

THE  
**CARBONEAR STAR,**  
AND  
**CONCEPTION-BAY JOURNAL.**

VOL. I.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1833.

No. 8.

**BIOGRAPHY.**

**MOHAMMED ALI,**  
PASHA OF EGYPT.  
(continued.)

It is impossible to refrain from condemning the cruel and faithless conduct of Mohammed on this memorable occasion. He may have received orders from Constantinople to annihilate those ambitious and turbulent soldiers who acknowledged no master but their own chief, and no laws except such as suited their licentious habits. But it is difficult, notwithstanding, to find an apology for the deliberate cold-hearted treachery which disgraced the execution of the imperial mandate. So little compunction, too, did he feel when reflecting on the occurrence, that we are told by Mengin, on being informed that he was reproached by all travellers in their narratives for this inhuman massacre, he replied that he would have a picture of it painted together with one of the murder of the Duc d'Anguien, and leave to posterity what judgment it might pass on the two events. This *argumentum ad hominem* might silence a Frenchman who had followed the standard of Bonaparte, but it goes only a very little way to remove the impression of abhorrence which must be retained by every heart not altogether insensible to these eternal distinctions on which all moral judgments must be founded.

Mohammed Ali was now at liberty to devote his attention to the state of things in Arabia, whither his son, Toussoum Pasha, had been sent to command the army. His campaign had already been crowned with several successes against the Wahabees; he had taken the city of Medina, the keys of which his father had sent to the Porte, with large presents of money, jewels, coffee, and other valuable articles. The viceroy himself now thought it time to pay his devotions at the shrine of Mecca, and, accordingly, made a voyage across the Red Sea. At Djidda he was received with all kindness and hospitality by the Shereef Ghaleb; in return for which, to gratify either his avarice or his political suspicion, he gave secret orders to Toussoum to seize and convey him to Cairo. Meanwhile he plundered the palace of immense treasures, part of which he applied to the support of the army, and part he shared with his master, the sultan; but the latter, on understanding the manner in which they had been obtained, had honesty enough to return them to their owner through Mohammed.

The various occurrences of the Arabian war are not of sufficient interest to the general reader to warrant a minute detail. Suffice it to observe, that, under the direction of Toussoum, the Egyptian army suffered considerable reverses, and was not a little reduced both in number and in spirit when Mohammed Ali himself assumed the command. His presence in the camp immediately restored discipline and confidence to such a degree that the troops longed for an opportunity to revenge their losses in the field, and, if possible, to bring the contest to the issue of a general action. Their wishes in this respect were soon gratified; for the enemy, who had begun to despise the invaders, and even to pour upon them most insolent and opprobrious language, were easily induced to relinquish their position where they could not have been attacked, and to meet the viceroy on equal ground, where he could hardly fail to secure a decisive victory. The battle of Basille terminated the campaign of 1815, and opened up to the conqueror a flattering view of ultimate success. But disease found its way into his ranks; the Albanians were fatigued and disgusted with a war of posts against barbarians still more savage than themselves; and they did not conceal from the pasha that they expected to be relieved, and allowed to seek for health on the banks of the Nile. This chief knew his countrymen too well to resist their inclinations in a matter so closely connected with their feelings; he acknowledged the justice of their claim; assured them that he also meant to return to Cairo; and proceeded instantly to make arrangements for carrying his plan into execution.

The military experience which Moham-

med had acquired when opposed to European armies, convinced him of the necessity of improving the tactics of his Turks and Arabs. For this purpose he employed several French soldiers, who deserted during the expedition under Bonaparte, to introduce the new system; and immediately a regular course of drilling was begun, and enforced, too, with a strictness and severity that only tended to exasperate the feelings, and to ripen projects of resistance and revenge. From the very first the native troops regarded this discipline with the utmost jealousy and aversion, as a direct invasion of the rights and liberties of their profession. Their resentment soon found vent against the subaltern officers, whom they assassinated in the streets, and even on parade. This, however, far from deterring the government, only led to higher degrees of constraint and compulsion, till at length the odium which had ceased to attach itself to the mere instruments of the experiment, extended to the highest authorities, and even to the ruler himself. If we must have the French discipline, said the discontented, let us carry the French system a little farther, and let us have our revolution too. Accordingly, upon a day previously fixed, the 4th August, 1815,—all the troops in the neighbourhood of Cairo broke out into open mutiny and revolt, with the professed purpose of plundering the city, and putting Mohammed Ali to death. After falling upon such of the officers as had escaped the violence directed against them individually, they marched towards the citadel in a formidable body; and, had not the pillage of the bazaars attracted their attention in the first instance, the chiefs of the government, who were quite unprepared for the attack, could hardly have found safety.

