revenues, which pressed so hard on the Rhodians, that they soon after, about the time the other parts of Greece became provinces of Rome, sent deputies to endeavour to appease the wrath of the Romans; and to request a re-admission into their alliance, which after much hesitation, was at length rather reluctantly granted them.

Hence we see that this remarkable people maintained their independence, when the other parts of Greece were brought under the Roman empire, which was now making rapid strides to universal dominion, and thereby without foresight and penetration, preparing the way for a universality of language and a series of events, which prophecy foretold was to announce the coming of the Messiah.

This island, as well as Candia, at present exhibits a striking view of the uncertainty of national prosperity; and teaches a lesson of the emptiness of the deepest schemes to ensure its permanence, when degeneracy of character prevails.

It still produces considerable quantities of fine fruits, corn, &c. and when they are favoured with a mild governor, who sees the importance of encouraging industry, the inhabitants emerge, as it were, from that state of depression and apathy, which is ordinarily the case, and exhibit the energies of the mind and powers of the body in a remarkable manner.

What a blessing then is a free and just government, where the laws are calculated to ensure protection and happiness to every individual in the state, mutual blessings to magistrates and people, and all actuated by true principles to obey them with alacrity and delight; principles derived from true religion, which must "make a man a good subject, as well as a good christian, and attentive to his king and country, as well as to his God. Indeed those virtues cannot be

separated. They that attempt to separate them, only shew that they are properly possessed of neither *.”

May the benighted inhabitants of these once celebrated countries soon, very soon, hail the dawn, and experience the blessings of that

“ Liberty of heart, deriv'd from heav'n ;
 “ Bought with his blood, who gave it to mankind,
 “ And seal'd with the same token ! It is held
 “ By charter, and that charter sanction'd sure
 “ By th' unimpeachable and awful oath
 “ And promise of a God ! His other gifts
 “ All bear the royal stamp that speaks them his,
 “ And are august ; but this transcends them all.”

COWPER.

CHAP. XIII.

Departure from Rhodes—Enter the Gulf of Macri—Water Spouts—Macri—Sublimity of its first Appearance—Secure and spacious Harbour—Ruins—Inhabitants—Tour to Kia—Mountainous Country—Much in want of a Guide and Interpreter—Remarks on Cultivation—Beauty of several Vales—Approach the Suburbs—Forbidding Aspect of several of its Inhabitants—Consultation thereon—Consternation and Retreat of several of the Females, with their Children—Interview with several of the Grandees—Difficulty of making them comprehend our want of Food—Refreshment, and Company during Dinner—Present State of the Country—Reflections—Departure—Surprize of the Inhabitants turned into Curiosity—Meet a Caravan—Providential Preservation, and return on Board—Hint to Mariners—Departure.

LEAVING Rhodes, a few hours of a favourable breeze brought us near the coast of Asia Minor, and early the following morning we entered the gulf and harbour of Macri.

About day-light the atmosphere was unsettled and squally, and we were soon under serious apprehensions of danger from several water-spouts near us, which if falling on our ship, would, probably, instantly have sunk her, or even near, might have drawn her into the dreadful abyss.

* Benson.

" ——— Approaching they descry
 " A liquid column lowering, shoot on high,
 " The foaming base, an angry whirlwind sweeps,
 " Where curling billows rouse the fearful deeps.
 " Still round and round the fluid vortex flies,
 " Scattering dun night and horror through the skies ;
 " The swift volution and th' enormous train
 " Let sages vers'd in nature's lore explain.
 " The horrid apparition stills draws nigh,
 " And white with foam the whirling surges fly.
 " But soon, this transient undulation o'er,
 " The sea subsides, the whirlwinds rage no more."

FALCONER.

And we were soon gratefully relieved from a gloomy atmosphere, by the auspicious regent of the day bursting through with his morning splendour.

The weather became more serene, the day delightful, and we were wafted gently along this interesting coast and bay, whose majestic ridges of mountains, capped with snow, towered far above the more diminutive eminences near the coast, till by a narrow channel we entered a noble harbour, capable of containing fleets in its capacious bosom, and which surrounded with hills and mountains, seemed to enclose us from every blast, and presented again in miniature, scenes that we had just left, when in the gulf.

On the right-hand side, near the entrance, stands the town, situated at the bottom of several hills, which abound with catacombs dug in the solid rock. No sooner were we at anchor than my anxiety increased to visit these once flourishing, but now comparatively desolated places.

The town or village is pleasantly situated, having a beautiful declivity of verdure on one side; abrupt mountains and precipices behind; and, on the other side, a fine harbour, vestiges of a handsome building; a spacious harbour in front, with several ruins on an island at the entrance, and lofty mountains and eminences all round.

It is irregularly built, and rather dirty; the inhabitants appear numerous, but in general exhibit indolence and wretchedness in their various disgusting forms; but from many of them we experienced a degree of hospitality unexpected; and therefore considerably the more pleasing, and by it we received a lesson to guard against that proclivity in mankind, which is so apt to form a judgment from external appearances only, and to get prepossessed without investigation.

Near the town stands in striking contrast, the ruins above mentioned, which, on a nearer inspection, appeared to be the

vestiges of a handsome amphitheatre and other ruins of antiquity ; the amphitheatre appears to have been principally of the Corinthian order of architecture, and the part fronting towards the harbour to have formed a regular and lofty arch. It is situated on rising ground, between two hills, and has a gentle descent towards the harbour, of which and the surrounding mountain, it has a comprehensive view.

The appearances of the morning sun, rising above these snow-capped mountains, and bursting with powerful splendour on the deep vale, which contains the harbour, &c. are very grand and enlivening, and remind me of the following lines :

“ Yonder comes the powerful king of day,
 “ Rejoicing in the east. The lessening cloud,
 “ The kindling azure, and the mountains brow,
 “ Illum'd with fluid gold, his near approach
 “ Betoken glad. Lo! now apparent all
 “ Aslant the dew blight earth, and colour'd air;
 “ He looks in boundless majesty abroad;
 “ And sheds the shining day, that burnish'd plays
 “ On rocks, and hills, and towers, and wandering streams,
 “ High gleaming from afar——
 “ Now flaming up the heavens, the potent sun
 “ Melts into limpid air, the high raised clouds,
 “ And morning fogs, that hover'd round the hills,
 “ In party colour'd bands; till wide unveil'd
 “ The face of nature shines.”

THOMSON.

After visiting the town and its vicinity, we returned to our ship, and the following day set off on a more extensive tour, penetrating the country as far as Kia, a principal town several miles from the harbour.

Not considering that a native was necessary to accompany us, both as an interpreter and guide, without consulting any such ; with a curiosity and zeal, which in idea had already surmounted every difficulty, and levelled every obstruction, in the anticipation of exploring this once interesting country, myself and two others took our departure.

Having presently got over the first mountains, and along several narrow passes, and difficult descents, we proceeded with almost unabated vigour, in that direction which we judged led us to the principal objects of our curiosity, the town and inhabitants of Kia ; we frequently ascended and passed over barren and rugged mountains, which bade defiance to the fostering hand of the cultivator ; but as frequently gratified by vales which exhibited their delightful

verdure with double force on the eye, when beheld in this striking contrast.

These vales, though naturally fertile, are far from a state of cultivation; even in the precincts of the town to which we were now advancing, and which has a remarkable verdant vicinity, we already perceived convincing proofs that the inhabitants were in a state of degradation. On we passed to the suburbs, where we perceived several groups of men, who on our nearer approach exhibited, to us at least, countenances expressive of disapprobation and surprise. We now, for the first time since our departure, fully perceived our inadvertence and imprudence, in adventuring without a guide, over inhospitable hills and precipices, to a place which we began to fear contained still more inhospitable inhabitants.

We now slackened our pace, and considered that precipitancy in returning, would convince them we were at least suspicious, and urged pursuit, and hesitation either in returning or proceeding, would expose us to danger. Being confident in the integrity and friendliness of our intentions, we gradually approached, and with careful attention saluted them, which was answered by an indolent inclination of the head. They were all seated according to the Turkish custom, apparently basking in the sun, and we passed the first party without one of them rising from their seats.

Encouraged to proceed, we approached the second group which we passed in a similar manner; but some women who were near them, appeared to fly at our approach, and view us at a distance with astonishment and fear. Sorry to see them thus intimidated, with increasing caution of giving offence, we entered the verge of the town; but no sooner had we advanced, than as with general consent, they all caught their children in their arms, and with the fears of a mother, apprehensive for the safety of a beloved child, flew to their houses, and shut themselves in, and we saw no more of them till our return.

We continued to persevere in reaching the summit of the town, though distressed in some measure at the alarm of the women, and by every sign in our power, endeavoured to convince the men, who were standing near us, of our motives in visiting the town, and we at length prevailed on two or three of them to conduct us to the governor. Thus accompanied, and having also a painful gnawing inmate, for in plain English, we were by this time exceeding hungry, we proceeded to the presence of the grandees, hoping, that

besides the gratification of an interview, we should derive the more substantial satisfaction of a good dinner; we soon arrived in their presence. Their dress was splendid, and with a large sash or band round the waist, produced a formidable appearance.

Our introduction was ceremonious to a degree, and so much time was taken up in frivolous formalities, that a cottage, a miserable cottage with wholesome fare, would have been more gratifying to our feelings than all the etiquette and unsubstantial honour of his excellency and attendants.

With the little Italian each party possessed, and with gestures expressive of all the anxiety and avidity of a hungry Briton, we faintly communicated to these grandees, that we were really Englishmen, and in want of a dinner. At length orders were given, and we followed our guides to an apartment, consisting of two rooms on the ground floor; the sitting room was covered with a carpet, on which were several handsome cushions to recline on, which were fully occupied. On releasing our shoes from their burdens, we were admitted, introduced, seated, and soon surrounded by several of apparent consequence, who presently took their seats on the floor beside us, and began a general smoaking. We waited some time, and with a craving appetite watched every attendant that entered, hoping to gladden our hearts and eyes by the sight of a plentiful supply. At length coffee was served up, which we received with thankfulness, from the idea that food would presently appear to accompany it; but after waiting near half an hour, we found we were severely disappointed, for smoke and coffee alone were still our only supply; in the mean time we were treated with civility and respect, which induced them to offer their pipes, no common condescension, and to do them justice, probably they had no proper conception of our extreme hunger.

The sharp necessity to which we were reduced, made it necessary, as the afternoon was advanced, for us either to obtain our wish, or consider of an immediate return. We therefore made a last effort, and by all our smattering of the various languages, and dumb eloquence in our power, at length made them fully understand, that something more substantial than either coffee or tobacco was absolutely necessary to appease our hunger. We were therefore immediately conducted to what may be deemed an eating house, where a dinner of pulse was soon served up, and we shortly got clear of our uneasy inmate, experiencing, in an

eminent degree, the truth of the adage—"hunger needs no sance," the fare, though pulse only, was sweet indeed, and a glass of wine after crowned the repast.

Our company during dinner consisted of Greeks only, whose appearance of humility formed a contrast to several of those whom we had lately left; it was served up by the woman, attended by one of her children, who with all the family appeared in an abject state, for on offering her a little of the wine, which they so kindly furnished us with, she shrunk back, with an expression of surprise at our condescension, which excited ours also; and the man understanding a little Italian, we enquired the reason; he replied in substance as follows: "Such," says he, "is the inferiority and oppression that we labour under, that it is in general thought too great an honour for a Turk to present a person of this description with any token of respect, and forward in her to accept it, which is the reason of her timidity in not accepting the wine from you." The eldest child had on a badge of servitude. The husband appeared intelligent; he had travelled, and I was sorry our stay would not admit a more extensive conversation.

