

peared to be chiefly inhabited by Greeks. Here I again found fragments of ancient pillars, of the same dimensions, and of a stone similar to those which I had observed in the plains of Troy. Even in this miserable place there was a coffee-house, into which some Turks, who were sitting at the door, made signs for me to enter. When I had done so, a venerable old man immediately warmed a little coffee, which he presented in two small cups, one within the other, with all the grounds, and without sugar or milk ; and afterwards a draught of cold water, and a pipe of Syrian tobacco. The land round this village, though high, was fertile and tolerably cultivated ; and in and round it were many fountains of clear and excellent water. On my return I met a long string of loaded camels ; that animal so characteristic of Asia. Several young ones were running alongside of their dams, being thus early accustomed to the fatigues of travelling. Four Turks on horseback, and

loaded with arms, closed the procession, and saluted me with great civility. This evening calm, with clear moonlight.

Saturday, 31st.—About mid-day a favourable breeze sprang up, and we weighed anchor. The current running strongly against us, it was four o'clock before we passed the narrow entrance of the Dardanelles. Fortifications on each side, constructed by the French engineer De Tott, and which appear a jumble of European and Asiatic styles, are provided with enormous pieces of artillery. These, however, could not be fired above two or three times before they might be effectually silenced by a few ships of war; so little are the advantages of the most admirable military and political situations understood by this ignorant people. The wind, however, did not long continue to favour us; it once more fell calm, and we were obliged to anchor at the mouth of a small river on the Asiatic side, near Lapsaco. In the night-time, however, we

were again allured by light and favourable airs to get under weigh; but were again deceived, and glad to reach the European shore, where we anchored about day break. Such are the tantalizing winds which are generally experienced here at this season of the year by vessels bound up to Constantinople. Those, on the contrary, steering downwards, sail rapidly along, with winds generally favourable, and a strong current constantly so; and this stream which sometimes detains vessels bound to the eastward many weeks, nay, months, is the only inconvenience attending the noble strait separating Europe from Asia.

Sunday, 1st June.—At mid-day a favourable breeze sprang up, and we once more got under weigh. All this day the wind continued fair; and before sun-set we had passed Gallipoli, a large town on the western side of the Hellespont, where it begins to open out into the sea of Marmora. In fine weather nothing can ex-

ceed the beauty of the whole of this navigation ; having Europe constantly on the one hand and Asia on the other. Of these the Asiatic shore is the more varied and romantic, presenting spots of singular beauty, though almost wholly abandoned to nature ; but on the European side there are in general more symptoms of cultivation ; especially as we approach Constantinople. Towns and villages are oftener seen, and have a more thriving appearance. At ten o'clock at night, being beautiful moonlight, we passed the high and rocky island of Marmora, lying in the middle of the sea to which it gives name. Even by the faint light of the moon we could discern the distant mountains of Asia, and the outlines of Olympus darkly towering above all ; an extinguished Etna, to which it is similar in shape, and almost equal in height.

Monday, 2d.—By day-break we were within twenty miles of Constantinople, and the wind continuing sometimes to fa-



your, and sometimes to baffle us, by eleven o'clock we were off the Seven Towers, an ancient fortification, now well known as a state prison, and which bounds Constantinople on its south western angle. Soon afterwards we passed Seraglio Point, when we immediately opened the port, and had a full view of this celebrated city.

## CHAP. VIII.

*Constantinople.—Passage to Smyrna.—  
Smyrna.*

IN conformity with my plan in passing through Italy, I shall say but little of this city, so often described and so justly celebrated. A residence of seven days gave me time to observe some of its principal features, but not sufficient to collect materials for adding to the information already possessed on the subject; and Gibbon has described it with such a masterly hand, that it must greatly change in appearance before any fresh account becomes requisite. On every side it rises from the edge of the water up to the summits of its seven hills, which it covers as well as the intermediate vallies. The port is among the most beautiful and commodious in the world; and such is the depth of water

that vessels of the greatest burthen may be moored close to the principal wharfs. Towers, palaces, the domes of ancient mosques, built for far other rites than those of Mahomet, innumerable slender minarets, and lofty trees mingled with houses, give to the whole a romantic and most striking appearance, totally differing in character from any city I have yet beheld. The neck of land on which the seraglio and its gardens stand, presents a most admirable situation for the palace of a great monarch in the metropolis of his empire. Within his walls the Sultan may enjoy the most profound retirement, amid groves of ancient trees or delicious gardens. Yet he has only to mount a terrace to behold all the bustle of an immense city; and every vessel that enters the port must pass within a few hundred yards of the outer walls. The greater part indeed come close by the point, particularly when it is calm, or the wind contrary, and it is thought adviseable to tow them against the current.

