

ORIGINAL TALES,

BY

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IN

TWO VOLUMES.

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THE CAPTIVE, &c.

IMMURED within the walls of a chamber constructed of Egyptian granite high suspended above the earth, and too strong to nourish any hope of escape even if I were inclined to make the unpromising experiment; how can a man, habituated to confinement, better pass away some of his vacant hours than by recording the singular relations of a departed friend, who could have no motive to deceive him; who partook, while life remained, of the same restraints; and kindly taught the companion of his fate to mitigate its extreme severity?

It is, moreover, pleasing to indulge the idea that these detached Memoirs may one day be

read in a clearer light than that, which, arrested by the bars of a rude grating, chequers the paper on which I inscribe them; that they may perhaps even fall into the hands of some being of refined feelings; and convey to him the pleasing consolation that no events are capable of totally overwhelming a mind enriched with useful knowledge, the love of the arts, simplicity, and truth:—for with such, opulent in resources, the soul, at certain moments, feeding on her gathered fancies, realises the features of imagination.

That merciful first Cause, who frequently strengthens the mental faculties of the blind, and secretly consoles the oppressed, has cheered me also in my confinement with a venerable companion, whose sweet and composed mind influenced my impatient sensations; and the silent remembrance of whose calm conversations, now that he is taken from me, is dearer to my senses, than even liberty, in a bad world, could possibly have been.

Holy shade of my departed friend! Shed thy complacent influence on thy solitary pupil, disciple, and admirer; who, while practising thy lessons of serenity and philosophic resignation, consoles himself in his cell with recording the pleasant pictures of thy almost unknown country, and the agreeable communications of a liberal-minded man!

Eyes exhausted with study, a constitution weakened by fatigue, and a heart lacerated by disappointments, were the early fruits of my too sanguine expectations:—I had before I was thirty seen too much to find any thing very interesting; and knew, alas! too well what was excellent in most things, to be likely often to meet with that which I could approve.

At this period a train of long and melancholy events conducted me to the gloomy gates of a prison, of which, although for many years my sad abode, I know not to this day the se-

crets of the dark interior. Too much afflicted to lift my eyes from the ground I was rudely thrust forward into a cell that I chose not to behold ; and when the heavy door closed upon me, the sound of whose jarring hinges seemed to take away my breath, I fell senseless on the marble pavement that supported it. On recovering from this swoon I found myself seated on a sofa, and supported by a venerable old man, who with a pleasant smiling countenance bade me be cheerful.

“ Is this (said I, pressing his hand, which in a friendly manner had taken hold of mine),—is this the abode of cheerfulness ? Have confinement and chains any thing to offer me in exchange for freedom probably for ever lost ? No, (said I, the tears pouring down my cheeks while I threw myself at his feet in the extremest agony) if you talk to me of cheerfulness restore me to light and liberty.—O Sir ! if ever compassion touched your heart let it now plead in

behalf of an innocent man who has been barbarously betrayed!"—Without attempting to speak or raise me he suffered me to weep for some moments on his knees; when, surprised at his silence, I at length lifted up my head to seek in his face for a reply; and perceiving his eyes swimming in tears, exclaimed, "Yes, yes, I behold my deliverer!"

The generous man who guessed at my erroneous idea of his situation by what had before escaped me, would not suffer my mistake to mislead me any longer.—"Companion of my confinement (said he), look for no other relief from me than what my counsels can afford; like you, I once experienced nearly all the bitterness of your present feelings, yet without such a friend as you have found to share them:—I, alas! am also here a prisoner!—But the invisible hand that bruised me has bound up my wounds, and sent philosophy to teach me that resignation which I despair not

of making you partake of when nature has done lamenting within you."

Though his words deprived me of my first hopes, yet, to my afflicted soul as they were spoken, they conveyed an unexpected ray of hope; and I rose up to look at the man or rather angel, as I then thought him, more distinctly.

He was tall, well proportioned, and seemed to be about sixty years of age; with fine silver locks, and a strong beard, that descended in waving lines to his girdle; his face was regularly proportioned and his features were full of intelligence.—He had a small yellow turban on his head, a fine white woollen garment reached to his feet in many folds, fastened beneath the chest by a narrow black girdle and clasps of gold.—His feet were bare, but beneath them were light wooden sandals.—He had a small oval gold ring in one ear,

and the cuffs of his sleeves extended to the backs of his hands. Such was the interesting figure that then stood before me, and, with an air of benignity, held out his arms to embrace my emaciated form : taking me by the hand, “Come, (said he, with a gracious smile) the sight of these bare walls contributes to depress your spirits,—come into the apartment which I occupy; had I expected ever to behold again another human face as my guest, even this should have been adorned in a better manner.”

But judge of my astonishment, when on lifting up a piece of matting that covered a small door-way, he introduced me into a spacious oblong apartment: that seemed to be elegantly furnished though not very well lighted; the walls of which were ornamented with about a dozen fine drawings regularly arranged and highly finished.

Above a flat cenotaph of white marble, of

the justest proportions and with the most beautiful ornaments, hung the portrait of a female of a divine countenance and figure, reposing on a sofa, and embracing a child as lovely as a cupid, while another lay sleeping at her feet.— On the cenotaph were two bronze figures; and, in the middle, a vase of the same materials, which, for the richness of its workmanship seemed inestimable; near it lay two rolls richly bound, whose title I could not decipher; on each side were high bronze candelabra with each its lamp of an antique form; and all round the chamber ran a low seat which appeared, underneath, to be furnished with manuscripts in rolls, mathematical and musical instruments, and many things of forms to me unknown. But what most of all surprised me was, that, on one of the pictures nearest to me, I saw several figures employed whose dress was altogether as singular as that of my new acquaintance: in a word, if before I was struck with horror on approaching my prison,

from its dismal outside, I was now equally confounded with astonishment, at the elegance of its interior; a circumstance, which, considering the motives that had sent me thither, I was altogether at a loss to account for.

I had remained motionless some time contemplating this incomprehensible scene, when the old man went up to the wall, and extending his arms and looking back at me with a smile—"It is time (said he) to undeceive you; whatever you behold is only the effect of an agreeable art, and nothing is solid in this chamber but the four smooth walls, the bars of its windows, and the seats that surround it."—So saying, he withdrew two pins that extended a sort of embroidered curtain at the upper end of the room, disclosing behind it a recess, with a small grated window, in which was placed his mattress, elegantly neat; and the sides and top of the recess were adorned with rich inventions in bas-relief.

“After what you have told me (said I), I am apt to distrust my sight ; is that a real bed or not?” “It is (said he), assuredly, but the sculpture is not what it seems ; you find all these ornaments agreeable, and I am happy in the opportunity of shewing you that the appearance of even a dungeon may be considerably improved.—When you know how many of my leisure hours this operation has beguiled your wonder will be diminished.—Sixteen years it has agreeably amused corroding thoughts ; the materials are only charcoal and my finger ; and you are the first stranger that has as yet inspected the effects of the operation.”

“But we shall have time enough, I fear, to explain it all at our leisure ; at present take some refreshment and retire to rest ; compose your spirits a little ; to-morrow we will talk of our situation, when, if you chuse it, you shall relate to me your story and I in return will acquaint you with mine ; which, I can assure you

before-hand, is of a nature very uncommon; and such, as I hope, added to my precepts, is able to suspend at least your present chagrin, if not altogether to banish it from your mind."

The gay air with which he uttered all this, joined to the extraordinary scene before me and his kind assurances, diffused a sort of calm over my before-agitated frame; and I not only ate heartily of the frugal meal he offered, but that night fell into a repose as sound and uninterrupted as my earliest fancy had ever enjoyed.

When I awoke, and the memory of the last evening's adventure returned; it appeared so like a dream, that, although the sun's rays shone on the gratings of my prison, I was at a loss to believe it real; but the quick sensation of poignant regret too faithfully confirmed the certainty of my immurement, and a strong suspicion of the duration of this captivity

smote so rudely at my heart, that I could not help breaking forth into loud lamentations.—
 “Cruel, accursed tyrant! (I exclaimed) may you yet feel *what I feel!*” A shower of tears followed, and I lay extended on my mattress like a man in despair. When, at length, looking up I perceived the old man sitting in the window, the very image of patience and resignation; his action seemed to reprove me, but till first spoken to he uttered not a word;—when, without rising from his seat, he observed that the day was far advanced; and asked me in kind accents if I would partake with him of some slight repast; observing, that nature required repairs, especially after such immoderate grief.

The word *immoderate*, though expressed with a softened tone, recalled me to reflection; and I replied—“Good old man, whoever you are, your conduct, so much the reverse of mine, makes me blush.”—“No, (said he) but you

ought to consider, (as you will soon,) that complaint only weakens our powers of suffering, and that no situation is without consolation on this side the grave. Let me assure you, that I came hither only because I loved truth and liberty before all other earthly blessings, and was severed from all that makes existence desirable in the prime of life. Yet am I now tranquil, easy, nay almost content, after a long and solitary confinement; deprived till now of all connection with rational society; let me repeat this to you, young man, and let it kindle in you a hope, that you may also be one day composed and resigned, if not happy."

I listened as to the voice of a parent, took some food from his honoured hands, and he continued his discourse.

"That you are destined to this abode for life perhaps, I can scarcely entertain a doubt, because my own confinement has so

long continued, and I know so well the temper of the tyrant to whom this place belongs.—What has been the cause of your misfortune, if not too painful to recite, you will oblige me by confessing; that you may have been sent here without having done any thing criminal I can readily conceive, both from a knowledge of my own innocence, and the ingenuous air of your countenance;—yet still, my child, whatever may have been your faults, or even crimes, do not hesitate in disclosing them to a man, now almost without passions (at saying which, he cast a tender look at the portrait of the female); there is no situation that precludes amendment, if the heart be softened by repentance; no affliction for which the understanding has not an antidote; no suffering without its alleviation; except the satiety which springs from habitual unrestrained viciousness, and a totally corrupted heart.”

“What! (said I, rising up, and clasping

my hands together) will my good intentions soften the rigour of my confinement? will my virtues, for for my virtues here I came, give light even to this sombre dungeon?—yes, venerable sage, when like you I am divested of my passions, they may perhaps help me to be resigned; but now they only aggravate my misery, like a splendid but useless possession; for what active bent can they now take? whom can they serve? whom protect?”

“*Yourself*” (said the venerable man, with ineffable sweetness), and the repose of your immortal mind: when cut off from society, the care of ourselves becomes doubly a duty. Perhaps I also may receive your benevolent services, and possibly I may convince you that even this vast massy tower does not exclude us from assisting our fellow creatures.”

“ I blush (replied I), at my own selfishness and impatience,—but bear with the petulance

of a child. I hope to learn much from your example; yet own I cannot comprehend what you mean by our *here* serving mankind.

“ Many things have I to relate to you (said he), that will shake your confidence, but this is easily explained; scarce a week passes in which I do not save many lives: I am now at the station of humanity, 'tis that which keeps me so close at this little window;—Come hither and behold that dark spot in the stream which so rapidly encircles the rocky promontory on which this castle is constructed. It is a sunken rock, on which, at my first imprisonment, while I was bewailing myself as the most unfortunate of the human race, I beheld a merchant-boat filled with several families strike and go down, while my ears and eyes were shocked with the cries and struggles of the unhappy sufferers: the event produced its full effect; and from that day I have considered it as my most pleasing duty, when the

Nile is at a certain height, to give notice to all boats approaching by the stream of this invisible danger. Many have I preserved since that time; they hear my voice, but they see me not; and I observe, by their actions, that I pass for the good demon of the tower. Is not this some compensation for perpetual confinement? does it not give some importance to my irksome solitude? some scope to my virtuous powers? could I if I had continued in the world, have hoped in the same space of time to have done so much good? You too may, perhaps, be indulged by me in a participation of this benevolent office, if you do not disdain these consolations: your voice is stronger, and you are young enough, if you pass your probationary studies in this science of humanity, to succeed when I die, to the honours of my exalted post."

"Your words are life and light (said I). O, excellent philosopher! I am abashed before

you; your commands shall in future be my laws; prepare to hear the abridged relation of my sufferings.

“ I am a native of Europe, and was born in the city of Venice:—my family is noble, and I am an only son:—heir to considerable estates.—It was the wish of all my relations, that my education should further their prospects; the best masters were procured for me, my exercises were becoming my rank—my proficiency was corresponding; and, before twenty years of age, I was flattered, caressed, and ruined by the partiality of all around me.

“ A considerable match of interest was now contracted for me; but my heart disclaiming the connection, I made no scruple of refusing the alliance; and should probably, from the great influence I possessed, have escaped the censure of my parents, had it not been discovered that my refusal arose from some pre-

vious engagements contracted, during my studies at Padua, with the niece of my tutor, whose affections I had gained, unknown even to her uncle; and whom, in the boiling effervescence of my youthful passions, I had sworn to espouse when time should make me master of my estate.

“ The disclosure of this connection was instantly followed by her arrest; and when, with all the ardour of an enraptured youth, I flew to communicate to her our triumphs, I grew almost frantic at finding she was gone.

“ After two years fruitless search, in which I exercised all the ingenuity and finesse of my countrymen, united to the zeal and impatience of a disappointed lover, I discovered the convent where she was concealed, and by a bold, well executed manœuvre had the glory and the happiness to receive her in my longing

arms—but this exquisite satisfaction was of short duration; for we were scarcely out of *Venice* when we were both arrested, owing to the superior vigilance of the government; and, after being torn from all that I valued in life, I found myself almost the next instant in the bottom of an accursed state-dungeon.

“ Here I passed four whole years, pursuing the most intense studies as an alleviation of my despair; and refusing all compromise with my family, determined to prefer the honour of keeping an oath, to obtaining my liberty; till at length my parents, weary of this firmness and unwilling to lose their only hope, set me free on the condition of accepting a knighthood of Malta:—terms, which my vehement passion made me prefer to a perfidious alliance—and I embarked for the island, determined by the severest service to obliterate, if possible, the

warmth of an enthusiastic passion ; or, by perishing in an honourable manner, to extinguish my existence and my love together.

“ It would be tedious to relate the adventures of a life so irregular as mine now became : debts, duels, and gaming, occasioned me many moments of remorse and chagrin ; but by this dissipation my attachment only became stronger ; and it was in vain I tried to suppress the calls of an affection which had taken root in my very frame. Overcome by its force, I flew to the Grand Master, threw myself at his feet, resigned my honours, and returned almost distracted to my native country.—Then it was I arrived only to receive a dying father’s embraces and fruitless repentance, to find myself in possession of a large estate, and to hear that my mistress had taken her vows of celibacy and was lost to me for ever.

“ Disgusted with every species of arbitrary power, weary of myself, and of mankind, my first resolution was to reform the abuses of the state, or to quit for ever the Venetian soil: but I was much too warm and too sanguine, to prevail; and the idle attempt had nearly cost me all the honours and fortune to which I had just succeeded.

“ Stung with this fresh disappointment I meditated a voluntary exile; and, having passed much time in the Mediterranean, I determined to make a voyage up the *Nile*; fondly flattering myself that a new scene would afford an oblivion to my sorrows, or that time might conduct me to some spot where freedom and happiness were united under the protecting shade of obscurity.—In this journey, taking a circuitous route, I saw the miseries under which France groaned, the despicable state of the Spaniards, and the horrors of African tyranny; the brutal stupidity of the Turks, and the stupid

brutality of the Egyptians: and, sick of civil absurdities, I determined to seek for men in a savage state.—After a year's residence at Cairo, I laid my plan to penetrate by the deserts up the Nile; and, by the advice of some Turkish merchants, found my way into this detestable country.

“ My retinue was splendid, my air was military: finding the king engaged in a war, I offered my services from an idea that he was oppressed. My sword sustained his cause with effect; I returned to his capital to demand a passport and a convoy; but, conceive my astonishment, when he ordered me to be arrested, disarmed, and brought before him like a criminal.

“ ‘ You have fought well (said he), and I am obliged by your services; but you are a stranger, an adventurer, and, if I let you go, your valour may be one day as dangerous to

me as it has now been useful. We live here in continual suspicion ; with us, power is all, and you must not hope to be exempt from the policy of my court.—If you had been a merchant or a physician, I might have been prevailed on to permit your departure; as a foreign soldier it cannot be allowed. Adieu, my friend—my officers will take care of your property, and you will be maintained till your enlargement at my sole expense.

“ From his presence I was instantly hurried to his place ; but how I came here, I scarcely know, nor how long I was in coming ; as rage and indignation from that moment almost deprived me of my mental faculties.

“ You see therefore a lost man whom love and virtue have undone. From the Bastiles of Europe an escape might have been mediated with some prospect of success ; but here, where the whole country is a prison, and its

sovereign the jailor, what hope is left me, what consolation, but in the goodness of your heart to find what I have long sought in vain, and die in the arms of a real friend.

“ Born to an exalted station which promised much happiness, seeking it only by pursuits the most laudable, it has still eluded my grasp; can it be, that where I least of all expected repose I should find it. Am I to receive my first lights within the walls of a state-prison on the Upper Nile, poor, a captive, and wronged? And shall a heart torn with disappointed passion, find balm for its wounds in the forced retirement of a space like this?”

I here paused, and shed in abundance a warm shower of tears that relieved my agitated breast with a medicinal virtue;—we both remained silent some minutes and looking at each other with eyes of compassion; when finding I had no more to add, the patient man,

calmly uniting his hands, and letting them fall upon his vest, began as follows :

“ I embrace you, my child, and give full credit to all you have related ; for your voice, your physiognomy, and your gestures, were it in the least your interest to deceive me, contribute to confirm the relation : for my own part, I hope I shall be able somewhat to soften your afflictions ; when the mind is in a proper state all places are alike ; there is no dungeon can confine thought ; and wishes, properly directed, tend only to the desire of that repose which noble sentiments can confer even within the bowels of the earth. The passions are violent in mixed society ; but, after a certain period, lose their force in confinement ; or only agitate like distant rumours and the sound of subsiding thunders ; this I have learned from experience : for, although now aged, I came here in the prime of life, and left behind me not only all the delights that youth's

happiest state can afford, but a country where of all others man seems to me to be blessed with the enjoyment of that mode of life for which he probably was created."

The latter part of his speech having excited in my features an air of satirical doubt, he quickly observed it, and added, "If your incredulity has already commenced, as I told you it would, prepare yourself to be still more staggered as I advance in the relation of those adventures which I have promised to relate to you ; yet if you find nothing in them that the state of mankind and the construction of our organs render impossible, nothing in them related but what your virtuous feelings would wish to exist ; be patient to the end, and I engage you shall be a wiser man at the conclusion of my narration.

" But, as the hour of noon is fast approaching, it is time to repose ; already has the sun

arrested the travellers; the birds of prey are silent, and nature in this climate closes the eyes even of the crocodiles of the river:—the Hippopotamos has descended to his cooling reeds, and the hyena to her lonely den; let us conform to the universal example, and when, refreshed by sleep, we are awakened by the notes of the reed sparrow, and the mild breezes of the evening, then let us commence my singular history.”

I followed his advice, retired to my pallet by the window, and, on returning to the conference, was agreeably surprised to find the sage sitting again at his post, with a filtering jar of pure water beside him, some of which he was holding up in a glass to examine its brightness against the light with all the gay ardour of a *bon-vivant*, mixed with the enthusiastic rapture of a devotional pietist: having quaffed it off he presented me with another, “take it speedily (said he), and enjoy the innocent

luxury which my policy has procured for us both. Our jailor has been here whilst you slept, or you would have learned, by observation, the whole of the magic that I employ to render his uncouth manners subservient to my purposes. The tyrant who sent us here has not such good water; yet he would kill a subject to obtain it; whilst I, like Orpheus of old, bring it hither by virtue only of a few sounds of my guitar.—But you shall lose nothing by your nap (said he), an air may enliven you, and make your water more palatable.”—He then took up a kind of Indian Mandolin, that lay at his feet, and began an *adagio*, which ran through my very soul: a native of Italy, bred in the bosom of harmony, was enraptured with finer sounds than he had ever heard; my ears were astonished, and my musical enthusiasm inflamed; I forgot for a moment our situation, and soon after he had concluded his dying strains,—“Where! Where! (exclaimed I) did you acquire this talent? Whence derive those

melodies so new to my ear yet so full of just proportion, and fine sentiment?—Every hour you astonish me; virtuous, humane, a painter, a musician, all things seem to your accomplished mind alike easy to perform: in your society, confinement is no longer irksome. Proceed my friendly guide, relate your adventures; after such a beginning nothing will surprise me: he who possesses talents like yours will always procure confidence.”

“Your eulogium (he replied) would have better pleased me at the end than at the beginning of our narrative; but when I reflect that you never resided in the Island of *Sophis*, I the rather excuse your wonder.

“My name is Lycas; my mode of life was in its commencement less rational than yours. I was born among the Greek subjects of the Grand Seignior: slightly instructed in a few ornamental arts, the child of an uncertain

origin, perhaps the fruit of an illegitimate amour—some personal accomplishments, and what the world calls ready talents, recommended me to the attendants of that court;—I was first made a page to some ladies belonging to the Harem, of Greek extraction, and afterwards got a more lucrative post; but the following accident in an instant entirely changed the tenor of my life.

“ A Turk of some eminence, who presided in an office from which the janizaries’ pay was issued, and who had extensive dealings with money-changers, and people who trafficked much in the precious metals; had an attachment for one of the ladies of the Harem: this man, whose passions were violent in the extreme, used every means to carry on an illicit correspondence, and selected me, as one of the most adroit young men of the palace, to further his views. To this end he began by distant flattery, agreeable presents, and sometimes by

open praise before my superiors to ingratiate himself in my esteem. On a sensible mind just beginning to expand this species of conduct operates as an irresistible charm; I fell into the snare prepared for me, with pleasure; and without hesitation, after a very short period would have scaled the walls of the palace at the risk of life to promote his wishes. The event, as might by a more experienced mind have been expected, was the momentary gratification of his unbridled passion, the death of his unhappy mistress, and my total disgrace.

