PRIVATE JOURNAL

OF A

VISIT TO EGYPT AND PALESTINE,

BY WAY OF

ITALY AND THE MEDITERRANEAN.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY JOSEPH RICKERBY,

SHERBOURN LANE.

1836.

[NOT PUBLISHED.]

TO THE

BELOVED COMPANION OF MY JOURNEY

THIS JOURNAL IS DEDICATED,

AS

A slight Memorial

OF

PLEASURES AND DANGERS SHARED TOGETHER,

IN THE CONTEMPLATION OF

MANY SACRED SCENES.

Sunday, August 26. *Leonidas.*—Every hope was entertained of our arrival this evening on the shores of that country where our forefathers endured so much persecution, and witnessed so many miracles—the scene of ancient glory, splendour, and suffering! What a blessing did it seem to have been permitted to accomplish a voyage, fraught with so many difficulties in the outset, but which, with the Almighty's blessing, we had in the sequel entirely escaped. We have come at the rate of five knots throughout the night; and at twelve o'clock were only twenty-four miles distant from the destined port. About two, land was espied: the captain had promised a bottle of grog to the man who should first discover it; but the commodore being in advance, had first shortened sail in sign thereof. The mate (Mr. Rennant) soon confirmed Captain Anderson in the pleasing tidings; and all hands were immediately employed in arranging the sails, cable, &c. A brisk breeze, which I should have called a gale, springing up, we had to tack about for three or four hours, not knowing the intention of the commodore; and again I had to take refuge on the mattress, instead

of partaking of dinner. But the harbour was now neared, and the commodore raised a signal for us to lay-to: thus we remained beating about, while the Austrian having fired a signal for a pilot, bore happily away for the inner harbour. On seeing this, the Leonidas also fired a gun, and having approached the Gannet, learned from Captain Brace, by the aid of a speaking-trumpet, that it was his intention to remain where he then was during the night, but that we might do as we pleased. We chose to advance; and when near the rocks, a pilot-boat appeared, with turbaned sailors, waving a shawl or scarf in a graceful manner, according to the direction we were to take to avoid the danger of the rocks, and calling out to us to cast anchor, which we did immediately, in the old harbour of Alexandria. Soon after another boat appeared with the harbour-master, who came on board; when Dash, Mr. Bell's spaniel, seemed by his howling, to have an instinctive idea of the antipathy Turks entertain to his species. The names and number of the passengers, with a few other questions, were then asked; and, without further trouble, Major Temple, Mr. Bell, and Mr. Mazzara, entered a boat and leaped on shore, with all the delight and expectation of anxious travellers. Mr. Bell promising to get permission for us to land, and to send us some new bread for break-

fast. The view of Pompey's Pillar, and Cleopatra's Needle, two of the most interesting objects of antiquity, gratified us, some distance before we entered the harbour.

Monday, August 27. *Alexandria.*—We passed a tranquil night at anchor; and early this morning a boat came alongside bringing a Turkish police-officer, who came on board with permission to land when we pleased, and some fresh bread from Mr. Bell, who soon after joined us with his partner, Mr. Harris, Mr. Mazzara, and also the Major; from whom we learnt that the same uncertainty prevailed here respecting politics as at Malta, and that the Pasha, and Mr. Salt, the British consul-general, to whom we had letters of introduction, were both at Cairo. At ten we quitted the Leonidas in Captain Anderson's boat, and for the first time set foot on the land where our nation had, as it were, its cradle; where our ancestors were persecuted, but grew up into a mighty people, and whence they were led forth by the arm of the Almighty. The land of the Pharaohs, a name so renowned in history, and of the Ptolemies, a name so famed in the records of learning and the arts!

The first view we had of this ancient city, presented us with a scene of filth and desolateness. Many persons were swimming near the shore, and

pigs and dogs were feeding on the refuse of the town along the banks; but as we passed through the narrow dirty streets, the novel sight of loaded camels, and Turks on donkeys, which they honoured by the title of a general and his regiment, attracted our observation, and we at once felt that we were no longer in Europe, or among Europeans. Apartments were engaged for us at the inn, (the only one in the city,) at two dollars per day. They consisted of one tolerable chamber, an adjoining one, which scarcely deserved the title, and a closet, which was to be consigned to Margarite. The sitting-room was that in which the *table d'hôte* was served; and I, therefore, preferred taking my meals in my room, the gentlemen thinking fit to join the public table. The British consul, Mr. Barker, to whom Sir Frederic Hankey gave us a letter, paid us a visit, attended by his dragoman, and dressed in all the state of office. He gave us a pressing invitation to take up our abode at his house; and sat with us some time, conversing about Egypt and Syria.

Tuesday, August 28. *Alexandria.*—Captain Brace having called yesterday afternoon, to say, he intended returning to Malta immediately, I availed myself of his kind offer, and wrote a few lines to Lady Stoddart, apprising her of our safe arrival.

The morning was chiefly employed in forming different plans, and listening to suggestions for the prosecution of our tour to the best advantage; but the present uncertainty respecting war or peace with the Ottoman, the reports of pirates, the heat of the weather, and other circumstances of a similar nature, gave rise to a variety of opinions, and the propriety of our undertaking a voyage to Jaffa, especially without convoy, was considered highly doubtful. After a good deal of discussion, the more safe and cautious plan was adopted of going to Cairo, in a cangia, up the Nile. Captain Anderson, who was to accompany us, immediately sent four of his men to perform ablution on the cangia, by dipping her two or three times in the briny ocean, and then giving her a good scrubbing. This process, we understood, was absolutely necessary before we could venture to take possession of her. She was one of the largest size; but the reis, with seven of his crew, with Captain Anderson, his mate, and another of his men, were considered an ample complement of hands. As it was expected we should be five days in sailing to Cairo, a plentiful supply of good things for the table was ordered, wine and fruit, with spirits for the men not being forgotten.

In the afternoon we took a most delightful ride to see Cleopatra's needles, which are situ-

ated in one of the most obscure and distant quarters of the city, but are well worthy the attention they usually obtain from travellers. They are covered with hieroglyphics, and while they interest the spectator by their connexion with remote antiquity, astonish him as specimens of that gigantic art which taught the Egyptians to hew such masses of granite out of the rock. In our way to Pompey's Pillar, we passed three other granite columns, which are said to have belonged to the Alexandrian Library; two of them were erect, but the other lay half-buried in the sands, which were continually beating over it, and will soon, it is probable, form its tomb, as they have done in regard to so many other monuments of this ancient land. These pillars are similar to those in front of the Pantheon at Rome; and opposite to them, in fact, is a Roman building, the ruins of which were singularly contrasted with the bloom of a pretty garden that surrounded them, and which opposed to mouldering columns, its thin palm-trees and dates in the full beauty of their autumnal perfection.