From every point of view the Seraglio has a charming effect. Besides a great number of palaces, houses, and groves of venerable cypress and other trees within its inclosures, the Mosque of St. Sophia stands close to one of the gates, and in a general view mingles its domes and minarets with the whole scene. A moderately high wall surrounds the whole; and no Christian, without a firman or licence from the Grand Signior, can enter the gates. The sight of these majestic groves, which tower above the walls and some of the palaces, almost makes a stranger forget the restraint which reigns within; and even this slight feeling for individuals is soon removed by the reflection that the whole is in unison with the general state of manners among the Turks. In point of restraint, there is little difference between the Sultana and the wife of the poorest artisan.

During the time of my stay at Constantinople, warlike preparations were carrying on with great activity. Every day a Fri-

gate or ship of war fully equipped was sent out of the marine arsenal, and anchored above the suburb of Topana, where a small fleet was already collected. In all points they endeavoured as much as possible to imitate the customs of the English navy; striking their colours and firing muskets at sun-set. On shore several camps were formed. At Scutari, on the Asiatic shore, thirty thousand men were already collected, and their numbers daily increasing. As a novelty in Turkey, barracks were erecting and almost finished at a little distance from the town, and sixty thousand men are said to be already armed and disciplined in the European manner. If, however, their tactics are not superior to those of a small body of gunners that I saw daily paraded near the arsenal, their more intelligent enemies will have little to apprehend from them. The unskilfulness with which they performed the simplest movements was truly striking.

From this great concourse of troops to the vicinity of the capital, and from the miserable and unsettled state of many of the provinces, provisions were rising in price at Constantinople, and murmurs began to be heard. But nothing can be easier than to lower the price of bread. The Sultan passed an edict that it should not be sold above a certain rate, under pain of death, and several unfortunate Greek bakers were almost immediately the victims of this edict, being hanged before their own doors, on a charge of having violated it. It is evident that similar measures will be resorted to in other departments; what then can be expected from a government so ignorant of the first elements of political economy?

Constantinople swarms with dogs in every quarter, which live in the streets like wolves in an immense forest. The constant presence of man deprives them of their ferocity; but they roam about as if in a state of nature, and, except in the

suburbs of Pera, generally bark at Franks, whom they readily distinguish by their dress. In the night time it is even dangerous for an European stranger to walk alone, as well on this as on other accounts; before nine o'clock in the evening the Turkish streets are almost entirely deserted, and stories are related of solitary strangers being attacked and even torn to pieces by troops of hungry dogs. They are said to observe their separate streets and quarters with great exactness, and not to permit any intruders amongst them. No sooner does such an one appear, than the whole tribe is up in arms against him, nor is he safe until he has passed the limits of his own territories.

It is singular that, notwithstanding its admirable situation, the commerce of Constantinople is trifling in proportion to the population and extent. For one foreign vessel bound directly and expressly to this port, ten at least go to Smyrna, either to carry or take away cargoes. This suffi-

ently demonstrates that none of the great articles of export from Turkey are raised to the eastward of Constantinople ; and indeed, casting our attention to the eastward and southward, we find that Asia Minor and the Grecian islands produce all the cotton, silk, wool, drugs, gums, &c. which the Turks give in exchange to other nations. Notwithstanding this, however, with a mild government, the capital, when a seaport, would always attract a considerable share of commerce ; but under the ignorant despotism which now oppresses it, little more is imported than what is likely to be consumed on the spot. It is impossible to behold without regret a situation marked by nature and chosen by man as the centre of a great kingdom, in the hands of the Turks, a people totally incapable of appreciating its advantages and importance. But great events are fast hastening to maturity ; before half a century be elapsed the sword may retake what the sword has gained, and christian rites



once more be celebrated within the walls of St. Sophia.