“Dismissed from the seat of ease, and luxury; ignorant of the world, and suddenly plunged into the streets of Constantinople; well dressed, but poor, and without a friend, my senses were confounded like a man's after falling from a precipice; I looked around me, and all was strange;—but the first thought that occurred to me was to enquire after the

residence of a merchant who dealt in trinkets, and whose presents had been employed to seduce me from my duty:—The man was a Jew, well known, and easily discovered, he received me with cordiality, but soon shewed an anxiety to be detached from me, on learning from my own lips the story of my dismissal and its motive.

“ ‘ You are a lost child (said he), you must fly this city if you would be safe ; disgrace is here soon followed by ruin ; let me persuade you to your good. I have a correspondent, a merchant, who travels into Upper Egypt annually to barter commodities in exchange for gold dust ; he wants an assistant ; Egypt is the country where Turks thrive best ; you may yourself become a merchant in time ; a fine figure like yours is always a passport ; your good sense, your good heart, which here has undone you, may there contribute to your fortune.’ ”

“ There was no need of so many fine arguments to induce a curious youth who had forfeited all his friends, to travel ; the thoughts alone of a voyage would have been to me sufficient ;—I readily embraced his offer, and in a very short time discovered that nothing makes travelling agreeable but independence.

“ We landed at Alexandria, and sailed through the Delta to Cairo without meeting with a single adventure worth relating : My master was a Jew, and perhaps the most taciturn of his tribe ; a reserved habit, which the perils of his trade had brought on him, seemed to characterise his nature, yet I found nothing unkind in him ; on the contrary many instances of his humanity marked the progress of our voyage.—Severe to himself, scrupulous and timid in outward appearance, yet continually exposed to the greatest dangers, I knew not how to reconcile these appearances

to his choice of life ; but an accident disclosed his soul to me, and, from that moment my contempt of his character changed to the most settled esteem. I had often angered him, often offended him by my volatility of temper ; my careless loquacity seemed to prepare an irreparable breach ; but, in taking me out of Constantinople, I thought he had saved my life, and my nature was corrected by a lively principle of gratitude. At *Yambo* he fell ill, and would have died, or been murdered, but for my care and youthful courage—the impression it made on him, seemed to have entirely changed his reserved conduct ; and from that moment I experienced a very different treatment. You are worthy of my whole confidence (said he, after his recovery)—whether it arises from your principles or your heart, I owe to you my life : though the ties that united us were slight indeed, yet I have experienced from your care, attentions that my own children have denied me ; your

gentleness has healed the wounds inflicted many years past, by their unkindness; *be my son, and I will be a father to you.*

“ You may readily conceive how gladly I accepted so disinterested an offer : he communicated his whole plan of life to me, shewed me the perilous voyages he had undertaken from mere disappointment of happiness at home, and laid before me, with a fatherly kindness, all the risks we had to encounter before we arrived at the end of our dreary journey. In passing the kingdom of Sennaar (said he), we shall be hemmed in with troubles : Abyssinia will afford us some pleasant scenes, but when we have crossed those vast regions of mountains that are the sources of the Nile, and the south of Africa opens to our view ; though wealth approaches us, danger is ever at hand ;—we shall have to deal with the inhabitants of the river Zebec, whose tribes are wandering, and the country ill cal-

culated for commerce; and, when our traffic is happily completed, the return offers a picture of disasters very difficult to avoid; but, should we get safely back, we will travel no more, I have found a being worthy of my confidence—and you alone shall be my heir, while we enjoy, in repose, the reward of my long-procrastinated labours.

“ We passed up the Red Sea to a considerable port; and travelled with few accidents through this accursed kingdom of *Sennaar*, (under whose intolerable tyranny we now groan), meeting with every accommodation we could wish for in the Abyssinian dominions: we passed above the fountains of the Nile, and descended the river Zebee, where we had the good fortune to complete our objects of commerce very profitably, having made a large purchase of gold dust: my conductor was elated with his uncommon success, and

attributed all his good fortune to my resolute assistance.

“ We then prepared to return, but the hospitable Africans with whom he had dealt honourably would not let us go till we had partaken of a festival ; and, the whole tribe being assembled, the day was passed in jollity and dances. The honest Israelite for once un-
 bent intirely, he became another man, and we communicated our ideas with the rapidity of those who are exhilarated with wine :—‘ Why (said I), should we leave this happy climate, where peace seems to reign in comparison to the country we have quitted, to return through the nations of villains we have seen ? The farther I go from Constantinople the happier I feel.’—‘ Son (said he), your observations are just, yet habit and the love of wealth lead us back : the first voyage I made I felt the same sentiments ; but what would you say, if you knew, that a few weeks farther journey to the

south-west, there exists a people, who so much surpass these in all the enjoyments of life, that those few who know them speak of their country with rapture. They inhabit peaceably an island in the upper end of the lake of Zambree; and, without gold, or scarcely clothing, seem, if one may judge from accounts of them, to be *the very happiest, the most beautiful, and the best people on earth.*—But, as they have no wants beyond their own island, and no commerce whatever with the rest of mankind, it is difficult to learn many particulars of their habits of life.’

“His assertions excited my curiosity exceedingly; naked, without gold, without commerce, without war, and happy, said I, you astonish me;—what then are we doing?—Wherefore do we risk life, when happiness is so near at hand? I am as a leaf before the wind, you own you have no connexions in Europe that you esteem, why should we not then,

now we are so near this blessed spot, attempt to visit it? Come, my father, let us go, who is there can hinder us?"

"By such discourses as these I strove to persuade him, and we continued long in conversation on the subject; but when he found I was heated by the descriptions of an old African, a native of Caffraria, whom he called on to vouch for the facts he had related, and seemed resolved on the adventure, he endeavoured to dissuade me, by a contrasted account of the difficulties we should have to encounter, on our way to get among, what he now called these naked savages. The more he objected the more I was inflamed by opposition; we drank, we reasoned, we disputed; and in the end, the old Caffre having offered to become our guide, my ascendancy prevailed over all his scruples, and, overcome by a real affection, he embraced me with warmth, swearing, by the God of his fathers, that, whatever it might

cost us my honest curiosity should be gratified. —The next morning, however, he seemed to repent of his oath, and came to me, with a string of apprehensions, that nothing but my unshaken resolves could have overcome: we accordingly, after partaking of all that African hospitality could produce, accompanied by the old Caffre, commenced our uncommon journey.

“He was armed with the weapons of his nation, two spears and a shield; I had an European doubled-barrelled gun, and my master was not without instruments of defence. For the first week, our path lay through the most fertile country imaginable; vast forests of shady trees thronged with birds and antelopes, healthful springs, and beautiful lakes surrounded us: but we afterwards found the road less agreeable; sandy deserts, brackish waters, and scanty provisions, succeeded; some scattered hordes occasionally alarmed us

more with their looks than their hostility, for we always found them harmless, and at last even I began to abate of my enthusiasm for the island in the lake of Zambree. As to my master, he said little, but I could see he deeply repented his condescension, and began to entertain fears for our success although he had no suspicion of our guide: we, however, pursued our journey, among hordes of Caffres, whose generous hospitality surpassed our expectation. In this manner we continued journeying onwards, our difficulties encreasing as we advanced into a mountainous country; and, two months having been already expended, came to the swampy margin of a mighty river.

“ Here, our guide told us, it would be necessary to pursue our way upwards, till we could find some means of crossing the rapid stream; and afterwards to ascend some very high mountains, beyond which we should see

the commencement of the lake of Zambree, whose vast extent must be traversed until we could throw ourselves among a nation on its borders to pass the winter ; there, before the dry season, we might get proper animals to conduct us to the head of the lake ; and, being well supplied with provisions, a fortnight's journey on the desert part of its coasts, would conduct us to a marshy neck of land, that, during one month alone, at that time of the year, opened a communication with the island in question.

“ We were both appalled at the description of the difficulties yet to be subdued ; but to return was now too late, although we all found we had somehow miscalculated the distance.—The worthy Israelite however, notwithstanding our united care, and the salubrity of the climate, sank at last under the continual anxiety and fatigue we were obliged to undergo ; and, before we could even approach

the quarters where we designed to repose, a fever seized upon his spirits, that no efforts could remove.

“Thus situated, we formed for him a verdant hut, by a spring under the shade of some spreading trees on the borders of a mountain and near the edge of the lake, which now had all the appearance of an unbounded ocean:—Here we rested some days, while our guide, hoping to cheer his employer’s spirits, endeavoured to persuade him that the island we sought was indicated by a long cloud that seemed to recline on the bosom of the water; but the distance was too great to afford much consolation to the worn-out and weather-beaten traveller.—‘I shall never reach it (said he); you perhaps will, who have youth, strength, and curiosity, to conduct you: may the event answer your expectations! In which case, I counsel you, never, if you can avoid it, to return: and although the wealth I resign to you

may probably be of no great use among the people whom you are going to visit, yet preserve it, lest, as I suspect, your stay not being permitted there, on your return to the contaminated part of the world you should perish for want of resources.'

“ With such-like discourses, many of which made me conjecture that he knew much more of this country than he chose to communicate, were we entertained during our stay ; but his fever encreased daily, and finding, at length, that his life approached to its close, he joined my youthful hand to that of the old Caffre, recommending me to his care in the most earnest manner ; and, taking his solemn oath of fidelity, embraced us both, adding, with almost his expiring breath—‘ My son, confide in this man—he is virtuous though poor ; in our dealings he has never deceived me, and he alone of all his tribe has visited the island of Sophis at the head of the lake

Zambree; where, during the short stay permitted him, he learned good and generous habits by example : your inclinations are right though you come from a bad seminary ; may the sight of these people of virtue inspire you with a lasting affection for its practice ! When I am dead, bury me in this tranquil spot, raise a pile of twelve stones over my body, and, should you ever return, you will pause to shed a pathetic tear to the memory of your departed friend.'

“ I could only answer him by my affectionate looks and tender embraces ; he died ; and after piously fulfilling his last request, I resolved to pass here, the season of the summer rains, being encouraged thereto, by my desire of preserving his honoured ashes from the inroads of wild animals, and by the advice of the old Caffree, who assured me that we should be able to maintain ourselves very well with our arms ; and, that early on the closing of

the wet season, our cattle, being refreshed, would be able to conduct us with ease in two months to the borders of the desert, from whence we must gain the desired island.

“ With the aid of my African friend I soon raised a kraal, circular, lofty, and with a small aperture at the top, to let out the vapour, a circumstance to which he very unwillingly consented, alledging, that we should lose all *the benefit of the smoke* in the winter, when it would be most conducive to health ; and I was obliged to contrive a moveable cover in order that during the night at least we might be medicated with this fine fumigation.

“ Nor could I without smiling reflect on the contrast of my present and former situation, nursed in the elegance of a Turkish seraglio, accustomed to artificial baths, splendid clothing, ostentatious festivals—to live in crowds without reflection, and perform the

ceremonies of religion, without piety.—Here I found myself in a situation that no European had ever before reached; among men nearly in their natural state; my covering, untanned hides; my lodging, the ground; my food such as my arms could procure on the side of a mountain not unfrequented by beasts of prey; and with a companion whose language I could but little comprehend; a circumstance which proved the most vexatious of all, as it prevented me from forming any idea of that of the nation I was going to visit, and of whose customs and manners, I was particularly solicitous to gain some information. My old master spoke the Caffre tongue fluently, but I had only acquired enough to supply the wants of life: however, by means of interrogations, varied infinitely, and the aid of intelligent signs, he made me comprehend, that these Sophians lived a life according to nature in a fertile country; that gaiety was their characteristic; humanity their religion; and

equality among them is as nearly general: while want and disease were almost unknown. But what most of all surprised and delighted me was, that in the words he pronounced as appertaining to their tongue, I discovered a great similarity to the sounds and accent of the modern Greek. This unaccountable similarity, which I sometimes began to think was only a conceit raised by my fancy, redoubled my before-heated curiosity to go amongst them; and I thought the rainy months of summer would never end, although very agreeably situated, full of health and strength, enjoying freedom, a real friend, and possessed of wealth enough (if wealth could have done me any great service here) to maintain a large family.—On that head he explained to me that the gold I carried was in high esteem among the Sophians, who possessed none of it in their own country; but why they valued it, or how they made use of it, he could never succeed in making me comprehend.

“ In such enquiries as these, or rather attempts at enquiries, we passed all our leisure hours; when often, in pursuit of antelopes, being carried to the borders of the lake, we retired into a spacious refreshing cave; near to which, I was, one day, very much surprised to find, on the surface of a rock, the sculptured figure of a man with a venerable beard; a work much worn by time but indicating the traces of great skill; and near him a naked youth, of a most beautiful countenance, whom he seemed in the act of caressing. The place was surrounded with a magnificent grove, overhung with clibers, and many flowering shrubs grew spontaneously around; while the waves of the lake came on a fine shallow up to the very roots of the trees, forming a circular bay, after washing over a yellow and almost transparent sand.—The youthful figure, which resembled a winged Cupid, was seated on an elevated rock; its action was, I thought very majestic; and was aided in

a great measure by the skill of the artist, who had contrived to make him above twice the size of the old man; and to add another figure of the same noble character, but without wings, reposing in his bosom; and, oddly enough, inserted as in a cell, by which, having been preserved from the injuries of time, it was left in fine preservation.

“To this remarkable place, the old Caffre had conducted me, as it should appear, rather with a view of enjoying a fresh spring that trickled down the side of the rock, than from any other motive of curiosity: for he seemed to take no notice of the figures; and to all my enquiries on that head, only answered by pointing towards that part of the horizon where the island was supposed to lie, and pronouncing the word *Sophis*, while he placed his hand on the body of the marble: and, hence, I began to conjecture that they were a nation of idolaters who had wandered from the Nile.

“ We found on this spot many fruit trees, plantains and cocoa nuts ; also a tree, whose fruit, resembled bread, and when dressed was to me a delicious repast : wild vines also grew here, but as their fruit was unripe, I could form no idea of the quality of the grape.

“ All these circumstances served only to sharpen my impatient ardour to terminate this voyage ; but no eagerness on my part could persuade my companion to stir till according to his judgment the proper season arrived ; and his observations on the sky seemed to be his guide, united with there marks he made on a particular plant which put forth monthly shoots.

“ At length, the so much-wished for day happily dawned : our two camels having quite recovered their flesh seemed as alert as ourselves ; and having completed their lading, I dropped the tear of affection over the grave of

my foster-father, and set forward on my journey with the Caffre and his three dogs, not one of which perhaps would he have parted with, for half my gold; an article, about which he seemed always very indifferent; for, once, when a valuable packet fell from one of the beasts, he smiled, and by signs, expressed that we had better leave that mischievous yellow sand where it was than take the trouble to put it up again."

Here the companion of my confinement made a long pause, and then added, "I feel myself rather exhausted; you are probably in the same condition; night approaches, and as I have brought my history to its first period, we will, if agreeable to you, postpone its continuance till to-morrow afternoon. When the heat of the day begins to decline, then conversation is doubly agreeable as a pleasing relaxation after the labours of the morning, and the reflection of noon: the pleasure of

your society, perhaps, makes me too talkative ; but, to-morrow, if I do not mistake, you will have your share."

He then rose up to depart, received my warm thanks with a benevolent inclination of his head, and I returned to my pallet, so full of his history that my dreams were mixed with affecting and confused imagery. I fancied myself with him near the grove, saw the cave, the flowering shrubs ; and then, on a sudden, dreamt that my first, and only love, loving and lovely, came gliding towards me with inimitable gracefulness, and a countenance glowing with the noblest sensibility ; that she embraced me with tenderness, dried my tears with her flowing hair, and entreated me with a soft suffocating voice to be calm ; and we should never never more be parted !

The agitation of this seraphic vision awoke me just as day had begun to dawn ; the

night-dews hung in great drops on the bars of my window ; I started up, received them on my feverish lips, and exclaimed—unsullied messengers of the regions of air, ye cannot be more pure than were our mutual affections ! why then were we forsaken ?

Scarcely had this impatient exclamation escaped me, when I was recalled to myself by the enchanting sounds of the old captive's melodious airs, the notes of which were at that moment a balm to my burning imagination ; and at the same time they pictured to my mind my present fate, and reminded me of the courage of him who was the companion of my miseries.

Ashamed of this weakness I presently rejoined my friend with a countenance of as much serenity as I could assume ; and being seated on the sopha of marble by the window, after

his usual attentive enquiries he thus continued his entertaining narrative.

“ I left off, my son, on our journey to the island rather abruptly but not without design : I perceived that your curiosity had been excited by the adventures on the road, and I wished to keep it alive.

“ We continued travelling during the space of three weeks along the banks of the great lake, whose waters are slightly brackish but not salt ; always resting at night either in caves or under a temporary kraal ; and living on such game as the ancient forest which skirts it supplied in abundance : but when we arrived at the head of the lake, which made our road take to the east, it became necessary to seek the negro colony of which my guide had spoken, in order not only to lay in a provision of grain but also of water ; for the remainder

of the way, he assured me, would be both barren and void of wells and shelter; that we should have no other guides but the stars, the waves of the lake, and his feeble experience. Among his worthy countrymen we found the most hospitable reception: our wants were supplied, our very wishes anticipated and our property remained in the most perfect security. They seemed rather a timid and gentle race, yet strong, tall, and finely formed; their women, even to me, who had from my youth been accustomed to the sight of Asiatic beauty, appeared very noble creatures; and their simple manners not a little endeared them to my heart.

“ After a short stay we took our leave, parting with mutual cordiality, but we carefully concealed from their enquiries the destination of our voyage; as their countryman knew, had they suspected such to be our intention, they

would never have permitted us to take to the desert : for they entertained such a perfect horror of the waste at the upper end of the lake, that if they had thought we meant to attempt to travel into it, they would have confined us out of pity as madmen.

“ For my own part, I will not conceal from you, that, however strongly my curiosity had been excited, I began at this period of our journey to tremble at the undertaking. A thousand anxious thoughts crowded on my heated fancy : noxious winds, burning sands, venomous reptiles, and the night-wandering animals of a wild waste, were united with famine, disease, and drought. My guide also seemed to have lost his accustomed gaiety ; and the first night that we lay down between our camels on those burning sands, without a prospect of shrub, water, or hill, all my feelings were so affected by the expanse around us that I enjoyed but very little repose.

“ The next day’s lonely journey brought us very near the margin of the lake, from whose surface a refreshing breeze sprang up, that considerably cooled the air ; and thus we went forward, always sleeping within view of it’s borders, which were covered with birds to me unknown ; when, on the fourteenth day, at sun-rise, I beheld, to my inexpressible satisfaction, the boundaries of the ridges of that island to which all my wishes extended themselves. .

“ Hitherto we had encountered no animals of prey ; but at this spot we saw, on the sands, distinct traces of the feet of hyenas, and of course became doubly vigilant.

“ The country before us, had no forests or even underwoods, but the whole borders of the lake were to a considerable distance, green with large junes and reeds ; the seat, as my Caffre told me, of multitudes of os,

triches and bustards ; the truth of which was the next day confirmed by our seeing a drove of these before us in the distance, and lighting on a nest, from whence we took fresh eggs ; all which circumstances were signs that seemed not a little to cheer my good guide, who now assured me we had nearly conquered all the difficulties of our perilous undertaking.

“ That night we supped in uncommonly good spirits, I was even gay, and slept soundly ; but towards morning was suddenly awakened by the loudest clap of thunder I had ever heard, and on opening my eyes saw the whole hemisphere darkened around with dusky and sulphureous clouds, among whose bellying curtains lucid flashes of forked lightening darted with inconceivable fury.

“ The awful peals which continually pursued each other, the solemn stillness of the air, and the fiery metcours that burst exuber-

antly around us ; petrified with astonishment even the old African, although early accustomed to such tremendous exhibitions : and, for my own part, I must confess that my whole frame seemed to contract with terror ; expecting no less than total annihilation, when the camels lay down and moaned, while the dogs crept near to us crouching to the earth ; both of them strong symptoms of some fearful approaching crisis. All this while not a drop of rain fell, but the air seemed scorching hot, and infected with a burning vapour ; inso-much that our respiration was sensibly impeded by its pressure.

“ At length, after a violent and sudden gust of wind that involved us in a cloud of sand, there followed such a shower of heavy drops, that had we not made the beasts rise and stood under them and their packs, we must, by its force, have been nearly swept away. In an instant the thirsty lands were converted into a

shallow lake as far as the eye could explore ; and, shortly after lay smooth and humid as the shores of the sea recently abandoned by the tide. The clouds passed speedily over us, opening and showing at intervals, the brightest patches of æther ; and, at length, scudding away entirely, exhibited a serene and delightful canopy, whose contrast with the yellow sands, blue tops of the island, and deep green waters of the lake, made one of the noblest and simplest landscapes, my eyes had ever beheld.

“ Joy at our escape, the thoughts of our journey being near its close, the fineness of the day, and success of our uncommon voyage, expanded my bosom with the most unfeigned benevolence ; while, from the overflowings of gratitude my heart swelled and beat against my breast ;—I felt the animating glow of true piety to nature, and went on in a sort of enthusiastic exultation, that felt like a divine phrensy.

“ Inspired by perceiving the precious link of the chain that bound and united my existence with the universe—*O, Holy Energy!* (I exclaimed), *that imaginedest me, where art thou?—thou answerest my sighs, yet I cannot shadow thee forth;—I feel thy universal influence; thou pervadest me throughout; impalpable essence, I shall see thee; I shall know thee; thou art Love!*

“ During these sublime reveries, I seemed to tread the air, and had advanced so hastily, that my guide who was almost out of sight gave a shrill whistle to recal my steps:—When he joined me we were at the very edge of the lake, into whose cool and refreshing water all instantly plunged with the eagerness of aquatic fowls after a long flight; abundance of which were then making airy circles over our heads, and displaying their gay plumage to the sun.