The ingenuity and persevering inquiries of modern travellers, have proved that Pompey's Pillar has little right to the name of the celebrated Roman. Of those who have attempted to

decipher the inscription which it bears, some say that it was raised at as late a period as the reign of Diocletian; others, that it was dedicated to Adrian, while the circumstance of its having so long borne the name of Pompey is accounted for by the supposition that it was erected by the order of some prefect so called. It is, however, a noble monument of antiquity. The shaft is near ninety feet in length, and nine feet in diameter, and is supposed to consist of one block of oriental marble. This immense column is round, and at its summit is a Corinthian capital ten feet in height: the pedestal which supports it, is twelve feet high, so that the whole elevation amounts to one hundred and twelve feet. It is in excellent preservation.

Wednesday, August 29. *Alexandria.* — The gratification I yesterday received, greatly improved my opinion of this place. It is a city, indeed, where a reflecting mind can scarcely fail of being kept constantly awake. Almost every quarter of it presents some relic of past grandeur, some memento of ages when wealth flowed through the hands of kings in more copious streams, than it has ever since done, and when human labour was the combined force of thousands. In addition to the interest resulting from these sources, is that which belongs to the city,

as one of the most important sea-ports in the world; and the Nile, as it rolls along its fertilizing waters, and the harbour, lined with ships from almost every nation of the world, strongly testify what this place might become were the advantages bestowed on it properly employed.

Among the other sights which attracted us, was the exercise of the cavalry, in a place appropriated to that purpose, and where we were delighted by the beauty of the horses, the admirable feats performed by some of the riders, and the sagacity of a number of dogs, who appeared to keep guard round the circle. As it was our intention to set out for Cairo this afternoon, we declined an invitation for dinner at Mr. Barker's, the usual hour for which repast is between twelve and one. Several dragomen applied to accompany us; and at five o'clock, the donkeys having arrived, we set off, accompanied by Margarite and Paulo, (the two Maltese servants,) and Armstrong; Major Temple and Mr. Miller escorting us to the harbour, where, on entering the cangia, we took a regretful leave of those gentlemen, who after visiting Cairo and Thebes, are going overland to India. We found Nathaniel, the mate, and Andrews (both of the Leonidas,) on board, with the reis or captain, and seven Arabs. A numerous throng of supplicants assailed us as

we embarked, applying for *bakshiesh*, or a present; to which annoyance we were exposed for some time, Paulo having forgotten the charcoal, a chief requisite for cooking. We however set sail about six o'clock. Before retiring to rest, we drank to the health of our beloved friend and parent, Mrs. Montefiore, in a bottle of champagne, it being her natal day.

Thursday, August 30. *The Nile.* — The two sofas from Captain Anderson's ship, were placed in the cabin to form our bed; but the musquito-netting adhered so closely to our faces, that we had the choice of being suffocated or bitten. We chose the latter, and had as little repose as we expected. Our reis entertained us yesterday evening, while the moon's silvery rays prolonged our stay on deck, with some Arabian tunes on his pipe made of reeds. He accepted a small portion of brandy with a smile; it seemed to increase the relish of his pipe of tobacco, that indispensable article to Eastern comfort. His father was on board, acting as steersman, and his son as assistant, making three generations employed together in the same occupation. Four of the men towed the cangia for some miles, pursuing their labour with cheerfulness. They were destitute of covering, except a short drapery confined by a rope round the waist; and even from this, which

seemed an incumbrance they released themselves when wading through the water, which they were frequently compelled to do. The canal extends forty miles; and its banks presenting little to engage the attention, we were rejoiced when the wide river burst suddenly into sight, with its banks lined with palm-trees, acacias and sycamores. It occasioned some trouble to overcome the force of the current at the entrance of the stream; but the obstacles were at length conquered, and by two o'clock we were fairly on the bosom of the Nile.

Friday, August 31. *The Nile.* — Notwithstanding the ablutions the cangia had received, and the assistance given to sleep by some of Captain Anderson's mulled wine, we passed the night in wakeful irritation. The waters of the Nile were also at this season, that of their rise, so impregnated with sand, that we could not drink even that which had been set to clarify in the vessels we had brought for that purpose. This obliged us to stop at a village to procure a supply of this necessary beverage. Yesterday evening we waited for a time at the pretty town of Foua, built on the banks of the river, where groups of Arabs were seated in circles, smoking and drinking coffee, and probably listening to some of those wild, gay tales in which their lan-

guage is so rich. Large baskets of fruit were at the same time being embarked, and the *tout-ensemble* was calm, picturesque, and impressive. Paulo procured at this place a good supply of milk, part of which he took the precaution to boil, so that it was good this morning; but at breakfast we found that about a dozen of the poor chickens which were put in the hold, had been devoured during the night by the rats, to the chagrin of most of our party. The next village, however, supplied us with a plentiful store of fresh meat, and at so moderate a price, that a couple of dollars afforded a feast to the crew for two days, and our own party with the best joints for boiling. We had a proportionable supply of new-laid eggs, vegetables, and dates, the latter being the first I had ever tasted fresh of that fruit.

The wind having abated, and a powerful current setting in against us, the men were again obliged to tow the boat. In doing this, the rope broke; and it was only by the prompt exertion of our captain and his men that we were saved from running aground. During the delay which this occasioned, our eyes were filled, and our dress completely covered, with the dust and sand from the shore. When all at length was satisfactorily arranged, the reis said it would be requisite to

wait some time while his men prepared their supper, they having had only some bread and water at ten o'clock for breakfast, with which they had remained perfectly satisfied till now. In providing the repast, they cut the meat we had given them, into small pieces, and boiled them for an hour, together with rice and onions, our reis smoking and sipping a glass of brandy and water (with which he was treated) in the meantime. The mess, when ready, was served in a large brown dish; and a portion being given to the grandfather, father, and son, the rest sat round the dish, and eat out of it with their fingers. It was now time to sail, and permission was granted to raise all the canvass. We sat on deck till a late hour, enjoying the moonlight, but guarding against the dew, which has been known to have pernicious effects. This being Captain Anderson's birth-day, we also had an extra bottle of champagne to its happy return, our party not having yet adopted the necessary abstemious habits of an Eastern climate.