The pasha fortunately was not in the citadel, but in one of his palaces which stands in an open square, near the European part of the capital. More mindful of the Franks than of his own welfare, he sent to them, upon the breaking out of the disturbance, five hundred muskets, with ammunition sufficient to serve the purpose of their defence. Meanwhile, it being taken for granted that he was in the fortress, no search was made for him elsewhere; though he had to endure many bitter hours of suspense, galled as he must have been by the ingratitude of his army, and liable every moment to be dragged forth to destruction. He was at length extricated from his perilous situation by the fidelity and courage of Abdim Bey, an Albanian, brother to Hassan Pasha, whom he had left in the command of the Arabian army. This officer had a particular attachment to his person; and having drawn together about three hundred of his own nation who had continued loyal, went to the palace where he was concealed, placed him under this faithful escort, and forced a passage to the citadel where he was lodged in perfect security.

This took place late in the evening of that day of confusion and terror; and when it was discovered that the pasha had been so long within their reach, disappointment exasperated the soldiers to fresh excesses, and a renewal of the pillage. Before morning Mohammed had proclaimed a general amnesty, on condition that the troops would return to their duty, pledging himself, at the same time, that the obnoxious system should be discontinued, and promising to the merchants and inhabitants who had been pillaged a full indemnity for their losses. This declaration had the desired effect, and Cairo was immediately restored to a state of tranquillity and peace; while the great number of individuals who were implicated in the guilt of disaffection, rendered it prudent in his highness to adhere strictly to the terms of the pardon which he had announced.

It could hardly be doubted that, in a rising of this nature, where there was evidently so much of concert and of secrecy, there must have been some prime mover, possessing weight and influence among the soldiers; and hence no pains were spared by the government in order to obtain information. Giovanni Finati, who was himself an actor in the scene which he describes,

asserts, that no clue was ever obtained which could lead to a discovery of the principal insurgents. But Belzoni, who was in Egypt at the same period, remarks, that there was reason to think the pasha knew who the chief instigators were, for it was found that several persons shortly after "died of sudden deaths, and, indeed, many of the chiefs and beys disappeared."

No attempt appears to have been made, for some time after the failure now described, to introduce the European discipline. In the year 1821, when Sir F. Henniker was at Grand Cairo, the old system prevailed, and is amusingly exposed in the following description:—"Saw the infantry (Albanians) mustered. An attempt to drill these lawless ragamuffins occasioned the last insurrection,—no marching and counter-marching,—no playing at soldiers. They, however, suffer themselves to be drawn up in line to listen to the music, if such it may be called, when produced by drums and squeaking Moorish fifes in the hands of Turks; a number of voices frequently chimed in, and destroyed the monotony; during this the soldiers were quiet. It is nearly impossible to distinguish officers from privates; every man provides himself with clothes and arms according to his means; there is only this family likeness among them, that pistols, swords, and a shirt, outwardly exhibited, are necessary. An Albanian is not improved since the time of Alexander; he is still a soldier and a robber. Ibrahim Pasha having, as he says, conquered the Wahabees, made his triumphal entry this morning; first came the cavalry,—horses of all sizes, ages, colours, and qualities; an Arab Fellah attendant upon each soldier carried a musket; every soldier carried a pipe; occasionally the prelude of a kettle-drum, hammered monotonously with a short leathern strap, announced a person of consequence; the consequence consisted in eight or nine dirty Arabs carrying long sticks, and screaming tumultuously; then came the infantry, a long straggling line of Albanians; then a flag; then a long pole surmounted by a gilt ball; from this suspended a flowing tail of horse hair; then a second flag, a second tail, a third flag, and pasha's third tail; the victor covered with a white satin gown, and a high conical cap of the same military material: this Cæsar looked like a sick girl coming from the bath. The mobility closed this Hudibrastian triumph. Having traversed the town, they vented their exultation in gunpowder. The Turkish soldiers, whether in fun or earnest, always fire with ball; and on a day of rejoicing it commonly happens that several are killed: these accidents fall in general on the Franks."