Having now obtained the farthest object to which my journey tended, and having gratified my ardent desire of seeing Constantinople, it behoved me to think in what manner I should return to England. To effect this there appeared to me three principal routes; either to go wholly by land through Belgrade and Vienna to whatever port on the German Ocean might appear most eligible; to pursue my voyage up the Black Sea as far as Odessa, and then across Russia to Petersburgh or Riga, where I was certain of finding vessels bound to England; or, thirdly, to return on my steps to Smyrna, and thence embark directly for England. The first of these modes was the most to my inclination, but various obstacles presented themselves; above all, the state of insurrection in which the country was between Constantinople and the German territories. This consideration, at all times

of importance, was rendered still more so by the recent fate of Mr. Wood, an English messenger, who had been murdered at about one hundred miles from Constantinople. A boy who accompanied him saved his own life by throwing himself down in a shallow pool of water, where he contrived to breathe, while he lay as if dead; and when soon afterwards a caravan passed by, he gave intelligence, and the body of his master was decently interred. A favourite dog of Mr. Wood gave a fresh example of the fidelity of these animals. He had watched the dead body of his master; and when it was buried he stretched himself across the grave. Here he lay for several days, and could not be enticed away, until being nearly exhausted by hunger and watching, he returned to Constantinople, and suddenly appeared at the door of his master's former habitation, worn almost to a shadow. The second plan presented no similar dangers or difficulties; but the winds were not only contrary at

present for vessels bound up the Black Sea, but, from the season of the year, likely to continue so. After mature deliberation, therefore, I adopted the third plan, and resolved to return to Smyrna, for which port I was informed there are small vessels sailing almost every day.

Monday, 9th.—The wind still continuing to blow from the north-east, and no appearance of its changing, I have resolved to return upon my steps; and through the channel of a Greek agent find out a Turkish boat going to Smyrna. The regular passage-money I am informed is five Turkish piastres; a Spanish dollar being worth at Smyrna upwards of four piastres. This for a distance of four hundred miles appeared to me very reasonable; and the agreement was immediately made. Having taken a farewell dinner on board of the Success, about four o'clock, I left her with my baggage, and was soon conveyed on board of the boat, which in another hour weighed anchor and set sail.

These boats, called Saickalevas, are in general from about twenty to five and twenty tons burthen, and rigged in a manner nearly similar to the Maltese speronaras, excepting that they carry a small sail close abaft, and a regular top sail and top-gallant sail, in place of the small triangular top-sail used by the Maltese. Like them, however, they use a long boom, slanting outwards from the foot of the foremast, and serving as a sprit to a very large mainsail, which they haul close aft when going upon a wind. On board of this bark, including the crew, there were upwards of fifty men, besides two women and a boy, whom I did not, nor could not, then notice, they being stowed away among the lumber below. I had provided myself for the voyage with three small loaves of bread, of about a pound each, and a few raisins. This they informed me would be sufficient, as the boat would probably be at the Dardanelles the ensuing day, where I might lay in a fresh stock. Meantime, while

wind and tide united to carry us rapidly from Constantinople, I kept my eyes fixed upon that celebrated city, till darkness shut in its towers and minarets from my view. When night came on I looked about a long time in vain for an empty space upon deck where I might lie along to sleep. At length, though not without much grumbling on the part of some of the Turks, I stretched myself out upon a plank which lay across the main-hatchway. A little after midnight, awaking, and finding myself very cold, I descended towards a little berth which I imagined to be half full of goods. Immediately a great uproar. One of the Turks struck me whilst I was entangled, and before I could disengage myself I heard the voices of women below. I at once conceived how far I must have awakened Eastern prejudices, and refrained from returning the compliment; so that I had no other resource but to betake myself once more to my solitary plank, where I slept till day-break.

