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they insult the Christians at Constantinople and Smyrna, they have learnt to tremble before them on the banks of the Danube, and the borders of the Euxine. This, then, betrays the whole secret of their haughtiness. It is founded on the conquests of their remote ancestors, not on their own tried strength.

In a word, deluded by the semblance of war, and really enervated by long habits of peace, and by a religion, the rewards of which are entirely sensual, the Turk is willing to have a foretaste in this world of the cooling shades, the pure running streams, the soft slumbers, and the Houris of Paradise. Tents adorned with fringes, horses gaily caparisoned, and splendid arms, serve only to wake him gently from these luxurious dreams, that he may fall to slumber again with a better relish, and dream that he is a soldier. So much of war as consists in that he does not dislike. But long and tedious marches, painful wounds, above all, the profound study and

science of war, are wholly unsuited to his temper at once impetuous and indolent. Where it is possible by a single violent exertion to obtain his end, the Turk may succeed; but disappointed in that first effort, he retires like the tyger who has missed his spring, and requires a long interval of repose to recruit his scattered ferocity.

The radical and incurable defects of the Turkish character proceed in my opinion from their religion. All attempts of a legislature to define exactly, not merely what is vice and what is virtue, but also the daily and hourly duties of the man and the citizen, may form a peculiar and separate people, a nation of Jews or of Turks, but once formed, that nation remains for ever incapable of improvement. Such is the defect of the Koran. Its simple precepts, its strict prohibitions, were well calculated to bind together the wandering tribes of the Desert; but become too minute in some instances, and too desultory

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in others, when considered as the sole code of laws for an immense Empire, Swathing clothes may strengthen the child, but if not timely removed, effectually prevent its becoming a man. Mohammed fixed at once the moral limits of his people. He sketched no faint outline; but, on the contrary, marked it with so strong a hand, that the line of distinction is for ever drawn, not merely between the Turk and the Christian, but between the Turk and the philosopher. It is impossible to be a true Mussulman and a lover and cultivator of those arts and sciences which adorn and exalt mankind. The Koran must be laid aside before the sources of real knowledge can be opened. The Englishman, the Gaul, the German, and the Russian, may each preserve the characteristic manners and customs of his country, and be a Christian ; but the Jew or the Turk must be absolutely the same in all climates.

The Greeks form the next great class of

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the subjects of the Porte ; and it is impossible to survey their present condition without pity, or their character without some contempt. The name of Greece will ever be dear to the scholar; and he delights to trace, even in the vitiated dialect of its present inhabitants, an intimate connection with the language of Homer, of Plato, of Anacreon. He listens and feels a kind of pleasing surprize at hearing this language, perhaps even yet the noblest in use among men, spoken by mariners, by women, by servants, and by children. In his evening walks he eagerly returns the salutation of Kala nictan, or Kalo spera, with which they never fail to greet him; and ancient times are recalled still more strongly to his mind from the mountains, the sea, the plains around him, being all Grecian. He says to himself, " perhaps their customs are still less altered than their language ; such may have been nearly the dress of the mariners who fought at Salamis; such of the freemen

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who conquered at Marathon; and such the manners of their women." Like their ancestors, they are still fond of throwing the disc or quoit; like them, the olive still forms a material article of their food. But the pleasing delusion can be carried no farther. On longer and closer intimacy, he finds the modern Greek smooth but deceitful; boasting but cowardly; vain yet abject, and cringing under the most insulting tyranny; light and capricious without invention; talkative without information; and equally bigoted with the Spaniard or Italian, but without the same real warmth of devotion to excuse it.

There is no doubt but that the glories of his ancestors serve by the contrast to render his vices more prominent. Had we not been early taught to admire Grecian courage, wisdom, and talents, we might look upon the meanness of the present race with less emotion. But who can think, without regret, that the descendants of the conquerors of Marathon are

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cowards and slaves; that for so many centuries not a single poet has arisen in the country of Homer; and that the place of Plato and the Philosophers is supplied by ignorant priests; and of their scholars, by a still more ignorant people? The Greeks of this day present, in their moral character, the same spectacle as that of a man to whom Heaven has granted the doubtful blessing of very long life. The name, the glory of former days, and numerous other circumstances, are unchanged; but when compared with the past it is indeed a second childishness, and mere oblivion.

" Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans every thing."