What an abject state does this country now exhibit, contrasted with its ancient prosperity; where the ancient Greeks once reigned and enjoyed equal laws, and the blessings of civilization; where agriculture and all kinds of industry was encouraged; arts and sciences flourished, and liberty was well understood and enjoyed.

Now we behold their descendants reduced to wretched servitude and degradation; few effectual laws to bind equally king and people, the governors and governed; little protection of property, or stimulus to industry; few golden harvests, fruitful vineyards, or smiling vales; but pride, ignorance, indolence, and other degrading passions and dispositions, display their baneful effects in the poverty, misery, and ignorance of the oppressed Greeks, though this ignorance, which is so predominant, may be considered a negative advantage, they being unacquainted with the liberty and happiness enjoyed by their ancestors, and also by other nations at the present period, and thus preventing comparisons, which must prove their abject state: they feel less the wretchedness under which they labour, and are therefore more patient and obedient to their ungenerous masters. But this ignorance tends by no means to exculpate the arbitrary government under which they live, whose wretched policy it is to keep them in such unjust subjection; it rather in-

creases its criminality, of which they will sooner or later repent.

May they soon be enlightened to see that laws ought equally to protect and provide for the well-being of every individual in the state; that honest industry and enterprise should be encouraged; and that he that sows should also reap the fruit of his labour for his own advantage, as well as for others. The reader will excuse this digression, and we will now return to the completion of the tour.

Thankfully taking leave of our kind host and hostess, we were re-conducted to the same apartment and company we had lately left, and after a short stay, we took our leave with less ceremony than at our first introduction, and upon the whole satisfied and thankful for our reception.

On our return, the surprize and fear of the female part of the inhabitants, first inentioned, appeared to be turned into curiosity; though none of them came into the streets, yet we understood that they inquired the reason of our journey, and several of them viewed us in passing. I felt thankful that the groundless alarm had subsided, and was anxious to impress on the minds of the inhabitants at large, that our leave was taken with sincere wishes for the liberation and happiness of all that were oppressed, and in misery. With these sensations we passed through the streets and spectators, many of whom viewed us with apparent complacence.

A curious scene soon made its appearance, which by its novelty and singular sounds, arrested our attention. It was a caravan, probably from Smyrna, or some other place of note; which consisted of about two hundred men, mounted on about half the number of camels and dromedaries. In front came the grandees and other officers, whose countenances in general, indicated too much of that superciliousness and ostentation, so prevalent in oriental countries; others again looked more manly; when these moved past, there next appeared persons of an inferior rank, and so on through several gradations. About the centre was a Turkish band of music, consisting of twelve or fourteen men in a tawdry uniform; their loudest instrument emitted sounds similar to a bagpipe, though not quite so melodious; several others were more grateful to the ear, the remainder were of inferior note; but all contributed to form harmony, which in the midst of a mountainous and uninhabited country was peculiarly agreeable.

Our journey now began to be tedious, the shades of even-
COLLINS.]

ing were beginning to make their appearance, and we had upwards of four miles to go over mountains, precipices, and narrow passages, which are often infested with wild beasts, of which we saw several of the wolf species at a distance; forebodings would have rendered the road still more tedious and fatiguing. Urged, therefore, by the fear of being benighted on those roads, prompted by an eager desire of reaching the summit of the last mountain, and anticipating the happiness of ere long being in safety, added vigour to our efforts, when we soon reached a caravansary, and after various difficulties, fears of wild beasts, &c. surmounted the last hill, and were once more gratified with a view of the harbour and ship. With cheerful steps we went along the descent, took boat, and through mercy joined our countrymen again.

These caravansaries are often mentioned in history, some of them are spacious and commodious, affording comfortable accommodation and refreshment to man and beast, which to a weary traveller, in a hot climate, proves particularly pleasing. The one we passed was of an inferior description, having a reservoir of water, and temporary accommodation, only without lodgings; but the sight of a safe retreat of a few minutes only, was to us a grateful view.

The government deserves commendation for the part it takes towards the building and furnishing those hospitable inns for the comfort of the weary and benighted traveller; who would otherwise often perish on uninhabited and dangerous roads, and the more dangerous passages over trackless deserts.

During this journey, we had from the mountains an extensive view of the country towards Satalia.

After exploring the harbour, we prepared for our departure. I will conclude my account of Macri, with a hint to seamen who are induced to visit this port. It is situated at the S. E. part of the gulf of the same name, contains two other spacious harbours, named Karagatch and Marmorice.

Macri may be known by several remarkable islands to the northward. In sailing for them the harbour gradually opens between rocks, which a stranger at first sight would conceive very unlikely to afford a passage.

As soon as the harbour is nearly open, another island appears with vestiges of ruins on it; this must be left on the larboard in going in; and bordering nearer the starboard side, you pass safely through, and are gratified with a fine

harbour, and can anchor within about half a mile from the town, in five, six, seven, or eight fathoms*.

Having obtained a supply of vegetables, fruit, and wood, we took a final farewell of this unfrequented, but to us not altogether inhospitable place.

CHAP. XIV.

Arrival at Marmorice—Excellent Harbour—Interesting Vicinity—Description of the Mosque—Author present at their Devotions—Manner of Worship—Apparent Devotion—Hospital on Shore—Recovery of the Sick—View and Productions of this extensive Bay—Inhabitants—Turkish Dress—Dress—Appearance, Agility, Strength, and Industry of the Grecian Women—Turkish Females—Departure—Visit Karagatch—Eligible Spot for the Sick—Alarmed by Wolves—Simple Method of intimidating them—Peregrinations of the Author and Comrades through the Wood—Discover Huts—Caution of the Inhabitants—Acquire Confidence—Friendship—Manners—Habits—Fortitude, Strength, and Perseverance of the Women.

IN a serene and reviving morning we passed into the bay or gulf: full of ideas, created by the expectation of soon seeing more interesting objects, we were borne to the other extremity, and entered its westernmost harbour of Marmora, in the neighbourhood of Rhodes, the same evening.

This also appears an extraordinary entrance; at first view, the low part of a peninsula appears the only passage, but on drawing near, the apparent deception vanishes, and the real entrance opens. This entrance is narrow and safe, and conveys into as fine and capacious a harbour as I ever beheld, surrounded with immense ridges of mountains, many of whose majestic summits, capped with snow, often projecting their lofty tops above the clouds, strike the mind with the sublimity of nature.

At the N. E. part is the town, of some note among the Turks. On our visiting it, I found a similarity in its irre-

* These remarks may be serviceable, and I am the more induced to give them, as the fine harbours in this gulf, are very incorrectly delineated in most of its charts.

gular and ill-constructed buildings, with those we had just left at Macri; but the mosque appeared far superior: its dome is conspicuous from every part of the harbour. On a nearer inspection it proved to be built of coarse stone, the roof of an oval form, with a dome.

I was favoured with an opportunity of entering the mosque on a particular day, when worship was performed by a crowded audience; the attendance was so full, that many knelt down in the outer court. At their entrance, after throwing off their slippers, they all fell on their knees, and after a short pause, and uttering something very fast, they joined the general chorus, which to me appeared thanksgiving. From an erect posture they often fell in a state of prostration, and kneeling, and after joining the general service again in these positions, would often pause, and appear in mental prayer between, and then in a moment spring on their feet again, and join the chorus; which was sometimes so loud, that it became a shout. The leader's voice was heard distinctly during the more moderate exclamations, and all seemed to pay great attention to his manner, and to follow his motions with aptitude; and during the whole service, not one of them, that I could perceive, sat down. Their remarkable activity, in falling at once from their legs on their knees, and even to a state of prostration; and frequently rising without the assistance of their hands, excited my surprise. They in general appeared very attentive to the service they were engaged in, and their whole behaviour, in a false religion, was such as might form a lesson to many careless Christians, so called, who are to be found in every audience, slighting; and treating with indifference, the inestimable privilege of having instruction how to worship "God in spirit and in truth."

Several of the ship's company being sickly, and fearing the increase of contagion, the first object was to fix on an eligible spot on shore, on which to erect tents for their reception. This was soon performed, the sick were removed, and the vessel cleansed and purified by washing with vinegar, and smoking the hold and decks throughout, which proved beneficial, and appeared to stop the prevalency of disease. Such were the pleasing effects at our hospital on shore, that the most of those removed, were, in a few days evidently on the recovery. Good air, pleasing prospects around, and the verdant spot on which they were situated, with attention and care under Providence, soon made several of their countenances beam with health and vigour.

This delightful bay is many miles round, and exhibits much of the picturesque and sublime of nature. The mountains and precipices are often covered with active animals, principally goats, and intersected with water-falls, which, during the rainy seasons (a description of which will be given hereafter) swell into cataracts, and often deluge the vales and plains below. The declivities and eminences, with the more level parts, are covered with abundance of myrtle, much of which grows to an extraordinary size, and the more woody parts heighten the contrast seen in this comprehensive view; the vales appear delightful, and are certainly capable of a high degree of cultivation. The lilies, and other sweet flowers which rise spontaneously, with a number of sanative and aromatic herbs, and other productions, prove the natural fertility of the soil.

The inhabitants are pretty numerous in the town, and consist of a variety; but the principal native residents are Turks and Greeks. During our stay we were well supplied with vegetables and fruit. They have a market, and several of the manufactures exposed to sale are curious, especially the camel's hair productions.

They are remarkably temperate, and often expressed their wonder at the quantity of animal food taken by an Englishman; indeed there is some reason for such a remark, as perhaps no other nation in the world produce more unskilful caterers; so that it may be said, there is no nation on the globe of which they may not learn striking lessons of temperance; and without intruding into the medical art, we may also observe that it is easy to demonstrate that many of the most obstinate and dangerous diseases are produced by repletion. The Turkish dress has been often described; the turban appears their principal distinction, and their belts containing pistols and sabres, excite more terror than respect. The poor Greeks, who are not allowed the use of them, are seldom admitted into their company.

The Grecian women are in general comely, but the generality being accustomed to labour, and bearing heavy burthens, they, at an early age, have an inclination forward, and those in years frequently stoop in walking. The general dress of those I saw, is a pair of large open trowsers, drawn in at the bottom; over their body they throw a loose robe, drawn in similar to a morning-dress in England, and appear to have no stays. All their dress being thus unconfined, their agility and industry are surprising. The Turkish women are rarely seen by strangers, being as much

confined, effeminate, and delicate, as the others are exposed, industrious and hardy.

In January, 1801, we made a short voyage to the centre harbour of this gulf, and the next day after our sailing, anchored in it, and found it a commodious and spacious harbour. The similar majestic appearance of mountains and vales met us here as at Macri, but no town or even village was to be seen from our anchorage, but smoke was perceived ascending from various parts of the woods and vales.

Our first object, as before, was to remove our sick, and on going on shore a beautiful vale presented itself to view, and appeared to possess superior advantages, from its gradual elevation and neighbouring beach, to that we had just left. Here then, the hospital tent was pitched, and the sick immediately removed into it, with the medical gentleman and nurses, and the same beneficial effects were soon experienced as at Marmorice. The principal hindrance to their first advances to recovery was occasioned by the alarm, terror, and consequent depression of spirits produced by the fearful visits of wolves, whose dreadful howling and near approaches caused serious apprehensions for their safety, which was almost altogether removed the ensuing nights, by kindling a large fire, and carefully feeding it with fuel; after which their approaches were so distant, that the yelling only was heard, and all apprehension of near visits were removed by the terror of our remedy. These coasts are much frequented by wild boars also, and the inhabitants, in tracing and taking them, display much agility. There is little danger of receiving any injury from these animals. Buffaloes are so numerous, and so little valued, that we were permitted to take as many as were wanted for present use, by presenting the inhabitants with their skins, which are often considered by them of more value than the carcass.