“ We took up our lodging at this place in full view of the island so long the object of my desires; but how we were to arrive there without a canoe was still to me an inexplicable mystery: it was soon however explained, for at peep of day, the African, to my great alarm and astonishment, led our camels right into the wave; and I then found that we were advancing upon broad shoals covering a bottom smooth, and every where visible to the eye: it was chiefly composed of little white shells solid like cowries but considerably smaller, and interspersed with others of such beautiful colours, that the whole seemed a natural Mosaic, full of exquisite but irregular ornaments, rich as the carpets of the country I was born in, but infinitely more brilliant: and, to complete the enchanting picture, shoals of gold and silver fish frequently darted across our way, making regular pauses, as if they were plying their transparent fins to music.

“ A long day spent in travelling in this manner seated quietly on our cattle seemed to have passed in an instant : I was giddy with sensations of delight, and felt elated to extravagant admiration. The old man also seemed to partake of the intoxication, singing to the camel's splashing steps almost all the way, a monotonous but plaintive strain that pierced my very entrails, for it recalled to my remembrance too much of my lost country, and those still evenings, when, on the Bosphorus, our sailors returning home, chaunt, to the sober stroke of their steady oars, a thousand heartfelt strains under the walls of the seraglio.

“ Tear after tear, of the sweetest water, rolled over my youthful cheeks ; I panted to communicate my thoughts ; and for the first time in my life now began to comprehend that there was a value in the other sex which I had not hitherto sufficiently appreciated.

“ At night we lodged on a little rocky island covered with a shelly beach, but destitute of large trees; and it was here my guide contrived to explain to me the reason why we were obliged to select our season with so much precision: for it was only during one month in the year, when a certain wind prevailed, that these shoals was fordable, as its effect was to drive the waters from the higher to the lower end of the lake; and, by this means to render, once in the year, the island of Sophis accessible. The storms also that usually accompanied this wind contributed not a little to this purpose; as by flooding the sands suddenly, they forced the beasts of prey to retire to another quarter, and thence also preserved the island from their invasions.

“ Every new trait contributed to exalt my ideas of this happy place: and it encreased my satisfaction considerably to hear it was also exempt from noxious reptiles; or,

at least, that it was inhabited by none whose venom was of a deadly and cankerous corrosiveness, such as I had beheld the effects of in Egypt, stealing with a bitter malignity through the crimson stream of life, and, with subtle poignancy, boring towards the heart.

“ Mine beat high, when he told me that the next day we should probably see some of the *Sophians*; for that, at this season, it was not uncommon to find them on the bank on which we were to repose, come to collect those beautiful shells, or diverting themselves with observing the motion of the glittering fishes.

“ The near approach to these people made my bosom flutter with impatience, and filled my imagination with a million of images; at one time, I fancied they would, as to person, be much like the nation I had left; for I doubted all my information concerning them;

then again, I pictured them as magnificently dressed and profusely decked with gold and jewels ; sometimes I thought they would be warlike and rude, then soft and effeminate ; but my great regret was, that I should not understand their language ; still I could not forget the remarkable words of my old master—*‘ That they were the happiest, the most beautiful, and the best people on earth.’*

“ Nor will I conceal from you what my selfishness and pride at that time kept me ignorant of, that among the motives which then influenced my conjectures, some there were which did no credit to my heart.—Who knows, thought I, but these people may possess the precious gems so much valued in Europe, which their simplicity may induce them to part with for a trifling consideration ? Shall I not also, at my return, be accounted a great traveller and be thence honoured by my countrymen ? Who can tell but my gold may pur-

chase for me some of their most beautiful females, whose charms might make my fortune at Constantinople?—These, and other unworthy thoughts, the fruits of an European education, passed slightly over the mind, as unwilling to disclose, even to myself, the secret baseness of my soul; nay concupiscence, as it were unknown to me, had contributed to provoke my curiosity; and I almost openly ventured to think of forcibly revelling in the arms of some of their women of the most accomplished forms. Ah! little indeed did I know them, as you will see by the sequel; little also did *I know myself*. Among a less virtuous race, probably, my nature might have been soon entirely corrupted; but he who has visited the Sophians, must be made of the grossest material if their example does not in some degree purify his heart.

“ I will not any longer exercise your patience as mine was exercised by the rest of

the journey: two more days brought us to a small island covered with lofty trees, and we plainly saw both men and habitations at a distance. The instant we reached the so-much-desired shore my conductor fell prostrate on the earth, and kissed it fervently, and, as it were by instinct, I followed his example. We found ourselves in a meadow covered with flowers of every dye, a rich pasture for our cattle, and under the shade of a lofty clump of cocoa and cabbage trees we sat down to repose. Some very fine cows were near, walking slowly into a cave under a little ridge which seemed the first stage of an irregular and pen-sile country whose mountains were all graceful verdant swells, crowned with majestic groves to the topmost hill of the little island.

“ This is not Sophis (said my guide), but is closely connected with it, and is famous for its pasture for cattle; it also abounds in eggs of various birds, and has many warm springs,

whose waters encrease the milk of cows."— While he was explaining, with difficulty, all those particulars, a flock of birds of the parrot kind flying by, I shot amongst them and brought three or four to the ground; but, on preparing to repeat my shot with the other barrel the old man snatched my gun with as much agony as if I had committed murder; and running to gather up the birds was attempting to hide it in a bush along with them, when suddenly there came forth from the cave, above a dozen of the stoutest and best made men I ever beheld, of dark complexions, with short curling hair, and nearly as adorned by nature.

They ran up to my guide, seized him, the camels, and the dogs, in an instant; and two of them approaching me payed me the same compliment but without any menacing air. Indeed that would have been quite unnecessary; for, beside that, it was not my intention to make

any resistance, having been assured by my guide that we should be arrested by the first people we met on account of our strange appearance; all opposition would have been useless, as their Herculean strength was nearly sufficient to lift me into the air.

We were now conducted to the cave, whose front was an oblong entrance of three enormous masses of white marble, rudely laid together on two uprights, the ends being rocks with a threshold of the same materials, and two long squared pieces at its entrance, forming a kind of benches in a rustic porch, near the centre of which was a bason of the purest water. The men seated themselves with us on the square benches, our camels were brought into the area, and the first thing they did, was to bring out large earthen bowls of milk, which they offered without any ceremony both to us, to our camels, and to our dogs. All this while, not a word was spoken; but presently

there came from the interior of the cave with a slow but unaffected pace, an aged man, whose beard was full, folded up in a woollen garment as white as snow, the broad edges of which were of the brightest scarlet; he had a long ebony stick in his hand with a crutch handle on the top of it, on which when he stopped he leaned, by placing it under his arm.

“ We rose on seeing him, for his noble presence seemed to command respect; and with us rose several of the young men; but on his coming nearer to us as if with an intention of speaking, a little boy ran up, and pulled his robe violently from a seeming motive of fear of us. He turned back, took the infant in his arms, kissed him, covered him with his drapery, and looking at one of the youths, to my unutterable astonishment, in a language that was so nearly modern Greek that I perfectly understood him, asked where they

had encountered the intruders, and if there were others of our nation on the island?

“ ‘ I hope not (said the youth to whom he addressed himself), for they are evidently of a bad race, as we found them in the exercise of cruelty, killing the birds of the air who do them no harm ; and, after having passed the dangers of the shoals, they are come hither to disturb our peaceful tranquillity with noisy instruments of death.’

“ ‘ My child (replied the old man), they do wrong only from ignorance of a better life, and are to be pitied more on that account than any other. By chance or want of guides, they have probably been driven here from the main land, where you know I have often told you the worst habits of life prevail: all other nations but our own live by the destruction of the works of the good Being whose office it

to create; we alone are acquainted with the sublime truth, that to preserve is better than to destroy; let their instruments of death be broken, but let the men be taken care of and debarred from mischief; while they are treated with humanity, kindness will soften them or fear keep them in order, till the time comes for transporting our superfluities to the main land, and then they may be banished along with our supernumerary bulls and rams, and will be useful to drive and disperse them in the wilderness. In the mean time let their strange beasts be looked after with whatever they carry, so as to be scrupulously restored to them at their departure: nor let any one, out of foolish and unjust curiosity, look into their contents; things of no apparent utility to us, may, to these men, be of infinite value in their way of barter; and never let it be said that the genuine adherents to human rights infringed the prerogatives of others.'

“ Having thus concluded his orders he was about to return into the cave, when the old African ran towards him, caught him by the garment, then, falling almost prostrate crossed his arms on his bosom, and, with a look of admiration and fear, uttered the word, *Yahomy*.

“ ‘*Yahomy* ! (said the old man, turning round quickly, and lifting him from the ground), is it possible, can it be you? Why do you again invade us, and with such barbarous manners, and a companion so wild and savage? Has all our kindness to you when in distress been thrown away? This is rather ungrateful from a man who seemed to be penetrated with a love of our manners, and amended by our society.’

“ ‘ I own my crime (replied the innocent *Yahomy*), or rather my stupidity in not attempting to warn this good young man of

your customs before I ventured to conduct him here; but what could I do? He understands neither your language nor mine; and I was carried away by my selfishness united with that tenderness, which you taught me, towards the prayers of others; I longed to come here and end my life among you; I wanted an excuse; I feared to come alone, and this youth offered me the means which I also wanted, and the security which my cowardice demanded: he seemed to love truth and good people; was in company with a just man; and the love of virtue, as it appeared to me, was his sole motive for persisting in his demands that I should lead him here. I know I have done a wrong thing, but the lenity of your laws has been partly the occasion of my doing it; he brings gold dust in abundance, a commodity valued by your artists; may not this, if no other consideration can, excuse my intrusion and pave the way to peace and pardon?

“ At the conclusion of my guide's speech, the whole of which I did not comprehend, I could observe a complacent smile circulate through the crowd that surrounded us; and the old chief said, ‘ Go, go, you are a little of a flatterer, yet honest I believe in the main, *Yahomy*; but as to your companion, we know nothing of him, and therefore, as is my duty, I must send you both together up to the seat of justice in *Sophis*. My post here you know, is to guard the coast and examine new comers; you are the only one that ever returned a second time, for no one ever carried any worldly gain from us, and I must be inclined to believe that you are half a convert to our habits; try therefore to explain them to this good looking youth, who is in your company, in order to induce him to conduct himself with modesty and decorum while he remains among us.

“ I now thought it time to break silence:—

‘ Behold (said I), the son of a Greek among Greeks! for such you must be if I am not all this time in a dream; what you say, I, without much difficulty, understand, to my inconceivable surprise and admiration. A governing Providence must have conducted me here to unite with my countrymen; wonderful are the ways of Alla!’

“ The old patriarch drew back at my speech, examined me from head to foot with the most penetrating eye I ever beheld, assuming a look of scrutinizing sagacity, while the youths all came nearer to me, and some put their arms around me, with a sort of brotherly affection.

“ ‘ Who Alla is (said the old man), I know not; or who are the Greeks of whom you speak; but that you have our tongue is incontestible; you should therefore have been taught it here, and be a *Sophian*, it is to me

a strange thing, but at any rate it entitles you to our confidence and friendship beyond the ties of a stranger; come therefore into my abode, and repose to night, you, your friend, and what belongs to you, both are sacred, we will converse more with you to-morrow. On saying which, he took me very cordially by the hand, and we all retired into the interior part of the cave."

Lycas, at this period, was interrupted by the noise which our gaoler made on unbolting the outer prison door; the clanking of his massy iron keys, the drawing of two long bolts, or rather bars, and the fall of a heavy draw-bridge, which connected the high turret we inhabited with an outer wall, were a complete contrast to the scenes the good man had just been describing; and soon recalled me to a recollection of where we were, which I had nearly forgotten, owing to the eagerness with which my ears imbibed his singular

narration.—The gaoler was a middle aged man, a soldier in the castle, and as miserable and brutish a looking creature as I had ever beheld in the deserts of Egypt; almost black, lean, haggard, and ill-apparelled; but his temper had been softened by the mild ingenuity of my companion, who, finding he liked music, had invented certain airs to his taste of a lively nature, and the instant he entered, the guitar was taken in hand, as by this means he made sure of his punctual attendance. After dancing till he was weary, during the short time he was permitted to attend us with our daily provisions, he usually retired, singing as he descended; and, by the length of time I could trace his declining voice, it was easy to judge that we were an immense distance from the guard-chamber; a circumstance that I instantly communicated to *Lycas*, and asked him, if on that account, he had never meditated his escape?

“ Never (said he); have you forgot the country where we are? It is not the castle only that confines us, we are at the mercy of a lawless tyrant, and in a country impassable, without money or friends; but after all, lay aside the thought, for I can assure you the obstacles are too many in the prison alone; for besides being strong, it is seated on the peninsula of an island; so that if you could pass all the gates and guards, there would still be the barrier of a deep and rapid stream to overcome, which no one in his senses would venture to cross at night; and which cannot be crossed unobserved in the day-time: and after all, have you forgot in your eagerness to escape what you yesterday remarked, that the whole of this dire country is one continued prison?”

Again I blushed at my want of reflection, and that my impatience had so violent a power over me: “ I bow (said I), to your

superior understanding; but I fear it will be long before I shall possess sufficient resignation to keep me from admitting into my mind flattering dreams of escape, even under the fullest conviction of its impossibility."

When we met the next day he continued his narrative as follows :

" I was not a little surprised to find on entering the cave, that it led through a long aperture lined on both sides with healthy cattle who were reposing on dry litter, to the arched entrance of a very large apartment with a high roof, and whose front commanded a magnificent prospect of the country through a shady grove. The floor was earth strewn with dry rushes; and the end opposite to the opening was one continued raised platform, covered with long mattresses of pale yellow, whose texture seemed to be of tufts of wool, but shining as the brightest silk : between every

mattress there ran a low partition, smooth as glass and dark as ebony ; and at the head of each lay a hollow wooden box, with a pillow on it of the same material as the mattresses ; over the pillow was suspended a small shelf, and at the foot of all the mattresses was placed a low stool of the same black and polished material : the walls of the apartment were of a pale green, ornamented above with pannels, in the centre of which some flower, fruit, or animal, was represented.

“ These mattresses were evidently their beds, beyond the apertures in front, there extended a long and broad portico, sustained by rustic pillars, whose pavement was composed with much art of the little shells I had observed in the shoals ; it was furnished with abundance of low stools ranged against the wall with great order ; each pillar was covered with some creeping flowering plant ; and to many of them were brackets affixed to carry

little earthen vases containing each a single flower : but what most of all pleased me was, to find the building bounded by a shallow and perfectly transparent stream, of about twenty feet wide, and to see flocks grazing beyond it, beneath lofty groves of healthy and graceful trees. We were followed into this rural hall by the male part of the family, and our cattle left behind in the cave, which was only separated from it by a low partition over which we stepped with ease ; on passing on to the covered way, we perceived, on the lawn, through the grove, a number of females very busy, some milking the sheep, who were all yellow like pale gold ; and others, under a rural shed, preparing food : nor was it long before they served it up to us, accompanied with a ceremony, to me very agreeable, both from its propriety and novelty.

“ For now, as if by a signal, the men leaped into the stream, and began washing

their bodies ; playing, laughing, and rolling in the water, out of which all came in less than a minute ; and skipping and running in the portico to dry themselves, each took a stool to sit on, and another for a table, and thus arranged, a song, or hymn, was begun by the old man, in which the whole company joined ; at the close of which a boy got up and blew a rustic air on a small pipe, when instantly the women entered the portico, each carrying a tray very much like a japan tea-board, on which were some vessels of the like materials, but rose-coloured, containing boiled rice and milk, with some fruits and nuts to me unknown ; these with smiles they placed before each man, and retired, singing, as they went away, in general chorus.

“ They were of all ages, and more or less cloathed, but none seemed to have more than a single garment, which varied in length according to their ages ; the elder women being

cloathed to the chin while the young girls were only covered to the loins; all the dresses were white, and none were long at the feet but those of the aged, who likewise wore sandals of basket work; some had one, some two, and others three platted girdles, made to appearance of the yellow wool of their flocks; their arms were bare, and their hair had no other ornaments than a few flowers or little fillets of the same materials as the girdles: most of them were what we should call clear brunettes, with large dark and piercing eyes, abundance of black hair, rather inclined to curl, separated in front, and tied behind; their stature was low but exquisitely well proportioned, and, they were in general what the French call *en-bon-point*; a fascinating gaiety accompanied their whole deportment, and every one said something arch as they passed in with the supper-trays, to create harmless mirth.

“ For my own part, I must confess I should have liked it better had they staid to partake with us of what they brought ; and so I expressed myself to the chief, who laughed heartily at the remark, and repeated it to all in his hearing as a proof of my good taste ; but, added he, have a little patience young man and you will have enough of their company ; I would also advise you to eat heartily, or the exercise they will presently give you may cause you as speedily to wish them away. —I blush even now to think how unjust a conclusion my intemperance formed from this speech ; but I was soon undeceived, for supper being ended, the trays were removed by ourselves into a shed beyond the building, from whence the women first came, and the boys assisted the men in throwing vessels of water over the pavement, which, as it was formed of a gentle declivity, soon trickled away with the fragments into the river. The

women now again entered, old and young, accompanied with girls, and several who played on a kind of harp or lyre, others on small drums, and immediately a general dance began, in which I was invited to join both by the chief, and a lovely maiden of about fourteen. I would willingly have excused myself, but they told me there was no difficulty in their dances if I could but keep time and use agility; ‘this lass (said one of them), will soon make you a good dancer, I promise you, if you have strength to hold out.’ Charmed with her figure, I made no further objection, but soon had reason to be ashamed of my performance; for their steps though simple were inimitably regular, and the gracefulness of their motions not only took off all my attention from my own part, but made me quite ashamed of my awkwardness.—No one, however, seemed to take any particular notice of it, and they made even the old Caffre take

his share, which he did, with the best good temper in the world.

“ Finding I made so poor a figure, my pride induced me to decline proceeding any further; and I told the chief I would, with his permission, be a spectator for the rest of the evening.

“ ‘ Do as you please (said he), but as you must be warm, you had better walk about.’ My partner now took me by the hand into the great chamber; and, after shewing me the pictures over the couches, and explaining to me that each served to distinguish the couch of its particular owner, she led me by the hand to see our camels feeding; where, finding ourselves alone, and seated on a soft pile of fodder, in the recess of the cave, forgetful of decorum, throwing my arms around her, I, to my eternal disgrace, endeavoured, with-

out any farther ceremony, to take improper liberties; but how keen were my feelings, when, disengaging herself like lightning she flew along the cave toward the dancers, exclaiming as she ran—‘ Infamous, base stranger! you are no true Sophian!’

“ A moment after, I saw the chief approaching me, and would gladly have parted with all my wealth to have avoided the interview; my soul sunk with contrition at the idea of my ingratitude; and, not knowing how to look him in the face, I pretended to be busily employed about the cattle.

“ Looking at me with stern composure—
 ‘ How, young man (said he), are you preparing so soon to quit *Sophis*? I fear you think rather contemptuously of us, and that you have made a long journey on very unworthy principles; if you really came here to indulge vicious propensities indiscrimi-

nately, you are to be pitied, not only on account of the little consolation they ultimately afford; but because you have chosen a country of all others the least calculated to gratify them; perhaps, however, the girl has mistaken you, and your proposals were not injurious; perhaps,—

“ ‘ Hold, hospitable man (said I), my motives were worse than my actions; and my actions have been unworthy of myself; the charms of beauty and innocence, instead of exciting respect inflamed my desires; and I am compelled to confess, that I had formed conjectures very discreditable to the purity of your females, merely because they had treated me with the most cordial familiarity; yet remember, I beseech you, that I came from a corrupted continent; inflict whatever punishment you please on me, except that of banishment; and, for the sake of that tie you have found in my language, take pity on a

friendless youth, who whatever may be his faults, is not naturally a despiser of modesty.'

" ' It is not in my power (said he), were it really my inclination to banish you, for my duty compels me to send you up to *Sophis*; but I am really grieved, that equally imperious motives will prevent me from reporting that fair character of you which I could wish, or of detaining you any longer here; yet, for the sake of your companion, and your language, which somehow persuades me that you are one of our children, I will, if you condescend to listen to it, now give you such advice as may enable you to procure the good-will of those on whom your future destiny depends.' So saying, he took me by the hand with much complacency, and leading me back to the portico, bade me sit down by him.

" 'The sun was just sinking behind the tops

of the hills and gilding the branches of the grove with an exquisite lustre; the youths had ceased to dance, the women were all gone, and each man was retiring to his polished pallet in the chamber. As soon as all was still, 'My son (said he) your candid confession has quite disarmed my anger, and encreased the agreeable suspicion that you are one of us; yet the fault you committed demanded the utmost severity of reproof; for the maid you offended, was a stranger to my family, and therefore it became doubly my duty to protect her honour: but now let that pass, and let me acquaint you with somewhat of the way of thinking of our country in that particular.

“ ‘ We are no enemies to love; on the contrary it forms the chief link of our society, is the root of our morals, and the object of our silent devotion:—to that divine principle we feel that our existence is entirely owing; with-

out its continuance we should have been only to be miserable ; if it ceased to exist, but for a moment, we should be lost.

“ ‘ Sensible, therefore, as we all are, that to no other principle than abstract love can the creation be attributed ; since all things are supported by an invisible and generous agency, that not only dispenses to all their proper nourishment, but adds munificently to such as follow temperately their natural instincts, and the dictates of conscience, the ornament of happiness, and the blessing of longevity ; our ancestors made the principle of human love the basis of this well-ordered society :—Love first links us, as well as other animals, to our females ; love compels us to support our offspring ; our kindness procures us their love ; and hence that which originally springs from self-esteem becomes the reward of its pure principle : we have no other criterion by which to judge of right and wrong, but that of the

action procuring to others either good or evil; whatever is painful or unpleasant to be done to others is unlawful for us to do; and we *respect the innocent will in all things*. Hence our children, not being unseasonably thwarted, are seldom capricious, for their natural timidity preserves them from dangerous attempts, and we content ourselves with watching over their safety, without hindering them from gathering the fruits of salutary experience. Hence the complacency of our young people; for as nothing is to be gained in this country but by persuasion and affection; and since force is even prohibited to be used to our cattle unnecessarily, we are continually employed in inventing new, innocent, and affectionate methods of enticement.