Tuesday, 10th.—At sun-rise we are already past the island of Marmora, and the wind continuing directly astern, we reach the Dardanelles by three o'clock in the afternoon. Here the boat anchored; and a Turkish agent came off to us, and exacted three piastres from every Turk, and six from every Greek or Armenian on board. The Franks, of whom there were several besides myself, were not called upon to pay any thing. In addition to the regular tribute, the rapacious agent exacted more from the captain, who was obliged, most unwillingly, to draw one piece of money after another out of his purse. After a long dispute the harpy appeared at length satisfied, and left us; when we immediately weighed anchor, and got under sail, without a possibility of my going on shore to buy more bread. This evening the Turk who had struck me the preceding night, presuming on my quietness in that instance, took an opportunity to quarrel with and strike me again. But

being now sure of the justice of my cause, I attacked and upset him in an instant; telling him, at the same time, in Italian, that I was an Englishman, and would not put up with a blow. In confirmation of this I rummaged for my pistols, and laid them under my head, in token of my resolution. This immediately made my antagonist alter his tone; and even the rest of the Turks, who I was afraid would have taken his part, and set upon me with their daggers, for daring to strike a Mussulman, ever afterwards treated me with some respect. A long conversation afterwards took place among these wise politicians, in which the words *Inglese* and *Egypt* frequently repeated, were all that I understood.

Wednesday, 11th.—On waking this morning at day-break find the sloop at anchor under a high promontory, which they inform me is called Cape Baba. This is the most western point necessary to be doubled in going from Constantinople to

Smyrna, by the inward passage between the island of Mytelene and the main land. On the summit stands a fort, upon which are mounted a few guns, all of different calibres, and with such miserable carriages that they must dismount themselves at the very first fire. Near the fort is a town, or rather village, inhabited chiefly by Turks, mixed with a few Greeks. Here are manufactured great numbers of attagans, or Turkish swords, resembling large knives, but rather concave on the edge. Their scymetars, on the contrary, are much more convex than those used by the generality of European cavalry, and, contrary to our custom, they wear them by their sides, with the convex or sharp edge uppermost. The arms made at Cape Baba are highly esteemed throughout Turkey. As the wind detained us here the whole of the day, I had as much time as I could wish to examine the place and the surrounding country. The first is poor and mean in appearance; but the latter presents



many grand views, and suggests many important observations. From the summit of Cape Baba may be seen to the northward the island of Tenedos, and the Asiatic side of the entrance of the Dardanelles, and, doubtless, in clear weather, Lemnos, Imbro, and other islands to the north-west. Close in view, directly south, lies Mytelene, but stretching away to the westward; and to the east lies the deep gulph of Casadaly, and the high lands which form the southern side of its entrance. Such were the objects discernible when the atmosphere was by no means clear; in fine weather the view must be still more extensive and delightful. But independently of the different views, the Cape itself must always be an interesting object to the naturalist. Its base, formed of close solid rock; half way up a porous stone, resembling sponge, and apparently tinged with sulphur; and above that, torrents of mud, filled with large smooth stones, and adhering so strongly, that

large masses separate, and roll down without breaking into small pieces. Even to me these objects were striking. At the village I renewed my stock of bread and raisins; and in the evening resumed my wooden couch, the possession of which no person seemed now inclined to dispute with me.

Thursday, 12th.—Got under weigh at sun-rise with a fine breeze, but not sufficiently favourable to allow us to go between Mytelene and the main; we were obliged therefore to stand still farther to the westward, to double that island. About eight o'clock we passed close by a small boat filled with water, and although most probably it had merely parted while towing astern of some vessel, yet at sea meeting similar objects, even the smallest piece of wreck has a melancholy effect. We went close round the west end of Mytelene, through a very narrow and dangerous passage, between that island and two or three other small islands and rocks.

which lie off the point. Within, there is a fine bay and anchorage for small vessels, but the depth of water at the entrance is not above three fathoms. About the centre of the bay is a fort, built to keep off the small Maltese privateers, who in their former wars with the Turks used to shelter here, and keep the island in perpetual alarm. All day we kept running along shore, and towards evening stretched over for the gulph of Smyrna. At sun-set were becalmed off Cape Kara Couroun, having the island of Scio in full view upon our right.

Friday, 13th.—This morning entered the gulph with light but favourable airs, which continuing, we came to anchor off Smyrna before mid-day. Although only in a paltry boat, it yet carried two small guns, with which they saluted the other vessels; and in return, all the Turkish, and several of the Grecian barks, hoisted their colours, fired guns, and beat their monotonous drums. The Turks, like boys, are

fond of the noise and smoke of artillery. We were presently surrounded with boats, and in a short time I once more set my foot on the shore of Smyrna.

