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**BIOGRAPHY.**

**MOHAMMED ALI,**

PASHA OF EGYPT.

The present Viceroy of Egypt is a native of Cavalla, a small town in Roumelia, a district of Albania. Losing his father in early life, he was protected by the governor of the place, who betowed upon him that species of training which qualifies a man to rise under a despotic government, where vigilance, intrepidity, and a ready use of arms, are held the most valuable accomplishments. His activity recommended him to an appointment as a subordinate collector of taxes, and, in the performance of his duty, it was observed that he set a higher value on the money which he was ordered to exact, than on the blood or even the lives of the unhappy peasantry over whom his jurisdiction extended. On one occasion the inhabitants of a village refused payment, resisted, threatened, and rose in rebellion. The governor was alarmed at this unusual firmness, and applied to Mohammed. The young functionary undertook to reduce them to obedience; and for this purpose he proceeded to the refractory hamlet at the head of a few men hastily equipped, announcing that he was charged with a secret mission. He entered a mosque, and sent for several of the principal inhabitants, who, not suspecting any violence, instantly obeyed his summons. No sooner were they within the walls, than he ordered them to be bound hand and foot, and immediately set off for Cavalla, regardless of the pursuing multitude, whom he overawed by threatening to put his captives to death.

This resolute step procured for him the rank of Bonouluk-bashi and a rich wife, a relation of his patron the governor. As it is not uncommon among the Turks to unite the duties of a soldier with the pursuits of a merchant, Mohammed became a dealer in tobacco,—a business which he appears to have followed with considerable success till the invasion of Egypt by the French called him to fulfil a higher destiny in a scene of active warfare. The contingent of three hundred men, raised by the township of Cavalla, was placed under the command of Ali, who was now decorated with the higher title of Bin-bashi, and recognised as a captain of regular troops.

His conduct in the field of battle soon attracted the notice of the pasha, who recommended him to Kusruf, the governor of Cairo. After the massacre of the Mamlouks at Aboukir, the young Albanian obtained the command of a division in the army of Yousef Bey, and joined the expedition against the insurgent chiefs, which terminated so fatally to the lives as well as to the reputation of the Turks. Yousef, it has been already mentioned, accused Mohammed of misconduct, or disaffection, so extremely palpable as to have been the main cause of their miserable defeat. Whether there was any real ground for this charge it is impossible to determine; but at all events it was believed by Kusruf, who resolved forthwith to expel the Cavalliot from the country, as a person in whom he could no longer place confidence.

But the pasha was not aware of the character with whom he had come into collision. The pay of the troops were considerably in arrear; and this Mohammed demanded in a resolute tone, as the sole condition on which he would yield obedience. The governor sent orders that he should appear before him in the night; but the Roumelian leader, not unacquainted with the object of such private interviews, returned for answer that he would show himself in broad daylight in the midst of his soldiers. Perceiving the danger with which he was threatened, Kusruf admitted into Cairo the Albanian guards under Taher Pasha, hoping that the intrigues of the one chief would counteract those of the other. But in this expectation he was grievously disappointed; for the mountaineers, in whatever points they might differ, were unanimous in demanding their pay, and in all measures which were suggested for compelling him to advance it. They attacked the palace, reduced the citadel, drove Kusruf and his

household from the city, and finally deposited the viceregal power in the hands of the Pasha Taher.

The tyrannical measures of this new ruler brought his reign to a close at the end of twenty-two days, and the actual government of the country reverted to the hands of the Mamlouks, under the aged Ibrahim, Osman Bardissy, and Mohammed Ali. The Porte, indeed, sent a pasha of high rank to assume the direction of affairs at Cairo; but the beys having once more the upper hand, and mindful of the cruel treachery inflicted upon them by Hassan, seized the viceregal at Alexandria, and put him to death.

The undisputed ascendancy of the Mamlouks might in the end have proved fatal to Mohammed Ali, who did not belong to their body. For this reason, he contrived to embroil Bardissy, who has been called the Hotspur of the beys, with some of his associates; and finally attacking him with his own hand, drove him from the capital, and reinstated the exiled pasha, whom he intended to use merely as a tool for effecting his own purposes. The grand signior, suspecting his ambitious views, issued orders, in the year 1804, that the Albanians should return into their own country; intending, it may be presumed, to garrison the Egyptian fortresses with troops less disposed to insubordination. Mohammed, whose plans were gradually advancing towards completion, disregarded the mandate; intimating that his services were still necessary to repress the daring designs of the Mamlouks, who continued to occupy the greater part of the kingdom, while they breathed avowed hostility against the government of the Porte.

