

been encamped six days, at the foot of the mountains, before they learnt that Ali, the son of Daher, was approaching to give them battle. Nothing more was necessary to intimidate them. In vain were they told the enemy had but five hundred horse, while they were upwards of five thousand strong: the name of Ali Daher so terrified them that this whole army fled in one night, and left their camp, full of spoils and baggage, to the inhabitants of Zahia.

After this success, it might be supposed Daher would have allowed himself to breathe, and have turned his attention to preparations for his defence, which was become every day more necessary; but fortune had determined he should no longer enjoy any repose. For several years past, domestic troubles had accompanied foreign wars; and it was only by means of the latter that he was able to appease the former. His children, who were themselves old men, were wearied of waiting so long for their inheritance; and, besides this constant disposition to revolt, had real grievances to complain of, which by giving them too much reason for their discontents, rendered them the more dangerous. For several years, the Christian Ibrahim, minister of the Shaik, had engrossed all his confidence, which he shamefully abused to gratify his own avarice. He dared not openly exercise the tyranny of the Turks; but he neglected no means, however unjust, by which he could amass money. He monopolized every article of commerce; he alone had the sale of corn, cotton, and other articles of exportation; and he alone purchased cloths, indigo, sugars, and other merchandize. His avarice had frequently invaded the supposed privileges, and even the real rights of the Shaiks; they did not pardon him this abuse of power, and every day, furnishing fresh subjects of complaint, was productive of new disturbances. Daher, whose understanding began to be impaired by his extreme old age, did not adopt measures calculated to appease them. He called his children rebels and ungrateful, and imagined he had no faithful and disinterested servant but Ibrahim: this insatiation served only to destroy all respect for his person, and inflame and justify their discontents.

The unhappy effects of this conduct fully displayed themselves in 1774. Since the death of Ali Bey, Ibrahim, finding he had more to fear than hope, had abated something of his haughtiness. He no longer saw the same certainty of amassing money by making war. His allies, the Russians, in whom all his confidence was

placed, began themselves to talk of peace; and these motives determined him likewise to conclude it, for which purpose he entered into a treaty with a capidji whom the Porte maintained at Acre. It was agreed that Daher and his sons should lay down their arms, but retain the government of the country, by receiving the *Taili*, which are the symbols of this power. But it was likewise stipulated, that Saide should be restored, and the Shaik pay the miri, as he had done formerly. These conditions were extremely dissatisfactory to the sons of Daher, and the more so, because they were concluded without their participation. They deemed it disgraceful again to become tributaries, and were still more offended that the Porte had granted to none of them the title of their father; they therefore all revolted. Ali repaired to Palestine, and took up his quarters at Habroun; Ahmad and Seid retired to Nablous, Osman among the Arabs of Saker, and the remainder of the year passed in these dissensions.

Such was the situation of affairs, when, at the beginning of 1775, Mohammed Bey appeared in Palestine, with all the forces he was able to collect. Gaza, destitute of ammunition, did not venture to resist. Yafa, proud of the part she had acted in former disputes, had more courage; the inhabitants took arms, and their resistance had nearly disappointed the vengeance of the mamlouk; but every thing conspired to the destruction of Daher. The Druzes dared not stir: the Moteualis were discontented: Ibrahim summoned assistance from every quarter, but he offered no money, and his solicitations had no effect; he had not even the prudence to send provisions to the besieged. They were compelled to surrender, and the route to Acre was laid open to the enemy. As soon as the taking of Yafa was known, Ibrahim and Daher fled, and took refuge in the mountains of Safad. Ali Daher, confiding in the treaty between himself and Mohammed, took the place of his father; but soon perceiving he had been deceived, he took to flight likewise in his turn, and Acre remained in the possession of the Mamlouks.

It would have been difficult to foresee the consequences of this revolution, but the unexpected death of its author rendered it, of a sudden, of no effect. The flight of the Egyptians, leaving free the country and capital of Daher, he lost no time in returning; but the storm was by no means appeased. He soon learnt that a Turkish fleet, under the command of Hassan, the celebrated Captain Pacha, was laying siege to Saide. He then discovered