Saturday, 14th.—My first care was to enquire whether there were any vessels in the port bound to England, but found only one, and that not likely to sail for some time. I was thus detained five weeks here, which gave me an opportunity of correcting or confirming my former ideas of the place.

Smyrna is situated on the south-east side, and towards the head of the gulph to which it gives name. It is built partly on a narrow flat along the water, and partly on the side of a steep hill of considerable height, on the top of which are the remains of a very old castle, formerly the citadel of the town. This hill runs obliquely to the bay, so that it continues to leave more and more space between its skirts and the water. The other ridges, both of high mountains and smaller hills,

with which it is connected, make a semi-circular sweep round the head of the bay, and the sea has evidently receded from their bases, leaving a fertile and extensive flat to the eastward of the town. The origin of Smyrna is involved in the uncertainty of Grecian fable. As it was one of the seven cities which claimed the honour of Homer's birth, it must even at that period have been long established ; for the number of claimants sufficiently shews that each trusted more to its own antiquity and splendour than to any positive proofs that could be adduced. Certain it is, that in the earliest period of commerce in this part of the Mediterranean, the present site of Smyrna must have offered advantages for the foundation of a city too obvious to be overlooked. In a country where there are few or no large navigable rivers, men would naturally resort to the bottom of deep gulphs and bays, which in many respects supply their place. The gulph of Smyrna possesses peculiar advan-

tages ; for although at first sight it may appear very open, there is yet a bank which stretches along its north-western shore, and in one part approaches so near to a point of land, on the opposite or south side, as to leave only a narrow passage of about half a mile for ships of ordinary burthen. This pass must in all periods have easily admitted of defence ; and consequently any towns situated within it have been out of danger of attacks by sea. Upon this point, which is about eight miles from the present town, the Turks have built a miserable fort, with a few guns of wide calibre, but without carriages, to which they trust for the defence of Smyrna. An intelligent people would erect a fort upon the bank, where there are not above eight or nine feet of water, and which might at the same time be made to serve for a light-house. Such a fort, together with batteries upon both shores, might effectually prevent even the smallest boat from passing. In other points of

view, this bank, composed of a very soft mud, and the flat lands which surround the head of the bay, sufficiently shew that it is gradually filling up, like that arm of the sea near which ancient Ephesus stood, but which is now converted into an immense marshy flat. Such are the revolutions of ages.

The town viewed from the bay presents nothing striking; except perhaps the mixture of cypress trees with the houses. The minarets are low, and few in proportion to its extent; neither are there any clusters of lofty domes, as in the mosques of Constantinople. Amid this paucity of objects the national flags of the different European factories along the shore attract the eye of a stranger. The height of the flag-staffs, and their painting and gilding, seem to be great subjects of emulation; and in time of war it appears at first sight somewhat singular to behold English, French, and Dutch colours waving close together. These colours mark the quarters

of the Franks along the edge of the bay ; and around them in every direction are the habitations of the Greeks and Armenians. Turk Town, as it is called, forms the centre and western part of Smyrna ; and the quarter of the Jews is above all, on the steepest slope of the hill. Their burying-ground open and unadorned with trees, bounds the whole to the south-west. On every other side the number and extent of the Turkish burying-grounds are astonishing ; but especially to the eastward. Here, as at Constantinople, they are thickly planted with cypresses, which form long narrow cones. The Turks bury their dead chiefly in the night ; and place the body fronting towards Mecca. At each end of the grave are upright stones ; that at the head ornamented with a turban, carved on the top, and generally painted, by which means the rank of the deceased is known. If for a female the grave-stone is commonly plain, although some have miserable representa-



tions of mosques carved upon them. Inscriptions in gilt letters from the Koran are common to both. Low stones mark the graves of youths, and the little turbans which ornament them form a striking and as plain a description as the weeping Cupids, the drooping flowers, or the torch reversed, of an English tomb-stone.

The Greeks, on the contrary, so far from burying in the night, carry their dead with the face uncovered; and if it be a child or a young person, they strew the bier with flowers. It is an affecting sight to behold the body of a beautiful child carried along like a waxen image, drest out in its best clothes, and covered with roses. The Jews have different modes of interment; and we know what are the ceremonies of the Franks. Were there twenty different sects in Smyrna, they would all be distinguished by different rites, for it is in the ceremonies practised after birth, marriage, or death, that the

different tribes of mankind take a pride in distinguishing themselves.