Saturday, September 1. *The Nile.* — Worse sufferings from vermin and insects, than I had yet experienced, obliged me to quit my couch, and make my retreat from their assaults to the deck; where, seated against the partition, and wrapped up in Montefiore's large cloak, I hoped

to have found shelter till morning. I found every one in sound sleep; some on the ground, others on mattresses, and Mr. Mazzara and the captain on our portable bedsteads. It appeared like a bivouac, and having taken my station near the cabin-door, I felt somewhat disheartened by the knowledge that night was not far advanced. But while endeavouring to resign myself to repose, I was startled by a rustling noise, and on turning my head, to my great alarm, beheld a black figure descending from above between the mattings which covered the outside of the roof. I hurried to Captain Anderson who was nearest, calling him out of a sonorous slumber. His surprise at seeing me was as great as my fright: rubbing his eyes, "What! what's the matter?" said he; whilst I pointed to a poor black boy, whose intentions being fairer than his complexion, I found, were merely to loosen the rope in order to ease the sail. After explaining to the captain the reason of my unseasonable appearance; at my earnest request he recomposed himself; and I, forgetting, from fatigue, my recent tormentors, covered myself so completely with the musquito-curtain, notwithstanding the heat, as to make their attacks futile. This little adventure created a laugh at breakfast—thus we can smile at troubles past. Some of the party

walked over the cotton and corn-fields, in hopes of meeting with curious birds; but the preparation of loading fowling-pieces proved vain; nothing but swallows, sparrows, or pigeons appeared to the sportsmen, and these, happily for the feathered race, were beneath the valour of the gentlemen. While waiting for the reis, who had stopped at a village called Menouf, our cangia got aground, and required all the art and strength of masters and men to get her off again. Several women and children, in the meantime, came running towards us, offering pomegranates, melons, and mats for sale. Their covering, that of those who had any, consisted of a blue cotton drapery, which enveloped the head and figure. The face was also concealed, with a space left open for the eyes and mouth; their arms, neck, and feet were mostly exposed, and adorned with bracelets and beads, with the addition of the tattoo. Our reis said he had eight wives, which he considered a very moderate number.

We now came in sight of the Pyramids, of which the two large and one small were very perceptible. A brisk breeze carried us swiftly on towards Cairo. Numerous minarets, mosques, and other buildings rising into sight; and at two o'clock we arrived at Boulac, the place of landing, and distant only two miles from Cairo. A

beautiful vista of that city was here gained from the water. The busiest scene was before us; and we had ample entertainment, during the two hours that the messenger was gone with our cards to Mr. Salt. The number of boats loading and unloading bales of goods, &c., the various coloured dresses of the men and women who came one after the other to perform the ablutions at the river, many filling goat-skins with water for the use of the town, and loading their camels and donkeys therewith, altogether presented a picture replete with novelty and interest. The vice-consul, and janissary, with a horse for Montefiore, and donkeys for the rest of the party, now arrived, followed by a camel for the luggage. The consul-general at the same time sent his compliments, with an urgent solicitation that we would take up our abode at his house during our sojourn at Cairo, which Montefiore declined; and at sun-set we repaired to the inn, where Mr. Salt, though he was not in the best health, kindly waited our coming. He insisted on our promise for to-morrow.

Sunday, September 2. *Cairo.*—The accommodations at the inn being ill-suited to English ideas and habits, we accepted Mr. Salt's kind solicitation with less reluctance; and at twelve this forenoon, Montefiore and myself were con-

ducted by that gentleman's janissary to his house; Mr. Mazzara, Captain Anderson, and the servants, remaining at the inn, which is kept by a French family, so that Mr. M——— found himself quite *au fait* there. We were shown into a large room: its furniture bespoke it Turkish; divans were placed all round, with a small rich carpet in the centre: little other furniture was observable, except books and maps, the numerous and choice assortment of which testified both the country and character of its owner, who soon made his appearance, and welcomed us most hospitably. As Mr. Salt was conducting us to the apartment we were to take possession of, we passed the dining-room, which at one end had a handsome marble fountain; the water could be let in at pleasure: and it was in play, diffusing an agreeable freshness around, well adapted to the clime. The chambers our kind host selected for our use were, in appearance, the counterpart of those we had left, and promised, from the whiteness of the furniture, comfort and repose. At the same time he apologized for any defect we might experience, as there was no lady to superintend the establishment, Mrs. Salt having died about four years before. I understand she was a very handsome young person, a native of Leghorn; and that she died in confine-

ment with her first child, her medical attendant not having bestowed proper attention, the plague being then prevalent in the city. The little girl was living, we understood, and receiving her education in Leghorn, under the care of her grandmamma. Mr. Salt had obtained deserved celebrity for his scientific knowledge, researches, and travels in Abyssinia. Of his labours in Upper Egypt and about the Pyramids, the French, as well as the British Museum, is in possession of valuable proofs. The former completed a purchase from him last year, of curious antiquities, for the sum of ten thousand pounds.

The dinner-hour in Cairo is at one, after which Mr. Salt took his siesta, with his legs folded under him, *à la Turc*. In the evening he amused us by explaining some of the hieroglyphics; and in pointing out the great progress that had been made by Dr. Young, M. Champallon, and himself, in elucidating and deciphering their signification. He then showed us some of his drawings, which displayed infinite talent. At supper the conversation turned on Mr. Wolfe, who had been some time at Cairo. Mr. Salt thought him a learned and conscientious man.

Monday, September 3. *Cairo.*—This day being appointed for our visit to the Pyramids, we requested to be called at four o'clock. A tap at

the door announced the hour at the moment when our first sleep had commenced; for it was impossible to obtain the least rest throughout the night, having been most intolerably plagued with a host of noxious insects. How deceiving had been those snow-white curtains: they were like the soft skin of the serpent, serving to conceal its venom. We passed from the bed to the sofa, and from the sofa to the bed; but neither afforded relief: and we prayed incessantly for morning; but at the instant a soft slumber had commiserated our situation, *per force* we must rise. Soon, however, was every drowsy sensation chased away, by the animating thought of seeing one of the wonders of the world. Some excellent coffee and cake, called *pane di spagna*, prepared us for a donkey-ride of no small distance. Mr. Salt's janissary made his appearance, and informed us that the guides and donkeys were all ready at the gate, and that it was time to depart. At six, Captain Anderson, Mr. Mazzara, Armstrong, Paulo, Margerite, Nathaniel, Andrews, and the janissary, were *en route*, attended by the guides. The janissary well-armed, led the van, and I followed next. One donkey was laden with a good supply of provisions for the day; and thus we passed through the city. In some of the narrow streets, the people had not yet risen from their nightly

resting-place—the ground, with no other covering than a piece of mat or a cloak. But here, as at Malta, they sleep as soundly as on a bed of down. I kept near the janissary, a good-tempered and attentive man, all the way; and after about an hour's pleasant ride, we embarked to cross the Nile; the donkeys and guides in a separate boat. The current being extremely powerful, we had to extend our passage some little distance; but the fertile banks, the groves of palm-trees, the ripe fruit, the minarets and mosques, amply rewarded us for the temporary delay. Having reached the other side of the river, we passed whole forests of palms, and then came to a part over which the waters had spread. Here it was requisite to have the animals led by two Bedouins, who approached and offered their services for that purpose. The only dress of these people, who stroll about and inhabit the desert, was a piece of coarse cloth, thrown over the shoulder, and fastened with a rope round the waist. Armstrong, fancying himself more dexterous than the rest, declined their aid, and attempted to cross the stream without assistance, but was thrown; he, however, received no further injury than a good drenching. We next came to a pretty town called Tersi, whence, for some distance, we had to make our way over a sort of dyke;