Our stay was prolonged, and I embraced the earliest opportunity of visiting and exploring these unknown coasts. My first object was to view the vale, near the hospital, where the smoke was perceived. On tracing its source, a little enclosure was discovered, and while endeavouring to find its entrance, a female sprung from the door, and with wonderful agility escaped by another passage. I was surprised and distressed at her apprehensions, but my eye soon lost her in an extensive wood at the end of the valley. Without attempting to proceed to investigate the interior of the habitation, I retired, but on exploring this fertile vale soon after, a man was discovered going towards the hut. I was

glad of this circumstance, to enquire respecting the affrighted woman, and was anxious to see whether she had returned to her hut again. The man, whom we afterwards found was her husband, appeared to give me a friendly reception, and satisfied my mind of the safety of his partner, who was returned, and her fears allayed, when she discovered nothing in her cot had been injured, and that the reason of her temporary alarm was my novelty and unexpected appearance, having probably never seen an Englishman before. From this vale and vicinity we procured a considerable quantity of wood, and those of our men who slept on shore, literally reposed on beds of myrtle, which abound in such quantities as to cover a great part of the coast, and some of its largest trees were often included in the fire-wood, to obtain which was the object of our visit.

In a day or two, being properly equipped and provided, a party of us proceeded to investigate farther into the interior, and to endeavour to procure a wild boar, which creatures abound here, and when young, furnish acceptable food.

We proceeded through woods, abounding with buffaloes, and over precipices covered with goats, till we were gratified with the appearance of a portion of smoke: increasing our pace, we soon arrived at a collection of huts or cottages, formed into what in this country may be deemed a regular village. These habitations were composed of a few boughs of the wild olive, and other trees, twined round and interwoven with a few uprights, which form the pillars and extent of the hut: from these uprights or poles is extended a coarse hair matting, which constitutes the roof, in the middle of which is one, and sometimes two other poles, raising it in that part, and causing the water to descend during the rainy seasons; near the door-way is an opening, forming the chimney. At one end of the enclosure is a small apartment for the young kids, which require much care and nourishment; opposite to this is the bed-place, consisting, principally of matting, with skins for a covering: and between this and the door is the fire-place, on the hearth, with only the hole in the roof to draw off the smoke, which being often green wood, is to a stranger very disagreeable; though the force of habit renders the natives indifferent to it.*

* The head dress of some of the females is quite a curiosity; the hair round the forehead is curiously braided, with numerous pieces of small coin, princi-

In some of these huts are families of eight, and even ten, in number, who all appear to enjoy remarkable health; this must, in a great measure, arise from their habits of temperance and labour; for necessity compels these people to industry and activity. Every inhabitant has his fire-arms, with which he commonly procures a meal for himself and family; the wild boars, especially, serve them for food, and their skins make vessels for culinary uses, supply the men with wearing apparel, and form a part of their beds; with his gun, also, he frequently drives beasts of prey from the borders of his habitation. The wolves are very numerous, and frequently watch near the huts, but they are seldom known to attack a human being: so accustomed are the inhabitants to scenes of this description, that a female of this country would not be more alarmed at seeing a wolf or wild boar near her dwelling, than a female in England would be at seeing a mouse or a frog.

The tops of these stupendous mountains and precipices are frequently covered with innumerable goats, which constitute the principal animal food of the inhabitants, in which they however seldom indulge. Their chief food is coarse bread, similar to oaten, goats' milk, pulse, a little coffee, and rarely an egg: the women perform their household work, and frequently ascend these precipices and mountains in quest of their goats, and return with an infant slung on their back, who, with its little arms thrown round the neck of its fond mother, smiles unconscious amidst danger. It rarely happens that any accident happens either to the parent or child during these perilous excursions. These females deserve a still further description. Not only have they, in this manner, to traverse mountains, attend the kids at home, and perform all other household work; but when their husbands, who are comparatively indolent and unfeeling, are retired to rest, they have often to secure the goats in the precincts of their habitation, and see that every thing is safe around their dwellings, which reason points out as peculiarly the province of man.

At our first visit there was considerable alarm and timidity about these people, which is easily accounted for from the novelty of our appearance, and at an unexpected time; from repeated expressions of friendship, and acts of kind-

pally of the adulterated silver of the country, intermixed with a few of gold which, contrasted with the homely clothing of the body, forms rather a ludicrous appearance.—A proof of the natural pride of the human heart!

ness, their apprehensions and reserve gradually wore off; and at length there appeared an emulation among them who should have the preference in our esteem. The men appeared to possess a degree of apathy and indolence at home, which prevented their activity in bartering, but received our articles when obtained by their wives, with a considerable degree of avidity and pleasure. We soon opened a negotiation, and obtained a regular supply of milk, and frequently a fine kid, which was as delicious as young lamb in England, and our participation in their wholesome fare was considered as a treat; in short, our friendship and esteem was so heightened, during our stay of less than a month, that we felt a degree of attachment and obligation to these people.

At another excursion, being well equipped for a longer journey, we penetrated still farther into this mountainous country, and travelling principally in an eastern direction, were soon gratified with new and romantic scenery, and though frequently plunged into thickets and woods, the gaining the vales beyond smoothed the rugged road, and the prospect of the view of a village from the adjacent mountains encouraged the ascent; we now reached an extensive wood well stocked with buffaloes, most of which retired on our approach; at the extremity of this wood we entered on a spacious morass, teeming with frogs, whose discordant notes grated on the ear, and soon perceived the holes of wild boars, and several human footsteps: this was a stimulus; and following the tracts, and gaining a pleasant eminence, we were gratified with the view of a few neat huts: on entering the precincts we surprised several of the female inhabitants, who, as at Macri, retreated with precipitation, nor could all our endeavours bring them to a degree of confidence sufficient to barter, and not having the opportunity of repeating our visits at this distance, were prevented the satisfaction of removing their fears by repeated acts of kindness.

On our return we joined several of the men going in pursuit of wild boars; their method of tracing and surrounding, and manner of attack, excited admiration. We parted with mutual expressions of friendship, proceeded through woods over mountains, whose summits, declivities, and precipices were often covered with goats, whose agility, compared with the buffaloes beneath, formed a pleasing contrast; and arrived at the last wood before the prowling of wolyes were heard, and reached our ship in safety.

COLLINS.]

I.

These inhabitants, I am convinced, enjoy more content and happiness, than can be produced in the voluptuous refinements of their cities: far from these temptations, feeling less the effects of oppression, and having every thing within themselves necessary to supply their contracted wants of nature, they are comparatively happy, and had they but the knowledge and love of Christianity in their hearts, emperors might envy their situation.

LETTER XV.

Recovery of the Sick—Revisit Marmorice—Description of a Storm, with Thunder, Lightning, and extraordinary Hail Stones—Critical Situation—Providential Escape—Dreadful Effects on Shore—Distress and Danger of the Sick—Reflections—Former Prosperity of the Country—Dr. White—Transition to a still more happy Period—Outline of its Ancient History—Improvements in Science, but at the same Time the Seat of seditious Idolatry—Sentiments of Solon—Socrates—Plato—Reflections.

AT the expiration of a fortnight we were gratified with the recovery of several of our sick and the convalescence of several others, and at the end of less than three weeks, all were able to return to the ship; soon after we took our leave of Karagatch. Passing again into the gulf, we approached the island of Rhodes, had a pleasing view of this entrance into the Archipelago, eminently calculated to produce a train of ideas, concerning the history of its celebrated islands and vicinity, and contrasting its once flourishing and prosperous situation with its present declension, the reflecting mind will commiserate its general depression.

“The God-like wisdom of the temper’d breast,
 “Progressive truth; investigation calm,
 “The patient force of thought, whose silent powers
 “Command the world; the light that leads to heaven;
 “Kind equal rule; the government of laws,
 “And all protecting freedom, which alone
 “Sustains the name and dignity of man:
 “These are not theirs.”

THOMSON.

The following morning we arrived again off Marmorice,

and entered the harbour, which contained a fleet of upwards of two hundred sail, principally British, enclosed in a port, whose stupendous mountains form a magnificent amphitheatre, which, with groves of myrtle, vales of lively green, and several fine beaches, all bursting on the eye at a short entrance from the gulf, excite pleasing sensations.

The 8th of this month was ushered in with lightning and showers of rain, with little wind, and variable; toward noon it increased to awful thunder and vivid lightning, with heavy showers of hail.

“ The skies asunder torn, a deluge pour,
“ The impetuous hail descends in whirling shower.”

At this time I happened to be in a boat at a distance from the ship, returning on board, when the hailstones, many of which were nearly as large as a pigeon's egg, beat so powerfully and severely on the hands of the rowers, that after considerable perseverance obliged them to desist, and rest on their oars, to screen their hands under their jackets and great-coats. I expostulated with, and endeavoured to rally them, but on exposing one of my own hands to the fury of the shower, I was instantly feelingly convinced of the necessity of shelter; in the course of fifteen minutes our boat was one-third full of water, and lay like a log in the water, and had not the shower quickly ceased, several boats, and ours among the rest, must have sunk; but providentially the squall, for an interval, subsided, and all of us were preserved.

The night was increasingly awful. As its shades drew on it became a settled storm, rendered still more dreadful by thunder, lightning, and torrents of rain, all heightened by the dreadful reverberation of the mountainous amphitheatre, which nearly surrounded us, and by signal guns of distress.

“ The ethereal dome in mournful pomp array'd,
“ Now lurks behind impenetrable shade,
“ Now flashing round intolerable light,
“ Redoubles all the terrors of the night;
“ Such terrors Sinai's quaking hill o'erspread,
“ When heaven's loud trumpet sounded o'er its head;
“ Loud and more loud the rolling peals enlarge,
“ And blue on deck their blazing sides discharge;
“ Now in a deluge bursts the living flame,
“ And dread concussion rends the ethereal frame,
“ Sick earth convulsive groans from shore to shore,
“ And Nature shuddering feels the horrid roar.”

FAULKENER.

I never beheld lightning so vivid, it swept along the deck with a power and brightness, which frequently left us in total darkness, and I several times feared the organs of vision were gone. Every avenue in the ship was carefully stopped, and wet swabs and coverings laid over all, to prevent the dreadful fluid penetrating the interior, which was providentially prevented by the seasonable and copious thunder showers, which always prove a mercy in the midst of apprehended judgment.

Towards the dawn the storm abated, and at day-light we found ourselves and ship in safety delivered out of this distress and danger, while the next ship, at the distance of about a hundred yards, had one of her masts shivered to pieces by the electric shock, and several vessels driven on shore; providentially but few seamen were injured, and all the largest ships rode out the gale.

But on shore the calamity was dreadful indeed, a weight of water falling on the mountains, swelled the rivulets into rivers, and the water-falls into mighty cataracts, and sweeping over the lower parts of the bay with increasing violence, inundated the vales beneath, and carried desolation in its train; several of the hospital tents were overthrown, and the sickly inhabitants washed from their couches, several of whom soon after expired, and had not that Omnipotent Being, "who walketh on the wings of the wind," controlled the conflicting elements, and caused the torrent unexpectedly to cease, most of these invalids must have perished by the storm.