Smyrna is said to contain one hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants : but from the sea its apparent extent does not seem to justify the belief of so large a population. On entering the town, however, we find the streets exceedingly narrow, which, joined to the crowded manner in which the Asiatics live together, renders it credible. Every thing arrests the attention of an European traveller on his first landing at an Asiatic town. The form of the buildings, the narrow streets, the bazars or rows of covered shops, the dress of the inhabitants, their turbans, their flowing robes, their red, yellow, and green boots, and their expressive features, with long beards or mustachios ; all form a contrast to the manners which he has hitherto been accustomed to observe. From their long and extensive intercourse with foreigners, or rather of foreigners with

them, a man in the European dress is scarcely stared at in any quarter of the town; but there is little pleasure in traversing it, one street being so like another, all narrow, and most of them inconvenient. The kennel is in the middle, and occupies one half of the width, and as it is there that the asses and camels pace along, if there happens to be any water or mud you are sure to be splashed from head to foot. Few horses are to be seen; even the Franks frequently making their excursions upon asses, riding with short stirrups, and upon a kind of wooden cradle rather than a saddle.

Upon the top of the hill above the town are the ruins of an old fortress, once the citadel of Smyrna. I was informed that it was sometimes dangerous to wander there; but not being able to find a companion, I was obliged, if I wished to examine it, to go alone. The top of the hill is a solid rock, and where there is any soil it appears to have been artificially

formed. On the eastern side is a deep valley, the rocks rising from it very steep and abrupt, so that the castle must have been formerly impregnable on this side. The walls are in some parts quite entire, together with the steps for mounting the ramparts, but in other places they are fallen down, and nearly level with the rock. Within them are long subterraneous passages, and the ancient reservoir for water for the garrison. This is an oblong cut in the solid rock, of about one hundred feet by seventy, and twelve or fifteen in depth. It is divided by arches, supported on twenty-four square pillars, and many of the earthen pipes by which the water was poured down into it are still remaining. As it is formed on the very summit of the hill, very little rain could have been collected here, so that all the water must have been brought with great labour from below. Upon the whole, it may be called a representation on a smaller scale of the immense reservoir formed on

the heights above Baiæ. On the right hand of one of the entrances there is a colossal head, of white marble, seemingly Grecian, inserted in the wall, but which the Turks, with a barbarous piety, have entirely mutilated. Over the gateway is a long inscription in Greek; and two eagles, one on each side, chiselled out upon the stone, have escaped the mutilating piety of the Mahometans; but they are far from presenting any thing remarkable, either in the design or execution. Farther down the hill to the southward are the remains of a chapel, said to have been dedicated to St. John; and not far from it is a part of an old thick wall, which, with the faint outlines of a ditch, seems to indicate that the outworks of the castle formerly extended thus far. Out of the ruins of this chapel the Turks have constructed several tombs on the brow of the hill, and one of them which appeared recently built was adorned with the green boughs of trees.

About three miles from Smyrna, east,

is the pool or bath of Diana. It is said that a temple to Diana formerly stood here; and some remains of very solid walls, now overthrown by earthquakes, and lying in the water, sufficiently evince that there have been large buildings near the spot. This pool lies to the eastward of the town; and is formed by a number of beautiful and clear springs, which rise a little to the left of the high road to Burnéhat. This little piece of water, which might be rendered one of the greatest ornaments to the neighbourhood of Smyrna, is almost entirely neglected, and serves only to turn a mill, immediately after which it forms a small river, and falls into the bottom of the bay. The stream, though in some parts not above ten or twelve feet in breadth, is yet of depth sufficient to admit moderate sized boats up to the very source; and I have frequently seen them waiting for a load from the mill. Diana's Pool affords one instance amidst a thousand others of the