the waters, to the great delight of the people, having covered the surrounding land, and risen sufficiently high to ensure them a good harvest. Bountiful Heaven! in what a variety of ways are thy blessings bestowed! A pleasant air relieved us from the oppression of the sun; and even on approaching the sandy desert, we scarcely suffered any inconvenience from heat. The Pyramids of Sacchara appeared near to us on our left; but their distance, as well as magnitude, is most deceptive. Numbers of buffaloes passed us, headed by their drovers, whose mien was not the mildest; but my well-armed janissary was my constant protection; and, when near the Sphynx, a group of Bedouins, who hastened towards us, saluted him as an old acquaintance, kissed his hand and the hem of his garment, and seemed rejoiced at our arrival. They escorted us to the famous granite animal, whose face is very perceptible; though time, and the sands of the desert, have so long threatened to remove it from the gaze of mankind. But we were now too near the Pyramids not to find our thoughts wholly occupied with contemplating their prodigious elevation and extent. Time has been longer conquered by the Pyramids than by any other production of human art. They lift their strange forms above that sea of ages which holds in its bosom all other relics of that hoar antiqui-

ty to which they belong: they were old in days which are the remotest in authentic history; and instead of their crumbling down to the earth, like other monuments of men's labour, it appears as if they are only doomed to disappear when the earth shall have gradually accumulated its own dust and ashes around them. They truly merit the appellation of one of the seven wonders of the world; and it is next to impossible to contemplate them without experiencing a keen desire to determine the motives of those who built them, and the object for which they were erected. There is every reason, however, to believe that religion furnished both the motives and the design from which they sprang; and the most rational antiquaries agree in considering them in the light of temples, certain portions of which were appropriated for the burial of the dead. The numerous idols still to be found in them, and the splendid mausoleums of their chambers, afford the strongest proof of the correctness of this idea. There is, however, a general principle which affords, it may be observed without presumption, a still more powerful proof of their sacred origin. Religion is the only motive sufficiently strong, and sufficiently enduring, to inspire men with such vast designs; and in the early ages of the world this was especially the case. A few great principles of thought

governed all their actions; and among these, as it must ever be when the economy of society is simple, the fear or the love, the desire to propitiate, or the hope of pleasing, the Deity, will always be found predominant over the rest.

The wax-tapers being lighted, I prepared with most of our party, to enter the great pyramid of Cheops, while the janissary remained to keep guard at the entrance. My guide was a Bedouin, who told me he acted in the same capacity to Buonaparte. This inspired me with additional resolution to enter; but in the attempt I found myself so overpowered by heat and sand, together with the stooping posture which it was at first necessary to adopt, that I had almost determined on returning; but reanimated by the encouragement and example of my companions, I persevered; and, after great difficulty arrived at what is called the king's chamber, where we were recompensed for all the trouble we had undergone. The apartment in which we were now standing is somewhat above thirty-seven feet long, seventeen wide, and twenty in height. The grandeur of a chamber of this extent, lined as it is on all sides with the most beautifully polished stone, may be easily imagined; but the interest it awakens is considerably increased by the presence of a large sarcophagus of hard dark stone, which is placed towards the

west end of the room, and is all that the virtuosi have permitted to remain, and that, perhaps, only because it is immovable. We marked our names on the wall, as a memento of having visited these wonderful monuments. After seeing a second apartment, and what is called the well, we happily made our way back again into the open air, where Paulo had arranged our cold collation, which, with a bottle of champagne, addressed to the health of our dear absent friends, and success to the Alliance, we found sufficiently grateful. Our guides were glad of some brandy-and-water, and the remainder of our stock of provision furnished them with a meal. The Bedouins offered us for purchase some small articles of antiques; and on taking our leave, a dispute arose between them respecting *bakshiesh*, when they became as turbulent as they were before mild. One of them escorted us some distance back, in order that we might avoid the stream we had forded in the morning. On returning to Old Cairo I could scarcely stand: but, with all our fatigue, we could not help laughing to see the strange figures we presented after riding near forty miles; the distance of the Pyramids being eighteen miles, now that the waters are spread over the land. As we passed near the city, groups of Turks were sitting around, enjoying their pipes and the evening air,

now sweetly perfumed by groves of lime-trees. The scene was further enlivened by a bright moon, which made us forget the fatigues of the day, until we dismounted at the Locande; where, being incapable from exhaustion to proceed to Mr. Salt's, we remained, and sent an apology to that gentleman.

Tuesday, September 4. *Cairo.*—Captain Anderson having politely resigned his room to us, and our portable bedstead and mosquito-curtains being placed therein, we passed a much more favourable night than the preceding one, notwithstanding the intense heat. I suffer greatly from thirst to-day, and have no appetite—the consequence, probably, of yesterday's excursion. But politeness obliged us to dine at Mr. Salt's, where we had engaged ourselves. The early dinner-hour enabled us to return soon, as we could not accept the use of his chambers any longer, the gnats from the garden being quite insufferable. We found the consul confined to his room, with an oppression at the chest, and attended by his physician, who had just opened a vein. Of course, we were obliged to suffer the loss of his company at dinner; but the vice-consul, Mr. Maltasse, did the honours. A Mr. Walmas, interpreter to the Pacha, and an African prince, were of the party: the latter, an elegant young man, had been taken prisoner

on his way to Mecca, and was about to be sent back to his country. His white teeth were a great contrast to his sable complexion; and a handsome Turkish suit adorned his graceful figure, of which he seemed rather conscious. After dinner we went with Mr. Maltasse to see a collection of curiosities, belonging to a Signor Smarza, but did not make any purchases, the price being too high. We also saw a young hyæna there.

Wednesday, September 5. Cairo.—We heard the sounds of lamentation and mourning this morning, and were informed that they were in consequence of the death of a young woman who expired the same day that she was married; and, it was imagined, from the effects of jealousy and poison. The lamentations were similar to the Irish howl, and continue for forty days. What, however, renders them the more singular is, that they are uttered by the Turkish priests, who, at certain hours of the morning and evening, call the multitude to their religious devotions. Their nightly and early walk round the minarets, and calling of the hour, have a solemn and imposing effect; while the barking of dogs is a substitute for the rolling of carriages and cries of tradespeople in other great cities. Montefiore was, today, introduced to the Pacha, and returned most pleased with his reception. Mr. Maltasse, Mr.