“ ‘If, by means of kindness and sympathetic allurements, we have won the heart of a virgin who was unattached, we must, by the same proceedings, bring her to a closer union; and

by the like measures alone can we lawfully retain her in it : so that, at all times she is at liberty to break or continue this tie if it be not found to procure mutual happiness :—hence, as the bond of union is vigorous at first, and lighter afterwards, it seldom happens that it is suddenly dissolved after having continued any length of time : the fibres of the butterfly's wing, are not of bone, yet they resist the winds as well as the bat's—for it is the very essence of love and liberty to preserve what they mutually generate. You see, therefore, how necessary it will be for you to put no rash construction on the innocent freedom which our females enjoy ; but to treat them, as we do, with the same respect, justice, and sincerity, as the men. No embraces may be forcibly taken here, or any other thing ; the most powerful among us are the politest, and the most persuasive ; but none are considered as understanding truly the art of persuasion, who are not sincere. To say one thing and act an-

other, with us, constitutes what we call insanity of reason, or want of human sense ; and we have people employed, and places appointed, for the sole purpose of curing such diseases of the mind ; which, however, are not very common among us.

“ ‘ Let me therefore hope that what I have now said will not be despised ; since I really feel something interest my bosom in your behalf, and shall be afflicted if you condemn the simple honest manners of my countrymen.’

“ Here he took my hand, and placing the palm of his upon it, squeezed it with a parental warmth and kindness, and, looking affectionately in my face, seemed anxiously to expect my reply.

“ For my part I was so overcome with the generosity and gentleness of his reproof and advice, that I found myself only able to an-

swer him by a sudden tear, which trickled on our joined hands.

“ But as soon as my recollection was recovered I threw myself at his feet, embraced his knees ardently, and, with an involuntary exclamation cried aloud my friend ! my father !

“ Endowed with pure sensibility, he felt the force of my apostrophe ; ‘ I will be both (said he), to the utmost of my power ; and to-morrow I will take care to give you an abler guide than *Yahomy* ; you shall be accompanied by my eldest son ; place confidence in him and he will take a pleasure in instructing you in all the manners of our separated nation.’

“ He then led me into the hall, which we trod softly, most of the company being composed in tranquil sleep ; and having placed me on a couch adjoining that where the inoffensive *Yahomy* lay, he retired to his own ; when, calmed

by that peaceful joy which reconciliation ever inspires, and lulled by the soft murmurs of the gliding brook, I soon dropped into a sweet and profound repose.

“ The next morn we were awakened by the voices of abundance of singing birds, and others whose cries much resemble the parouquet. On opening my eyes, my senses were revived by a gale of odours which I soon perceived issued from the pots of flowers with which the portico was embellished: the little boys lay on their pallets sounding mellow-pipes, which seemed a kind of flagelets; others began to beat little drums, and soon the whole hall was filled with groups of naked figures, very few of which might not have formed a model for the heroes of former times. After taking a few turns, leaping or racing they indiscriminately plunged into the waters of the stream, where I saw incredible feats of swimming and diving performed;

afterwards, running again in the portico till their bodies were perfectly dry ; each man then took a long piece of woollen stuff, the only kind of garment they wore, and wound it variously around his chest, or threw it carelessly in folds over the shoulder. It seemed, indeed, to serve them for an infinite number of purposes ; for sometimes it was used to shade their heads like a turban, sometimes to gird up their loins, occasionally as a veil, when they were stooping in the sun, or as a screen from the quarter whence the wind blew cold ; often as a pillow, and generally as a coverlet. The old men gave it the form of a long cloak, covering them behind from head to foot ; but the young and robust affected to roll it up very small ; and I remarked that no one seemed to have any idea of using it otherwise than as convenience dictated : like the statues of the ancients which still remain, they appeared to glory in the form the Creator had assigned them ; and in their

active and athletic images, a Phidias would have found an endless number of the finest models of the human structure.

“ After our morning-meal, which was conducted just like the supper, and only differed in its consisting of boiled milk and fruit, with lemons to refresh our water; my worthy host introduced me, in the presence of the whole company, to his eldest son, and consigned me to his care with all the tenderness of a real parent. On this occasion, the young maiden, who had been the cause to me of so much blame, and so much kindness, rushed in ~~among~~ us, like a bird on the wing, and taking my hand, struck the palm of it twice, saying, ‘ *Stranger, I freely forgive you your mistake;*’ when she instantly disappeared among the surrounding crowd.

“ ‘ That was voluntarily and handsomely

done (said the old man), and I congratulate you on her generosity, for now the whole affair is buried in oblivion, and I am no longer obliged to communicate it in my report, when I write to my superior officer, on the subject of your arrival and conduct here. She is a strange, but a sweet tempered, good, and sensible girl; and very likely led you to the grotto, to know if your manners corresponded with your person.'

“ We now departed with a small company of men, and some women; the women sitting on their cows, upon the yellow mattresses before mentioned; the men wading through the shallows for some miles, after we left the island, to cross a shoal that separated it from *Sophis*; in which I took care to imitate them, knowing they would have smiled to see me riding effeminately on my camel: when, having marched silently about an hour, my companion and guide, whose name was *Chilo*, plac-

ing his hand familiarly on my shoulder, said,
 ‘ Are you thinking of that maiden still, the
 little fire-fly ! has she stung you ? ’

“ Conscious that he was right I made no
 scruple of confessing he had divined my
 thoughts ; and indeed, I had all along wished
 for an opportunity of turning my first enqui-
 ries to that subject.

“ ‘ And who is this fire-fly, *Chilo* (said I),
 that so artfully misled me ? for I own there is
 more of liking than resentment in my remem-
 brance of her ? ’

“ ‘ She is (replied he) an orphan, the fruit
 of a very passionate attachment between two
 young people, who both perished by a stroke
 of lightening while she lay in their arms and
 received no injury. One of my father’s wives,
 with great care, brought her up : her name
 is *Mica*,—we look upon her as a sister ; she

is very gay and very lively, but has as yet formed no attachment among the men ; and had you been a native, it is not unlikely, from her conduct towards you, that you might, had you liked her, have soon gained her confidence and affection. But let me persuade you, if possible, to avoid any engagements of that sort : by the customs of *Sophis* strangers are not allowed to stay long here but on terms that few have ever complied with ; and none who are once incorporated among us are willingly permitted to depart, lest they should make the road too common, as has been the case with your guide *Yahomy*.’

“ ‘ Will you tell me (said I, sighing), what are the terms so difficult to comply with ? ’ ‘ You must live strictly as we do (said he), on the most simple food, forego all the thoughts of excessive gain, kill nothing that breathes and lives, use no violence towards any thing ; and

employ all your spare strength and time in public services, and in attention to the wants of individuals, without any consideration of former acquaintance: in a word, you must consider nothing as your own but what is necessary to your being, and those whom you preserve; and mingling your affections with the very elements of existence, respect even a tree as your fellow-creature, so as to aid and not destroy it; not to wound even the earth for its metals, but for its good, to promote its respiration, by draining from the surface stagnant waters, or conducting toward its pastures refreshing and invigorating streams.

“ ‘ Your sovereign good must be the good of the community; while the laws of the community propose only the happiness of individuals, by suffering every man and woman to think, speak, and act freely; subject to no restraint while they *violate not the innocent*

will of another; for the protection of which alone all our customs and all our laws are calculated.'

“ ‘ What do you mean by the innocent will? (said I).’—‘ That which, if executed, can injure nothing, not even ourselves. Thus, no species of intemperance may be lawfully practised; nor are men allowed to live solitary to follow sequestered vices; for the first principle of our government is not to permit any individual to injure himself; the next, that he shall not injure any other; and, lastly, that societies shall not exist to the prejudice of general society, and the destruction of union and political equality.

“ After a moment's pause, I replied, ‘ all you have described appears to me very beautiful both in theory and practice; why then should you doubt of my power if I have the inclination, to comply with them? Know then,

that I came here only because I had heard that you were better than the generality of mankind; you see, therefore, that I am no admirer of the vices of the continent; and if, on my first arrival, I slew your birds, it was only because I did not conceive that there was a nation who could live without animal food.'—'What (cried he, with a fixed expression of horror), did you mean, after murdering them, to eat them! and make a *grave* of your bowels—Holy Energy! is it possible that men can coolly commit such abominable crimes merely to live! Have you no roots, no grain, no fruits on the continent? I would live on the grass of the earth sooner than commit such cruel and filthy actions.' The tears stood in his eyes as he uttered these words, and he seemed so violently affected that I regretted the subject had been introduced; but assured him he need not be under any apprehensions of my continuing the practice, as I had resolved, in

all things, to comply with their customs.— Still he was very anxious to hear all the particulars of this detestable practice, as he emphatically called it; and I gratified his curiosity not without many blushes, which, in a certain degree, served to convince me of the justice of his objection; but at length I could not help asking how they avoided the vast increase of their animals if they killed none? ‘ Do you kill your children then (said he), when they become too numerous for you?’ I replied—no we send them out into the world to get their living—Just so (he said) we dispose of our superfluous cattle, by sending them to the continent, if there are more than can be well kept, but that rarely happens; for, as we consume much milk, many cows and sheep are wanted; and, as to other animals, they have never been found troublesome; they seem to multiply only in proportion to their proper food:—doubtless, the good Energy encourages or restrains them;

for, as all things are conducted by the principle of *Love*, no disorders from its influence can arise ; and the brutes our fellow creatures are true to their instincts.'

" Here he ended, and I was glad that his enquiries did not lead to the horrid subject of war, lest it should give him a still worse opinion of us.

" By this time we were ascending a mountain in the island, and seemed to be approaching a kind of village, whose buildings were low but regular, and of a delicate pale tone of colour : they seemed of an oblong form, without chimnies, and, externally, without windows, though each had a handsome well-proportioned projecting door-way or porch : every house was surrounded by pleasant groves and stood on a small eminence, but I found that there was no want of light in them ; and that, in general, they consisted

of a square court, composed of four long distinct, and detached buildings, each of which had its broad open portico sustained by small double columns at large intervals, behind which was a range of chambers, open to the view of those who walked in the portico, and separated only by a low wall. In a word, except the solidity and exquisite finish of the workmanship, they seemed on the model of the country-house I had first seen : but I was told there were no absolute rules of architecture, and that every one might build as he pleased, provided only that they constructed no chambers that were not open to the air and accessible to every inhabitant of the mansion. Doors, were solemnly prohibited, and no coffers allowed to be made with fastenings of any kind, which extended even to baskets ; insomuch, that most of them were constructed with open work, and their chests looked like elegant cages ; in making which, as well as seats, they were wonder-

fully skilful, coming nearer to the fine works of the Japanese than any thing I had ever seen. The taste of every thing around, indeed, much surprised me, for all seemed beautiful though quite plain; and I could not help expressing my astonishment and asking my friend to account for it.

“ ‘ If our houses strike your senses agreeably, (he observed), it must arise from their being competent judges of order and proportion; for order, proportionate dimensions, and simple utility, are the only rules in art we acknowledge—and there are certainly those among us who know how to carry their effects to surprising lengths, as you will witness, I trust, when you see the public halls in *Sophis*, our seat of justice.’ ”

“ The court of the building we had now entered was an ample square, in the centre of which stood a tank of white marble about four feet deep, full of the purest water; the

sides of which were shelving for about eight feet from the border. This *Chilo* informed me was the family-bath, and, that it was served from a spring, and emptied and cleaned every day; for, by their customs, no house was permitted to be built but in a situation that could be served with water in abundance, yet whose position was such that no water could lie near its foundations. The consequence was, that every house was detached, and always placed on a declivity, or close to the margin of a river or brook.

“ Neither age nor sex were exempted from the necessity of washing or bathing twice a day; which habit seemed to have rendered necessary to all, insomuch that many were really almost amphibious, and seemed as naturally to take to the water as spaniels; to this practice, I think, in a great measure, may be attributed both the clearness of their skins, the robustness and firmness of their bo-

dies, their excellent digestion, liveliness of spirits, and general good state of health.

“ Our dinner consisted of raw eggs, the bread-fruit, and milk in abundance—my friend the Caffre, *Chilo*, and myself, were seated round a low table in a shady porch; where we were not only served by some charming young women, but were entertained during our whole meal with agreeable songs, sung by a party of girls and boys, who seemed to take a pleasure in varying our entertainment.

“ Our meal was scarcely finished when *Chilo* rose up and left us abruptly: Finding he did not return for some time I enquired where he was gone; and the Caffre, who now had discovered to his great surprise that I understood their language, informed me, that it was a custom for all the married men to retire after dinner to the society of their wives, and to remain together, if agreeable,

till near the hour of supper; when the females went to prepare it, and returned to the men to dance; after which, each bathed separately, retired to separate dormitories, and never met again, in private, till the next day at the same time.

“ At that hour, all laborious occupations were suspended, and the generality reposed in sleep, as the still silence which prevailed was very favourable to that indulgence. For at the hour of noon, all kinds of noise were as strictly forbidden as with us during night, no one being permitted to walk in the porticoes.—And, what do the young people do (said I), who have no wives?

“ “ Those who have no wives (replied he), are too young to require any; for here all marriageable people are married. They consider it as a duty imposed on the parent to take care and promote as early connections as are

proper, and never fail to observe and encourage the first inclinations that take place ; to impede them would be considered as the blackest piece of villainy, for they are fully sensible of the dangers arising from the suppression of the natural fires, and no one's consent is necessary to the connubial union, but those of the parties uniting.'

" When *Chilo* returned, I asked him what were their marriage ceremonies? At which he burst into a loud laugh.—' How (said he), do you who are not a boy ask such a question?—The lovers retire to some grove, or fountain, and affection instructs them in the rest.'

" By which I perceived, with regret, that they seemed to have no forms of marriage, but that, with them cohabitation constituted matrimony ; and this induced me to think, that there wanted nothing but *Mica's*

consent, when we retired to the cave, to have made *me* a married man.

“ Without knowing exactly why, I found myself every hour more and more inclined to adopt most of the manners of this singular nation; and grew actually impatient to arrive before the chief magistrate, in order to urge my wishes. There seemed so much calmness in all I had witnessed, so much order and tranquillity, that I became determined, by adoption, to become a Sophian, if it were possible to gain such an indulgence. Thus meditating the measures I should take on my arrival, we passed on in silence till evening: and although we travelled through a most delightful country, highly diversified with natural charms, yet my mind was so rapt that I took but little notice of it, but passed on musing and soothed with the melody of the birds; nor did any one attempt to interrupt me, for all were equally engaged, most of them in conversation, others in

small parties, chaunting low but sweet and popular harmonies.

“ In this manner we arrived at the foot of a hill, when we were suddenly alarmed by the loudest outcries, and saw a number of people running towards us who seemed frantic with despair. The forest with which this hill was surrounded echoed with their lamentation; nor was it long before we met two young women followed by an aged man, and these again by a group of boys and girls, who were all violently agitated, and seemed wandering they knew not whither; from the women it was impossible to learn any thing, except that some miserable misfortune had happened to their children; but the old man, who seemed sinking under fatigue and distress of mind, sat down among us quite overcome, and soon explained the sad calamity.

“ A public building of an amphi-theatric

form, which was erected on the side of the hill, surrounded by trees, and solely applied to the purposes of educating very young children, had been undermined by a small spring which encircled it, and the whole, at once, aided by a very slight shock of an earthquake, had sunk down, accompanied by the fall of its trees and stones, so as to precipitate in a mass of ruin numbers of infants, with all the masters and mistresses of this useful establishment.

“ On hearing this report, we took the old man’s directions and redoubled our speed to arrive at the spot where the accident had happened, which we found a complete scene of distress and confusion; the men all actively employed in removing the branches and stones, the women encouraging them by their praises :—we all joined ardently in the labour, and, by this acquisition of new strength, it was not long before numbers were extricated from very dangerous situations. On calcu-

lating their loss we had the pleasure to find that these good people had been more fortunate than they at first imagined; for out of above two hundred children one only was actually killed, though several had limbs broken; and none among the teachers had suffered but a very aged man who sat under a kind of arch-way, and whose sole office was the superintendence of the other masters. Him we took up dead with the young child near him, whom, it was supposed, at the time the accident happened he had been holding in his arms. I was assisting at disengaging his body from the ruins.—It was of an uncommon size and bone, with a countenance impressed with the most venerable marks of sense and gravity.

“ We carried him and the child into the village, where a bed of sweet-scented herbs had been prepared for their reception; and after numbers had, by tears and embraces,

testified their respect for his remains, they were covered with dry branches of pine-trees and other combustible woods, after which the whole was set on fire, and in a very few minutes there was left nothing but a heap of ashes, which were instantly interred on the spot:—each man bringing a stone from the ruined building, by order of a person who seemed to be a magistrate, in the space of a few hours a noble square platform was raised ; which they told me would, when converted into a handsome tomb, be dedicated to the memory of the aged tutor and the child who accompanied him to the grave.

“ The greatest part of the night, which was moon-light, was employed in these amiable offices ; and the morning was ushered in with the most affecting dirges, in which all the inhabitants of the village seemed to unite as if accustomed to the pious exercise.

“ Having exerted myself exceedingly, and having been seconded stoutly by old *Yahomy*, we were both complimented in a handsome speech from the magistrate, and requested to repose during the day and take some necessary refreshment previously to continuing our journey.

“ To this proposal we readily consented, with the approbation of our conductor; and, after retiring to rest at a lodging appointed for us, rose up and went to his house. It consisted of a semi-circular area, embracing the sides of the hill, and down the descent of which, many small alleys were contrived through a species of beautiful blooming heath, with occasional openings and seats of turf for repose, over which aromatic flowering shrubs and orange trees were artfully conducted, so as to afford a light and pleasant shade at all times, while small but clear streams ran bubbling by the sides of the paths, occasionally

flowing into little stone basins of a pale red colour, whose edges were always ornamented with small flowers, or the most beautiful mosses and lichens.

“I was commending the elegance of his taste when he interrupted me, by remarking, that I should rather admire the rustic cheapness and ease with which these walks were accomplished. ‘I have done nothing (said he), but make declining paths in conformity with the plans of my neighbours, who have pitched their habitations on this side of our mountain; and many of whom have, to my shame, outdone me in industry and neatness; for you will observe, the whole is nearly in the same style; and we lose nothing by it, as these winding tracts serve the flocks as well as ourselves, and these fountains slake their thirst, while the shrubs afford them shade; as to the seats, they serve for resting places for the

aged, schools for our peripatetic tutors, and couches for the shepherds to recline upon during the heat of the day.'

'What then (said I), are not those grounds your exclusive property?'—He stared at me, with fixed astonishment; and, turning to *Chilo*, exclaimed, 'Does your companion take us for tyrants? Could all this be mine, who am an old man and not a tyger of the desert? Thanks to the laws of *Sophis*, such inequality is among us, unknown:—Did you think, (turning to me), because I directed the people yesterday, that they were all my slaves or my cattle? No, young man, I only supplied an office which my age, and long residence here, imposed on me in my turn, and which at the end of the year will belong to another.'

"I blushed at my mistake, and acknow

ledged the justice of his reproof; but inwardly resolved to be more cautious for the future in guessing at the system of these primitive people, whose every action I felt myself compelled to approve and admire.—But the next day, as we were preparing for our departure, I was entirely thrown off my guard by finding that neither of our camels was to be found, and at the cool indifference with which my friend announced this disaster.

“Hitherto I could have no suspicion of being robbed, for I had seen no gold ornaments whatever on any of the inhabitants whether men or women, except a single ring in the left ear; and concluded, that whatever use they might have for it, no attempts would be made to deprive me of my merchandize by fraud or force; much less, that in company with such just people I should be plundered of what they seemed to consider as highly

valuable property, though not even *Chilo* could inform me what return I was to receive for it, if I chose to leave the yellow dirt among them. But being thus, at once, divested of my whole wealth, I began, inadvertently, to give way to the most unjust and imprudent suspicions; and, after declaring openly that if the camels were not speedily restored I should lay the loss to the charge of those in my company; I ran, followed by the afflicted Caffre, all over the village, looking into every house, overturning all that came in my way, and, after two hours of vain search, came back covered with sweat and dust, quite exhausted, enraged, and almost beside myself.

“ Here I found only *Chilo*, engaged in close conversation with the venerable magistrate: they looked at me with countenances of pity and compassion, which revived my former

confusion ; but I leave you to judge what were my feelings, when the latter gravely addressed me as follows .—

“ ‘ Stranger, your conduct wrongs us all ; but most of all my friend’s son who is your generous and affectionate companion ; as for myself I am too well known here to suffer in the least from those hasty conclusions that have wounded his inmost breast : whatever your animals carried, he is void, as we all are, of the knowledge of it ; and, if they were lost, would be innocent of any designed wrong ; although, in the hurry of yesterday, he did not take that care of them which is customary. The cause of their disappearance is unknown to us, but I do not believe they are stolen, because, we trust there are few men among us capable of such an unprovoked atrocity, the which would be sure to be punished with perpetual banishment from Sophis : when, therefore, they come to light, I leave you to re-

reflect on the effects of your impatience, which will be long recorded here; for already are you abandoned by all but my friend and myself; the rest having resolved to go no further with you, lest your intemperate passions should lead you to commit some acts of violence, or their own contempt of such unmanly conduct induce them to forget the sacred laws of hospitality.'

" All this he said with a most serene countenance, as I perceived in the beginning, for towards the latter end of his speech, my eyes were intuitively riveted to the ground, when shame and confusion took entire possession of me—my very soul seemed to be abashed within me.