After the gale had ceased, and fine weather ensued, we again went on shore to procure water, vegetables, and fruit, and to purchase some of the manufactures peculiar to Turkey. On a further acquaintance I was glad to find our conclusions too hastily drawn from transient visits, and some forbidding external appearances, in general groundless; for after repeated visits and dealings with them, such integrity was generally evinced, as commanded respect, and induced confidence.

In their trading with our people, though their prices were frequently high, they almost invariably asked for goods neither more nor less than they would take for them, and were often struck with surprize when any attempt was made to undervalue the article, and when repeated, would frequently express their abhorrence of such duplicity. We found easy access to their public places of resort, and as before related, I

had free admittance to their mosque; in short, these people shewed us such a degree of honourable attention, and exhibited decision of character, and an hospitality the more pleasing, because rather unexpected. It may be hoped our visit will show the necessity of cleanliness, in which they are sadly deficient, and lead them into habits of industry.

We were now favoured with the company of Dr. White, whose benevolent views were directed to investigate more particularly the nature and causes of the plague: his amiable manners gained on all on board, and his interesting conversation, connected with his disinterested and philanthropic scheme, so endeared him to those who had the happiness of his intimacy, that we fondly hoped to have had it continued across the Levant; but other affairs demanding his presence, his removal became necessary, and we parted with mutual regret; for my own part, I was so prepossessed in his favour during his temporary residence on board our ship, that my mind felt a keen sensation at parting so soon with so valuable a man; he took his leave with best wishes, and I saw him no more. The reader will probably be anxious to hear the success of his plan on his arrival in Egypt, and the writer will have the painful task to recite his falling a victim to a zeal directed for the happiness of man.

During our excursions we had from the mountains an extensive view of the country and of the coast.

Viewing, with a considerate mind, the state of these now comparatively desolated countries, and contemplating it in the mirror of the Sacred Scriptures, it is easy to extend the ideas and fix them on that happy period when the gospel was planted and promulgated throughout these regions, by that indefatigable, faithful, zealous, and affectionate herald of salvation, the apostle Paul, who was a native of it.

Here the gospel flourished in its purity; attended by a divine energy, it ran and was glorified. How pleasing to a benevolent mind to consider this servant of God, with his associates, travelling these and other lands, preaching the glad tidings of salvation in all its fullness, freeness, and purity; attended by a divine and miraculous power to render it effectual to the conversion of the hearers. Planting churches, appointing bishops, or presbyters, and deacons, in one place, then committing them to the Saviour's grace; and travelling on in other directions with the blessed embassy of peace and salvation, in opposition to all the va-

rions and continued powerful and inveterate enemies with which they had to contend ; gaining fresh strength, in and from every conflict rising superior to every danger, and triumphing in the God of their salvation.

Surely the wisdom and power of God is irresistibly manifest here, to every one who can attend without prejudice, even to the dictates of his natural reason. What but a divine authority and power, could have enabled twelve obscure, poor, unprotected, and vilified men, amidst the deepest poverty, cruel hatred, calumnious reproach, and inhuman persecution from enemies, to carry on the vast project of enlightening and converting a world ? that they should carry it on without ever appearing to covet any outward honour, or wealth, and that they should form a system of doctrines and morals infinitely superior in sense and dignity, to all the productions of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, and other renowned philosophers and moralists of the heathen world ? “ How astonishing is it, that these few preachers, without the smallest encouragement from earthly powers, should so triumph over the rage, craft, and power, of the infuriated Jews ; triumph over the pride, the policy, and power of the Roman empire, when at its full strength, and maturest sagacity ; over the pride of learning, and the obstinacy of ignorance, hatred, prejudice, and lust ; over the hardened inclinations, deep-rooted customs, and long fixed laws of Jews and Heathens ; and that, contrary to every temptation from outward advantage, nay, notwithstanding every conceivable form of opposition, the gospel should, within a few years after Christ's ascension, be preached in almost every corner of the vast Roman empire, and the countries adjacent ; and that multitudes, at the hazard of every temporal loss, or punishment from men, should readily believe, constantly adhere to, and cheerfully practise the same.”

It is equally astonishing, that for more than 1700 years, notwithstanding innumerable persecutions, together with the wickedness of professors, and the inconceivable villainies or base indifference of many of the clergy, this gospel has been more or less successful in reforming the hearts and lives of multitudes in almost every nation of importance under heaven. Is it not then a standing miracle ? Are we not forced to exclaim, “ This is the Lord's doing, it is marvellous in our eyes ? ” Psalm cxviii. 23.

The celebrated antiquity and history of this country, so closely connected with ancient Greece, of which it formed a

part, would take a volume to sketch it, but I can hardly refrain from attempting a few of its outlines, adding some reflections as we proceed.

About the time of David, king of Israel, the Athenians spread their colonies over Ionia, and soon after all the lesser Asia was filled with Grecian cities.

After the defeat and flight of the hundreds of thousands of Persia, under the vain-glorious, stupid and cruel Xerxes, by a few thousand Greeks, animated by a love of liberty, these countries threw off the Persian yoke, and gladly united with their countrymen, and by this confederacy preserved their liberties, in common with Greece, during the time that this empire subsisted; partook of its laws, arts, and sciences, and enjoyed, under the same auspices, that happiness which was in a manner peculiar to Greece.

But gold, cursed gold, working on the corruptions and divisions, the love of ease and pleasure of the disorganized Grecian states, at length introduced Philip of Macedon, till then obscure and inconsiderable, who, in a short time, found means to bring it under his yoke, and Alexander*, his son, united them all together, and about A. M. 3672, raised up an empire of their own upon the ruin of the Persian, less opulent and showy, but more powerful and warlike. He proceeded from hence with about 35,000 choice men, to overturn the empire of Persia, and to conquer the civilized world, which, having in a great measure, in the course of twelve years, rapidly completed, fulfilled the clear and wonderful predictions in Daniel†, and other parts of the sacred writings.

By this means the Grecian language, the most copious,

* See Daniel, chapters 7 and 8, where, 600 years before the Christian era, among other descriptions of the rise, decline and fall of the principal empires of the globe, Alexander is pointed out by the figure of a leopard, with four wings, and of a goat, with a notable horn, as significant of craft, cruelty, power, and the rapidity of his conquests; and the words, "smote him, cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him," appear to refer to the three famous victories obtained over Darius at Granicus, at Issus, and at Arbela. In twelve years' time he, in effect, conquered the world, and then sat down and wept because he had no more to conquer; but the great arm that had done all this execution was broken, for he was cut off in the prime of life, by a drunken surfeit, or poison.

† Who, from being a captive, soon rose to the first offices of state, under three of the greatest monarchs of the world, Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, and Darius, and saw the reign and fall of the ponderous and unwieldy Babylon, who foretold the rise and fall of the Persian and Macedonian empires, the restoration of the Jews under Cyrus, and uttered the memorable prophecy of the Messiah—Redemption by him, and the final destruction of Jerusalem and of the Jewish church and nation, for their rejection of him.

and perhaps correct; that was ever spoken in the world, became common to all the nations conquered or subdued by Alexander. A translation of the Old Testament from the Hebrew was faithfully given, and thereby rendered clear and intelligible to such a vast number of people. The Jews dispersed over Asia into Europe and Africa, and considerably enlightened the heathen philosophers in the unity and knowledge of the true God.

In this wonderful manner did a gracious God prepare the way for the preaching of the gospel, which was then approaching. The contents of the Old Testament Scriptures would naturally lead men to look for its completion in the New Testament; surely "the wrath of man shall serve him, and the remainder of it he will restrain." All things shall work for his glory.

Among our visitors, we could number a variety of different nations, who appeared emulous of our friendship, and seen united, formed a pleasing assemblage.—Among the Turks was an officer of rank, who became more stationary and familiar, frequently entering into interesting conversations; he displayed an unusual openness and freedom, and expressed much respect for his English friends; his abilities, natural and acquired, appeared far beyond the ordinary attainments of the Turks, who, in general, affect to despise these things.

Our friend's conversation grew increasingly interesting; besides giving us an historical relation of important epochs and events, he entered more particularly on the subject of religion, and the fulfilment of prophecy, and with a depth, clearness, and precision, that surprized those of his hearers, who were acquainted with the theory (for alas! little was known of its vital power) of these most important subjects, among many other judicious observations, which has now escaped the memory of the writer.

He expressed his veneration for the Bible, which he considered the only written book of God, and alone pointing out the way to attain lasting happiness; his suspicions of the truth of the Mahomedan religion, that his mind was impressed with the prospect of its fall, and the necessity of their being taught the true religion; a desire to be instructed more fully on the subject, and a wish for the more general instruction of his ignorant countrymen, many of the most intelligent of which were of similar sentiments.

At the time these conversations took place, scarcely one of his hearers paid more than common attention to them, and

the author must, with shame, include himself in this number; but there was something so serious and extraordinary in his manner of delivering his sentiments, as tended to fix the attention even of this too careless company.

On a more mature consideration of these very interesting conversations, the author feels a hope that these reflecting Turks, and others, will soon hail that instruction so many of them desire, by the diffusion of the Christian religion in these benighted countries, which will show them the fulfillment of many prophecies in past ages, which ensure the completion of all that are yet unfulfilled, and unanswerably prove that the reign of the Messiah will take place all over the world.

The writer would humbly submit these hints to the consideration of missionary societies, who are engaged in the god-like plan of diffusing light and happiness throughout the dark and miserable abodes of violence and cruelty.

On Great Britain, especially, the inhabitants of these once-favoured countries, appear to have peculiar claims. Their connections by commerce, &c. open channels of communication.

Their desire for the Bible (many mutilated parts of which are to be found in their Alcoran), points out the desirableness of giving them a translation of its genuine contents, in the Turkish language; also their doubts of the truth of many parts of their Alcoran, and that desire*, so prevalent in many of them, to attain true knowledge of God.

Among many other incitements which might be enumerated, and which the better judgment of those engaged in missions may easily discover; seem to say, loudly to say, as the man of Macedonia, to that hero of the gospel, Paul, "Come over, and help us."

This country being originally the birth-place of those Greeks who first colonized the Grecian islands, and whose return has been noticed, it partook of all the advantages of its learning, and fell into all its most senseless idolatry.

Such was its fame for learning, that Athens was called the university of the whole world, and even royal personages resorted to Greece for education, from all parts of the known world; and the common rudiments of science, gained here, would give its possessor a decided superiority in most civilized countries then existing.

* A pleasing instance of this will be given hereafter, when treating of pious soldiers in Egypt.

But amidst all this boasted erudition and refinement—amidst all this radiancy of glory, and zenith of power—in all these acquisitions of arts and sciences, the most important of all the sciences, theology, was covered with gross superstition, and enveloped in midnight darkness. Let us seriously consider, for a few moments, their deplorable ignorance with respect to the only true and lasting wisdom—the knowledge and worship of Jehovah.

The most enlightened, civilized, and wisest nations of antiquity, the Chaldeans, Egyptians, Phœnicians, Greeks, and Romans, were the most ignorant and blind, and retained and cherished the most stupid, coarse, and absurd ideas respecting it. A short deduction will bring this to a demonstration. Greece was so dreadfully sunk in this depravity, that Athens, called the soul and sun of it, was the most deeply involved in idolatry; they multiplied their gods on every occasion; hence the apostle charges it with being “wholly given to idolatry.” This character is demonstrated both by sacred and profane history.

It would pain a serious mind to enumerate the ceremonies of the false gods of the Greeks, and other refined nations of antiquity.

The gravest of their philosophers forbids drinking to excess, if it was not in the feasts of Bacchus, and to the honour of that god. Another, after severely lashing all unseemly images, excepts those of the gods, who chose to be honoured by such indecencies.