baneful influence of despotic power. Although lying in the neighbourhood of the most populous city of Asia Minor, surrounded by a flat and very fertile country, between the mountains, and the head of the bay, and affording a copious and perpetual run of fine water, it serves only the purposes of a single mill, and to supply a few ditches which divide the marshes towards the sea. A large oak spreads its branches over the principal spring, and now and then a Turk may be seen smoking in ignorant happiness under its shade. It is indeed, even at present, and might be rendered still more, a spot particularly calculated for the luxuries of a warm climate, affording gushing springs, the shade of trees, and a pure running stream. But who will speculate under a government where there is no security either for life or property? The Turks are very partial to such spots; but their indolence stops them about a mile and a half nearer to the town, on the same road, where a kind of

coffee-garden attracts great numbers every evening. It is nothing more than a short walk, formed by two rows of trees, upon the borders of the Meles, once sacred to Homer, but now a small brook, which is here dammed across, so as to collect the water to the width of six or eight yards. On the opposite side of the brook is a large burying-ground, full of tomb-stones and tall cypresses; and an old bridge of a single arch, over which runs the public road, completes the scenery of this Smyranean paradise. Under the shade of these trees, and on the border of this puddle, Turks, Greeks, Jews, Armenians, and Franks, unroll their mats, fold their legs under them, like the camel, and give themselves up to the reveries of coffee and tobacco. To enliven the scene, tellers of stories resort hither, and with ludicrous gestures and grimaces cheat the grave Turks into a smile, raising their ponderous mustachios as it were in spite of them. To imitate the staggering and



stuttering of a drunken man is a never-failing source of merriment, which is sometimes changed for the shriller voice and the gait of a woman, or the crying of a child. Having finished the tale, they beat a little tambourine, and go round the audience, like the slave of Ali Baba, collecting in it the paras (a small coin), which if their story has been well told are liberally bestowed. The representation of human life and manners will always be interesting to man; and the stage is founded on principles and feelings common to all nations. Where laws or superstitions interfere to prevent a close representation, men will still make as near approaches as possible. The relators of stories are the actors of the Turks, and coffee-houses are their theatres. Caravan Bridge is the theatre of Smyrna; and Aristotle himself, were he to rise from the dead, could not criticise the unity of the scene which, whether it be tragedy or comedy, a battle or a marriage, the sighing of a despairing

lover, or the roarings of a drunken Frank, is ever and still the same, a pond, a one-arched bridge, and a burying-ground.

Were I Sultan of Smyrna, I would cause a capacious basin to be hollowed out round Diana's Pool, which would soon be converted into a small but beautiful lake, the borders of which I would plant thickly with trees, the tall cypress, the spreading oak and the elm, and near them should grow the fig tree, the orange, the olive, and the vine. When my lake was once filled, the river would flow the same as before, and then I would turn my attention towards it. I would deepen it in some parts, widen it in others, make it flow in a straight line here, and there give it a noble curve. By the help of a single lock, a sufficient depth of water might always be preserved for boats even of a considerable burthen, besides supplying innumerable rills, to be conveyed over the whole of that extensive flat, at the head of the Gulph of Smyrna, which in the

course of ages has been gained from the sea. Then all this noble plain, which at present exhibits here a garden, there a sandy flat, and there a reedy marsh, would become one garden, thickly studded with houses. This plain would then, as now, be bounded on one side by the sea, and on the other by the steep mountains which curve round the head of the gulph. But then I cannot help thinking that my fig trees and vines would cross the narrow road of Burnéhat, and creep up the surrounding hills. I am certain they would. Nay, I vow to Heaven they shall. With that I rise in an extacy, and overturn at once my seat, and my hypothesis. I wake from my kingly dream, and find myself an Englishman in a foreign land, the abode of slavery. Nay, even the few English that are here know me not; and were I to die to-morrow would follow me to the grave without a tear. Why then should I alone struggle with the despotism which oppresses the whole empire, and crushes

every virtuous effort in the bud ? I will be a Greek ; and as I see no Turk near me, I will bury all my woes in momentary oblivion. Adieu, dreams, for the happiness of my brother men, why should they make me unhappy ? Give me wine, that I may forget my wretchedness. Give me wine, whether it be of Scio or Mytelene, that I may plunge into a delirious joy, and become so far emboldened as to dare secretly to curse my oppressors.