Mazzara, and Captain Anderson accompanied him to his highness. The conversation was supported in a lively manner by the Pacha, for three-quarters of an hour. He smoked, and ordered coffee to be served. His pipe was richly studded with diamonds and other precious stones. He encourages every new invention and improvement; and informed him of his having established silk and other manufactories in his territories; and that he had planted numbers of olive and mulberry-trees. His extensive mercantile transactions were, however, a great source of jealousy and dissatisfaction to his subjects, who are thereby deprived of the advantages of competition and unfettered trade. He would not grant a farmer a longer lease than a year, and fixed the price of all the produce of the land himself. At the age of forty-five he commenced learning to read and write, which he persevered in to his satisfaction; a singular instance of strength of mind. All his vast transactions are managed by himself, and every written document passes under his inspection. He told Montefiore that he never indulges in more than four hours' sleep during the night. He might prove a great character in the world were he entirely unfettered.

As there was a garden attached to the inn, I

amused myself therein as much as the heat and insects would allow. In the house, one of the attendants has a large whisk, or fan, with which he drives the flies away. The gentlemen proposed setting off to-morrow morning, at two, for the Pyramids of Sacchara. My curiosity agreed to the plan; and this afternoon we went to see Joseph's or Yassuf's well. It is cut through the rock in the citadel, and is two hundred and eighty feet deep. I understand Jassuf and Saladin to mean the same personage.

Our plan of visiting Sacchara was laid aside, information having been brought us that an English brig of war was arrived, and that it was the intention of Mr. Salt to return to Alexandria, whether for his health or not we did not know; but our fears were excited, and prudence said, follow the same line, and do not extend your tour: the chance of war menaces your safety. Mr. Miller and Mr. Belfour, his new travelling companion, entertained no apprehensions, and resolved to await the result. We took our supper at the table d'hôte. A Mr. Parker, and several French gentlemen, dressed in the Turkish costume, were of the party; and had it not been for their conversation, I should have taken them to be Turks. The French are held in great esteem here: Mr. Salt regards them particularly; and their

government, as I before observed, paid him for a collection of curiosities two hundred and fifty thousand francs.

Thursday, September 6.—The boat we had engaged to convey us to Sacchara, and Mr. Salt's janissary, were in readiness at the gate, at two o'clock this morning, according to appointment. The water, at this season, passing through the back streets of the whole city, persons were enabled to go from their houses by water. We had but two hours' sleep after packing up and settling accounts, it having been considered advisable to keep secret the alteration of our intention; and our departure really seemed like a flight from Egypt. When all was ready, and we were seated in the boat, we mentioned our purpose to the janissary, of going to Boulac instead of Sacchara; and he immediately proposed fetching the linen from the laundress, which was only in the next street. This detained us near two hours, and not under the most agreeable circumstances, it being then but four in the morning. The least noise made us conjecture that the gates of the city were shut on the janissary, or that some disturbance had occurred; but at last, to our relief, he returned safely with the bundle of wet linen; and we proceeded, *a la* Venice, cheered by the song of the boatmen and the light of the moon. As we passed through

the different arches, we were often driven up against the wall by the force of the current; and all the aid of Captain Anderson and his two men was required to set us off again. When they were fairly in the unobstructed stream, they joined in the *Alluhu* and *Salem* of the Arabs, to our great amusement; and after a voyage of rather more than four hours, we arrived at Boulac, where the English jack pointed out the cangia we had engaged by order of the Pacha.

Friday, September 7.—Our present cangia was larger than the one we had in going up the Nile, and the cabin was far more spacious: not having received ablution, it was not near so clean as the last. The night, of course, was fearfully disturbed; and the rats, whose treble note was joined to those of the cockchafers and crickets, required not the melody of a young child, who was on the outside of the cabin, to complete the concert. Its mother, however, stopped with it at a village which we came to early in the morning, and where we obtained a supply of eggs, with which Paulo (whose culinary talents received due praise) made a delicious omelet for breakfast. Though it was fried in oil, butter not being obtainable, I did not refuse a good portion of it. The wind now became contrary, and the men resorted some to the oars and others to the rope, chanting at the same

time the *Halluh Selah*, and stimulated by a glass of grog.

Saturday, September 8.—We passed a miserable night, the torments increasing: Montefiore complained also of rheumatism. This cangia, in fact, was a proper antidote against the mania for an Egyptian tour. During the day, when our nightly tormentors were at rest, swarms of flies attacked us, and perseveringly assaulted the eyes, nose, and mouth. The only consolation was, that it would not be of long duration, for, thanks to the Almighty, we were again on the canal; but our reis would not be persuaded to raise sail; thinking, I suppose, that his age entitled his judgment to more attention than that of Captain Anderson. A glass of *aqua-vitæ*, however, was proposed, and he accepted it with a smile. It seemed to give new zest to the fumes of his cibouc, but not to his naval manœuvres.

Sunday, September 9. *Alexandria.*—We rejoiced at being again in the port of Alexandria; and after breakfasting on board the cangia, and seeing all our luggage sent off, gladly took our leave of the reis and his crew, who surrounded us for *bakshiesh*. I was hoisted as usual on board the Leonidas; and never could I have imagined that I should ever walk the deck of a ship so

contentedly. It appeared like a palace, and was in comparison certainly like a comfortable home. The Pelorus English brig of war was lying in the harbour, besides several French vessels, and other merchantmen. Politics seemed in the same uncertain state as at our recent departure from this port.

Monday, September 10. *The Leonidas.*—We went on shore. There are always men with donkeys in waiting, who will take you about a mile for a piastre, and are most eager to be engaged. An Egyptian donkey is a much more complying animal than I have ever understood an English one to be. Subjection extends to master and man in some countries. Mr. Bell encountered us in our ride, and accompanied us. We afterwards went to his house, where he invited us to dine to-morrow. The Greeks we heard were continuing their depredations: a Swedish brig, indeed, was just come in, the captain and crew of which had suffered personal ill treatment, besides the loss of five hundred dollars. I also walked with Captain Anderson and Mr. Mazzara to the bazaar, wishing to make some purchases, which our flight from Cairo had prevented my doing. Many articles are superior at that city to what they are at this, such as pipes, caps, slippers, &c.; and we only succeeded in the choice of half a dozen small

coffee-cups, as a sample of the Turkish size of that article. Various political conjectures were afloat, but the majority of opinions inclined to hostilities.

Tuesday, September 11. *The Leonidas in Alexandrian port.*—Montefiore was in despair about Jerusalem; the chance of our going there declining as that of war with the Porte increased. Captain Richards, of the brig of war Pelorus, with Mr. Barker, the English consul, politely came on board this forenoon to pay us a visit. Their opinion was, that every means would be employed by the united powers to retain that desirable object—peace; but that it rested with the Grand Signor. Should the negociations terminate amicably, Captain Richards said he would endeavour to convoy us to Jaffa; but I feared the result would not be so favourable. The dinner at Mr. Bell's was served in superior style, the wines and dessert corresponding: the conversation also was lively and well supported. We have heard, with profound regret, that Mr. Canning's death was no longer doubted. It was considered a loss to all Europe, as well as to the senate and his country in general.