But however debased in a moral point of view, the Greeks still retain much of what we may suppose to have been their former physical character. Few amongst them are deformed or ugly; but on the contrary, those from the Morea and the western islands of the Archipelago are in general remarkably stout, with broad shoulders and thick necks; whilst those of the

MODERN TURKS AND GREEKS. 221 other islands, and from Constantinople, Smyrna, and the coasts of Asia, supply by the elegance what is deficient in the strength of their make. Their physiognomies are expressive, but still less so than those of the Turks; and the women, when young, are generally beautiful and sprightly, but their beauty is of short duration. They are fond of wearing flowers on their head; and a robe sitting close to the body, and flowing loose behind, forms the Asiatic part of their dress, the remainder being very similar to that used by women in England or France. The men dress in short jackets and vests, with loose trowsers, which come just below the knee; and the common people, like the Turks, have the legs bare, with only a pair of slippers on the feet. They seldom shave the upper lip; which, with their bushy hair, and a little red cap on the crown of their heads serves often to give them a wild look, but never a dignified or martial air. Slavery is too strongly marked on every feature, and

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sadly fills up many a profile that would appear to have been destined for a Miltiades, a Conon, or a Philopæmen.

Even Turkish oppression, however, cannot entirely destroy the natural chearfulness of their dispositions, inspired by the fine climate under which they live. They are fond of songs and dancing; and there are few, even of their smallest vessels, which have not on board at least one musician, furnished with a small violin or rebeck, and sometimes the Spanish guitar. Upon these, when becalmed amongst the islands, or sailing with light breezes along the coast of Greece, they play wild, and often not unpleasing airs; and when a favourite tune is touched the mariners join their voices in concert. The first part of the English tune of God save the King is very popular with the Greeks at Smyrna; but the second is either beyond their abilities, or not suited to their taste. It is said, indeed, that they seldom retain the second part of any European tune.

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After all, the sensations with which we view the degraded state of Greece, and that of Rome, are very different, and arise from the same principles, which induce us to admire the conquerors, but to lament the departed benefactors of mankind. The modern German, or Gaul, or Briton, ascends the Capitol with a kind of triumph; or at least views the wide-spread ruins with a quiet melancholy. His heart is touched with pity for the general instability of human greatness, but not for the fate of the Romans. On the contrary, reflecting on the cruelty, the arrogance, the injustice of that people, and seeing all around him monuments of their triumphs over the ignorant courage of his ancestors, he feels as at the sight of the tomb of an unjust adversary; he does not insult his fate, but he does not lament it.

We deplore the degeneracy of Greece on the other hand with unmixed regret. Philosophy and Mathematics, Sculpture, Poetry, Painting, and Architecture; in short,

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all the arts and sciences which adorn and improve life were either cultivated or carried to perfection in this once happy country. In courage and the love of liberty its inhabitants yielded not to the Romans, and that unstained with the lust of universal conquest. We feel then towards them as instructors to whom we are indebted for so many of the blessings of science which we now enjoy; and we owe them no grudge for the honour of our forefathers. They did not stain the Danube, the Rhine, the Seine, or the Thames, with blood. On the contrary, they fought at Marathon, at Salamis, at Platea, not merely the battles of Greece, but of Europe, which they saved from an inundation of the Persians !

Such, then, are the different sensations with which we consider the downfal of the two people which, the one by arms and the other by arts, have had so great an influence in forming the manners and characters of modern Europe. But in lamenting the degeneracy of the Grecians, let us

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not adopt the idle clamour of attributing it entirely to the despotism of the Turkish government. They were a despicable race long before the Turks subdued them, and strong traces of their degeneracy may be discovered in their history two thousand years ago. They had begun to talk, and ceased to perform, before the Romans interfered in their affairs ; and at the Isthmean Games, Titus Quinctius * obliquely called them slaves by declaring them free. The extravagant joy to which they gave themselves up on that occasion is an exact picture of what might be expected from modern Greeks in similar circumstances. The true freeman needs no trumpet to declare that he is so. His looks, his expressions, his own right hand, are the heralds which proclaim his independence.

* See an admirable account of this solemn farce in Livy, lib. 33. cap. 32 and 33.

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Voyage to England.—Candia.—Political Observations on the Mediterranean.— Conclusion.