Greece, with all her pretensions to superior politeness and wisdom, had received abominable mysteries.

Solon, the greatest legislator of Athens, erected a temple for purposes of licentiousness, and conjugal love had not one temple in the whole country; yet they detested adultery in men and women, and were severe to punish it; the conjugal tie was sacred among them. But when they applied themselves to religion, they appeared possessed of a strange spirit.*

* Indeed, it is evident, from the whole tenor of ancient history, that the most inquisitive of their philosophers were frequently more bewildered in respect of essential knowledge than the illiterate. The Greeks were probably the most learned of all the heathen nations, and Athens contained the wisest men in all Greece; yet, what unworthy, inconclusive, unsatisfactory, absurd ideas, did they form of the Almighty; the relation they held in the scale of being, and the worship due to God. Wearied at length in the pursuit, and impressed with the necessity of better information on the most important of all subjects, many of the wisest and best, at an early period concluded that wisdom must come from heaven to instruct them in true knowledge. This senti-

Nor did the Roman gravity treat religion more seriously, seeing it consecrated to the honour of the gods, the impurities of the theatre, and the bloody spectacles of the gladiators; that is, whatever can be imagined most corrupt and barbarous.

It is true, some of the best of their philosophers had at last confessed that there was another god, than those the vulgar worshipped, but they durst not avow it; on the contrary, Socrates delivered it as a maxim, that every one ought to follow the religion of his country, and at his last accusation before the Areopagus, maintained and asserted, "that he worshipped the gods of his country, and that he sacrificed in private and public, upon the allowed altars, and according to the rites and customs of the city." After this confession, reported by two of his ablest scholars*, there can be no doubt on this head. He was an idolator, and had not, by his great ability in reasoning, delivered himself from the practice of the superstition of his country.

Plato, his disciple, who saw Greece, and all the countries of the known world, filled with an absurd and scandalous worship, does nevertheless lay it down as the foundation of his republic, "that men are never to make any change in the religion they find established, and that they must have lost all common sense so much as to think of it."

How inconsistent, inconclusive, absurd, and vain, were their opinions and sentiments on this most important of all subjects, for want of the determinate, and conclusive evidence of the steady, consoling, and animating light of divine revelation.

Those great, and compared to the general darkness, enlightened men, who said so many excellent things of the divine nature, did not dare to oppose the public error.

When Socrates, called the prince of philosophers, was brought before the Areopagus, the most incorrupt, sacred, and venerable tribunal in Greece, and accused of denying the gods whom the public adored; he vindicated himself from it, as from a crime, and after being unjustly condemned to death, his last words to his friend was, a request for him to offer a cock to Esculapius. And Plato, speaking of

ment extended itself as time advanced, so that by the time Rome had attained the summit of power, the necessity of an heavenly Messenger was so prevalent among mankind, that a general expectation and wish was excited: and who could this refer to but to the Messiah, who is peculiarly called, the desire of all nations?

* Plato and Xenophon.

the God who formed the universe, says, that "it is hard to find him, and that it is forbidden to declare him to the people." He protests that he never speaks of him, but enigmatically, for fear of exposing so great a truth to ridicule.*

But in contemplating the characters of such eminent and worthy men as Socrates, Plato, Pythagoras, Solon, Aristides, Epictetus, Seneca, Thales, Zeno, Antinonous, &c. &c. and viewing them frequently opposing, with the light they had, the idolatry of their countrymen, and the heathen world, at large, and evidencing by their conduct the superiority of their views, the benevolent Christian feels drawn to them in affection, and can feelingly and cordially adopt the interesting lines of a pious poet.

" Is virtue then, unless of Christian growth,
 " Mere fallacy, or foolishness, or both?
 " Ten thousand sages lost in endless woe,
 " For ignorance of what they could not know?
 " That speech betrays at once a bigot's tongue,
 " Charge not a God with such outrageous wrong,
 " Truly not I— the partial light men have,
 " My creed persuades me, well employed may save;
 " While he that scorns the noon-day beams perverse,
 " Shall find a blessing unimprov'd, a curse,
 " Let heathen worthies, whose exalted mind,
 " Left sensuality and dross behind,
 " Possess for me their undisputed lot,
 " And take unenvied the reward they sought;
 " But still in virtue of a saviour's plea,
 " Not blind by choice, but destin'd not to see,
 " Their fortitude and wisdom were a flame,
 " Celestial, though they knew not whence it came;
 " Derived from the same source of light and grace,
 " That guides the Christian in his swifter race;
 " Their judge was conscience, and her rule their law,
 " That rule pursued with reverence and with awe,
 " Led them, however faltering, faint, and slow,
 " From what they knew to what they wished to know;
 " But let not him that shares a brighter day,
 " Traduce the splendour of a noon-tide ray,
 " Prefer the twilight of a darker time,
 " And deem his base stupidity no crime.
 " The wretch, who slights the bounty of the skies,
 " And sinks, while favoured with the means to rise,
 " Shall find them rated at their full amount,
 " The good he scorned, all carried to account."

COWPER.

In what an abyss of error was mankind plunged, when it could not bear the idea of the true God.

Athens, the most polite and most learned city in the

world, whose superstitions and idolatries were so clearly developed, and irresistibly confuted by St. Paul in his visit*, took for atheists those who spoke of intellectual things; and this was one of the reasons for which Socrates was condemned. If some philosophers presumed to teach that statues were not gods, as the vulgar apprehended, they found themselves obliged to recant this doctrine, and even after that they were banished as profane persons. The whole earth was possessed with the same error. The great God, the Creator and Governor of the world, had neither temple nor worship, but in Jerusalem.

What a mercy that Judea was acquainted with his holy name, and knew that to divide religion, by admitting other gods, was to destroy it.

“ They, and they only, amongst all mankind,
 “ Receiv’d the transcript of the eternal mind;
 “ Were trusted with his own engraven laws,
 “ And constituted guardians of his cause;
 “ Their’s were the prophets, their’s the priestly call,
 “ And their’s by birth the Saviour of us all.”

COWPER.

CHAP. XVI.

Extraordinary Character—Wonderful Distinction, and Marvellous Preservation of the Jews, with their Punishments, illustrated by their Separation, and the Destruction of their City and Temple—Reflections.

THE preservation of the Jews, and the Sacred Scriptures, claims the serious attention, and deepest gratitude, from every intelligent being in the world; and calls on us to contemplate and adore the wonderful providence of Almighty God, in raising up, and preserving that nation, as a distinct and peculiar people, giving them the sacred canon of the Old Testament, and making them thereby a barrier against idolatry, and the depositories of those writings, which, as well as the revolutions in their nation, all clearly pointed to the Shiloh.

The distinction of character which still mark the Jews, dispersed, or however situated, the fulfilment of prophecies

* Acts, chap. xvii.

already accomplished, and still to be accomplished, in their return to the Messiah, "when God will remember his mercy and his truth towards the house of Israel, and all the ends of the world shall see the salvation of God," command attention and affection from Christians towards this people, by whose means the worship of the true God had been kept up in the midst of an idolatrous world, and by whose instrumentality the inestimable records of Scripture have been preserved, and will be transmitted to future generations.

And when we view this despised, and too often persecuted people, at this moment inhabiting part of all the quarters of the globe; when we consider that of three million, which according to the present calculation is their number, one million remain in the Turkish dominions, where they so nearly approximate the ancient scene of their prosperity, the vast empire of the east—and that they inhabit countries never yet fully explored by Europeans, how forcibly does the idea of the Jews being the heralds of the Messiah to many countries, strike the mind.

This extraordinary people have been kept wonderfully and totally distinct from all the other nations of the globe, in defiance of all their individual and united exertions to confound them. The Assyrians, the Grecians, and the Romans, successively conquered them by their arms; but neither they, with all their other conquerors and oppressors, could incorporate them with their people.

These empires rose and fell, one after the other, while the Jews alone continued. What a wonderful act of Divine Providence is it, that the vanquished should, for so many ages, survive the victors, and the former spread all over the world, while the latter are no more known!

The northern nations have poured forth in swarms into the southern parts of Europe; but where are they now? Who can distinguish the Britons, the Romans, the Saxons, the Danes, or the Normans, in England? Or the Gauls, the Romans, and the Franks, in France? In Spain, who can distinguish between the first Spaniards, and the Goths and Moors, who conquered it? They are all blended and lost, and similar observations might be made on all other nations. Much more might it have been expected, that the sufferings of the Jews, like fire, would have melted them down into the common mass of human nature, with the different nations among whom they dwelt: to name one instance only, the destruction of Jerusalem, when upwards of a million were said to have perished; but they still are dis-

ting; they still are very numerous; they still exhibit, in every individual, the legible marks of Divine Power; so that whoever sees the face of a Jew, sees a standing miracle, a living argument for the truth of Christianity, whose Divine Author foretold their sufferings, dispersion, and recovery. Luke, xxi. 24; his apostle Paul, Romans, xi. 25; and Moses, 1500 years before the coming of the Messiah; Lev. xxvi.—Dent. xxviii. Not only the mere event, but the particular circumstances, their captivity, their dispersion, the awful destruction of their temple and city*; the oppressions, persecutions, contempt, and hatred of the world; the miseries accompanying their very name, and the cause of these, their rejection of the Messiah by unbelief; were all foretold, and, blessed be God! their restoration is also predicted. How strong a presumptive proof does their separate state furnish, of their promised restoration, and how worthy of admiration is it, that they carry with them, wherever they go, the books of Moses and the prophets, hereby proving to a demonstration, that their sufferings, as a separate people, predicted in these very books, are for rejecting the Saviour, who is therein so clearly described as the Messiah; they hereby now still continue, in some degree, to be heralds of salvation; and how gloriously will it be increased, when they shall be converted to Christianity, and become instrumental in conveying its glad tidings over the globe, “When the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our God, and his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever.”

Infidels, as well as Jews, would do well to consider these facts, and they are called upon to consider them at their peril, before that awful scripture is verified—“Behold ye despisers, and wonder and perish.”

It is impossible that any man should duly consider these memorable events, without some powerful conviction of the truth of Divine Revelation. Can any stronger proof be given of Divine Revelation, than the spirit of prophecy? And can there be a stronger proof given of the spirit of prophecy, than the punishments and preservation of the Jews? To instance the awful and memorable event of the destruction of Jerusalem only, will illustrate this in a forcible manner.

At the time Christ pronounced these prophecies, Jerusalem was in profound peace, and the Roman governor had

* See this memorable event described by Josephus, who was an eye-witness.

ample force to keep the people in obedience; and could human prudence foresee that the city, as well as the country, would revolt against the Romans? Could human prudence foresee, "famines, and pestilence, and earthquakes, in divers places?" Could human prudence foresee the speedy propagation of the gospel, so contrary to all human probability? Could any, or all the powers of human calculation, so much as conjecture the sudden and utter destruction of Jerusalem, with all the wonderful and particular events attending and succeeding it? It was a received maxim among the Romans, not absolutely to ruin any of their provinces, less might it have been expected under Titus, who exerted every effort to save the temple, but in vain.

My plan will not admit of entering fully into detail, as of the marvellous escape and preservation of every Christian in Jerusalem, at the siege, &c. but whoever will enter into consideration of these important events, unfolding the momentous predictions of Him, who said to the roaring billows, "Peace, be still," will find increasing reason to say, this is the finger of God. These exhibit irresistible proofs of the truth of Christianity.