Wednesday, September 12. *Alexandria.*—The gentlemen went on shore; Montefiore to visit Mr. Salt and Mr. Barker, who both considered it would

be highly imprudent to proceed to Syria, during so uncertain a state of affairs. A numerous fleet of merchantmen sailed from this harbour, under convoy of a French brig of war; four of which returned, not being able to keep pace with the rest, and fearing the coast of Candia. Mr. Mazzara was generally occupied with the study of Arabic, or other affairs; Captain Anderson was out of spirits about being delayed, and Montefiore was disappointed; while I thought to myself, how futile and weak are all human plans! We form opinions and projects, and those on which we are most intent, perhaps turn out contrary to our expectations. Oh, that we could be content with present good, nor seek for that of which we know not the tendency!

Thursday, September 13.—At half-past two, we arrived at Mr. Barker's, in time to dress, being engaged to dine there; Mrs. Barker having, out of compliment to us, changed her dinner-hour from one to three. They have an excellent house, near the old harbour, commanding a fine view of the sea, which abounds here with rocks, over which the water breaks with great force, rendering the scene bold and majestic, and in stormy weather, terrific. Mrs. Barker is a native of Aleppo; she wore the Turkish costume, and a vast number of valuable ornaments, which had a rich and com-

manding effect, according with her dress. Mr. Barker informed me that she was the subject of one of Mrs. Trimmer's tales, called "Marianne of the Desert." They had one daughter living with them, very pretty; another who is married at Smyrna; and three sons, receiving their education in England. All the *haut-ton* of the city were assembled at dinner to meet us; viz. the Sardinian consul, and his lady, (extremely agreeable, and a native of Marseilles;) M. Piedimonti; Mr. Acerbi, the Austrian consul, who has been a great traveller, and published some account of his journeys in Denmark and Sweden; the Russian consul, and three other gentlemen. The conversation was sustained with that animation natural to the assemblage of natives of such a variety of countries; and the repast was a sumptuous assortment of delicacies, among which were a variety of ices and fruits from foreign countries, and abundance of choice wines. Mrs. Barker amused us, while the gentlemen sat enjoying their ciboucs and coffee, with showing us her magnificent jewels, particularly pearls, of which she has an entire apron, a veil, and head-dress. She wore her hair in a vast number of plaits down the back, and drop-curls over the forehead. The Aleppo ladies pride themselves on the superiority of their jewels. She had two little Greek slaves in

her house, which she lately purchased to rescue them from a far worse fate; and is much esteemed for her humanity towards that unfortunate people. We were pleased to learn that the Greek women who came from Malta with us had succeeded in finding their daughters, and that with Mrs. Barker's aid they were able to ransom them. The servant now informed Mr. Barker that an English man-of-war was just coming into the harbour; and the captain soon entered the drawing-room. Every one was anxious to know—war or peace. Captain Davis could not give a favourable reply to Mr. Barker's question on the subject, as the sultan refused to give any other answer to the allied powers than what he before stated. No act, however, of hostility had yet commenced, and the ambassador and family were still at Constantinople. He was the bearer of dispatches from the admiral.

Friday, September 14. *The Leonidas.*—The weather was materially changed, it being much cooler, with a fine breeze; but an accident having occurred to Montefiore's thermometer on board the cangia, prevented, to his great chagrin, his keeping a register, as usual, of the different degrees of heat and cold. Mr. Mazzara and Captain Anderson usually passed the forenoon on shore, and Montefiore and myself amused ourselves on board,

with a book, writing, or with looking about us. But the view, composed of ships, water, a sandy shore, and a few barren walls, was not very interesting; I should, however, have been perfectly content, could we have had satisfactory news from our distant friends. Montefiore went to pay visits to Mr. Salt, and Mrs. Barker, the latter having been thrown from her donkey, and on his return brought two of Galignani's papers, of the 11th of August; but as I was reading one, the other flew overboard, to our no small vexation.

Saturday, September 15. *The Leonidas.*—Mr. Bell to-day met the pacha's carriage passing through the town, with some of his ladies, taking their exercise. The public are not allowed a glance at these fair objects, all the blinds being drawn, and a guard of soldiers placed on each side. A carriage is a marvellous object in this country, there being but two, those of the pacha and his son.

Sunday, September 16. *The Leonidas.*—Three pieces of ordnance were drawn by four mules each to-day along the fort, and placed among others on the battery. A warlike appearance this! It, however, did not prevent us from sending Paulo on shore, to purchase a goose for dinner; and he obtained two for nine piasters, or two and sixpence a pair, which he considered dear. Spirits are a scarce and expensive article here; but our captain said, that since we left Malta he had con-

sumed twenty gallons of brandy, besides wine and other liquors. Many of the resident English informed us, that they found it desirable to abstain from strong drink, and also to take only a small quantity of animal food.

Monday, September 17. *Leonidas.*—Though three thousand miles from home, yet, with my dear Montefiore seated next me, I should feel almost at home even on board a ship, were it not for an anxious feeling respecting the many dear friends from whom this distance separates us. My only source of comfort was, the knowledge that I might safely leave all things in the hand of the Almighty Father, by whom we had ourselves been so long protected. We learnt from the captain of a merchantman, who took tea with us, and who had just arrived from Malta, that the Greeks were still perpetrating their piratical enormities; not contenting themselves with plundering the vessels they took, but committing great cruelties on the captains and crews, even nailing them down by the ears. These accounts justified our determination of not moving from this harbour without convoy, and gave great force to the advice of those who persuaded us not to venture into Syria in the present state of affairs.

Tuesday, September 18. *Leonidas.*—I was contented to amuse myself, during the many idle hours I had now to spend, with observing the crew busy

at their daily occupations of cleaning or repairing the ship. Captain Anderson to-day bought twelve Egyptian idols, of which he spared me four. The weather was so sultry at present that conversation even was too fatiguing, and we had therefore recourse to our books.

Wednesday, September 19. *The Leonidas.*—People, notwithstanding the fineness of the climate, do not escape colds here; and the mate and Armstrong both suffered under attacks of this kind. The former to-day made me a present of the ten commandments, most beautifully written in the smallest compass imaginable. In the afternoon there was a sailing match between three boats, belonging to the Martha, the Mary, and the Leonidas; the Martha conquered. We took our dessert on deck; and I may here observe that the pomegranate is, in my opinion, the best fruit afforded by this place; the bananah is greatly esteemed, but it requires time to learn to relish it: this, perhaps, is the best proof of its worth.

Thursday, September 20. *The Leonidas.*—A French brig hove in sight to-day, and our hopes were instantly excited by the anticipation of intelligence. In the afternoon we went on shore, and having engaged donkeys, rode to the field of battle where General Abercrombie fell. Its distance from the town is about four miles. On the field is a stone

bearing an inscription to the memory of Colonel Peter Dutens, who fell in the action of the 21st of March, 1801, at the head of his regiment. In the environs of this spot are the remains of a Roman prætorian camp; and on our return, by way of the canal, we passed the palace of the pacha's daughter, which is pleasantly situated, and has a spacious garden; it is open to the public. Mr. Thurban had a tent erected near it, and was enjoying the salubrity of the evening air, with his family, amid the cultivated fields which skirt their country residence.