AFTER remaining five weeks at Smyrna, I sailed in an English brig bound to London. The Captain, alarmed by a current report of two French privateers being cruizing in the common track of vessels bound either up or down the Mediterranean. determined to avoid the supposed danger by steering a more unusual course, and going round the east end of Candia, the ancient Crete. About the middle of July we sailed from Smyrna; but calms and baffling airs detained us long in the mouth of the Gulph, and near the island of Scio. The highest peak in this island, when viewed from the south-south-east, resembles Ætna in shape, and although on a

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much smaller scale, is still a high mountain. On the ninth day after our departure we see the island of Rhodes; and on the eleventh were near Cape Solomon, the eastern extremity of Candia. We remained in sight of this island for seven days; sometimes working off, at others standing directly in for the land, and sometimes stretching along shore, from promontory to promontory, with a favourable breeze. We had thus an opportunity of discerning the whole of its southern side, which presents interesting and romantic views, being high land and full of variety. Here are steep mountains, terminating perpendicularly to the sea. There long slopes rising from the water's edge in terraces, of which we can sometimes count ten or twelve in regular succession, one above the other. Sometimes it presents deep vallies bare of trees, but varied by jutting cliffs, which shew the outlines of nature, without her drapery; and sometimes deep bays, where small barks

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are anchored. Here sharp peaks rise to the clouds, and are presently succeeded by long and level ridges or gentle undulations. One mountain appears to have been sundered by a violent earthquake; and is cleft in two, throughout the whole of its breadth, by a tremendous chasm. Mount Ida, on the contrary, the nursingplace of Jupiter, the theme of poets, but so long and so shamefully neglected by modern travellers and naturalists, shews above the clouds its volcanic summit, covered with the snows of many winters, and seems destined to perish only in the last convulsions of nature.

The whole is farther varied by steep rocks, which rise here and there from the bottom of the sea, and border the coast. As we approach the western extremity, we notice the small island of Gozo, with several smaller rocks, and distant from Candia about eight or ten leagues. One end of Gozo is worn by the waves into the form of arches, some of them of considerable

height, and through which the sea rushes with great violence. At length we lose sight of Candia, an island which in itself will be always interesting, although it no longer can boast of its hundred cities, its heroes, its legislators, and its Gods. Having now nothing to interrupt our course to Malta, we anxiously expect a favourable breeze; but so great is the general prevalence of calms or light airs in these seas, and at this season, that we did not reach that island till the thirtyeighth day after leaving Smyrna.

Here we were fortunate in finding a convoy appointed to sail for Gibraltar in a few days. This intelligence was the more agreeable on account of our brig being placed in quarantine, by which means I was effectually prevented from going ashore, except under the most disagreeable restrictions. After a week's stay we left Malta, in company with nineteen transports and two vessels of war, and in twenty-five days were anchored under the

rock of Gibraltar. From this place we were in a few days convoyed to the fleet under Lord Collingwood, then off Cadiz, by the Athenienne, which has since been so unfortunately lost near the coast of Africa. On account of the report that Jerome Buonaparte was at sea with four large ships, we received from Lord Collingwood a convoy of a ninety-eight gun ship and a seventy-four. Thus protected, we again proceeded on our course. On the morning of the 24th of October we first saw the English coast; and before mid-day were already past the Eddystone. On the 28th we anchored in Stangate Creek.

Whilst performing quarantine here, I had an opportunity of seeing that madness of imitation which prompts us blindly to copy foreign institutions, without properly attending to the principles on which they are formed. Our present mode of quarantine is the most convenient that can be imagined. The hulks of four old

line of battle ships, properly fitted up, are moored in Stangate Creek, a remote situation, and where vessels coming from abroad can lie close alongside of each, and deliver their cargoes with the greatest facility. Such a system was naturally suggested by our situation, and by the great number of our old ships of war, which, with little additional expence, can at all times be converted into floating lazarettos. But this system would not answer in the principal trading towns of the Mediterranean, because they do not stand upon navigable rivers, and cannot spare in their harbours sufficient space for the purpose. At Marseilles, Genoa, Leghorn, and up the Adriatic, at Venice, Ancona, and Trieste, lazarettos, consequently, are built at a very great expence; surrounded with ditches and high walls, and whither the cargoes of quarantined vessels can be conveyed only in boats.