" Tears now poured from my eyes in abundance, and relieved, while they degraded me, (as I then thought), but they made a very different impression on my Mentor;—him

they softened: ‘*Lycas* (said he), your heart I see is uncorrupted. Base people shed tears when they receive personal and painful injuries, or when they are deprived of sensual enjoyments; you weep at the just reproof of my worthy friend, and thereby acknowledge that you are erroneous, but incapable of injustice:—Let us go on together to *Sophis*; we have somewhat tarnished our fame here, my friend; but we will show them, in other places, that we are become wiser men from experience.

“While he was speaking, we heard a great shout, and soon saw a crowd of people coming up with our camels, exclaiming, ‘they are found! they are found!’ and, to my accumulating distress, it soon appeared that the animals had only been conducted to a rich pasture] on our road by a kind villager, who thought thereby to do us a grateful service,

“ I was soon surrounded by a host of witnesses to my disgraceful conduct, and could have almost wished the earth to open and swallow me up; but *Chilo* relieved me, with a kind and sanguine act of friendship, by speaking for me, and saying, ‘ We own we have been wrong to suspect you, O valuable neighbours! we hope for your pardon, and solicit you to forget and forgive the errors of humanity.’

“ So saying, he took me by the hand, and conducted me on our road to *Sophis*; we went on in silence—nor did I dare to look around me till we had travelled an hour in the valley which surrounded the village; when, lifting up my eyes, I was not a little surprised to see in the rear all our company, but far behind.

“ *Chilo* observed my astonishment: ‘ Come,

come (said he), our faults are forgiven, let them be forgot : , *Yahomy* is near you ; I am the son of your first acquaintance ; and know my countrymen well enough to assure you that they will never more think of this adventure.'

“ These cordial assurances dissipated the clouds from my mind, and a serene composure took place, something like the clearing up of the sky after a sudden storm of thunder in the middle of summer. At that instant, in passing round a winding path in a thick forest we were agreeably surprised with the sight of a party of noble looking youths, accompanied by two middle-aged men and an older one : all of them were sitting nearly in a row on a sloping bank of flowery verdure, the foot of which was washed by a cool, unruffled, and transparent stream.

“ My friend told me they were a peripa-

tetic school going to the place we came from that as the object of education with them consisted in acquiring a thorough acquaintance with the first principles of morality, their laws, arts, and general habits of life; it had been a custom from times past, to remove from place to place with the youths, as soon as they had acquired strength enough for the exercise of walking; beginning first with conducting them to the environs of their own village, and terminating their education during a tour of all the islands: ‘ By this means (said he), many useful effects are produced: agriculture is studied by an actual view of all our improvements; all the branches of art traced to their sources; each citizen becomes acquainted with the whole state; health is promoted; good manners taught by practice and observation; and, while the mind is maturing, all the useful exercises of the body are learned, as it were, by way of amusement. They swim, run, leap, wrestle, and, by in-

tervals, carry burthens; music is practised when they repose; painting, and modelling from the face of nature, and the observation of their own bodies; arithmetic they practise walking, by the aid of their fingers, or a small tablet, divided into four parts: for we have four fingers, which, when added together, make ten, and the thumb is the multiplier, serving for one, two, three, four, ten, or any other number.—I desired him to explain this, not without feeling some degree of compassion for their ignorance of our mode of arithmetic.

“ ‘ It is very simple (said he); the little finger stands for one, the second for two, the third for three, the fourth for four, and the thumb for the number ten, or any number composed of these, acts as a multiplier. Thus, by touching the fore finger with the thumb we express forty; by uniting all the fingers with the thumb one hundred; two, three

four, and any number to ten hundred, is described by using the fingers and thumb of the other hand as second multipliers.'—I was obliged to confess it was simple and useful, lest he should demand an explanation of our methods, which it would not have been quite so easy to detail: but never suspecting that there could be any other mode in the world he did not enter into the enquiry.

“ Observing that we stopt and seemed to be talking about them they all rose up, and, in so doing, saluted us; at the same time extending their arms towards us with gracious and complacent smiles: we returned the compliment, and requested them to partake of the refreshments which were brought up by our party that had by this time joined us; none of whom, I was pleased to remark, directed their looks particularly to me. We feasted on eggs with which the place abounded, sipt the pure wave, finished with a wild

fruit like a strawberry, danced, had a chorus-song, and separated well pleased with each other.—But I must not forget to tell you, that before we parted the old tutor informed me his chief duty was instruction in morals; that neither of them were brought up expressly for the purpose of educating others, but that he had pursued it voluntarily all his life; the others at the express desire of the community they belonged to, having been always remarkable for their good conduct and solidity of parts; that the excursion would last only during six months, when they returned to their homes at the commencement of the wet season; and that each of them had relations among the troop of scholars. Most people of talents he told me accepted this office once or twice in their lives, considering it as a high distinction to be selected for it. Many perform the duty oftener, as it is always accompanied with the reward of the esteem and friendship of our fellow citizens,

the praises of the magistrates, and that important self-approbation arising from the consciousness of having coincided with the object of our creation, the promotion of love and happiness, which puts all apprehension of personal danger as it were afar off, and makes the man seem invulnerable.

“ While he was speaking, I forgot how the time passed, and could have listened to him all day with pleasure; but finding our troop were almost out of sight and that I was left alone, I found myself under the necessity of taking leave. ‘ Stranger, we shall meet again at *Sophis*. (were his last words), and then I will take that opportunity of making some enquiries in my turn; in the mean time may your journey be agreeable, and your reception such as you may reasonably desire.

“ I was in no haste to join my company. Every thing I encountered humbled me in

my own opinion ; and I, who before thought myself a giant from my personal and mental strength, travels, and resolution, seemed, among these Sophians, to be shrinking into a pigmy.

“ We slept that evening, on the side of a hill at a kind of caravansera for the accommodation of travellers. Near it fell a prodigious torrent that raised a refreshing mist, and gave to the woods in the neighbourhood a remarkable verdure ; innumerable singing birds inhabited the boughs ; monkies played their gambols about us on the branches of the lofty trees ; and herds of antelopes fed around us as calmly as a flock of sheep, with whom they were occasionally mixed. We lay scattered in various groups, glowing with the reflection of a finely setting sun ; while some were employed in preparing supper, others, in forming mattresses of leaves and moss, and the young men in enclosing some

of the wild animals in thickets, in order to procure their milk ; with some drops of which the aged made a libation on the ground, placing also thereon a small portion of every thing we partook of as a testimony of gratitude to the great giver of life, and the means of preserving it, ' Which, (said *Chilo*, as he deposited the offering with reverence), is of itself a continual bestowing of the blessings of vitality.'

" While all this was transacting, I strolled up to the shade of an old tree, where I found a young woman playing to some others who surrounded her and listened with great attention, on an instrument to me totally unknown, but, which, as she recited a sort of hymn, made an agreeable accompaniment to her voice. The instrument consisted of a long, hollow, and very large cane, with a foot placed at a right angle, which gave the whole the form of the letter T ; the broad

part rested on the ground, and the other had a crooked head, which, bending over her shoulder, served to keep it steady. It had a string of one gut that passed over a bridge near the cross of the T; instead of fretts there was a roller of ivory, which she managed with one hand, to conduct, by a handle below, up and down the cane, so as not only to stop but actually swell a note; and with the other she struck the string, louder or softer as the tune required. The air was elegant, and much affected me: to this day I remember it in part, it began—

* *‘Give me a lover, with the sturdy roots of whose heartstrings, the small branches of mine may so entangle themselves, that no wind may ever be able to tear them asunder.’*

“Of the remembrance of music I then knew

* An Indian song perhaps.

little ; but the air, the instrument, the song, and the singer, satisfied my heart.

“ There were also, not far from them, some children dancing to a kind of dulcimer, whose strings were struck with a plectrum, the bridge of which instrument was two horns moving on fixed points, whose approach on the board was adjusted by screws ; the whole of the strings being passed round pulleys, fixed to these horns, and consisting of one catgut of a great length. The accompanying instrument was a broad drum, which a boy beat with his fingers, and clappers, with which the principal dancers kept time.

“ I now returned to the building, or rather long portico, for it was nearly open, and its marble having, by the effects of weather, acquired a fine orange colour, the contrast was remarkably agreeable, when opposed to the azure of the firmament.

Yahomy was there sitting in a pensive attitude in the shade, as if buried in deep reflection; and I could not, under our present circumstances, help thinking, that his looks on my arrival conveyed a secret air of reproach; so active a censor is the consciousness of unworthy conduct on a mind endowed with any degree of sensibility.

“ Placing myself by him, I immediately communicated those reflections that tormented me. He laughed during my relation; ‘ You are entirely mistaken (said he), slight faults are not so severely punished in *Sophis*, where there reigns so much goodness of heart, and so much happiness. Error acknowledged, is error forgotten; but I was, like you, bending under the weight of self-reproach, which was occasioned by the enjoyment this delightfully-shady place confers: behold that bust with a name under it in a corner of this

portico; it is that of the man who during his life-time caused it to be erected as his monument: for it is the custom here, to raise none over the dead; since they think, that he who shall neglect the performance of some such useful act towards society while living, is unworthy of his country's remembrance when no more: but I, what monument have I raised? what benefit have I conferred on mankind? a childless wanderer, my mother-earth maintains me, an unworthy son!'—It was no difficult matter to prove to him that I stood there a living monument of his kindness; and, as to external offices, I promised that after my arrival at the capital we would not long delay to strengthen this noble custom, by consecrating a part of my wealth to some purpose useful to society; on which occasion his kindness to me should be recorded, and our friendship perpetuated in sculptured marble.—'So far as it is done (said he), with mo-

desty, and gives employment to ingenious artists, such an act would please the citizens, especially if we inscribe on it

BY THE TRAVELLERS,

OR,

BY THE STRANGERS.'

'Or suppose we were to repair some fountain fallen into decay (replied I,) would not that be more decent in our situation, without adding any inscription at all?'—'It would (said he), if any such decayed buildings were to be found; but you know not, as yet, the country, any more than the way of thinking, of its citizens. All useful monuments of this kind are repaired by the community; while frivolous ones, after the death of their founder, are destroyed; and this law operates with good effect on those who are desirous of fame; for, every time they are repaired, the original founder's name is carefully restored, together with the date of the monu-

ment; and, as the views of the man who first erected it are sacredly adhered to, whether he intended it for shade, refreshment, as a bridge over a brook, or a habitation for the aged, he whose generous mind first projected the most useful service to his fellow men, is sure of a lasting record of his name to the end of society.'

"In this conversation we passed the rest of the evening, anticipating the end of our long journey and our reception among the heads of the nation.

"The next day we pursued our road at the dawn of light; myself, *Chilo*, and *Yahomy* leading on foot; for such I found was the manner of travelling when approaching the capital, at all times where ceremony was used: which served at once to ascertain who were the leading people of the troop, and prevented many mistakes on the road; our de-

parture being always a signal to those who accompanied us to prepare to follow with expedition.

“ We now ascended a steep hill, cut with care into a winding and easy slope ; at the summit of which it was an agreeable surprise to find a resting-place surrounded by trees, and a fine gushing spring pouring into a white marble shell, whose brim perpetually overflowed, and trickled in chrystal drops on the flowers that surrounded it.

“ The rising sun, which had dispersed the mists, presented to our view a large town lying on a swelling knoll at the foot of the mountain. The buildings were all low, their lines, from that circumstance, long and picturesque ; but frequently broken by fine groups of graceful trees, or separated by the meanders of a silver stream, on whose surface, glowing with the sun's early rays, I could easily

distinguish abundance of aquatic birds in playful motion.—Beyond the town rose a lofty country of great extent, well wooded, and diversified with innumerable pastoral residences: the back ground was composed of rocks shaded with aged forests, and broken with some capacious lakes—while the whole expanse presented to us a scene as sublime, rich, and interesting, as any I had ever seen on the face of the earth; but I can scarcely describe my surprise, when they both told me, that the place we then beheld was *Sophis*.

“ I had expected to be longer on the journey before we arrived; imagined it could not but be a vast city; looked for innumerable houses and magnificent public buildings; and so hastily explained these ideas to *Chilo*, that what I said had almost an air of contempt united with disappointment. Of this he took no other notice than by observing, that the city was formed on their ideas of what a

capital ought to be; for with them its smallness constituted its greatest eulogium; as many people huddled together, must necessarily be prejudicial to health and industry; and the arts might be more beneficially followed where the artist's family enjoyed the breezes of the country, and the advantages of horticulture, both of which were indispensably necessary to a nation that subsisted on natural productions.—Nor indeed (said he), should we have had any capital at all, were it not necessary to have a place where our archives might be recurred to with certainty, and secured from decay; where our first magistrate should reside to do justice, and the delegates of the people assemble to execute the general will.—Yet small as our capital appears to you, it is chiefly composed of public buildings; the capaciousness and utility of which I am persuaded will meet with your approbation when you have considered them, and are better acquainted with our laws and

customs : for the basis of them is an attempt to preserve to man in society all the advantages of the natural state, and to prevent him from falling into those corruptions which crowds are too likely to engender.

“ An hour on the summit of this agreeable eminence thus engaged soon passed away. When the company joined us, a messenger was sent to *Sophis* to announce our approach, and the motives which had occasioned our journey.

“ The whole of the descent was very easy : the path winding through groves of tall trees, whose underwoods were chiefly of sweet-scented and flowering shrubs, watered by many trickling streams, the freshness of which invited and detained a numerous tribe of beautiful song-birds. Herds of goats also with long and silvery hair were frequently seen browsing on the banks. Many shady

alcoves, the monuments of departed citizens graced the road, whose walls were covered with vines, and overshadowed by date-trees, and pomegranates. Little farms filled the open spots; and when approaching the city, the whole way seemed to pass through a prolific garden of fruits, esculent plants, and gaudy flowers.

“ On each side the gates, or, more properly, entrance, for gates there were none, were two immense fountains, whose waters were received into circular marble basins, and never overflowed, but were carried silently away through subterranean channels: the entrance itself was a noble arch, which formed only the segment of a large circle, whose roof was parallel with the earth, and beneath whose shade, at each extremity, were two long marble sophas, on which the magistrates and officers were constantly

seated in rotation. Two we found there, accompanied by several citizens,—whose only distinction consisted in the marks of age, and the ebony rods which they held in their hands.

“ *Chilo* delivered one of them a paper containing an account of all his father knew of us, which he read with an audible voice ; and after an agreeable conference of a few minutes, we were informed that we might proceed to the mansion appointed for strangers.

“ Before we left the place, however, I stopped to examine more minutely this singular entrance to a city without walls ; and found that it was not a mere work of ostentation : for, besides that it composed a justice-seat, the whole served as a grand sun-dial, the roof being grooved and furnished with two flights of steps ; and, in the front, instead of any

other ornaments were two small alcoves, from whence, on certain occasions, the laws were promulgated to the people.

“ The whole was constructed with much solidity, of green, yellow, and white marble ; and, although nearly without embellishments, finished with a degree of accuracy that I have never yet seen surpassed. The pavement, both under and about it, was of porphyry, and presented a platform of considerable extent, bounded by an irregular grove of shady trees, through which an avenue was conducted, that led up to the great square.

“ On our arrival there every thing was so new and agreeable to me that my mind was quite overpowered with amazement—the crowd, the buildings, a magnificent tank in the middle of the purest water, parties dancing to the sound of various instruments, others exchanging refreshments, flowers, or fruit ; some offering seats made of cane,

others umbrellas of papyrus leaves; the groups of elegant men and women, who rose at each step to survey us, all contributed to encrease my confusion; and I whispered *Chilo* to take me away, before my head was turned with pleasure and admiration. Nor did I conceal from him the principal cause of my agitation. I saw, or thought I saw among the crowd the image of *Mica*, on whose account I had suffered so much reproach and internal shame.

“ The pleasantry of my conductor, however, tended not a little to recover my senses from the disorder into which they had been thrown. Putting his right-hand on my shoulder, he placed the other over my eyes: ‘ Let me secure you (said he), from again seeing this dangerous vision; the girl may have deep designs; it is proper we should keep you from her sight; love is sometimes malicious.’ ”

“ ‘ No, (replied I, feeling then the full force of my happy situation), I will not be protected from her just resentment; it may be salutary to me to receive correction from that quarter; take away your hand.’—‘ Alas! (said he, with a sarcastic smile), the bird is flown, and mocks us from the clouds.’

“ By this time we were come to the place appointed for our accommodation.—A noble building occupying nearly one side of the great square: it was elevated, spacious, and had two extensive porticoes one above the other continuing all round; the lowermost for the accommodation of male travellers, the uppermost for females—much resembling the saloons of the Asiatic princes, but more simple in the general effect; the lower order being grave, the upper light and exquisitely elegant, suitable to the purposes for which each part was destined. Nor were the materials less appropriate; the first story being composed of

a marble or stone of a dark amethyst colour, ornamented by lines of a pale yellow; the upper of an olive-green, with similar ornaments of white. But the most singular thing was the roof, which was entirely converted into a tank or basin for water, and supplied from a neighbouring mountain by marble pipes, in the centre of which was a pillar of the same material, which, while it served to support an immense covering, was perforated so as to convey the water of the basin through the centre of the building. From this pillar, as from a conduit, all the apartments were amply supplied; while below, as well as above, it served an abundance of small baths, with which the whole building was surrounded; and lastly, watered a great number of large orange-trees, two of which were planted at the foot of each bath so as to form a noble alley in the front of the whole building, which composed one entire side of this extensive square.

“ The opposite side consisted of halls for the dispatch of public business, all of one ground floor, shady, spacious, refreshed with fountains, airy, having large porticoes, and ample accommodations for repose; the symmetry of whose architecture, you can only judge of from the imperfect specimens here depicted on the prison-walls, rather from memory than actual measurement. A tender remembrance, it is true, warmly agitated me when designing them; but I warn you against giving me credit for accuracy—they are mere sketches; for who can pretend to rival the sublime and chaste ideas of the Sophian architects, whose public edifices, although nearly unornamented—and wholly depending on geometrical correctness, and nicely balanced proportions, inspire the soul with dignified and virtuous pride—such as noble minds exult in on contemplating vast productions gradually created by human industry, with fitness and simplicity. ”

Here we both remained silent a few moments; but while I examined one side of the chamber on which the steady hand of *Lycas* had finely delineated these lofty halls, I saw, by a side-glance, his manly breast heave like a swelling sea, his colour fade and return; when, covering his face with his shrivelled hands, he uttered a long-drawn sigh that seemed to describe the flutter of his departing soul. “These, these, (he exclaimed,) can affect you but feebly as efforts of taste; but to me they speak too audibly—they remind me that *there* I first was reconciled to *Mica*; *there* wedded a woman who, under an apparently frivolous outside, concealed a soul of prodigious fortitude, unparalleled affection, and whose frame alone rivalled in symmetry the immortal works of her countrymen!”—When recovering himself suddenly, “Pardon me (rejoined he), this burst of passion.—no other subject can now agitate my icy veins; judge then what must have been her merits,

who, although now long lost, still retains the power to controul this aged bosom, which sacredly enshrines her beloved image, and the memory of whose virtues has been my almost sole relief during this long solitary confinement."

While thus giving vent to his griefs, which by my silence and gestures, I religiously respected, a sudden and piercing cry was distinctly heard near the door of our prison; and, an instant after, the poor fellow, who had the care of us, hastily unbarring the ponderous valves, rushed into the chamber and fainted at my feet.

By our joint efforts we presently recovered him; and, the cries still continuing at intervals, demanded of him the cause of his alarm.

"The spirit of the Nile (said he, his teeth chattering in his head), has taken entire pos-

session of this accursed tower; now, more than ever infested with howling demons, who daily play their pranks up and down its gloomy galleries.—Neither Allah, nor Mahomet do they respect, although his holy name is scored with charcoal on the door of each chamber; nor have you, O *Lycas*! with your good heart, or your music-box, been able to drive them to their habitations in hell—do you not now hear the yells they utter? Not content with rushing before me at every corner, to make me break my water jars (whose pure emanent they abhor), and extinguishing my torch with infernal vapours, I am now to be scared with terrific blasphemies and the howlings of the damned; let me beg of you, therefore, to take the koran, and come down to the sally-port watch-tower, for, undoubtedly all the devils of Egypt are now clawing each other in that lonely angle.”

“ I have no koran” (said *Lycas*)—“ Come then (said the affrighted keeper), with your own sweet voice that so charms me, and charm them.” The apostrophe was too civil to be resisted; we descended therefore, rapidly following the fellow, who went on puffing with impatience, and getting two hearty falls by the way, all of which he attributed to the spiteful goblins of the castle. At length, after winding towards the gloomy spot where we distinctly heard the direst lamentations, and finding no human form from which they could proceed, we were all at a loss to account for the strange phenomenon, till looking out of a narrow and deep loophole, the jailor drew back with the countenance of a man that had beheld a ghost—he could not articulate, but pointed to the place; and my companion being much too feeble to get up to it, I mounted on the keeper’s shaking shoulders, and thrusting out my neck,

for which the aperture scarcely allowed room, I beheld a sight that might have petrified any one—it was no spirit, but a poor follow-prisoner, who, in a desperate attempt to escape had miscalculated the depth he had to descend into a gloomy fosse overgrown with reeds, where he hoped to lie concealed ; and having, by accident, slid below a projecting stone, from whence he probably intended to make a second sally, hung suspended from a cord by his hands, blown backwards and forwards by the wind, and now nearly exhausted and ready to drop into a deep and watery hole, merely to look down to which, produced in me a sensation of indescribable aversion.

Fortunately for the poor man, we found a place from whence we could seize his cord ; and he was soon, by our united efforts, restored, more dead than alive, to his forsaken cell.