" Thus fell the best instructed in her day,
 " And the most favour'd lands, look where we may;
 " Philosophy indeed on Grecian eyes
 " Had pour'd the day, and cleared the Roman skies.
 " In other climes perhaps creative art,
 " With power surpassing theirs, performed her part,
 " Might give more life to marble, or might fill
 " The glowing tablets with a juster skill,
 " Might shine in fable, and grace idle themes,
 " With all the embroidery of poetie dreams;
 " 'Twas theirs alone to dive into the plan,
 " That truth and mercy had revealed to man;
 " And while the world beside that plan unknown,
 " Deified useless wood, or senseless stone,
 " They breathed in faith their heaven directed prayers,
 " And the true God, the God of truth, was theirs.
 " Their glory faded, and their race dispersed,
 " The last of nations now, though once the first,
 " They warn and teach, the proudest would they learn,
 " Keep wisdom, or meet vengeance in your turn;
 " If we escaped not, if heaven spared not us,
 " Peeled, scattered, and exterminated thus;
 " If vice receive her retribution due,
 " When we are visited, what hope for you?
 " When God arises with an awful frown,
 " To punish lust, or pluck presumption down;
 " When gifts perverted, or not duly prized,
 " Pleasure over-valued, and his grace despised;

" Provoke the vengeance of his righteous hand
 " To pour down wrath upon a thankless land;
 " He will be found impartially severe,
 " Too just to wink, or speak the guilty clear;
 " Oh! Israel of all nations most undone;
 " Thy diadem displaced and sceptre gone,
 " Thy temple, once thy glory, fallen and razed,
 " And thou a worshipper, even where thou mayest;
 " Thy services once only without spot,
 " Mere shadows now, their ancient pomp forgot;
 " Thy Levites, once a consecrated host,
 " No longer Levites, and their lineage lost,
 " And thou thyself over every country sown,
 " With none on earth that thou canst call thy own;
 " Cry aloud, thou that settest in the dust,
 " Cry to the proud, the cruel and unjust;
 " Knock at the gate of nations, rouse their fears,
 " Say wrath is coming, and the storm appears,
 " But raise the shrillest cry in British ears."

COWPER.

CHAP. XVII.

*Passage to Egypt—Storm—First View of the Coast—
 Critical Situation—Wonderful Deliverance—Vestiges of
 Antiquity—Visit the Vicinity of Alexandria—Pass a
 remarkable Lake—Land near a Market—Avidity of the
 Natives for Silver and Gold—View of Alexandria—
 Pompey's Pillar—Site of the Pharos, &c.—Baths—
 Statues—Urns—Vases—Remarkable Inscription—Ce-
 ment in an Ancient Building—Sketch of the History of
 Alexandria—Description of the various Inhabitants—
 Moors—Arabians—Coptes—Jews—Turks—Utility of
 the Camel and Dromedary—Established Religion—
 Punctuality in their Devotions—Government.*

HAVING replenished our stock of water, and procur-
 ed a good supply of vegetables and fruit, which the inha-
 bitants in general were forward to assist us in getting on
 board, late in February 1801, we weighed anchor, and
 stood into the Levant with a large fleet in company, for a
 still more remote destination. For a short time we were fa-
 voured with moderate weather, after which a fresh gale and
 storm obliged us to lower the towering sails, and exposed
 the fleet to danger. We continued much dispersed for two
 days, when it moderated, and the fleet continued its course
 to the southward, until the beautiful evening of the first of

COLLINS.]

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March, when the castle of Alexandria was discovered, bearing S. E. about four or five leagues; and at eight the next morning we anchored in the spacious bay of Aboukir. During this short passage we lost several of our men by a dangerous fever, and with sympathy committed their bodies to the deep.

A comprehensive view of the coast of celebrated Egypt, appeared highly gratifying, and tended forcibly to recall its ancient history to remembrance. Soon after our anchoring we experienced tempestuous weather with a ground swell, which continued for several days, and prevented any debarkation of troops: as soon as the gale permitted, the vessels of easy draught of water were ordered near the beach to cover the landing, and have troops in readiness to land. On the seventh the landing commenced, and on the eighth effected.

I was ordered on this disembarkation, and my first visit to these interesting coasts was a very perilous one indeed; we had to approach the shore in the face of several batteries, and at length reached the beach amidst volleys of shot. Just as the last of the troops had stepped or jumped out of the boat, and were forming, many of them ankle deep in the water, a musket ball passed through my hat, penetrated the periosteum, and grazing the bone, left me instantly senseless in the boat; on recovering my senses, I felt my neck, shoulders, and back, bathed in blood, the vessels still bleeding profusely, and so helpless that every effort, even to seat myself, was unavailing. The scene of confusion with which we were surrounded, was unfriendly to attention from my comrades in danger; and it was a considerable time before I could get conveyed to medical assistance; on reaching alongside the nearest of several vessels, who were placed on purpose to receive the wounded, and cover the landing, we were severely disappointed; for the surgeon was surrounded with so many cases, claiming instant relief, that they were under the painful necessity of refusing admission to any more. I perhaps felt the least at this answer, as by this time I was nearly exhausted from the continual loss of blood. We soon reached the next vessel, and I was hoisted in, and, after a short waiting, was dressed by the surgeon, who took up the vessels, and said, he hoped it was not a fracture. It was judged dangerous, in my present situation to remove me to our own ship, which lay at the distance of several miles, and the surgeon kindly had me laid on his own bed; I found a state of repose very

refreshing and comfortable, but just as I had began to be composed and inclined to sleep, the signal was made for the ship instantly to get under way, and proceed farther; in consequence I was obliged to be reluctantly taken from my generous host, borne into the boat by a grating or hatch, and conveyed to my ship almost in a state of insensibility. I here received every attention; the paroxysms of fever which succeeded were mild, and in a month I was so astonishingly recovered as to be declared out of danger.

Taking the earliest opportunity, full of curiosity, and in expectation of beholding wonders, I again landed, and reached the vicinity of Alexandria. The eye was engaged the whole way on the various objects around, and the mind forming assemblages of curiosities, dwelt with delight on the novel and interesting scene which imagination presented to view, but which experience proves to be seldom realized, we proceeded towards the bottom of the bay, about nine miles from the ship, and soon beheld on its shores many pieces of granite, some of them apparently vestiges of antiquity; probably relics of ancient cities, whose sites stood on the margin of this bay. With a fine breeze we entered Lake Maadie, which appears to have been anciently the opening of that branch of the Nile, called the Canopite: this, with several others (for there appear to have been seven branches) has from various causes, lost its communication with the parent river, and dwindled into a lake. We sailed pleasantly along; anticipating the satisfaction of curiosity I was eager to land, and by this conveyance avoided a dreary and sultry walk over the vast sand which extends from Aboukir to Alexandria, a distance of twelve or fourteen miles.

After sailing several miles in this spacious basin, we landed on a fine beach in the vicinity of a considerable market, whose motley group, and various and abundant supplies, instantly excited attention.

It was probably the circle of an acre, enclosed by means of posts, with a rope leading from each all round; within and without were numbers of the natives, principally Arabians, who poured forth their stores, and seemed very emulous to exchange them for the silver and gold of their English friends; indeed such was their avidity and importunity for customers, that no part of the metropolis of Britain, even Moorfields itself, could excel them in this respect.

We passed through this bustle, and proceeded to view some of the ruins of ancient Alexandria. From the summit

of the hill, near the market, I could perceive part of this once celebrated city, whose ancient limits, by the baths, statues, &c. around us, and other vestiges recently discovered, probably extended beyond the spot on which I was then situated.

Pompey's Pillar rises majestically from the ruins of its ancient greatness, and the present building, near the site of the ancient Pharos, points out the place where the relics of that once stately and useful edifice, esteemed one of the wonders of the world, lies buried, and its once spacious and well filled harbours, now comparatively choaked up, and forsaken, so many remains of fallen greatness, striking on the mind, fixed attention, and excited emotions of commiseration.

I was in the midst of ruins, which clearly pointed out they belonged to ancient Alexandria, or its suburbs. Urns, statues, and subterraneous avenues, with pieces of granite, &c. proved that they were no common relics. I was gratified with a view of a piece of stone, containing an inscription of near two thousand years date, recording events in the time of Pompey and Cæsar.

The ruins of a magnificent building excited considerable interest, and gratified curiosity by the ingenuity of its structure, but called forth commiseration at the recollection of its history; the author was informed it was a celebrated library, in which appears to have been deposited precious remains of ancient learning, that fell amongst the desolations of those Saracens, who in the seventh century made war upon literature as well as nations. The connection of the cement with the bricks, of which it appears to have been principally built, is to a modern eye astonishing, it has so insinuated itself into the pores as to form one substance; and a forcible separation would probably destroy both; this stands a monument of the ravages of time and desolating invaders.

On my return I again passed the skirts of the market, purchased six hundred eggs for a dollar, ten small fowls for a dollar, and vegetables and fruit proportionably cheap; and returned to the ship gratified with my visit to these celebrated shores.

The history of Alexandria itself, would supply materials for several volumes. I must confine myself to a few particulars: it is situated without that fertile part of Egypt called the Delta, surrounded with sand and water; its population consists of Turks, Greeks, Jews, Arabs, &c. who enjoy toleration; it is now of small extent, but has still

considerable commerce, which its harbour and situation command. It was founded by Alexander the Great soon after the overthrow of Tyre; he considered the value of Egypt, as connected with this port, and appreciating the advantages of commerce, exerted himself to raise it to extraordinary importance, and to perpetuate his memory, named it after himself; and had his conquests in general been so wisely directed, it would have lessened the devastations which his mad schemes of universal empire entailed on mankind. By its situation and connection, it soon rose to be what Tyre had been, a place of uncommon riches and magnificence. It was the mart for all the trade of the Indies, and its capacious harbour contained several hundred sail of shipping at one time; and even after Rome had attained to sovereign power, and had reduced Egypt to its dominion, it was long reckoned the second city in the world.

After the decline of the Roman empire it became subject to the Saracens, who ravaged it, overturned many of its edifices, and destroyed its famous library. It passed from them into the possession of the Turks, who still appoint a magistrate, with whom are connected several others, appointed by the inhabitants, and the internal government is said to be much vested in the hands of the citizens.

Its present condition is a contrast to its ancient splendour and prosperity, the harbours are much injured; the Pharos, called a wonder of the world, is probably without a remain; the inhabitants are about eight thousand, who are mostly attracted by commerce. Alexandria contains a mixture of various nations, many of whom literally dwell amid the ruins of its ancient magnificence.

The present inhabitants throughout this extensive coast, are of various sorts, whose manners and customs are as various. Moors, Arabians, wild and civilized, are numerous.

The Coptes boast of their descent from the ancient Egyptians, whose ancestors were once Christians; they still profess Christianity, and retain a semblance of its excellent system, much enveloped in superstition; they deem themselves of the Greek church, but frequently embrace Mahometan customs. These Coptes are generally the most learned of all the inhabitants of this country.

The Jews, found here as in all other parts of the world, are so many living testimonies to the truth of Christianity, and will so continue, till the God who has dispersed them among all nations, shall graciously call them into the fold of our common Saviour.

The Turks, to whom is committed a principal part of the government, here display their native indolence and ostentation, and are in general arbitrary and ignorant, though some of them seem to partake of that activity and enterprise visible in many of the native inhabitants, and display a promptness and ingenuity in commerce, the more remarkable, because unexpected; nor are they that dull senseless people which Europeans generally suppose; indeed when their abilities are well directed, they excite pleasing surprise. They are attentive to the injunctions of the Koran, which enjoins considerable bodily exertion, and temperance.