In spite, however, of the great difference of circumstances, our floating laza-

rettos are about to be abandoned, in favour of a magnificent and expensive building now nearly completed, at the head of the Creek. It forms, indeed, a striking object in the middle of the flats and marshes with which it is surrounded, and which, if placed in the climate where plague originates, would soon convert it truly into a pest-house. Yet after weighing in my mind the advantages of both systems, I cannot but remain decidedly of opinion that we have abandoned the better, suggested by our own good sense, and the nature of circumstances, to take up the worse, originating in situations totally different. self and the second and the

Having thus arrived in England, and finding myself once more on a spot where I can breathe in safety, and speak with freedom, I cannot refrain from casting back a look on the shores and islands of the Mediterranean, although liberty and science no longer flourish there. Whilst in other quarters of the world we search

with much trouble for spots rendered illustrious by past events, the whole of the countries bordering on this sea are in a manner rendered sacred by history. Two lofty mountains, the pillars of Hercules. mark its entrance ; innumerable islands diversify its bosom, and nations of the most opposite characters, manners, and religions, inhabit its shores. Spain, Gaul, and Italy, Greece, and its Archipelago, the southern and western coasts of Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, and the whole of that part of Africa formerly under the dominion of Carthage, would form only part of the history of the Mediterranean. Let us, then, be allowed to glance over its present condition, and form conjectures as to its future destinies.

Scarcely do we enter upon our investigation, when we notice with regret, that almost the whole of its northern shore is either directly or indirectly under the dominion of France. In that immense gulph, formed by Spain, France, and

Italy, not a single port is open to a British vessel. At the extremity of the Italian arm of this gulph we find Sicily in the possession of the English, as it were by chance, and not through the motives of a sound policy or a foresight of its great advantages. Leaving Sicily, and passing the mouth of the Adriatic, we arrive at the outskirts of an immense empire, and which, either by arms or similarity of language, manners, and religion, possesses more or less influence over all the rest of the countries bordering on the Mediterranean. Lastly, England, so long as she holds Gibraltar and Malta, and can connect these distant spots by her naval strength, must always have a direct power of interference in the commerce and politics of this sea. Of these three empires, England and France are evidently in a state of progression; and neither appears able materially to check the advance of the other in the line which it has marked out. The Turkish empire, on the con-

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trary, is rapidly falling to decay. Pressed on all sides by foreign powers, but still more endangered by its own internal weakness and divisions, its European territories cannot fail in the course of a few years to become a prey to the boundless ambition, either of France, Russia, or Austria, or of the three together. It becomes, then, of high importance to Great Britain to contemplate the probability of this event, and to be clearly and positively decided as to the course of politics it may be most for her honour and interest to pursue.

There are three points of view in which we must regard this subject. Firstly, the general policy of England extending her dominion in the Mediterranean. Secondly, the points which it would be most for her advantage to possess: and lastly, the justice or injustice of such policy. On the first of these questions it may be observed, that either the whole of our sys-

tem of colonial aggrandizement is wrong ; or the advantages of extending that system to the Mediterranean must be apparent. If the conquest of an uncultivated, and very generally an unhealthy, island in the West Indies be considered as matter of public exultation, either there are just grounds for that exultation, or the nation is under a miserable delasion. This is matter of profound enquiry. Yet so long as England continues unabatedly and stedfastly to pursue the colonial system, and until some writer shall have proved it to be fundamentally erroneous; so long I may venture to assume it as an axiom, that every new possession, which opens profitable employment for capital and industry, may be considered as advantageous to the country. In this light, then, new accessions to our colonies in the Mediterranean are worthy of attention, because I believe there is no quarter of the world in which Englishmen have been accustomed to

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carry on commerce, where so wide a field lies open for speculation, or has been hitherto so badly attended to.

But independent of all commercial considerations, it appears to me advantageous to England to possess more military points or stations in and farther up the Mediterranean. At present she possesses two, Gibraltar and Malta, of which almost the sole value consists in their being fixed military points, which in all calculations for active operations may with a moral certainty be reckoned upon as a basis, whence to proceed or to which to retreat, in case of discomfiture. It is evident what advantage an intelligent commander may draw from being enabled to combine his operations on certain impregnable points, where his mind can rest as it were with perfect safety, and which leave him free to attend to all the rest.