The poor gaoler now laughed heartily at his own folly; while we returned to our confinement, and found our frugal evening's repast much sweetened by the benevolence we had been enabled to practise, and the proof we had acquired that imprudence may augment even the miseries of captivity for life.

Next morning, the old man met me with his cheerful countenance more than usually enlivened. The gaoler, from gratitude for our assistance, or perhaps from a desire to make us forget his ridiculous fears, had brought a basket of limes, some coffee, and a jar of palm-wine. We knew he would conceal for his own sake the attempted escape of the poor prisoner; and, to ingratiate ourselves still farther with a man, on whose good offices many of our common comforts depended, we invited him to partake of some sherbet; while my philosophical companion in confinement, touched the guitar for

our mutual entertainment. The strain was enchanting; for my own part, I forgot I was a prisoner; and the citizen of *Sennaar* quite transported, remembered no longer his occupation:—"Go, (said he), begone! escape!—let me die, let me perish for such a friend!"

For my own part, I confess, I was almost ready to take him at his word; but the noble sufferer made the blushes come into my cheeks, when, throwing down the instrument, he arrested my purpose: 'How (said he), have I, in imagination, conveyed you to *Sophis* only to see you return to this ignoble selfishness?—Freedom is doubtless inestimably, *immeasurably* sweet; but in base society there is no true liberty. We should both forfeit our good opinions were we to accept of the offer this man's transport of gratitude has laid before us—could we ever be happy under a freedom procured by an artifice that must cost the life of our deluded benefactor?—No, it is undoubtedly lawful to interest

him in our behalf so as to humanize his guardianship, but not for the purpose of teaching his unguarded heart to betray his trust."—When, turning to the keeper, "My good friend, (said he), take your keys and begone; your offer will not easily be forgotten: when we can procure the blessing you propose without causing the ruin of others you may then repeat it. You have been too kind to me hitherto ever to find in me your mortal enemy."

The astonished keeper looked first at one, then at the other, and retired without speaking a word. The speech of *Lycas* excited in me fresh admiration, and I felt sorry for the part I had acted in the scene; for the magnanimous sentiment, exalted my soul, and seemed thereby to have softened my captivity; but just as I was going to apologize he cut me short, and with much compla-

ceency thus resumed the narration of his history.—

“ We were now in the great caravansara of *Sophis*, and the ensuing day was fixed for our audience with the ruling men of that country; the intervening time was passed in admiring the interior of the building, the whole of which was finished in a manner more splendid than I had ever before witnessed; black, red, and gold japanned wood, highly wrought and polished, made every apartment look like a curious cabinet: nor was ivory and ebony spared in the construction of the sophas. We ate out of bowls of fine porcelain; reposed on exquisitely soft yellow mattresses; and, in a word, partook of much innocent luxury amid such magnificence as is even unknown at Constantinople.

“ *Chilo* was gratified with the notice I took

of every thing, telling me that the reason why this splendour was banished from other habitations was in order to preserve general equality, and that it might be the more noticed here. Some attractions, he observed, were necessary to bring the citizens to attend to their public duties at this place; some grandeur to give them an idea of their own public importance, and that of the tasks they came there to fulfil; some comforts to compensate the lover of domestic felicity, and rural employment (which was the reigning passion of the nation) for that temporary loss which this journey annually occasioned: for, he explained to me, that once in every year the heads of families of each tribe, of a certain age, were by law required to appear in rotation, in order to maintain a perpetual representative senate which sat daily all the year round for the purpose of dispatching public business; their guide in which was a constitutional code, long ago brought nearly to

perfection ; so that the assembly, by a continual influx and efflux, like a sea gently agitated by regular tides, was secured from corruption, and that undue influence which long habits of governing are but too apt to produce in the minds of even good men. This period, however, did not commence with them till the prime of life, about thirty years of age, nor continue beyond sixty. From this duty none were exempt but those who were naturally incapacitated, or had forfeited their character by some highly criminal action against society ; and all in attending to it were equally maintained at the public charge, both the rich and those less wealthy, for the law allowed none to be positively poor.

“ Every male, by being born in the island, had a title to a certain portion of land ; not to cultivate which constituted a very high national crime, and was, if proved, punished by compulsive labour. His title also to a ro-

tationary seat in the assembly was equally simple, as it consisted in his having children born to him by his wife.

“ I felt my eyes obscured by a watery humour when he came to this part of his description ; and involuntarily demanded, if I also might not have children born to me in this country, and become at once a father, a citizen, and a senator ?

“ “ Undoubtedly (said he), you shall, if *Mica* consents ; *if* she love you *she* can make you a Sophian ; for, being the heiress of a worthy family, she can in her own right depute you as her representative after cohabitation and the fruits of it appear : *on no other terms* could you possibly become one of us, notwithstanding the apparent title your language gives you ; and I verily believe my father threw her in your way from some motive ; for you

see plainly, either that, or her own inclinations, have conducted her after us.'—I seized his hand, and kissed it, as he uttered these words, which seemed like soft music to my attentive ears; and retired soon after to those delicious slumbers which like waking dreams fill the whole mind with transporting images, too confused to be recovered, too enchanting ever to be described.

“ Day had scarcely broke forth when we rose, took a slight repast, and, accompanied by *Chilo*, and the good old *Yahomy*, went straight to view this original city.

“ That stupendous orb, the sun, was just risen, and observing the respectful attention which *Chilo* paid to the first emissions of its rays, I could not help asking him, what he thought of that wonderful ball of fire of which so many ages had not been able to diminish the lustre?

“‘ Do you really then take it for a ball of fire? (said he,) the idea is new to me—we always considered it as one of the eyes of the universe, through which the eternal Energy emits what light it is pleased to bestow on us; and that light is itself both heat and life.’—I smiled, but could not help asking again what he meant by the eternal Energy,—did he mean a first cause? which I felt *must* be, but wondered that I could not reach it. ‘ I will shew you (said he), *why* you cannot reach it.’ We were then near the gate, to ascend to the pointed summit of which, were steps on both sides. Instead of replying to my question he bade me go up before him, and when I arrived at the top, told me to go on; of course I descended—‘ How! (said he), are you descending? You should still ascend!’—‘ Nay (said I), that is impossible, there is no higher foundation for my feet; should I attempt it I shall break my

neck ; I had better, therefore, remain where I am.'

“ ‘ Just so (said he) is the path of man's reason circumscribed. We may ascend to a certain height on the steps of our reason ; but we have our highest point where we totter, or attempting to advance, decline ; we must either stop there, *or descend and know ourselves.*’

“ ‘ What (said I), are we not immortal, is not the spirit of man a god-like thing ?’

“ ‘ Most probably (replied he with great calmness), but we know what body is, and not what is spirit : we should go out of our sphere to make mind the chief object, as much as we should do were we to neglect the intimation of so noble and sincere a monitor. *If our soul be immortal, it will be

so; if it be not, *it will be where it ought to be.* During its mortal connections, it will be employed, probably, as it is with us, in guiding matter, as far as its powers extend. For our part, what I humbly conceive to be our business, is, by the help of the mind, to attain to the perfection of our material nature; not to lose our time in merely enquiring what mind is. Our first duty, I conceive, is to preserve and prolong our own existence, which can only be done by leading simple and innocent lives; our next, to multiply and provide for our offspring; and lastly, by the help of the experience we have acquired, to enable them still to improve their modes of life, and still to augment the sum of their happiness and virtue.'

" Here he paused. and I was silent; but I felt my whole frame calmed like the sea after a storm, when, bounded by an unruffled mirror, the sandy beach lies cool and un-

blemished to receive the soft access of the evening breeze.

“ Discoursing thus, we came to the senate-house, on the opposite side of the square: our business being extra-judicial, an early hour had been appointed—my heart palpitated, yet I knew not wherefore, as no guilt dwelt within it; notwithstanding which, I felt like a criminal preparing for execution.—Should they banish me (said I, inwardly) I am lost! Can I support the thoughts of leaving this country? Can I live without—the name of *Mica* was on my lips, but I suppressed its utterance.

“ The entrance was of that sublime proportion, which is rather felt than seen: The vestibule spacious and solemn, yet I noticed its particulars but little; but, on approaching the theatre, where with becoming gravity the assembly were all

seated on polished benches, gently ascending, and so contrived, by passages, as to give convenient access to each, I was recalled to myself by its imposing awfulness; not on account of any peculiar habit, for all were in their common dresses; the more aged in one much like this I now wear, the younger were without either turbans or robes; but, for the most part, possessing large dark eyes, graceful beards, and hair in abundance, overshadowing features full of generous expression.

“ *Chilo* did not keep me long in suspense, but, advancing to a sort of tribune in the centre, ascended it, unfolded his father's letter, and having received a signal that he might proceed, read to the representatives assembled a short narrative, which related the manner of my coming into the island, my conduct since, my professed motives, those of my companion; the commodity I had brought, the singularity of my being acquainted

with much of the language, and our desire, (if not inconsistent with the principles of their constitution,) to remain incorporated among them.

“ Having finished, he descended with as little ceremony as he had before used in ascending, and joining us, conducted us to a sort of platform, where we stood in sight of, and within hearing of our judges, who instantly proceeded to the business in hand by simply putting the question of our stay or departure; which, after about a quarter of an hour’s silent reflection, was decided by a ballot of black shells, in the negative as to my stay, but in the affirmative with respect to *Yahomy*.

“ On receiving the report, which *Chilo* gave me with great reluctance, I fell senseless on the earth; nor do I remember any thing that followed, till I found myself, some days afterwards, languid and faint on a sofa at

the caravansary, in the arms of the kind *Yahomy*, while *Chilo* was feeling my pulse with a look of despair; and,———Oh! unutterable happiness! the lovely and compassionate *Mica*, with dishevelled locks, affectionately embracing my feet.

“ Having been some time in the strong delirium of a fever, owing to the shock which disappointed hopes had produced on my frame, every thing appeared to me like a dream. I would have arisen in order to throw myself before her, but my frame was too much weakened for the effort. All I could do was to stretch out my arms, extend my eyes towards the desired object, utter a deep sigh, and burst into a violent flood of scalding tears.

“ These, by relieving my over-heated brain, at last gave me utterance: but what I said was too incoherent to be understood in any other light than as an expression of the vio-

lence of my grief, and unbounded passion for the object before me.

“ She approached, clasped my hand, and sat down by my side: *Chilo* took the other but I insensibly withdrew it to press her's with both of mine.—Her languid head reclined on my shoulder.—We remained, for some of the most delicious moments of my life, quite silent; during all which time, a seraphic fire, a healing balm seemed to steal through my very essence. How long it lasted I cannot recollect; but I shall ever remember, that when the sensation was reduced to the sober idea of common existence, I found that we were left together, heard the music of her voice, inhaled the balsam of her breath, and often repeated, as well as words could convey them, the tender ardours of my unlimited enthusiastic love.

“ But I beg your pardon (said the old captive), I see I have affected you too sensibly;

for time has not yet dissolved the sharp impression, nor age undermined the pleasing fabrick of former enjoyments. *We cannot, it is not possible to eradicate an early and true affection:*—‘ I feel it (I replied, smothering a sigh), but in opening my deep feasting wounds you relieve accumulated pain.’

“ To shorten the narrative, I must inform you (he rejoined), that the fever, after this interview, took a sudden favourable turn; and that my recovery was not a little advanced by the assurances of my friend, in addition to the happiness which I felt in the unreserved communication of *Mica's* attachment—that the decrees of their assemblies were not, in such a case as this, irreversible. On the contrary, it was the boast of this reflecting people, that their senate was always open to appeals guided by reason; intending only public good, they knew of no rule without an exception, so that they could

never be ensnared into a decision by artful men, or studied eloquence. The chief motive for the ballot which banished me (he told me), was the strict letter of the law, united with its spirit, as far as related to my being an importer of merchandize. An uninvited guest, they thought, should come with clean hands. This they found manifest in the case of *Yahomy*, who entered poor, and seemed captivated by the irresistible attraction of their manners: 'But when (said he), I pleaded your cause the next day, explained to them and offered to be bound that you were not arrived a mean trafficker for profit; declared that you were in possession of the affections of a female citizen, and were ready to undergo any probationary trial—they reconsidered your singular case, and at length, consented to permit you a limited residence of two years; but, on the express condition that you should, in all things, conform to the manners of the island; and, in proof of your sincerity, part

with none of your gold but to those employed in constructing public works, or in the preparation of rewards to be disposed of by the public assembly.'

" And here it was, for the first time, I learned, that every male and every female received, on arriving at a state of puberty, golden ornaments of an equal value, though not similar construction: the males, a plain ring for the middle finger; the females, a small single ear-ring; that, on the decease of those of either sex, they were returned to the national treasury: by which means these singular people kept a simple register of all their active population, the date of the year, being engraven on each on the day of assuming them, which constituted, in every family, a species of festival annually observed.

" The business of our journey being now completed, we prepared for our return to the

habitation of *Chilo's* father, with *Mica* and *Yahomy* in our company. Their dress I adopted immediately; and their manners being perfectly unaffected and natural, it would have been mortifying not to follow them; for, while they relieved me from the fatiguing ceremonials of affected politeness, they instilled the most disinterested sentiments relative to social and mutual services; and perhaps a great deal of that urbanity, so remarkable amongst them, arose from their high ideas of natural freedom, mutual dependance, and reasonable equality.

“ The laws alone were paramount over all; but, in private families, the father preserved his natural authority, merely from habit, and the effects which the practice of humane actions always produce; for there existed no law to enforce, *in all cases*, obedience, to the will of parents, as it is by no means a matter of certainty that the parent is always a proper judge of what may con-

stitute the welfare of his child: yet I never witnessed more domestic happiness in any country than this; and nothing seemed to be wanting to compleat my felicity but an indissoluble union with the generous and accomplished object of my choice.

“ This earnest wish I took an early opportunity to suggest both to herself and to the father of *Chilo*.—She listened to me with much complacency, but never returned me any answer; and, on these occasions, seemed always, though tender and gently affectionate, to be under some embarrassment: but the old man quickly set all to rights, by explaining to me that, in *Sophis*, this sort of engagement admitted of no ceremonial rites, whatever others might demand; ‘ It is a compact (said he), which concerns alone the parties to it, and is so certain of taking place some time or other between the sexes, that it neither demands encouragement to po-

mote it at its proper time, nor dissuasion to prevent it where the organs are unprepared.—We leave all this to nature, whom we adore under the emblem of love, feeling it unnecessary to frame laws to regulate an instinctive commerce, as pure and as natural as the vital flame.—You are therefore (said he), the possessor of *Mica* exclusively, while your mutual attachment lasts; and I am much surprised that you have not already accomplished that which must have been long ago the wish of both parties.'

" I wanted words to express my astonishment at this speech. Instead of being charmed with this unlimited licence, I began to think I had been mistaken in the favourable opinion I had entertained of these extraordinary people; and, in the rashness of my judgment, took upon me to suspect, that, with regard to women at least, they had no notions of delicacy. I flew to my friend, *Chilo*, unbur-

thened my whole bosom to him, and before I would suffer him to utter a word, recounted all *our* hymeneal system, ceremonies, and laws.

“ My account appeared to astonish him little less than his father’s discourse had alarmed *me*. He told me, that he was not after all so much surprised at what I had related of foreign nations, whose customs he had often been told were the reason of the *Sophians* separating themselves from the world, as he was at my approbation of such ridiculous errors, who had hitherto professed myself to be a man guided by nature and reason.—‘ What! (said he), at the first genuine irresistible impulse of tender desire, do you check the current of creation, and forgetting your duty to the Maker of all, delay its exigent service at the command of those who are past feeling the divine impetus? Or, still worse, are there among you, men, who dare to interpose their feeble

wills to postpone the great unerring and explicit laws of propagation?—Can youth be so tinctured with sordid passions, as to seek in wealth a compensation for the finer feelings of their frame? Or, so corrupt as to demand, in the presence of witnesses, oaths, in proof of that which their eyes have declared, and a continued pursuit of tenderness ought to have established past dispute? But, above all, are there with you, men so wickedly cruel, as to insist on continuing a brutal commerce between what you call married people, after the affections are dead and cold? Or, tyrants who can think deliberately of engendering the children of hate and animosity? A thought so profligate sickens my very soul.—As to your women, I am pained to make unpleasant reflections; but surely it must be a strange effect of custom that can reconcile them to such habits as you describe, when you say (if I mistake not), that, in most countries of Europe they fix a day to consum-

mate the espousals of young virgins, who retire from the presence of all their family, friends, and acquaintance, to ascend the marriage couch; and the next day appear without blushes, though ruffled with the inordinate first rites of impetuous love: and, still more strangely indelicate, instead of fanning the mysterious flame, by soft denials, and secret conjunctions, they occupy the same pallet openly, and nightly; as if they either hastened to extinguish the lamp of hallowed and beneficent desire, or even, after all their bonds and sacred engagements, entertained doubts of each other's fidelity!

“ ‘ No wonder (added he, with a shrug of inexpressible disgust), that faithlessness, often follows such ill-contrived connections; or that the men who are capable of forging those chains for the feebler sex, should, with cruelty, revenge on their helpless victims the slightest deviation from their mandates.’

“ Here he paused ; and, while his just remarks penetrated my understanding and threw a bright light over the former prejudices of my mind, I could not but rejoice to find they admired so enthusiastically the virtues of fidelity and modesty.

“ ‘ You admit then (said I), O, my friend ! of pure connubial ties, and hold sacred the flame of love ? *Mica* may become mine exclusively ; and I ought to demand no other security of her fidelity than the stability of my affection.—I see, I feel now the delicacy of your customs ; but have the goodness to explain those which relate to this delightful union that sits so near my heart ?’

“ ‘ There is little to explain (said he) ; mutual attachment is the only tie we know of. *All others must be weak*, and we rarely punish infidelity : if caused by wantonness, and intemperance, it must at last prove its own punish-

ment, by diminishing confidence in such a character ; but we esteem female chastity, as being in itself a proof of an honourable mind, not light but solid, strictly keeping its first engagements : nay, we crown with green leaves those pairs who can boast of long continued connections, and, the usual result of them, a numerous progeny.—We do not object, nevertheless, to polygamy, as you call the having more than one wife, when all the parties agree ; because there may be many reasons which may make such an arrangement in some cases prudent ; but it is very uncommon, on account of the necessity of that agreement. As to the females whom you call prostitutes ; but who, with us, are termed the unhappy, they are very rare ; since such connections are totally inconvenient to men who live by agriculture, and whose strength often consists in the number of their children.—But we do not exclude them from the rights of society for having adopted those disgusting irregularities ;

neither are they spurned by their own family. On the contrary, viewing them in the light of women, the disease of whose minds is equally to be pitied with those maladies that affect the body, they consider it as an incumbent duty to afford them their best advice and hospitality. And hence these errors are seldom of very long continuance; for the repeated neglect of their lovers, either drives them back to that family asylum which is always in mercy open to them; or perceiving how much their character suffers by inconstancy, while health is injured and beauty decayed by those relaxing gratifications, they learn from experience the necessity of adopting a more prudent conduct. And it often happens that one of these, at first thoughtless women, becomes at last the best guardian of her rising relations. — As to those who could be capable of reproaching them with their former deviations, they would be regarded with as much abhorrence and contempt as

the person who should consider it as criminal to have had an access of a frenzy fever, or a stroke of the palsy.'

“ ‘ All this (said I), is very humane, and even according to my ideas, most just: but pray tell me, when an alliance has been formed, from mutual attachment, and one of the parties, attracted by superior accomplishments, or guided by an inconstant spirit, quits their first connection, and the offspring that has arisen from it; in what manner is the offending party punished, and on whom devolves the care of the children; what also is done to the seducer?’ ”

“ ‘ I cannot help smiling at so strange a question (said he): nevertheless, as you appear to be serious, I shall answer it with gravity. Did I not just now tell you that inconstancy was followed with the loss of our esteem. and, as to the other case, we say,

that he, or she, who cannot preserve the affections they have gained, must attribute the loss to their own negligence or fault. For whatever men value, it is generally observed that they enjoy without ostentation, and never neglect the care of. With us, beauty and merit, when acquired, cannot be locked up (as you say it is with you in Turkey) but it is seldom paraded about, or brought unnecessarily forward; and as we give both sexes the same education, both are studiously taught the art of preserving their lovers. We know that the disorders occasioned by passions deserve our utmost attention; and have people who make a kind of profession of curing them, tracing them generally to physical causes, and whose prescriptions are bounded by no limits that are not contrary to nature; so that it is no uncommon thing for one of these sages to prescribe a sexual connection as a remedy for the apparent disorders of the mind. Nor are there wanting instances, where

parents have saved their childrens lives or senses, by means that have often terminated in the solid settlement of both parties; for it constitutes a part of the skill of these intelligent practitioners, so to pair their patients, that a double cure may be effected by the same regimen.

“ * But these are cases which occur but very seldom. The general freedom of our manners gives, to almost every one, an opportunity of forming as early an alliance as they find necessary. That equality which prevails among us, as to fortune, and the labours of life, also contributes not a little to make parents less opposite to the attachment of their children, and occasions mixed society to be by no means dangerous. Equal citizens of our free country, we can conceive no distinctions, but those of superior beauty, virtue, talents, or experience: and hence, although I have hitherto had no reason to doubt your veracity, I can scarcely

bring myself to believe that in the part of the world you came from, there are men so meanly foolish, as to pay a personal respect to hereditary titles; and others infected with the madness of actually receiving the homage due to a superior race, when they do not find themselves exempted from the disorders of their fellow-creatures, or surpassing them in understanding.