The Arabians are partly wild, and partly civilized, the former have no fixed habitation. The latter, living where towns and villages are built, often joining the inhabitants, become more local than their brethren of the inland parts, who sleep under tents, which they pitch in a convenient place, and remove at pleasure; their tents or hovels, are scattered all over the country. The peregrinations, and hardihood of the Arabians, are astonishing; the same piece of flannel that cover them by day, serves for bed and bedding at night; their principal employment is hunting, and sometimes plundering. They are wonderfully expert in mounting and riding camels and dromedaries; their horses are very fleet, and remarkably quick at turning, when at full gallop.

Their chief animal food is goats and camels, the ostrich is said to serve them for commerce and medicine; they substitute dates for bread, which, with goats milk, and a little corn and puke, constitute their chief food.

The camel and dromedary are their beasts of burden, and are wonderfully adapted to the country, carrying immense burthens, and subsisting with a very small quantity of water; they are peculiarly formed for the sultry and extensive deserts, where little water is to be obtained for several days journeys together; these animals will carry loads from four to six hundred weight or more, without a fresh supply of water, and need no unloading during a long journey; when they are fatigued they naturally kneel down to rest, and when nature is refreshed and invigorated, rise up with their burthen and proceed on their journey.

The Arabians are certainly descended from Ishmael, Abraham's son by Hagar, and verify to this day that prophecy respecting him and his posterity, recorded in the 16th chapter of Genesis and 12th verse. "He will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand

against him." It would lead me beyond my limits to enter into their full history, but a short sketch only will set this in a striking view.

Shishak, the Egyptian conqueror, was obliged to protect his kingdom from their depredations by a deep ditch, and line of defence. About A. M. 3200, the Gadites and Reubenites gave the Ishmaelites a terrible defeat, and seized on their territory and wealth. About 800 years after, the Assyrians ravaged their country. About A. M. 3420, Nebuchadnezzar, the Chaldean, ravaged the northern parts of Arabia, put multitudes of them to the sword, burnt their cities, and carried off their wealth for a prey.

Provoked by their contempt of himself, or by their depredations on his subjects, Alexander the Great in vain resolved to extirpate them. Antigonus, his mighty general, who attempted to succeed him; Pompey, the victorious Roman commander; and the emperors, Augustus, Trajan, and Severus, attempted to reduce or destroy them in vain. Providence always, and sometimes miraculously, maintained the independency of these wild descendants of Abraham by Hagar.

They have their native chiefs, and wander in hordes, and sometimes pay unwelcome visits to caravans and to neighbouring countries, and too often commit plunder.

In the seventh century of the Christian æra, these Ishmaelites, under Mahomet, their countryman and famed impostor, and his successors, furiously extended their empire, and their new and false religion, through a great part of Asia, Africa, and even some countries of Europe.

Since the fall of their empire, the Turks have made repeated attempts to subdue them; but instead of succeeding they have been obliged for near three hundred years past, to pay them a yearly tribute of many thousand crowns, for procuring a safe passage for the pilgrims to Mecca, where Mahomet was born. Circumcision is continued among them as a mark of their origin, not on the eighth day; after the manner of the Jews, but at the thirteenth year, as the Scripture informs us, it was given to their father Ishmael.

The principal authorized religion of the Egyptians is Mahometanism, and its professors are very attentive to their devotions; they rise early, and attend public worship at sun-rise, public and private during the day, and again in the evening or at dusk.

The government is not so arbitrary and oppressive, as in many other parts more immediately under Turkish controul:

this may arise from their distance from the seat of government, and from their struggles for independence, a memorable instance of which recently happened.

The Beys still retain great influence, and the chiefs of several Arab tribes may be said to be quite independent of the Turkish government, who, although they have a viceroy or bashaw at Cairo, cannot carry any measure into effect without consulting the native chiefs; and obtaining their sanction; the Turkish government, therefore, are cautious how they infringe the liberties of these people.

CHAP. XVIII.

Alarming Tempest—Perilous Situation—Necessitated to cut away Boats—Exertions to secure the Remainder—Difficulty and Danger attending it—Two Seamen perish in the Attempt—Cessation of the Storm—Melancholy Spectacle of Wrecks and Dead Bodies on the Shore—Termination of the Gale—Supplies—Pleasing View—Sirocco, or Winds of the Desert—Gloomy Appearance—Distressing Effects—Appearance of Disease—Apprehensions of the Plague—Sudden Change—Reviving Breezes—Reflections—Night Scene—Remarkable Prophecy—Nile—Its Source—Cause of Fertility—Canals and Reservoirs—Mildness of the Winter—Overflowing of the Nile—Anniversary thereof.

ON the fourth of April we were overtaken with a heavy gale from the sea. It began with fresh breezes and cloudy weather, soon increased to fresh gales and squally, with rain and lightning from almost every part of the horizon, with a ground swell. We struck our masts, and prepared to receive it. In the course of twenty-four hours it increased to such a degree, that the bowsprit of our vessel pitched under the waves, and we were necessitated to cut away our best and largest boat from the stern, to ease the dreadful plunges of the ship; this caused an anxiety to secure the other boat, which was still under the stern, for which purpose several seamen came forward, and offered their services to perform the most difficult and dangerous part of the business, that of going over the stern and hooking her on, in order for hoisting up; five men descended for this purpose, got safely into the boats, gained the tackles, and made every

exertion for a successful issue; but alas! while one hook only had taken, the ship gave several dreadful plunges, lifted the boat by one end only, at her descent filled her with water, and shook and washed the men out. With anxious eyes we beheld them struggling with the mighty waves, and by throwing buoyant things and other exertions, providentially rescued three out of the five from a watery grave. The next morning was beheld numerous wrecks of boats, and several corpses were drifted on the beach. The wind ceased, and a general gloom pervaded the ship's company at the loss of their comrades and sharers in a long series of toils and dangers.

We now received considerable supplies of poultry, mutton, eggs, fine fruits, and fish, and were refreshed with reviving sea breezes, which prevail on this coast, which, together with a comprehensive view from Aboukir castle to the mouth of the Nile, including the landscape near Rosetta, gratified the eye, and invigorated the body. This view of the vicinity of Rosetta becomes peculiarly grateful when the eye has been long fatigued, and the animal spirits become languid in traversing the extensive and hot sands adjoining.

The setting sun in this country is a sight which excels any view I ever saw or could conceive. The majestic appearance of its orb; the splendour and peculiar softness of its rays, the variegated and vivid colours of the surrounding clouds, with the remarkable reflection on the glassy wave, and the agreeable serenity of the atmosphere, conspire to form a sublime and delightful prospect.

- " Low walks the sun, and broadens by degrees;
- " Just o'er the verge of day. The shifting clouds
- " Assembled gay, a richly gorgeous train,
- " In all their pomp attend his sitting throne.
- " Air, earth, and ocean smile immense.
- " And now he dips his orb;
- " Now half immers'd; and now a golden curve
- " Gives one bright glance, then total disappears.

THOMSON.

This pleasant weather, and these beautiful appearances continued, with a very short intermission, till the 22d of May, when we were surrounded with a gloomy contrast indeed.

It began with variable winds; inclinable to calms, attended with an uncomfortable warmth; at length the wind fixed itself in the S. E. in the direction of the desert, and we
 COLLINS.]

soon felt a sultry breeze, which conveyed innumerable insects into every crevice, and became so troublesome on deck, that we were glad to retreat below, but in vain, for wherever the air reached, there they teemed innumerable, and our dinner was presently covered with them; indeed such was the death-like stillness, heat, and gloom which pervaded the atmosphere, that meat was hardly desirable; in short, the distressing gloom, swarming of insects, and depression of the animal spirits, was soon followed by a variety of alarming symptoms, which many considered as the forerunner of the plague, and reports were quickly, but rather secretly, circulated, that several ships in the bay, and near us, had already been visited by that dreadful disease; that upwards of one hundred were taken ill, and that some had actually suddenly died in it. I now began to consider, with several others, these gloomy symptoms as presages of that pestilential fever, which, if suffered to prevail, would complete the catastrophe, and could have wished an immediate storm to clear the loaded atmosphere, and disperse the destroying evils.

But on a sudden the wind changed, the sun burst through the thick gloom, the increasing sea-breezes chased away the vapours, insects, and all the impending horrors which prevailed just before; the animal spirits felt the grateful change, and flew with eager activity over its world of wonders; disease rapidly decreased, the plague was no longer feared, and every countenance bespoke the unexpected, wonderful, and gratifying change.

What a mercy is it that these pestilential winds are neither long nor frequent. During my stay of upwards of four months, they visited us but twice; at all other times we were daily cheered by refreshing sea breezes, which prevail all along this coast and country, and without which it would become insufferably hot.

The beauties and grandeur of the night, viz, as it were, with the more enlivening splendours of the day; the beams of the sun fade gently away, the evening star and the other planets follow, and display their brightness with increasing splendour; other stars advance, the milky way is formed, and the moon, walking in all its reflective softness, all glittering on the sea, the whole empyrean arch shines forth with refulgent lustre, and a "flood of glory bursts from all the skies," and beheld in the contrast with the late storm, and sickly atmosphere, became peculiarly animating and grateful, and eminently calculated to suggest those higher reflections

which lead to the contemplation of the Almighty architect who spake them all into existence.

The present population of Egypt is far from numerous, and exhibits but a gloomy contrast to the celebrated periods of its history. An illustration of a remarkable prophecy will set this in a striking point of view. Among the many memorable prophecies contained in Ezekiel (six of which appear to pertain to Egypt) are these words, "Egypt shall be the basest of kingdoms," and "there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt." By base kingdoms is meant, that it should be tributary and subject to strangers for much the greatest part of time; "this, says Bishop Newton, is the purport and meaning of the prophecy." And this will appear by a short deduction of the history of Egypt from that time to this. It was first of all tributary to the Babylonians under Amasis; upon the ruins of the Babylonian empire, it was subject to the Persians; upon the failure of the Persian empire, it came into the hands of the Macedonians; after the Macedonians, it fell under the dominion of the Romans; after the division of the Roman empire it was subdued by the Saracens, in the reign of Omar, their third emperor; about the year of Christ, 1350, it was in possession of the Mamalukes, which word signifies a slave bought with money, but is appropriated to those Turkish and Circassian slaves whom the sultans of Egypt bought young, and taught military exercises; those slaves usurped the royal authority, and by that means Egypt became their prey; but in the year of Christ, 1517, Selim, the ninth emperor of the Turks, conquered the Mamalukes, and annexed Egypt to the Ottoman empire, of which it continues to be a province to this day. It is governed by a Turkish basha, and several of these Mamaluke beys or chiefs under him, who are advanced from servitude to the administration of public affairs; a superstitious notion possessing the Egyptians, that it is decreed by fate, that captives shall reign, and the natives be subject to them, a notion, which, in all probability, was at first derived from some mistaken tradition of these prophecies, "That Egypt should be a base kingdom, that there should be no more a prince of the land of Egypt, and that Ham, in his posterity, should be a servant of servants unto his brethren." By this deduction it appears, that the truth of Ezekiel's prediction is fulfilled by the whole series of the history of Egypt, from that time to the present. And who could pretend to say, upon human conjecture, that so great a kingdom, so rich and fertile a

country, should ever after become tributary and subject to strangers? It is now above two thousand years since this prophecy was first delivered, and what likelihood or appearance was there, that the Egyptians should for so many ages bow under a foreign yoke, and never, in all that time, be able to recover their liberties, and have a prince of their own to reign over them?