It being supposed then an admitted principle, that the extension of her empire in the Mediterranean would be bene-

ficial to England, let us now examine what points it would be most prudent for her to occupy, putting aside for the present all consideration of the justice or injustice of the measure. It is evident, in the first place, that these points must either be islands or strong situations near the sea, upon the western and southern coasts of Asia Minor, or the northern shore of Africa. Of these, islands are preferable, because they are more easily taken, and more easily defended, by whatever power commands the seas; and when England shall be unable to do that, these points will no longer be necessary or useful to her. It is to the Grecian islands of the Mediterranean, then, that England should turn her attention. The stations which they afford for overawing the neighbouring coasts, both of Europe, Asia, and Africa, in the hands of an intelligent nation, would be of incalculable value. Mytelene and Scio would command the gulph of Smyrna, and intercept

the communication with Constantinople. Milo would afford shelter to innumerable ships in its capacious harbour, and which, by fortifying the heights on each side of the entrance, might be rendered secure against all attacks. Rhodes would command the gulph of Macri, and the southwestern angle of Asia Minor; whilst Cyprus, situated far in a corner of the Mediterranean, between Asia and Africa, might controul the contiguous shores from the gulph of Satalia to the Mouths of the Nile. But of all the islands to the eastward of the Morea, Candia is of the · greatest importance. This noble island, which extends one hundred and fifty miles in length, in a direction nearly east and west, forms, as it were, a base to the Ægean Sea. Its admirable situation for commerce with Europe, Asia, and Africa, is hardly equalled, and certainly not surpassed, by that of any other spot on the surface of the globe. Add to that, almost the whole of its coast admits of easy

defence, being either high and rocky, close to the sea; or where there are plains or open bays, there are also steep and broken ridges immediately in their vicinity. From Cape Solomon, at its eastern extremity, may be discerned the island of Scarpanto, from which Rhodes and the main land of Asia are visible. From its western end, on the other hand, we may discern the small island of Cerigotto; from Cerigotto, Serigo is visible; and this latter is only separated from the continent of Europe by a strait of less than twenty miles. Thus an intelligent and energetic nation, possessed of Candia, could at all times command the commerce of the Ægean Sea, and must in a few years bring within its influence, or under its direct dominion, every island of the Grecian Archipelago.

To draw every advantage from these islands it would not be necessary to transport thither so many Euro, ans as would be required to superintend the cultivation

of a single sugar colony; neither when carried thither would they be so liable to disease. On the contrary, the population already existing on these islands and the adjacent coasts would be found sufficient to recruit the English battalions, so that with ease an army might be formed adequate to every emergency to be dreaded there. As to seamen, the Grecian are beyond comparison the best in the Mediterranean, the French only excepted; and their superiority arises merely from their greater knowledge. The Grecian mariners are strong, active, and temperate. They form the chief support of the Turkish navy; and whatever intelligent nation shall first attach them to itself cannot fail to become in time the umpire of the Mediterranean.

It remains to examine the third consideration; namely, the justice or injustice of England pursuing a policy tending to put these islands into her hands. This question may be regarded in two points of

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view; as it affects the powers bordering on Turkey; and as it affects the Turkish empire itself. If a foreign power take possession, without just cause, of the provinces of another, it is an act of injustice, not only to the latter, but also to the states bordering on it, since the political relation in which they previously stood are thereby altered. But it is evident that on this plea neither Russia, Austria, nor France, (the three powers principally interested) is entitled to interference with England pursuing a system of insular aggrandizement in the Mediterranean. The first two because they have many years pursued a similar system on the Continent, against the very power in question; and the last because she has acted in the same manner towards every country within her reach.

There would then be no injustice towards these three powers at least, should England possess herself of every island in the Archipelago. Let us now 'examine

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under what circumstances it would cease to be an act of injustice to the Turkish government.

The present population of these islands is composed chiefly of Greeks, who in common with their brethren throughout the Turkish dominions, are reduced to the most abject state of slavery. Every Greek, man, woman, or child, is taxed at a certain annual sum, called head-money, it being expressly paid for a farther indulgence from their masters to wear their heads a year longer. They may thus be said to hold their lives in tenure of the Grand Signior, who may at any time, without injustice, refuse the fine, and cease to permit them to live. But even this general oppression is not the worst. They are subject to the individual caprice and tyranny of every Turk, the meanest of whom may insult the richest Greek with impunity. Being as distinguishable by their dress and appearance as a Negro is in the West Indies by his colour, these

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vexations are endless; and consequently to place these islands under a better government would certainly be an act of signal justice towards by far the greater portion of their inhabitants.