The neighbourhood of Smyrna presents few objects interesting to the antiquarian, so completely have the revolutions of time and nature obliterated the traces of its ancient grandeur. It is even disputed whether the present town stand upon the same spot as that which claimed the honour of Homer's birth. From the top of the hill, however, on which the castle stands, an aqueduct is visible across the valley below, to the eastward ; and I took an opportunity of visiting it. Arriving at Caravan Bridge, a path leads to the right,

and after passing through several gardens, and crossing the stream two or three times, we arrived at the Aqueduct about two miles up the valley. It is irregular, and badly built, of thirteen unequal arches, but double in the centre. The Meles flows underneath the middle arch ; and the solid masses of rock on each side of the valley covered at their summits with bushes, and at their bases with trees, render the scene at all times of interest, even in the height of summer, when the river of Homer scarcely creeps along its bed, and is lost among the gravel directly below the public road. Several parties of Turks, peaceably inclined, were sitting along the borders of the stream, smoking their pipes in profound silence. Others who were abroad, of a different disposition, fired with ball from the heights, and the report and the sound of their bullets striking the rocks near me, were heard almost at the same instant. These people always carrying loaded arms take a boyish pleasure in

using them ; and if by mistake or otherwise the ball should go through the head of some Frank, it is only a Gaur or Infidel less in the world. This is their consolation, or rather a subject of boasting.

In Smyrna itself, except some towers and walls belonging to the old fortifications, I could discover but one spot which exhibited traces of antiquity. This was in the upper part of the town, in the middle of burying-grounds, where are still standing the shafts of some lofty pillars, and which are vaguely said to have constituted part of a great temple dedicated to Jupiter Olympus. The whole of the rest of those columns, once so sacred, have disappeared ; or, being broken into pieces, serve as head stones to the graves of ignorant Mussulmen. Near this spot, within a small inclosure, is a plain square altar of stone, with an inscription in Greek almost effaced. This is foolishly said to be Homer's seat, from which he delivered lectures to his scholars. It may have been the pedes-

tal of a statue ; but from its being within the site of the ancient temple, and the space round it unoccupied, there can be little doubt of its having been an altar, and the ground on which it stood long regarded as sacred. Such is a slight sketch of Smyrna ; let us now consider the inhabitants of this empire, as far as our short stay has enabled us to observe them.

## CHAP. IX.

*Characters of the Modern Turks and Greeks.*

THE different races which are under the Turkish government continue as separate and distinct from each other as the first day of their being assembled together. The Turk, the Greek, the Armenian, the Jew, and the Frank, though living in the same city, or even the same village, inhabit houses differently laid out, eat a different food, speak different languages, wear a distinguishing dress, and worship God with different rites. Over the whole the Turk is the master. The first glance announces it. He is generally tall, robust, and well-proportioned, and steps either with freedom or a settled gravity. His countenance, naturally fuller of expression



than that of the northern European, is rendered still more martial by his whiskers and turban. Whatever may be his accidental profession, he considers himself as born a soldier. It may be said that the subjects of the Grand Sultan are divided into casts, and that the Turk is the warrior or fighting tribe, which in all countries has ever been prone to abuse its strength, even without the additional incentive of difference in manners, language, and religion. It is not to be wondered at, then, that the Turks should domineer over the Greeks and Jews, whom they regard as tributaries and slaves. Instances of oppression and insult, both general and individual, sometimes indeed occur of a nature so atrocious as almost to exceed belief. Having acquired these fine countries by the sword, they seem conscious that they hold them by no other right; and go always armed, carrying loaded pistols and a long dagger in their belt, and which being embossed with silver, they delight to exhibit and

handle. With these sentiments, and surrounded only by slaves, they naturally acquire a haughty air which, from the state of their manners, partakes of ferocity. At the smallest provocation, and most often without any at all, their hands are ready to strike an Infidel, and they never dream of his having the madness or insolence to return the blow. If two stout Greeks be fighting in the street, a Turk comes between them, pushes each a different way ; and adds kicks and blows, should they still linger near each other. They look upon the life of an Infidel as of little more value than that of a brute ; and indeed do not seem to estimate their own at a very high rate. They have some traits of the true military character ; are fond of horses and arms ; and detest the sea. They delight in the pomp, and noise, and glitter, of war ; and they can blind themselves for a short time in the hour of battle to its dangers ; but its incessant fatigues soon dishearten them ; and although