The celebrated river Nile runs through the Lower Egypt, dividing itself near Cairo; one chief branch runs to the N. E. and empties itself at Damietta, the ancient Pelusium; the other runs to the N. W. and falls into the sea at Rosetta; this latter branch we had much intercourse with during our stay, frequently receiving supplies of water and provisions. These branches are about one hundred miles asunder, forming a principal part of Lower Egypt. This part of Lower Egypt, called at present, the Delta, having the greatest advantage by the overflowing of the Nile, whose salutary streams always bring fertility, is by far the most fruitful; the ground yields abundant crops, wheat, barley, rice, pulse, &c. rise surprisingly quick. The mud acted on by intense heat sometimes sends up unwholesome vapours, but its other wonderful and peculiar advantages compensate; for this annual flood always fertilizes the ground, and generally purifies the atmosphere. Without its genial streams the soil would be sterile, for in parts where the waters of the Nile do not reach, barrenness prevails.

Rain is seldom felt in Lower Egypt. During the four months of our stay, I did not observe one powerful shower; but excepting two or three siroccos, or winds of the deserts, and the tempest before related, an almost constant succession of sea breezes prevailed. These breezes keep back the waters of the Nile, which otherways would flow too fast, and prevent the fructification of its banks and plains to their full extent; this opposition is sometimes so powerful, as to render the entrance difficult. Our boats were several times impeded by this opposition, but during all our other visits to this extensive coast, the landing was easy.

There is probably no country in the world where the soil is more fruitful than in Egypt, which, under Divine Providence, is owing entirely to the Nile. The husbandman in this country has no occasion to fatigue himself with the breaking up of the land, for as soon as the Nile retires, he has little to do with the earth but to temper it, after which he sows with great ease, and with little expence. The waters retire in the months of October and November, and as

they draw off, he harrows the grain into the mud, and in five or six weeks after this short and easy process, the fields are covered with various sorts of corn and pulse; and in the months of March and April following, they experience a plentiful harvest, and the land which is not sown, is abundant in herbage, &c. and becomes rich pasture, which is another source of wealth to Egypt. At present the ground affords subsistence to near three millions of inhabitants, and exports considerable quantities; and, had they the blessings of a liberal and active government, their exports might soon be greatly increased.

Both sacred and profane history agree in describing the richness of its pastures, the number of cattle, and the immense quantities of corn produced in this country; their flocks and herds are even now remarkably fine, and grow in a very little time; their sheep in general have large and heavy tails; weighing from eight to twelve pounds; their poultry also is abundant, and they have a peculiar method of hatching by ovens. A proof of its ancient prolific soil may be variously seen in the interesting history of the ancient Israelites.

The fruits are excellent, various, and abundant; melons, dates, plantains, grapes, figs, &c. &c. are amply produced, and together with abundance of fish, and a little bread, form a plentiful meal to its temperate inhabitants at a very easy rate.

But Divine Providence in blessing this country with such a wonderful and salutary river, did not thereby intend that the inhabitants of it should be idle, and enjoy so great a blessing without some application on their parts; but, that there should still be a stimulus to industry and activity, so necessary for the well being of mankind, ordered, that as the Nile does not of itself cover the whole country, labour should be necessary to facilitate the overflowing of the lands; as the sun is extremely hot, being but a few degrees from vertical in summer, and rains fall very seldom in it, it is natural to suppose, that the earth would soon be parched unless some means were used to draw from the Nile a sufficiency of water; therefore numbers of canals are cut, in order to convey the waters to these more remote parts, and refresh, and fructify the whole.

At the height of the flood, the whole champagne country is covered, and the towns and villages built on eminences, appear like so many islands, connected by causeways, and interspersed with trees. The inhabitants contemplate this



rich sea with admiration and delight, celebrate this ancient and annual visit, and know by the height of the waters the produce of the ensuing harvest.

The villages and towns are numerous near the banks of the Nile, have each their canals and reservoirs, which are opened at proper seasons, to let the water into the country, and by the same means the inhabitants of the most distant parts, have their share of it also.

The countries overflowed by this wonderful river, are so extensive and low, that of all the waters which flow into Egypt, it is supposed, that not a tenth part of them reaches the sea.

Egypt has been long considered by the Ottoman government as a farm, and had they been equally solicitous to encourage its resources, as they are expert in drawing supplies, it would have yielded half as much again. Unhappily for this country, its governors, in general, acting on a narrow and selfish principle, instead of a broad and liberal policy, have checked its abundance, and Egypt has generally poured forth her stores to enrich impolitic and ungrateful masters.

The Ottoman government would do well to consider this important subject, which so nearly concerns them, adopt measures to encourage agriculture and every species of industry, by giving increasing security to property, and by banishing that wretched and narrow policy, which cramps honest enterprise; every cultivator of his natural soil would then exert himself to produce the utmost, and thereby tend to the prosperity of all. This encouragement would not only improve the soil, but considerably tend to check the progress of those dreadful diseases, which so often desolate this celebrated country; for wise policy would stimulate to generous independence, civilization, and improvements in building; cleanliness would ensue, fresh channels of commerce would be opened, lime and brick might be introduced, instead of mud walls; houses white-washed, and purified; marshes and stagnant waters drained, with many other improvements continually opening, which the inhabitants would be glad to avail themselves of, with a combination of improved medical skill, which Great Britain, and other enlightened nations should gladly encourage, would in time correct the corrupted exhalations, check the ravages of disease, and enable the people of this country to anticipate the annihilation of the plague, and other diseases.

The ancients were quite in the dark respecting the source of the Nile, and according to their usual custom, rendered

this subject more impenetrable, by enveloping it in fables and other subtleties; but it is now no longer a matter of dispute; modern travellers, especially Mr. Bruce, having well ascertained its origin, describing it as rising from two springs which are near the foot of a great mountain in Abyssinia; its beginnings are very small, but are soon increased by numerous rivulets and lakes, still receiving, as it runs, it soon becomes a considerable river; after various windings and collections, it proceeds by Cairo, and then falls into the Mediterranean, as before described. Its inundations are owing to the great rains which fall in Ethiopia.

CHAP. XIX.

Farther Description of the Nile—Simplicity of the first Adepts in Medicine—Hot Sands often pernicious, especially to Strangers—Diseases—Recent Investigation—Death of Dr. White.

THE Nile not only nourished the soil and purified the air, but by means of many curious and extensive canals, cut by the ancient Egyptians, cities and villages were united and defended, commerce was carried on and extended, the riches of the Indies flowed into Egypt, and from hence it was distributed to other parts of Africa, Europe, Asia, &c.

The governors of Egypt had placed at Memphis, a scale on which the different increases of the inundation was marked, and from thence notice was given to all the rest of Egypt, the inhabitants of which knew by that means beforehand, what they might promise themselves from the ensuing harvest; and from the earliest ages the overflowing of the Nile was always attended with an universal joy throughout the country, that being the fountain of their plentiful harvests. Other nations participated in the general blessing, as this country has been a public granary long before the rise of Rome, and supplied that vast city, as well as Byzantium, and many more modern, with grain.

The overflowing of the Nile led to several arts and sciences of great utility. To adjust the property of their lands, they were obliged to have recourse to measuring and surveys; and this first taught them geometry; and as their country was level, and the air generally serene and unclouded, they were

some of the first that observed the courses of the planets. Those observations led them to regulate the year from the course of the sun.

It led also to natural philosophy, by which study they invented or improved the science of physic, which in those ages was easily comprehended; as soon as any sanative or medicinal herb was discovered, its success was registered and made public, that others might experience the same benefit; the physicians were obliged to follow fixed rules, which were the observations of old and experienced practitioners; who generally confined their practice to the cure of one disease only.

The air and soil, varies much in proportion to its proximity to the Delta and the coast, and during three months of my stay it was intensely hot: in travelling the sands, which are frequently in hills, I have found the entrance into the vales as if going to the mouth of an oven, and when the sea breezes fail, there is danger to be apprehended from this intense heat, increased by the hot sands. One of our seamen being near the banks of the Nile, wearied and heavy, thoughtlessly falling into a sleep, quite exposed to the powerful rays of a summer's sun, was so struck, that he was brought on board, and soon after expired.

At the dry and hot season diseases prevail. During the late events in Egypt, opportunities have been afforded, and men of science and benevolence have bent the whole force of their powers to investigate the nature, causes, and effects of the plague; their united efforts have reflected considerable light and information on this important subject; and remedies* have been applied, which if not a specific, have tended to stop its ravages, and often to a cure; and both French and English physicians, appear almost unanimous, that the further prosecution of this interesting subject will prove this terrible malady is not always contagious†, confined to atmosphere, and local‡; hence we are gratified to find a con-

* The embrocation of oils has been found to check its progress, and mercury, in its early stages, has had a happy effect. We had a Frenchman on board, who informed us, he was cured by cutting out the part affected; the scars were visible, and he said the incision in his leg was performed by himself.

† During the marches of the French, English, and Turkish armies, they frequently passed through a country where the plague raged, and were often so incautious as to form habits of intimacy, in bartering or buying of the natives infected, and yet frequently escaped contagion.

‡ Illustrated by the longer continuance of the symptoms at Aboukir, during our stay, while the sea breezes prevailed and prevented the absorption of the putrid matter.

ERRATUM IN COLLINS'S VOYAGE.

We are under the necessity of breaking off rather abruptly in the concluding part of Collins's Voyage, owing to the following circumstances. The Author, at the advice of many friends, had printed a few copies of his work in a small pocket volume, previously to its appearance in the present form. These few were only intended to be circulated amongst his particular friends, and with a view to give still farther publicity to sentiments which do the more honour to him, because they are so rarely found amongst persons of his profession, the Publisher consented to reprint them in the present volume of the "Modern and Contemporary Voyages and Travels." As the work proceeded, however, it was discovered that two or three leaves were wanting at the end of the original volume, and though many efforts have been made to procure another copy, the attempt has been unsuccessful, in consequence of the Author being now again in the service of his country. The few passages which are deficient, may however, be easily supplied by the imagination of the reader. One result of our inquiries respecting the deficient paragraphs is, that we have been assured by one of the Author's friends, that when he left Egypt, he proceeded direct to England, but did not, during the whole passage, meet with a single event worthy of particular notice. He concludes his volume with some well-merited compliments to Dr. White, who fell a sacrifice to the interest which he took in discovering the causes of the plague, and with a dissertation on the advantage of religious sentiments amongst seamen in general.

END OF COLLINS'S VOYAGE.

COLLINS.]



THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

The history of the United States is a story of growth and expansion. From a small collection of colonies on the eastern coast, it grew into a vast nation spanning a continent. The early years were marked by struggle and the search for a common identity. The American Revolution was a pivotal moment, establishing the principles of self-governance and individual rights. The subsequent decades saw westward expansion, territorial acquisitions, and the challenges of slavery and sectionalism. The Civil War was a defining conflict that resolved the issue of slavery and preserved the Union. The Reconstruction era followed, a period of rebuilding and the struggle for civil rights. The late 19th and early 20th centuries brought industrialization, urbanization, and the rise of a powerful federal government. The 20th century was characterized by global conflicts, social movements, and technological advancement. The United States emerged as a superpower, influencing the world through its economic and cultural reach. Today, the United States continues to evolve, facing new challenges and opportunities in a globalized world.

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DIRECTIONS TO THE BINDER.

There being no Engravings to accompany this Volume, except the Map to Bolingbroke, the Binder has only to arrange the Works, as usual, in the following order: 1. Bolingbroke; 2. Ashe; 3. Collins; 4. Four in England.

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