But how can this be effected without committing an act of perfidy and injustice towards a power with whom we have been so long at peace, and whose richest province we wrested from France, and honourably restored? If the plea of relieving the oppressed, however justifiable abstractedly, be admitted as a sufficient practical ground of interference, excuses will never be wanting for such interference, and perpetual wars must be the result. England will feel for the descendants of Themistocles, Aristides, or Pericles, as she has already kindly interested herself in another quarter, concerning the lawful heirs of Nabobs or Sultans who have been half a century in their graves. The wicked and mischievous policy which has been pursued in India, on a plan so im-

mense, may be reduced by an able hand to a smaller scale, and applied with effect to the islands and coasts of the Ægean Sea.

Such are the arguments which may be urged against the interference of England respecting the Mediterranean islands, in the approaching crisis of the Turkish empire. But having shewn that her taking possession of these islands would be no injustice to the great neighbouring powers, and an act of signal delivery to the greater part of the present inhabitants, it remains to examine how far it would be unjust towards the Turkish government. For this purpose we must enquire what are the advantages derived by that government from these possessions. These are principally three; a direct revenue raised by the capitation tax; the duties upon their produce ultimately paid at Constantinople or Smyrna; and a supply of seamen for the navy in time of war. Now it is clear that if the ascertained amount of the first

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were regularly paid to the Porte from whatsoever quarter; and if to that were added a stipulated and averaged annual sum for the second, the Turkish government could sustain no loss in these two principal points of view, supposing the islands to be removed from under its immediate jurisdiction and interference. For the supply of seamen no recompence can be made in kind, if I may so express myself; but to this venal and degenerate government money supplies the place of every thing else. Should the Turks, however, refuse to part with their power over these islands on any consideration, until compelled by force, let it be remembered that England can in justice urge the matter no farther, and that sooner than consent to employ violence, or permit it to be employed, it will become her both in policy and honour to protect from others those possessions which it was in her power to have appropriated to herself.

Let us then conclude.-So long as the

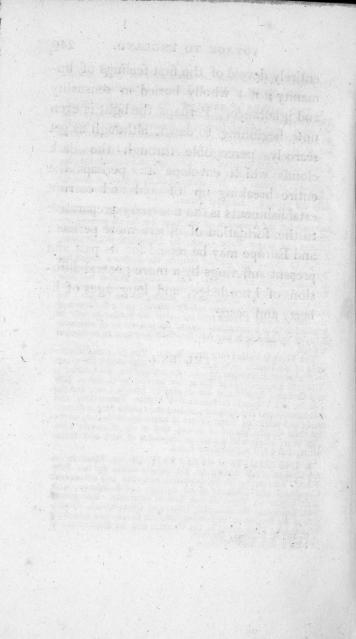
Turkish government can maintain its accustomed relations with foreign powers, so long England should exert her influence to protect its dominions entire. But when the period arrives that its numerous Christian subjects shall arise and break their chains; when the Beys nominated by itself shall set up their independent principalities in every quarter ; finally, when attacked by foreign powers this great Colossus shall crumble down into Asia, whence it arose; then is the period that England must be incessantly on the watch in this quarter. It will be the crisis of the fate of the Mediterranean; and should the dominion of the islands be added to the possession of the neighbouring coasts, the fleets of England may indeed in time of peace cruise idly up and down this sea; but on the slightest dispute or change of politics it will be shut against them, and English merchandise be landed only under the cannon of her ships of war, from Gibraltar to Constantinople.

If the ends of justice be satisfied, it is impossible to survey without pleasure any prospect of change in the present condition of these countries. Their natural advantages and their political circumstances are so completely at variance, that it would appear as if man was there for ever struggling against nature, not to remove her obstacles, but to vitiate and depress, and destroy her kindest efforts. It would indeed be glorious for England to be the first of the western nations in restoring to these countries the light which has been borrowed from them. It would indeed be glorious to revive the freedom of Crete, the taste of Athens, and the discipline of Sparta; to erect the fallen columns, and restore the venerable temples of Greece; but still more, to cover its fields once again with harvests, its hills with vines, its coasts with towns, its seas with vessels. To effect all this requires only a government not completely ignorant of the simplest principles of political economy; not

entirely devoid of the first feelings of humanity; not wholly buried in sensuality and ignorance. Perhaps the light is even now beginning to dawn, although as yet scarcely perceptible through the dark clouds which envelope it: perhaps the entire breaking up of old and corrupt establishments is the necessary preparative to the formation of others more perfect; and Europe may be repaid for its past and present sufferings by a more general diffusion of knowledge, and long ages of liberty and peace.

THE END.

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