Friday, September 21. *Alexandria.*—As this was the day preceding the commencement of the new year, we prepared for going on shore, having obtained a room at the Locande, to pass the holidays. The heat to-day was very intense, the thermometer standing at 88°; and at one part of the day the cabin was suddenly filled with small flies, like a blight. It was with some difficulty we had procured an apartment at the inn, owing to the great number of strangers, especially French, lately arrived; nor did Montefiore dress in the same good spirits with which he had been accustomed to prepare for the festival at home. There was nothing, in fact, to awaken a feeling of interest, or excite the spirits, while there was much to depress them. There was every appearance of

our being prevented from accomplishing the object of our voyage. Abdallah, the Pacha of Damascus, was inimical, we learned, to all Europeans, and that he was also on bad terms with the Pacha of Egypt. It was, hence, the general opinion of the best informed persons here, that a Frank, by going to Syria at the present epoch, would run the risk of being massacred—no very pleasant result of a tour of amusement and pleasure. Mr. Mazzara walked with Montefiore to the synagogue, which was a small building excessively hot, and containing a congregation of about sixty persons, who were clad in the Arab costume. On their return they had tea, cake, and wine together, with some water-melons, of which Montefiore is remarkably fond, although he was for some time afraid to taste them.

Saturday, September 22. *Alexandria.*—A happy new year to all friends ! was our early exclamation to-day. Never had I thought of passing this season in Egypt; but Abdallah forbade our advance, and the pirates prevented our return. Montefiore now began to comprehend that travelling is not always divested of disagreeables; and pent up, as we were, in a miserable room, in a confined street, and suffocating from the sands and hot blasts of the sirocco wind, it was scarcely possible that we should help yielding to the recollec-

tions of home, which at this period more especially rose in our minds. Montefiore went to synagogue, and offered fifty dollars. In the evening I accompanied him to a place of devotion belonging to a private gentleman, a Signor Fuor; it was small but extremely clean, and well, I might say brilliantly, lighted with wax tapers and oil lamps. Two ladies of the family were in the gallery; one of them was superbly dressed in a robe of dove-coloured cashmere, embroidered with gold; her head and neck were adorned with diamonds, pearls, &c. and her pretty little white hands and arms were almost covered with rings and bracelets. The congregation was numerous and respectable.

Sunday, September 23. *Alexandria.*—The autumnal equinox having commenced, we now felt all the annoyances of a strong wind on the borders of a sandy desert. We this day paid a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Fuor. Their residence is extremely respectable; and the latter, who is a pretty young woman, and whom we had seen dressed so superbly on the preceding evening, was habited to-day in a Turkish mantle, made of the richest materials, her jewels corresponding in richness and variety. I was greatly pleased at being introduced to her father, who had arrived at the age of ninety, and was still cheerful, and in the pos-

session of all his faculties. Ice was handed us by two young black slaves; and Italian being spoken as well as Arabic, we managed to support an agreeable hour's conversation. We afterwards called on Mr. Salt, and Mrs. Barker; the former was having his antiquities packed up ready to export to Europe. He complained of indisposition, and was observing in consequence a very limited diet, living principally on rice, and abstaining entirely from wine. Several young men, he said, who had come from Europe, and had ridiculed the idea of restricting their appetites, fell victims to their indiscretion. We returned in the evening with great satisfaction to the Leonidas.

Monday, September 24. *The Leonidas.*—We found Captain Anderson and his party returned from Rosetta, and complaining of the unpleasant nature of his excursion. The tent had scarcely protected them from being buried in the sand, which the wind had driven in clouds through the air, overwhelming every object in its course, and so penetrating at the same time, that it made its way through the canvass, and spoiled all their provisions. We escaped these inconveniences on board; but having sat some time in a current of air, while at Mrs. Barker's, I had considerable reason to dread the approach of fever, and to think

I should be well content to commute it for a cough, and pain in the limbs.

Tuesday, September 25. *The Leonidas.*—Every strange sail that appeared in sight inspired us with fresh hopes, which were almost as soon dissipated as raised. We had now spent a month in harbour, and had experienced a species of confinement, only less than that of a prison from our being able occasionally to take exercise, and having unburthened minds. I was confined to bed by my cold, but was amused as I lay by the jovial sounds which came from the captain's cabin, where several of his naval companions, Montefiore being of the party, were assembled for a game of whist.

Wednesday, September 26. *The Leonidas.*—I again lost my broach, in what manner I cannot divine, having had it last night when I undressed; but there seemed a fatality in this little ornament, it being the same that was missing and recovered at the expense of a Napoleon, when we were passing through Italy—may our losses terminate here. I did not rise till dinner-time, feeling great debility. A vessel arrived to day from Syria, which had been pillaged of her cargo by the Greeks, who with infinite politeness offered the captain four Greek ladies by way of indemnification. What a

wretched state of degradation, for these unfortunates to have been thus transferred, at the will of their masters, from one to the other, while possessing probably all the finer feelings of moral sensibility which adorn human nature, and should have protected them from insult.

Thursday September 27. *Alexandria.*—There had been a dispute, we heard, between the Pacha of Damascus, Abdallah, and Lady Hester Stanhope, which required the interference of the British consul; his highness having prohibited her ladyship's Arabs from serving her on pain of death. The consul received some affront during the dispute; but I believe he succeeded in making an amicable arrangement between the parties. Lady Hester's estate is situate on a mountain called Sida, where there is no spring of water. It consequently becomes necessary to employ the Arabs in fetching a supply for her household of that essential article, and they have to go some considerable distance. Singular strength of mind and forbearance must be required in such a situation; and her ladyship must possess both spirit to resist tyrannical caprice, and eccentricity to make her abode agreeable. Mr. Bell obliged us by a sight of the Malta Gazette and Galignani's papers.

Friday, September 28. *The Leonidas.*—This

beautiful month, though fertile in reports, expired in tantalizing monotony. Montefiore kindly purchased a guitar for my amusement; the tone was good. An Italian came on board with it and several different articles for sale this morning. Captain Jones and Mr. Lacey passed the evening with us, and we played chess and backgammon. This night we found an extra coverlet requisite for the first time.