In relating the triumph of Ibrahim, we have somewhat anticipated the course of events. His brother Toussoum had some time before fallen the victim of poison or disease, whence arose the necessity of appointing a new commander of equal rank to carry on that war, already waged so long, and with so little success, against the heretics of Derayah. More than a century had passed since Abdul Wahab, the Socinius of the Mohammedans, disturbed the belief of the faithful by certain innovations in their doctrine respecting the character and offices of the Prophet. The austerity of his life drew around him a great number of followers, and at length, finding himself sufficiently strong to brave the power of the provincial governors, he attacked, without any reserve, the rank idolatry of the wonted pilgrimages to the tomb of Mohammed, and the absurdity of putting any trust in relics, ablutions, or any outward ceremonies. He inculcated the principles of pure deism, and reduced the whole duty of man, as a religious being, to prayer and good works.

Had he confined the objects of his mission to articles of faith or new modes of piety, it is not probable that the Ottoman Porte would have disturbed him in the exercise of his vocation. But as he found the use of arms necessary to convince hardened sceptics, as well as to destroy the monuments of their idolatry, he permitted the zeal of his followers to display itself in military ardour, and in the formation of disciplined bands. On one occasion his successor advanced into

Persia at the head of 20,000 men, resolving to capture the city of Kirbeh, and to lay waste the tomb of Hassan, the son of Ali, and grandson of the Prophet. The spirit of persecution breathed in all his actions; the inhabitants were put to the sword; and the sepulchre,—a favourite place of pilgrimage among the Persians,—was plundered and desecrated.

In short, a dynasty of these fanatical warriors had established itself on the throne of Derayah. In the beginning of the present century Abdelazeez, the son of Abdul was murdered by a native of Kirbeh, to revenge the indignities committed upon the holy tomb,—an event which was followed by a renewal of hostility and the shedding of much blood. His successor, Schood, began his career of retaliation by directing the power of his arms against Bassora and Irak. The Shereef of Mecca, who took the field in order to check his progress, was defeated in every battle, and compelled to sue for peace. But no sooner were terms concluded than the Wahabite, at the head of 40,000 men, marched to Medina, which was obliged to open its gates; when, following up his success, he proceeded to Mecca, where he met with as little opposition. Here he ordered the tomb of the Prophet to be opened, whence he abstracted the numerous jewels, consisting of diamonds, pearls, rubies, and emeralds, which had been long venerated by the pious disciples of the Koran. He melted the golden vessels, the chandeliers, and vases; and, having exposed the whole to public sale, he distributed the money among his soldiers. This act of daring sacrilege excited against Schood the indignation of every Mussulman who had not thrown off all reverence for the founder of his religion; while his military resources, employed with so much vigour, did not fail to alarm the government at Constantinople, who immediately sent orders to Mohammed Ali to chastise the presumptuous heretic, and deliver the holy city from his arms.

But the success which finally attended the expedition of the Egyptian pasha, was owing to the death of Schood rather than to the bravery or skill of the Turkish generals.—The Wahabite chief was succeeded by his son Abdallah, who possessed neither talent nor courage equal to the arduous duties which he was called upon to discharge. After a vain attempt at negotiation, he allowed himself to be besieged in his capital, which, after a feeble defence during three months, he was obliged to surrender, together with his own personal liberty. He was sent to Constantinople, where he was first exposed to the execration and contempt of the populace, and then deprived of his head like a common malefactor. Ibrahim is remembered as the scourge of Arabia, and the curse of Derayah. His father, in a moment of passion against the Wahabees, had threatened to destroy their city, so that one stone of it should not be left upon another,—a menace which was executed to the fullest extent. The inhabitants who escaped the sword were chased into the desert, where many of them must have perished; meantime the pasha returned in triumph to Cairo, in the manner described by Sir F. Henniker.

But the severity of Ibrahim did not put an end to the Wahabite reformation, nor to the spirit of resistance by which its abettors were animated. On the contrary, the war was renewed in 1824 with as much ferocity as ever, and apparently with increased means on the part of the insurgents of bringing it to a successful issue. It was protracted during the three following years with alternate advantage; having been, during the latter portion of that interval, allowed to slumber, owing to the struggle made by the Greeks in the Morea to recover their liberty. The particulars of the several campaigns are given with considerable minuteness by Planat, who held an office under the Viceroy of Egypt, and who took upon himself to write the history of the "Regeneration" which that remarkable personage has effected in the kingdom of the Pharaohs. Suffice it to observe that it was in a succession of battles with the Wahabees that Mohammed Ali first derived advantage from his improved sys-