“ ‘ But, I beg your pardon for this digression (said *Chilo*). I should have told you, in answer to your question, that the children, in case of separation, are always left to the care of the father, when the separation arises from the determination of the mother; and the reverse in the opposite case. And this law was made, in order to encrease the difficulty of the step on both sides; and, that nothing, short of a confirmed destruction of esteem, should operate to bring about an event so unpleasant. As for seduction, or a deliberate

plan to invade the mutual happiness of others, when proved to have been the practice of any offender, either male or female, from the prevalence of vicious propensities, our laws banish them to one of the islands on the lake, where labour for life, accompanied with wholesome instruction, is the lot of all. But, when it appears, that the attractions of youth and merit unworthily treated, improper opportunities allowed by those whose interest and duty it was to prevent them, warm passions, and sincerity of love, have drawn a gentle pair into this vortex; we lament the consequences, which generally are the disruption of the first union, and the loss of one of the parents to the children; and, by all the means in our power, we foster the new engagements, by way of encouraging them, by a closer affection to each other, to repair the breach they have made in society, and to avoid themselves the errors of that man or woman,

whose first neglect of his or her duties led them to the situation in which they stand.'

" Here he paused—my questions were all fully answered ; I had no longer any fears. My violent and enthusiastic regard for *Mica* whispered me that she would always be mine, if constant attention, tender regard, and everlasting love could bind her.

" Full of these ideas, I rushed impatiently into her presence, seized her hand, and consuming her, as it were, with my ardent gaze, renewed and repeated all my former professions, acting and saying also a thousand extravagant things.

" The scene was enchanting around us. The deepest shade of a venerable wood, on the margin of an irregular winding ravin, at the bottom of which the purest wave tumbled

over rocks into shallow transparent basins; brakes of odoriferous shrubs and graceful plantains, mixed with cotton, cocoa, and palm trees, surrounded us on every side. The dark grove, the sweet melody, the solemn hour of evening, all contributed with the presence of one of the finest proportioned women on earth to make me think this world a paradise. But when I wildly thought to press a willing victim to my throbbing breast, and riot in delights—I gazed, and found her cold and drowned in tears. The scene that followed was too touching to be described; it soon checked all my impatience, and turned it to a momentary confusion. She charged me with possessing only a brutal passion for her; wept, and acknowledged my influence, but complained bitterly of the use I was about to make of it: ‘This is only, I fear, (said she), a second access of your feverish passion; when gratified, perhaps, *Mica* will be forgotten!—Yes, *Lycas*, I feel I am to be

yours ; but I had hoped you would also first promise to be mine ; that you would give me your honourable word, never to be the lover of any other but me ; that you would *break the pebble with me*, and wear it ever in your bosom ?”

“ Joy now succeeded in its turn.—Her delicate simplicity charmed me. I kissed her ivory feet ; a lambent fire spread through my veins, and I made my vows *just as she dictated them*. The altar was the flowery margin of the stream—we divided one of its pebbles. By artful repetitions she postponed my happiness till the moon rose ; but, when her brilliant horns mercifully dipped behind a flying cloud, then was it that we reached the perihelium of those soul-delighting ecstasies that the warmest fancy could imagine or desire.

“ It would be madness to attempt a de-

scription of the weeks that followed. The transporting hours we enjoyed were greatly enhanced by the imagined secrecy of our appointments; and although there is no doubt that the good family in which we resided, saw, and rejoiced at our union, they had the generosity to conceal from us the discovery; so that it was not till *Mica* was far advanced in the capacity of making me a father, that she was prevailed on to show any *open* partiality for me. In due time she brought me that son, whose portrait you there behold traced by this unfortunate hand. I took possession of her portion of territory. *Yahomy* had a small lot given him, and became our assistant. The next year she gave me a daughter. The waters of the brook which first witnessed our union ran before our habitation; and to its ever flowing stream we often compared our increasing affections.

“ To embellish the spot became my delight, and one of their best artists taught me for that purpose the rudiments of painting and sculpture—fostered by the smiles of *Mica*, I soon became a proficient. How little did I then think that, in a few short years, it would be my sole amusement in this solitary castle, in the kingdom of *Sennaar*!

My time now passed only too rapidly. The tender offices of love, the study of my new duties, the practice of my new profession, which, however, had no reward in view but fame, fully employed me; in so much, that, in a very little time, I had nearly forgotten that I was by birth a European. To be adopted by the senate became now the height of my ambition; and I eagerly sought by every act of conformity to the delightful customs of *Sophis* to render myself worthy of their entire approbation.

“ *Chilo* and his father were among those we saw most frequently—those who are happy, as we were, are little solicitous of a numerous acquaintance. *Innocence and the gentle passions, ever unobtrusive, are content with silent peace.* When, with a calm splendour the sun was declining to the west we generally saw one or other of those friends approach our humble habitation, which was composed of no other materials than thick clay walls coloured, and covered with a deep projecting thatch. The rooms were lofty, though few in number, the doors low, and shaded with mats exquisitely wrought by the hands of *Mica*, the floors embellished with the same; the windows, which were oblong opening, had each below them a niche containing a mattress of yellow wool to sleep on, with a platform on the outside, to be used in hot weather; mats rolled up closed the inner aperture, and the roof sheltered the outer platform. In the rainy season our

couches were removed to warm alcoves constructed in the mass of the walls. Attached to the larger building was a little cottage of two rooms which solely belonged to *Mica*; and, at the opposite end, forming a sort of wing, was another for our friend, *Yahomy*; and our implements of agriculture clean and carefully preserved, constituted the principal ornaments of the hall.

“ A well-shaded and capacious rustic porch was the scene where we always met, whose rude pillars were clasped with odoriferous climbers, and whose pavement consisted of a tessellated figure of shells of all colours; here we sat, talking with chearful seriousness, while our children played before us; enjoying a wholesome and simple refection, and forming a tranquil group worthy of the contemplation of the eternal powers, when they deign, in complacency, to survey the scale of their vast universe.

“ One evening when our conversation naturally turned on the subject of the children, I entreated the old man, if not too fatiguing, to teach me how I ought to conduct the education of my son.

“ My idea (he replied), of the education which you ought to give your son *in preference to all others*, is this: That, attending carefully to instruct him in natural habits, as well with regard to diet, as exercise, and cloathing, you should burthen his memory as little as possible; yet so continue, in the way of amusement, as daily to add to his stock of information relative to the construction of the most common of useful instruments and conveniences; particularly such as are constantly necessary to his existence with decency and comfort. You should also daily, yet not so as to interfere by any means with his healthful exercises, teach him the rudiments of his own language, the art of numbers, and that of

writing, which includes painting ; by all means taking especial care, from the moment you perceive the first dawnings of reason, to suggest to him with energetic solemnity the real necessity of practising *truth* even on the most trifling occasions ; the rules of justice next ; and, as fast as he is able to comprehend them, the generous principles of universal benevolence, humanity, and condescension : prudence also, or the restraining art, must be inculcated early.

“ When, under this gentle discipline, you find the body well grown and the health permanently established, accompanied with habits of regularity, and the love of order grafted and striking into the vigorous stock ; then, when the desire of information strengthens, you must feed the mind less sparingly with instruction in most of the useful arts. The nature of the earth in all its parts must then be investi-

gated ; but the leading feature of all education should I think decidedly be, its tendency to confirm him in the valuable opinion, that *his native spot ought to be the seat of all his useful actions, while he lives, and that he should reject, at the outset, every kind of knowledge, which does not promise to be useful to his existence there.*

“ “ His first object must be, to learn to live on little, to acquire that little by his own industry, and with as small a quantity of labour as possible ; for you are bound to teach him, *that health, strength, probity, and liberty, are the handmaids of peace, and the land marks of happiness and longevity.*’

“ After a short pause, he then continued—

“ “ A peripatetic tour of our island will of course follow : the chief object of which will

be his improvement in the theory of agriculture in all its branches, together with an intimate knowledge of the virtues of our healing plants. Moderate exercise will preserve his health; moderate wealth insure his temperance; and limited knowledge, secure him from the assaults of vanity: thus will he learn to economise the most valuable part of that which nature has bestowed on him, *his time, his talents, and his life.*'

" Finding he had done speaking for the present, and that he did not touch on the subject of religion, a subject I was myself but ill acquainted with even in my own country, and had almost lost sight of during my travels, I eagerly requested him to give me his opinion on that head; explaining to him, first, as well as I was able, my ideas of the creative power, its purity, &c. and was not a little surprised to hear him express himself as follows:

“ ‘ When our ancestor, accompanied by his numerous family, came first into this island, having descended from the springs of a river called the Indus, on the other side the world ; after crossing a great water, suffering inconceivable hardships, losing many of his people in passing large spaces of sand, others by the jaws of wild animals : when he came, at last, to the borders of this lake of *Zambre* (which so happily encircles our islands), and found himself free from the persecutions of mankind, in a solitude where nothing was wanting for the support of life, he then began to put in practice the solid reflections of his penetrating mind.

“ ‘ For having spoken with manly freedom on the subject—his own countrymen had banished him. To discover a spot, where he might establish his system, had been the object of frequent emigrations ; for he had long perceived that it could only flourish,

free from interruption, in a perfect solitude. At the springs, on the borders of the lake, where you first discovered a monument of his opinions, did he at leisure form our religious code; and that colossal juvenile figure with the infant deep planted in its bosom, the work of his own hands, was the emblematic idea of his belief. By that statue he meant to represent *Love*, the universal cause of all happiness; by the little figure so carefully lodged in his breast, its providential care of the creation; and the old man embracing it was designed for himself.

“ On a tablet near it, he inscribed the final result of his enquiries, and we weak mortals have never been able to extend them.

“ Before time had obliterated them, they were as follows :

“ *The cause of all things is that Power which*

always is : and no mortal has hitherto discovered what it is.

“ All things being for a period preserved by it, we thence conclude that it loves all.

“ To bodies originated, it has united life, instinct, and limited mind.

“ Life confers the power of action; instinct prolongs and propagates life; mind governs, comprehending whatever is necessary for conduct.

“ Experience, and the result of mental reflection, discover it to be Love which preserves us, and is given us to preserve ourselves.

“ Here, therefore, we must pause—silently reverence the vast impenetrable first cause, and practise love to ourselves, to each other, and to all things, in obedience to the manifest will of that which made them all.”

“ ‘ When he discovered this island, at that time totally uninhabited, and some smaller ones nearly adjoining, he speedily conducted his followers hither, making them solemnly promise, never, but in cases of extreme necessity, to construct any vessel for navigation, or to destroy any thing that had life. The few beasts of prey which we found here were carefully driven from the soil, and a guard placed at the only part, which during a short period, is accessible, to prevent their return. The sheep, with their fine yellow fleece, which he had conducted from the country called Upper Indus, were carefully propagated; and they now form a considerable part of that wealth, which almost without labour, clothes, and subsists us: for while in a climate so genial to man as this, where the sweet cane, the vine, and trees bearing food abound, what have we to wish, or to fear, while our manners are virtuous and simple?’

“ ‘ Nothing (said I, enthusiastically, taking both him and *Mica* by the hand), but that our numbers should encrease beyond the ability of the island to sustain them.’

“ ‘ That (said he), at present gives us no uneasiness in perspective; for experience shows us, that great numbers may subsist on a small spot by means of careful cultivation; and we do not see that the laws of nature permit either our animals, or birds, or even the fish of our lake to multiply beyond what is fitting.’

“ ‘ Because (I replied), beside what are diminished by natural decay and accidents, I suppose they destroy each other.’ ‘ Not those of the same species (said he), as I have heard you say men do in other countries; and, since we are upon this disagreeable subject, tell us, is it really true, that there are whole nations of men who are continually at variance with

the good Principle, and who take a delight in each other's destruction ?

“ ‘ It is not only true (I replied), but there are many beings who devote their whole lives to the practice of those arts which tend to this end ; who glory in their bloody calling ; and, without any bodily infirmities, are content to earn their daily bread by indiscriminately turning their arms against whatever part of mankind has unfortunately offended their inhuman employers.

“ ‘ And now, in return (said I), for your communication to me, if agreeable to you all, I will, as nearly as I can, describe the nature of this sect, such as I have found them in *Turkey*, and what I take to have been their origin ; since it will not a little tend to confirm you in your mild customs and happy resolution to keep apart from the rest of your fellow-creatures.

“ ‘ It is my idea, that the use of arms first became general from men’s taking them up to defend themselves from others, who, preferring a life of violence to a life of industry, attacked their folds and fields.

“ ‘ Victory probably made them insolent, and induced some of them to continue the hazardous employment ; flattered by the praises of the wealthy, who now paid those for their protection, that might otherwise become powerful enemies.

“ ‘ And here, perhaps, began a military life, the most unnatural of any ; the chief inducements to which are power, show, pay, plunder, and licentious indulgences : a profession once restrained by some false principles of honour, but now, become a dishonourable, mercenary occupation ; always of a homicidal cast, now deliberately founded on suicide and murder : a profession which no vir

tuous reflecting man, can, as it is now conducted, deliberately adopt; to which parents consign their children from either want of means, or want of feeling; in which many remain through false shame, idleness, vanity, or vice; others continue, because they consider all things that men practise in numbers as lawful; whose rewards are bloody laurels, the applauses of the artful, the unthinking, or the timid; whose art is to diminish mankind, and to bring themselves to set at stake thoughtlessly blessings which other men study continually to prolong, such as health, life, and all its true enjoyments.—An art that not only militates against the peace of society, but also undermines the quiet of its own professors; since it operates to blast the early blossoms of tender attachment;—affords scarcely any means of accumulation for the benefit of relatives, or for retirement in old age—degrades the person by its near resemblance to absolute slavery; may

be made the instrument of the most arbitrary power; and denies to its votaries the liberty of choice in action; thereby undermining the most valuable privilege of our nature, free-will—in a word, whose principal consolations must arise from the gratification of the lowest vanity, that of personal appearance, decked with the gaudy badges of dependence; from the meanest applause, that of the great and little vulgar; and whose profits are only to be augmented by the death or disgrace of their brethren and companions.

“ ‘ Such are the men I left, such the predatory troops of the man who ridiculously styles himself our Grand Seignior!—Do you think, then, I can ever resolve to return to them? A mixed sentiment of contempt and aversion, seen in all their expressive countenances, told me that they had no suspicion of it.—‘ But (continued I) there are other occupations, though less apparently

criminal, which yet have no baits to allure me; since I have long been convinced, that, of all arts and habits, nature seems to have encouraged man most to adhere to that of cultivating the earth, both by the peaceful advantages it procures, and by the frequent disappointments that attend almost all other modes of life.

“ The hunter, the fisher, the fowler, the robber, find no certain provision; it is with them alternate profusion and want; but the cultivator of the soil seldom finds the earth deny her increase.

“ “ The hunter, the fisher, the fowler, and robber, all risk life, expose themselves to the inclemency of the seasons, travel to live, and consequently find rivals and enemies; but the stationary cultivator of the soil, if he once get settled, finds his security encrease with the number of his offspring, augments

his property as life extends, and prolongs existence by the means of both.

“ ‘ On the other hand, the hunter’s family declines because it does not possess that tranquillity necessary to the rearing of children.

“ ‘ It is remarkable also, that the arts of hunting, fishing, fowling, and robbing, all require more strength, more talents, and more industry, to render them productive of the means of existence, than that of agriculture; for to stir the soil, to sow, to weed, to reap, and to clear the grain, are pointed out to the dullest eye in succession; of all arts, indeed, agriculture is by far the simplest.

“ ‘ Nor is it less true, that even the shepherd’s art demands more skill, and produces fewer advantages; for disease ruins him at one blow—he cannot be stationary, but wan-

ders, is robbed, and, in the general bad state of human society, must watch by night as well as by day.

“ ‘ For, except in this island, *bad*, I can assure you, I have found that state almost everywhere ; either single tyrants framing arbitrary laws, and, by hereditary force over-awing the multitude ; or ten or a dozen men, under pretext of guardianship, dividing among themselves the property of millions ; supported on the one hand by servile agents, who, for a portion of the plunder undertake to persuade the majority to submission ; and, on the other, by armed ruffians, threatening every species of resistance with the edge of the sword.’ ”

“ From all these reflections, I concluded that man was formed to till the earth. ‘ You have taught me that he wants no animal food, and may safely be delivered from the

hazard and labour of procuring it, with all the dire diseases it engenders. I have now, therefore, reached the haven of my desires—may no sinister accident or perverse will of mine rob me again of the reward of my long travels !

“ At this instant they all rose up, cordially assenting to my prayer ; and, when my guests were departed out of sight, I flew with ardour to the unsophisticated society of her, whose bosom I had selected, of all her sex, as the repository of all my virtuous thoughts and everlasting affections.

“ Thus was I seated in the very lap of contentment, all my prospects smiling around me. I cultivated, for mere amusement, the polished arts of a nation that practised them only as the ornaments of life ; who were unacquainted with commerce, but by way of immediate barter, and never carried that beyond

the necessaries of existence ; whose taxes were a mere contribution of their superfluities, and where none thought of occupying more land than was necessary for his subsistence.

Nothing was now left me to aspire to, but the high honour of being received among them as a fellow-citizen ; and, as I unfortunately could contribute no useful arts by way of recommendation, I resolved to exemplify the truth of my conversion to their principles, by disinterestedly dedicating the whole of my property to the exigencies of the state ; especially, as I had learned, that the procuring, from their neighbours, the richer metals, had, at times, been attended with no small uneasiness to the whole body, as it had led to an introduction of the knowledge of the island ; it having been the custom, on former occasions, when gold was greatly wanted, to invite some foreigner to procure it. This had brought my old master there, whose profit arose from an exchange for pearls of a consi-

derable size, that were occasionally found on one particular spot, on the borders of the lake.

“ These pearls, although of little value among their immediate neighbours, might have purchased, in Europe, almost any thing; but beside that they knew little or nothing of Europe or Asia: their being nearly without any wants rendered jewels of scarce any use to the *Sophians*; so that, upon all occasions, those who possessed them as curiosities were proud to give them up when useful to the community.

“ Having decided on my plan, by the advice of *Yahomy*, the good old African, I prepared at the end of two years of probation to put my scheme in practice; and, with no other companion but this faithful friend, proceeded immediately to the city of *Sophis*.

“ What I felt at parting, for the first time, from my beloved *Mica*, whose mind I had now found to be not less beautiful than her person, I shall not attempt to describe.— She accompanied me the first day ; the dear pledges of our affection were also present ; and, at separating, which was not without heartfelt sighs on both sides, we exchanged two garlands of amaranthus buds, in token of unalterable amity.

“ Elegant as I found the capital on my second arrival, and pure as were its ornaments ; sweet as seemed the artless strains of their simple and touching airs ; noble as appeared their manners ; I still found, when absent from my adored home, with all its rustic simplicity, a void place in my *heart* ; and the chief pleasure that played around it, consisted in recollecting, that, on my return, *Mica* would exultingly behold on my finger the badge and honourable distinction of a *Sophian*.

“ With the senate our business was speedily dispatched; I produced too many respectable testimonies to be refused the privilege we courted; and my disinterested offer occasioned it to be conferred on us with peculiar expressions of approbation.

“ As these people as carefully avoided parade and ostentatious festivals, as other nations affect them, this remarkable event occasioned no further loss of time than was necessary to read the documents, and inscribe the fact on a large papyrus-leaf, according to their manner, in columns downwards.— But, although scrupulously avoiding the ceremonies of religion, as well as the tediousness of long orations, esteeming brevity in business, as in wit, with which many of their short comic narratives, and refined pieces of poetry abounded (for they had neither matter nor taste for tragedies); notwithstanding, however, this indifference to exter-

nal show :—yet, as if all others were purposely avoided to enhance one grand display of magnificent festivity, they once every year, on the same day, as well as on each supernumerary day (for they calculated their years with great exactness), held a national festival ; which happening at this season, as I could not with any propriety refuse to attend it, I shall, for your amusement, as briefly as possible describe.

“ It was called the Feast of Love—and commenced at the western end of the great square, with the dawn of the day, by uncovering the plain cubical tomb of *Sophis*, the founder of the nation, and *Zambre*, the mother of his children.

“ The plain shrine, when thus uncovered, becomes double in height ; for its sides, composed of bronze pannels, when lifted up, form another cube, on the inside of each

pannel of which is written, in an inlay of gold, the testament to which I before alluded. The shrine itself is of the yellow marble of the island, three sides of which are adorned with bas-reliefs, exquisitely finished, representing almost all the humane offices of life; but the front space contains a singular curiosity—it is an antique table of metal, on which, not in bas-reliefs, but inlay of silver and gold, is represented, as before described, the beautiful winged image of universal love, with the smaller figure enclosed in the pit of the breast.

“ The attitude of the figure is formal, and dry, but inconceivably grand. The wings extended are of silver; the body of gold, with exception of the hair and nails, which are enamelled, as well as the little figure in the shrine of the bosom. The figure erect, and the soles of the feet resting on a circlet of silver. The back ground of the whole

is a kind of dark sardonix; and on it, under the wings of the principal figure, were three small metallic circles, one of gold, and two of silver, which every body knew to represent the sun, moon, and earth; five other small dots were also there.

“ This table, once kept as a relic in his family, *Sophis* had brought with him into the island.—It had been the prototype of the statue he had made on the borders of the lake. But wisely reflecting that these representations might lead to established idolatry and error, the combating of which had driven him from his country, he enjoined his descendants never to repeat it, and although all sorts of representations, by way of ornament, were modelled or cut in the island, sculpture being in high esteem as a creative art; yet no temple, or idol, being permitted by the laws, such a thing was never thought of. And to secure this ancient monument

from being considered as sacred, an inscription was placed over it, signifying that it was a work of art of one of his remote ancestors (all having followed the arts), intended poetically to personify his ideas of our present state in the universe.—But to return to the festival :

“ No sooner did day appear, than the square began to fill with crowds of both sexes, each bearing a flower-pot with some choice flower in it, or shrub in bloom, placed in a woven basket; and a circle on the pavement being marked round the tomb as a guide, every one, as they arrived, placed on the ground their flower-pots, which, to preserve their freshness, were covered with wet moss; so that in a few minutes a gay parterre was formed, that, as a ring, kept off the crowd, and gave to each an opportunity to see the tomb and its ornaments; and between the cavity of the exalted pannels was inserted

some select plant of exquisite beauty. The rest, as they arrived, placed their baskets all round the square; and presently the whole was converted into a flower garden, by which the eye and nostrils were agreeably refreshed: for most of these plants had been carefully chosen for this occasion from amongst the great variety with which these polished people adorn their little gardens and houses.