Saturday, Sept. 29. *The Leonidas.*—Montefiore having promised the crew of our ship a good supper, in celebration of our new year, it was prepared for this evening; Paulo having yesterday purchased eight geese and six fowls, with three gallons of spirits, for the occasion. The captain went to procure a fiddler, and the decks were cleared for the dance. We dined at one, that the cook, who had three assistants, might have time to prepare the jovial feast. At three, all the sailors were nicely dressed, in white trowsers and blue jackets. Captains Jones, Smart, and Powel, with Mr. Lacey, came on board to witness the fête; and a more happy and jovial group I never beheld. The table for twenty was placed under an awning, formed of the sails; the glass circled merrily, with a song and a reel intervening: the gentlemen joined in the light fantastic trip, like Highlanders in their national dance, and in a manner which would not have

disgraced the ball-room. The attention of the tars was then requested by the master of the ceremonies, (the carpenter,) who rose and said, "Gentlemen, fill your glasses—Mr. and Mrs. Montefiore!" The Russian, who acted as musician, then joined his vocal powers. At twelve o'clock festivities ceased, but not before most of the party were overpowered by the spirit of the dance, or that of the bottle.

Sunday, September 30. *Alexandria.* — This being the eve of our Day of Atonement, we left the ship early, having engaged the apartment at the Locande. We had confidently hoped to have passed this epoch of the year at the Holy City; and our departure from our friends, together with the inconvenience of our apartment, added to our regret on this solemn day. Our Maltese servant, Paulo, was extremely attentive, though at times rather dull in understanding all that was required. Our dinner was very tolerable, considering; and we took our fast on coffee and *pane di spagna,* a cake we like exceedingly; it is not rich, having no butter in it; that is an article unattainable at this season in Egypt. At half-past five, I went with Montefiore to synagogue; prayers commenced at six. It was lighted as on the preceding holidays. Mrs. Fuor, her sister, and two other ladies, were in the gallery with me, but

I cannot say much of their devotion, conversation having been more attended to than prayers. The gentlemen here tell me, it is not considered essential for ladies to observe that strict piety which is required of themselves; but surely at a place of devotion the mind ought to testify due respect and gratitude towards the Omnipotent.

Monday, October 1. *Albergo delle Tre Coronne.* —It was a beautiful morning, and a dark blue firmament recompensed us for a night of torment; truly might it be termed a night of penance. The musquitoes had never been so relentless to us before; but we were told this is always the case at the fall of the Nile. Montefiore arose at six, and went to the great synagogue at seven. At half-past ten Mr. Mazzara accompanied me to Mrs. Fuor's synagogue, it being only two doors from the inn. The gallery was well attended; among the ladies were many from various parts of Europe, more especially from Leghorn, who are now residents of this city. Italian seemed more generally spoken than Arabic; all the children, as well as the Franks, conversing in that language. It was most satisfactory to see so numerous a class of our brethren so highly respectable and well educated as those were whose acquaintance I had so recently formed in this remote and neglected country. Thank

God, we both fasted pretty well! We breakfasted at the Cassino.

Tuesday, October 2. *Alexandria.*—Through the interest of some gentlemen we obtained apartments at the Cassino, of which we took possession yesterday evening, they being far preferable to the inn. The building is spacious, and its vicinity to the sea renders it agreeable; we had, however, the inconvenience of furnishing our own bed and linen. It is established by a company of mercantile gentlemen, for the amusement of playing billiards and cards; and there is a coffee-room, but no kitchen attached. It is not usual to let the apartments, but we had them by favour, at three dollars per day. Our dinners were sent from the Albergo, and we passed an improved night.

Wednesday, October 3. *Alexandria.*—Montefiore passed a very indifferent night, owing to the pains in his back. One of the gentlemen called to present us with tickets for the theatre this evening, but I fear we shall not be able to go, in consequence of his indisposition. The only theatrical performance in this city is supported by a company of young gentlemen of our religion; and I was informed that it is very tolerable. Mrs. Barker, the consul's lady, last week witnessed a performance, with which she was

well pleased. I purchased a few small antiquities to-day, a Scarabee, and some other Egyptian deities. Captain Anderson procured two green turtles for Montefiore, who wished to send them as a present to the Governor of Malta. The turtle of the Nile are not generally appreciated, but these were of a rare and superior quality. Montefiore finding a cap very convenient during his present indisposition, has purchased a Turkish one, which became him remarkably well; it is blue cloth, fastened with a red tassel, and cost twelve piastres. Wearing apparel and washing are extravagantly expensive in this town.

Thursday, October 4. *Cassino.*—The fine sea-view from our window was rendered disgusting by the beach, which is appropriated as a place of slaughter. This morning, on going to the window with an intention of enjoying a sight of the ocean, and its renovating breezes, my attention was engaged by seeing a number of Arabs collected together on the shore, and as I first imagined, bathing their donkeys; but the poor four-legged animals which I saw kicking about, proved to be goats and kids under the knife of the butcher, with numbers of dogs awaiting the scraps that might fall to their lot. We ardently desired that a convoy might arrive this day, as Captain Anderson will, otherwise, commence taking in a

cargo to-morrow for Leghorn, Montefiore having assented to the same.

Friday, October 5. *Alexandria.*—Having been now more than nine weeks in Egypt, without the chance turning in our favour of visiting Syria, Montefiore resolved to permit our captain to take in a cargo for Leghorn, with the intention of sailing with the first convoy that might arrive. He had a freight of beans for that market, of which article vast quantities are exported from Alexandria to various parts of Europe. Having made an engagement to see the catacombs with Mr. Sonnini, that gentleman came this morning at nine o'clock, accompanied by two others. Mr. Sonnini was so obliging as to have his donkey (an extraordinary fine animal) brought for my use. It was caparisoned in a handsome Persian rug and saddle, and was led by two Arab servants, being very spirited. Mr. Barker's janissary proceeded *en avant.* The baths of Cleopatra are about three miles distant from the city, through Mahamoudiha; these are caverns and excavations in the rocks; in some of which the water flows, and gives them a most romantic appearance. Near this spot are the catacombs. The precaution of firing off two or three pistols was taken previously to our entering, as wild beasts,—wolves, hyenas, &c.—have been known to take shelter in them.

A line was then held by one of the guides at the entrance, while another proceeded with us, holding the same, in order to trace our way back; burning embers were carried by another person, in a machine, for the purpose of lighting us; and the other guide proceeded with a supply of wood, to replenish and keep up the light. Thus attended, we groped our way for some distance, till we came to a large handsome apartment, with a circular roof; it had three entrances with elegantly carved porticos, and we gladly remained awhile to admire the works of so many ages past, as well as to rest ourselves by standing erect. A vast number of names on the walls induced me to inscribe those of Montefiore and my own. In order to see another spacious apartment, we had to pass a passage of some distance, head saluting knees. But our gratification fully compensated us for the fatigue thus far. We declined, however, advancing to see a room lined with granite, which was situated at a much farther distance. The approach to it was very difficult, being nearly stopped up by the sand; and our fatigue, added to the heat from the lighted wood and confined air, would probably not have permitted us to reach it had we made the attempt. Near the catacombs are large subterranean apartments, which appear to have been used as warehouses, or for stores in