

this is a large garden, filled with mulberry and fig-trees. The lake, from being considered as consecrated by devotion to the patriarch, is visited as well from motives of piety as of pleasure, and seldom fails to have several parties on its banks."

His progress was at length endangered by the approach of two Arab horsemen, the supposed *avant-couriers* of a formidable tribe of freebooters. "The headmost of our caravan galloped off to meet them, in order to ascertain whence they came and who was their chief. They were mounted on fine mares, which, however, were very wretchedly caparisoned. Their arms were, a sword, a brace of pistols, and a long light lance, twelve or thirteen feet in length. Both were shaved, wearing only mustachios, and one had light blue eyes, a fair complexion, with yellow hair and eye-brows; but neither had a single feature at all resembling those I had been accustomed to see in the pure Arab race. It is impossible to convey an idea of the respect which was paid to these two individuals, by the leader of our caravan, Seid-Hassan, as well as by the hadji Abdalrahman, who was the chief owner of the property it conveyed; and it was from my being really unprepared to do them the homage thus spontaneously offered by my companions, that I was discovered to be a stranger, and soon made to pay dearly for such an omission. At their giving the word, a halt was made, till they could ride round the caravan to survey it; when, one of them remaining behind to prevent escapes, and the other preceding us, we were conducted, like a flock of sheep by a shepherd and his dog, toward an encampment naturally strong, in which the Arabs were as secure as in the most regularly-fortified garrison. We were now visited by three of the chief's dependents, mounted on beautiful horses, richly caparisoned, and dressed in the best manner of Turkish military officers, with their cloth garments high-

ly embroidered, and their swords, pistols, and daggers, such as Pashas themselves might be proud to wear. Every one arose at their entry, and the carpets and cushions of the hadji, which had been laid out with more care than usual, were offered to the chief visitor, while the rest seated themselves beside him. All those of the caravan who were present, assumed the humiliating position of kneeling and sitting backward on their heels, which is done only to acknowledge superiors. This is one of the most painful of the Mohammedan attitudes, and exceedingly difficult to be acquired, as it is performed by first kneeling on both knees, then turning the soles of the feet upwards, and lastly, sitting back on these in such a manner, that they receive the whole weight of the body, while the knees still remain pressed to the ground. I at first assumed this attitude with the rest; but an incapacity to continue it long obliged me to rise and go out of the tent, on pretence of drinking; which simple incident, though I soon returned to resume my seat, from its being thought a disrespectful liberty to rise at all in the presence of so great a man, without a general movement of the party, gave rise to earnest inquiries regarding a person of manners so untutored. While this grand point was under deliberation, the two horsemen were employed in arranging all the goods and baggage, according to their respective owners, in separating the Christians from the Moslems, and in making the necessary preparations for the levy of tribute from the caravan. A paper was then brought, containing a written statement, drawn up by one of our party, at the command of the surveyors, and by him read to the chief; for neither himself, nor any of his attendants, appeared to be able to read or write. While all the rest humbly knelt around him, this chief stretched himself, with an affectation of contempt, along the carpet on the ground, and threw his legs occasionally in the air. It was