“ With the scarlet, white, purple, and yellow amaranthus, and fillets of fine wool, variously intertwined among their shining black hair, was each interesting head adorned. Nor did the maidens neglect the pardonable piece of natural coquetry, of partially concealing, in this manner, the firmest, and most finely proportioned bosoms, that the eye of youth could desire, or maturity contemplate with instinctive admiration.—Indeed, had not the perfect symmetry of *Mica's* form been indelibly imprinted, and, with de-

licious infatuation, wrought into every fibre of my brain, while the elegance and delicacy of all her habits, like a fine frame, supported the bewitching picture, I should, certainly, on that occasion, have filled up the void in my heart, as did, I doubt not, multitudes of others, since the festival had long become, from the circumstances of its having contributed to the first meeting of lovers, the commemoration of the lasting alliances of innumerable individuals.

“ After about an hour passed in congratulations and playful conversation, a signal was given by a sort of Herald, who appeared in a gallery over the entrance of the magistrates’ portico, and chaunted a melodious stave to inform us that the representatives of the *Sophians* were prepared to open the festival.—On his retiring, there came forward a well-made youth, who had been elected speaker to the people on account of his re-

markable powers of delivery. What he had to say was taken from an ancient code, two copies of which were unrolled by two old men, who steadily kept their eyes on the manuscript, as bearing testimony to the fidelity of his repetition.

“ The most profound silence reigned—when, after solemnly reciting the inscription on the tomb, he added, after a pause :

“ ‘ SOPHIANS,

“ ‘ The good *Sophis*, whose wisdom lay in limiting his enquiries within the bounds of his duty ; who beheld in that glorious body of fire now above us, the origin and support of all natures here ; learnt from the constant effect of its systematic benevolence, that reciprocal, and regulated acts of kindness must be pleasing to the generous first Cause, whose image we see is light, warmth, and uniformity.]

“ ‘ Hence he drew the idea that universal love pervades the universe ; pouring its essence into our souls, like the rays of that light which promotes universal animation.

“ ‘ Of death he knew nothing, save its certainty. Why all things are as they are, he thought, it would be folly in him to enquire, who neither made, nor had power to alter any thing.

“ ‘ He saw, that existence for a limited period was lent him, accompanied with the desire of happiness—in preserving and prolonging life, he found man’s true interests ; and self-love taught him, that it was his duty to extend this just sentiment to others.

“ ‘ Experience confirmed his discoveries—and following up this true principle, he endeavoured to overthrow the dark superstitious and idolatries of the times in which he

lived ; but men, calling themselves priests of the Gods, drove him from his country with his family and followers, here to establish a select nation, who, by restraining themselves to the proper enjoyment of their mundane natures, and following up the system of universal benevolence, have attained to that peace, health, and longevity, which is denied to the cruel, rapacious, and unjust part of mankind.

“ ‘ Love therefore each other, and all things in being—and leave the rest to the inscrutable original Nature.’ ”

“ With this short harangue he dismissed the assembly ; all of whom, at that instant, united in a kind of vocal shout, accompanied with the notes of a thousand stringed instruments ; forming together the most awful diapason that ever my delighted ears received ; whose tones still vibrate sympathetically

tically within the cells of my memory : and whose sentiment, will ever, while lasts the lamp of life, be rooted in my heart.

“ The rest of this charming day was passed in the pleasing contentions of singing, dancing, leaping, running, in which much graceful skill was displayed ; making mutual presents among little parties of friends and relations ; but all in the great square or its neighbourhood—not a few retiring under the lofty trees to enjoy the pleasures of music, or to attend to the compositions of some of their best poets, who generally attracted into their vortex, the fair, the tender, and the betrothed.

“ The evening closed with an illumination of innumerable lanthorns, whose sides exhibited transparent paintings—the light of which, being composed of bundles of aro-

matic woods, afforded a grateful perfume in every quarter.

“ Thus, at an early hour, finished the first day’s festival. The second was introduced in the same manner; but it was distinguished by a report of the number of criminals, whom solitude and retirement had completely reclaimed from such evil practices as were prejudicial to the peaceful order of society. For on the lake they had several small and exposed islands to which criminals were banished, being conducted thither on rafts, and from which they were removed gradually to better situations on shewing signs of amendment; many *Sophians*, among whom were chiefly reckoned the aged and the childless, making it their sole employment to restore, by good councils, these members to the community. Nor, on this occasion, did the successful tutors fail to be present, accompanied by these regenerated children of the country,

who went by the name of *the band of reconciliation*; receiving with modesty the reward of praise from the citizens, and carrying garlands on which were inscribed, ‘ *by experience we are purified.*’

“ The whole closed (for there were two supernumerary days this year) with a splendid supper, consisting of an infinite variety of farinaceous cakes and puddings; with soups of vegetables, vegetables raw and dressed, eggs, honey, cheese, butter, milk, sweetmeats, and sweet potations from the sugar-cane; candied fruits, sugar in various forms, with nuts, ripe fruit, as well as dried; and, to crown all, a small quantity of wine, which had generally been hoarded for this long wished for occasion. In fact, wine was a commodity in which they but little indulged; as the general consumption of grapes at meals allowed it to be made only in extraordinary years of plenty. As to the immoderate use of it, it constituted

one of those crimes which never failed to be punished by banishment to the islands; and, indeed, their laws were very vigilant to check all those vices which tended to debase and weaken the species.

“ On these occasions, they sometimes indulged in theatrical entertainments, in which there was nothing very remarkable but the form of the theatre, which consisted of a semicircular cavity scooped out of the sides of a hill, with benches of sun-dried clay, covered with soft moss;—the stage was confined by beautiful groups of trees, beneath which there played two superb fountains. But the most singular thing was the scene, which was composed of three immensely large hollow prisms, perpendicularly erected, turning each on a centre, the inside of which served for the apartments of the mechanics, and which, by the simple operation of being moved on the fixed point, afforded an almost endless

variety of buildings, illustrative of the drama, while even those who moved them were concealed from the spectators.

“ They had also another ingenious contrivance to afford modest merit an opportunity of displaying its talents, and receiving just criticism without exposure. It was a hollow passage, covered with a thin substance, which, from a concealed chamber, obtruded itself into one of the corners of the square. Here the votaries to music, or poetry, made their first essay : and, under the shade of concealment, received the praises or blame of the impartial multitude.

“ Thus did these people occasionally indulge in all kinds of innocent mirth ; but what distinguished them from all the nations I had ever seen, was that general equality which reigned among them ; none being either remarkably poor, or rich, although the

possession of extraordinary talents might be said to confer an indisputable distinction, and evidently obtained respect.

“ Of the state of their arts, the following anecdote may give you an idea :

“ I went one day to see a celebrated picture of a female just arrived at the age of puberty. The artist had painted her, examining her own exquisite form in a fountain. She stooped a little over its margin, holding her hair to prevent its interrupting her view, with one hand, while she rested on the other. The picture was much applauded—but to my then weak judgment it seemed, though pleasing in one respect, preposterous ; every fleshy protuberance being so warm, that I called it a red woman. ‘ You wonder (said *Chilo*), at the artist’s having given so much carnation ; have you never observed, that all prominent parts of muscles blush,

like the cheeks, when exposed to fine air? The fleshy parts of muscles are red, porous, and consequently are the warm points of the body, like the ears, heels, &c.' I was satisfied with the remark, as it shewed reflection.—*Chilo* once talking of order, I asked him what it was? 'Order (said he), is only the reverse of disorder.' 'What, then, (said I), is not all the surface of nature without order?' 'No, (replied he, not at all dismayed at my question,) but you judge of her by parts, not by the whole. Hill, mountain, sea, and river, answer to hill, mountain, sea and river; but she does not put them close together, as you say they ignorantly do in Europe when they would imitate her. When you wish to imitate her, study convenience and propriety, and you will not be very far from her footsteps.'—I felt all he said; for I remembered the vast difference between the humble entrances to the inns on the Levant, and

the porticos to the few ancient temples I had visited.

“ They allowed of no retrospective laws ; no imprisonment for debt ; never dreamed, as to nobility, of titles of distinction ; held slavery of all kinds in abhorrence ; put no criminals to death ; and seized the persons of bad men, in order only either to amend them, or to prevent them from further injuring society. Weapons constructed for offence were not permitted by the laws to be made in the country ; and, as to civil wars, their principles must have been all reversed, before such a thing could be even known.

“ It one day gave me no small pleasure to meet with one of the very few people among them who made medicine their study. Their mode of proceeding was singular, as, indeed, were most of their customs. It consisted in

going about giving a sort of lecture on the conduct of life, as far as related to diet, bathing, and animal indulgences, inscribing the apartments with aphorisms of health; and endeavouring to shew that nature, in her operations, is always beneficent and simple.

“ Wounds were dressed with green herbs macerated: cathartics and emetics, with the lavement of warm water, all sorts of exercise, and chiefly abstinence from food, were their grand specifics; but diet, bathing, and air, constituted the great arcana; and to this it was he attributed the almost universal health they enjoyed. Man, he told me, *was merely a tube, with a continuity of surface*, both the inside and outside of which must be kept free from irritation, and clear of obstructions. Water (said he), is equally good for both purposes; by drinking it, we sustain the heat of the stomach; by injecting it, we neutralize acridities in the viscera; externally it has the

same uses. In removing excrescences, they applied the caustic rather than the knife; knew nothing of bleeding a vein; and, except by scarifying, or slight puncture, never drew blood at all in any disease.

“ Pregnant women entertained no idea of danger from childbirth: whatever was so natural they were taught to expect to succeed as a thing of course; and, like most of the inhabitants of warm climates, they had easy labours. Absolute quiet and perfect cleanliness were strictly enjoined in this and all cases of a critical nature—and the word silence was inscribed over every sick person's chamber. The healthy were also strictly separated from the unsound; and, after attending the sick, to visit another without previous purification, was punished as a crime of a base nature. To carry, in this manner, to a fellow-creature a fever, or any other disease, was considered among them in the same

light as inflicting a wound in the dark ; but voluntarily to administer to the cure of others, placed a man in the highest rank of virtue. According to their opinions, *water cleansed from infectious taint by destroying virus*, and the patient, as well as all those about him, with the garments they wore, must be as often as convenient passed through that element. And thus much for a general idea of their medical practice.

“ Justice and liberty might indeed be said to reign among them : and to prevent temptations to amass wealth so common in other countries, *the law* disposed of all acquired property ; with a careful attention to what ought to have been the will of the deceased ; never in reasonable things opposing his testamentary recommendation.

“ Thus situated, you will not wonder that

I gloried in my naturalization, and the discovery I had so fortunately made. It had, in some degree, been the reward of upright wishes, generated by disgust at the vices of the Ottoman Imperial Court. Yet here, alas! you behold me, reduced to a forlorn old age, hurled at once from the summit of human bliss, and dashed on the sharp rocks of inconsolable privation. Had guilt conducted me hither, I had indeed been deeply wretched!—By what sad reverse my misfortunes were ushered in, must be the subject of our next conversation, for I am now too much exhausted to continue the melancholy recital: and even, if I were not so, I should be sorry, immediately, to rob your mind of the pleasing images I have had the happiness of exciting, since they may serve to lull your pains:—adieu then, and may the recital of my future misfortunes urge you to try to bear up under those afflictions to which you are subject in common with all the other sons of men.”

I could make him no answer, for both our souls were full of deep reflection, and we parted—but, as his venerable, shadow passed along the wall, I saw, by the action of his head, that he had retired from the conference only because he could not suppress the involuntary emotions raised by intruding remembrances.

I was kept awake, through the night, by a variety of disquieting recollections, and the elements seemed to sympathize with my perturbed state; for a storm more tremendous than that which now arose, I had never witnessed in Africa. The prison was struck with lightening, and part of one of the bastions rent away. When day broke, the atmosphere was still gloomy and obscured, nor had the yelling winds subsided—yet I found my respectable friend at the post of honour, exerting his tremulous voice to warn a boat full of people of the danger of the sunken rock in the river, which

the agitation of the stream, now, more than ever, concealed.

The moment he saw me he called to me to aid his pious purposes ; but our united efforts were of no avail.—The noise of the tempest, and the cries of the distressed mariners and passengers, effectually drowned our voices—the vessel was suddenly struck on the rock, and was wrecked before our eyes ; the screams of the women, which we heard at intervals, between the peals of thunder, were now followed by a gloomy silence, more dreadful, if possible, than their cries—all went down to oblivious repose ; and the next moment the transitory glare of lightning exhibited fragments of the wreck, and convulsed carcasses rising and falling with the ebullition of the vortex.—No creature could be saved, and the ungovernable stream soon hurried from our sight every image of the fatal accident.

The distant hills now began to appear ;

the dusky clouds to depart in broad volumes ; and the glorious Sun (to whose image I observed my companion always paid particular veneration, whenever it could be viewed from the cell in which he slept) came forth from under an aqueous curtain, adorned with all the lustre and true majesty that belongs to his superior frame.

Already the birds of the river had returned to the dripping reeds ; the sands wore a purer tint from the effects of the rain which had fallen ; and our frames partook of the natural calm which the refreshed atmosphere communicated to all things within its influence.

Being both seated, *Lyceus*, viewing in my impatient looks a demand for the performance of his promise, began as follows :

“ That the catastrophe we have just witnessed has affected and afflicted me to the degree

you must have noticed, and thrown me into an unusual state of agitation, you will be the less surprised when I tell you that a close resemblance of the greatest misfortune of my life was then before my eyes.

“ But to proceed, I departed from *Sophis* after the grand festival, travelling with all the alacrity of a passionate lover ; and, in less time than could have been expected, considering the age of *Yahomy*, arrived within one station of my house. It was late when I got there ; and I expected not only to see *Mica* and my children, but the friend of our family, *Chilo*, and indeed nearly all our connections. My speed increased as I approached, except that I stopped, at intervals, to listen for the sounds of their expected songs of rejoicing ; and looked forward anxiously to see some generous torch, the signal of my beloved society.

“ I carried one in my hand—I called aloud

occasionally, but no cheering reply was made—my impatience redoubled—I left all my company behind, and felt alarmed at arriving alone at the spot where I had made sure of kindly and jestingly reproaching the dear group for letting me be before-hand with them in friendly impatience. As to *my Mica!* my glowing imagination had already fancied her clasped in my arms; already did I feel her breath glowing on my cheek, and inhaled the essential sweetness of her pure person; I pictured my head nested in her flowing tresses, our lips united, our senses confused, our tears of pleasure intermingled—*No, no, the die was cast—we were never more to behold each other—I was never again to embrace either of my children!*

“All around me was suspicious silence—an ominous presage came like a cloud over my heart—my breath grew short, my countenance fell. I stood still a moment

and contemplated the spot where she had promised to meet me;—unwilling to give entrance to the serious apprehensions that pressed on my mind, I tried to bear up, but soon found it impossible; when, to my unutterable satisfaction, I saw a female figure rush from a thicket, and flee from me. The first idea was, that they were sporting with my feelings; it hurt me; but joy quenched my anger, and I sprang forward more like a lion than a man—‘*Mica!* (I cried), you flee but to be taken;’ and at the same instant I held in my disappointed arms,—not, alas! my love, but one of her female friends! ‘What is the meaning of all this? (said I, as soon as I could recover my surprise.) ‘Ask me not (she replied, embracing my knees, and shedding a shower of tears), but let me go. Be patient, *Lycas!*—*Chilo* will tell you—*I dare not!*’

“By the great Cause! but you shall I ex-

claimed), I will not lose all that my soul adores and be patient—something dreadful has happened in my absence;—say, is she unfaithful? Am I already hated? Is she sick, and I absent? *Is she dead?*

“ ‘ You have said the word (she answered) —for pity’s sake, let me now go.’ ”

“ At that instant I felt a strong revulsion of my whole frame; kind nature unbraced the tension of the brain; and when I awoke from my swoon, I found the whole of my company around me, and each weeping bitterly.

“ I sprang from them, and ran, or rather flew to my habitation—*Chilo* was in the porch. I rushed by him rudely, calling aloud to my dead partner, as if she could hear me and, after searching every corner of the house returned to him, exclaiming, with a voice of

exalted misery, ‘ *Where is my Mica?—Where is my love?—Give me back, at least, my children!*’

“ He clasped me in his friendly arms, and looking at me with a countenance of unutterable anguish, ‘ Can (said he) the things that are passed be recalled? When the light of the sun is withdrawn, can we follow it? *Mica* is mixed with the dust, your infants are no more.—She was good, and we all enjoyed her society; such a woman must be forgotten, if you would ever again be happy!—The nest and the tender bird are annihilated; the fresh buds of the water-lily are snapped and fallen off; but the root is still left to renew the stock.’

“ ‘ Never (said I, with emphasis), shall it be again renewed! But sit down, I am calm; tell me all the manner of it--you shall see I am a very *Sophian*--the ring, the ring, look!

I have got that instead of a family!’—‘Your words are wild (said he)—but, perhaps, so to talk relieves you instead of tears.’ I frowned at him, and sternly bade him go on.

“He then proceeded to relate to me very circumstantially, that the whole had happened in an instant: that *Mica* had been engaged in constructing a little harbour on the borders of the river which washed our walls, when one of the children, having fallen into deep water, by an involuntary motion she with the other in her arms, darted forward to save it; and that in consequence of that incumbrance they all perished together in the presence of a very aged woman, who could not afford them the smallest assistance.

“It would be dreadful to describe, if I were able, what followed. In an instant like this all my assumed firmness forsook me. On the fresh earth which enclosed the dear

remains I lay stretched, without sleep, and without food, for many days. They had interred her ashes under the arbour, which, sweet spirit ! for my pleasure at my return, she had been constructing.—There I remained extended, calling on her night and day, and but for the careful attention of my friend, and *Yahomy*, who never quitted me, my grave also had haply swelled the sod.

“ At length, time, and this burst of uninterrupted grief, produced some calmer sensations. I then wandered throughout the whole island, accompanied by the good old African, visiting all their institutions, examining all their habits, practising all their arts ; among which, painting afforded me the greatest delight, as it enabled me to recreate the family I had for ever lost ; but nothing could fill up the void which this loss had occasioned. Not even music could alleviate reflection—it, perhaps, only encreased

the pains of remembrance, for she still lives in my veins.

“ Become at last an object of pity to the whole nation, it seemed to be by all agreed that I had better return to my original country, since every thing in *Sophis* seemed only to cherish my mind’s disease.—I therefore came to a resolution to go out a missionary to mankind, to spread, if possible, the noble customs of this select nation among my fellow creatures; nor was it, till I had resolved on thus transferring my affections from particular to general society that I found my reason comparatively calm, and my bosom less disturbed.

“ Then, filled with the sublimest philanthropy, I braved every danger for the accomplishing of this benignant purpose; and, without any companion (for *Yahomy* was too feeble to follow me), entered once more

the vast desert; and, conducted by enthusiastic zeal, escaped every danger, preaching and teaching every where humanity and love to all creatures whether men or beasts:— Numerous tribes of wandering blacks entertained me with kindness and hospitality. I found, indeed, these simple Africans always received favourably those who wished to instruct them; but when I came into the kingdom of *Sennaar*, in proportion as I succeeded with the people I excited the jealousy of their cruel rulers. Liberty, justice, and even humanity were here almost unknown. Craft, and that course and crooked policy which ignorance engrafts on power, were alone practised by a Court, barbarous, indeed, as to manners, but refined in the arts of extortion, nearly equal to some of the governments of Europe. No sooner were my principles understood, than my liberty was in danger. Setting, however, all false policy at defiance, I persisted in the

most zealous efforts to sow the first seeds of rational freedom in the bosoms of the *Sen-naarites*; till merciless and unfeeling tyranny seized me, as I expected, in her fangs, and destined me, as a punishment, here to end my days, a willing martyr to the noblest cause.

“ A man must put himself in my situation to see the propriety of my conduct. Had *Mica* lived, perhaps, this daring virtue would never have possessed me. That gust which extinguished the lamp of my life, gave to these poor deluded people a new star—the dawn of civil freedom has appeared in their horizon—may the piercing rays of independence dissipate the mists created by treacherous policy! Man is by nature a rational creature—and shall he be always a prey to rulers who make him the dupe of artificial systems? No: many of the first legislators have been well-intentioned men; but instead

of forming a code founded on truth, they have fancied, because they were better informed than the generality, that the multitude could never be brought to the like degree of knowledge. In place of establishing simple institutions, suitable to the nature of mankind, and all living things, they have commenced, by putting man first over the creation, and then extending the power of a few over the whole; setting up some fantastical leader of their own contrivance, as their inspirer, and making his pretended communications the criterion of right and wrong: whereas, had they owned their ignorance with the candour of the good *Sophis*, and taught the doctrine of just equality and humility--to seek natural nutriment, and to follow natural habits,—their disciples, I am persuaded, must have superseded in time every other sect, and the whole earth been beatified with its inhabitants."

Here the liberal-minded *Lycas* concluded his narrative, and left my mind impressed with a determined resolution, should I ever escape from this fortress (a thing very improbable under such an arbitrary government), to attempt, at all hazards, to gain the sacred asylum on the lake of Zambre, where I trust I may succeed in engrafting the noble fruits of revelation on their wholesome wild stock of natural faith, thereby adding all that is wanting to make them the best and the happiest nation on earth (first however depositing this manuscript in the hands of some European trader). And may the lesson have its proper effect, if happily, it should ever come forth: *for freedom and virtue, although depressed, are not extinct; deep rooted in the heart of man, I feel that they will survive all the injuries they have received, and at length (triumphant over the crooked policy of Machiavelian statesmen) behold the emancipation of reason, and the return of universal justice!*

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