The following year a firman arrived, conferring upon him the enviable appointment of Pasha of Djidda, and of the Port of Mecca, on the eastern shore of the Red Sea. On this occasion he acceded so far as to assume the mantle and cap peculiar to his new office; but the army, prepared for the scene which ensued, flocked around him, uttering the most seditious language, and threatening immediate violence if their arrears were not discharged. Mohammed alone could rule the disturbed elements in this furious tempest. He was intreated to take upon him the duties of viceregal office, and was proclaimed, by the shouts of his numerous adherents, the new representative of the grand signior.

Kourschid Pasha, who was now in the capital, endeavoured, by inviting the dangerous aid of the Mamlouks, to oppose this nomination. But, while he was making preparations to take the field against the usurper, the capitan pasha unexpectedly cast anchor before Alexandria; who forthwith sent orders to him to place the citadel in the hands of Mohammed, and also to repair in person, without delay, to his head-quarters on the seacoast. Kourschid obeyed, and, after a short period of service in other quarters of the Turkish empire, lost his life.

The Mamlouks, who had been summoned to the standard of the governor, were unwilling to lay down their arms until they should have once more tried the fortune of war against their old enemy the Albanian pasha. The latter, who was contriving a snare for these turbulent horsemen, wished nothing more ardently than that they should attack him in Cairo; nay, he suggested to the sheiks, on whom he had the greatest reliance, to encourage the beys in their meditated assault, and even to promise them assistance should they resolve to enter the city. The Mamlouks, reposing implicit faith in these pretending friends, seized the first opportunity of bursting in at one of the gates, which had been opened for the purpose of admitting some countrymen with their camels. Dividing their numbers into two parties, they advanced along the streets sounding their martial instruments, and an-

icipating a complete triumph. But they soon discovered their mistake: for, being attacked by the inhabitants on all sides, driven from post to post, and slaughtered without mercy, they sustained so severe a loss as from that moment to cease to be formidable. All the prisoners met the same fate; and eighty-three heads were sent to Constantinople to grace the walls of the imperial seraglio.

But the Sublime Porte, unwilling that any one interest should obtain the ascendancy in Egypt, determined now to support the beys, and accordingly a capitan pasha was despatched to Alexandria with instructions to assist Elfy, well known by his residence in England, in his endeavours to assume the viceregal mantle, and thereby to depress the rising power of Mohammed. This capitan, upon his arrival, sent a capidji bashi to Cairo, summoning Ali to appear immediately at that port, where his master was ready to bestow upon him the government of Salonica. The Albanian chief had too much knowledge of the policy usually pursued in the divan to accept of such promotion. He asked those around him whether he should not show himself a fool and a craven if, after having won the supreme station with only five hundred men at his disposal, he were to abandon his post to his enemies, now that he counted at his side fifteen hundred resolute countrymen and companions in arms. "Cairo is to be publicly sold," he exclaimed:—"Whoever will give most blows of the sabre will win it, and remain master!"

His demeanour towards the pasha was, at the same time, submissive and dutiful; he regretted that the mutinous state of the army would not permit him to obey the summons of his highness, and to have the pleasure of showing how ready he was on all occasions to bow the knee before a representative of his imperial lord. At this very moment he was plotting with the beys, and sending large sums of money to Constantinople, to secure friends on both sides of the Mediterranean. At length the sultan, finding that Ali could not be deposed, and perceiving himself on the eve of a war with Russia, forwarded secret orders to the capitan to make the best terms he could with the usurper, and to leave him in possession of the viceregal office. A short time after this occurrence, the regular diploma confirming him in his office was transmitted by the Porte; and as Elfy Bey and Bardissy, the most powerful of his enemies, died about the same period, Mohammed found himself the master of Egypt, invested with a legal title, and opposed by no one whom he had any reason to fear. To complete his conquest, indeed, he advanced into Upper Egypt to attack the Mamlouks. There he defeated a large body of their troops, and was preparing to follow them, in the hope of effecting their utter annihilation as a political body, when he received despatches from Turkey announcing the commencement of hostilities between Great Britain and the Ottoman empire.

It was in the year 1807 that the English ministry sent a second expedition into Egypt, with the view of preventing that country from falling again into the hands of the French, whose ambassador at Constantinople was understood to direct the politics of the grand signior. The number of troops under the British general did not exceed five thousand; and it was entirely owing to the ignorance of our government in regard to the amount of the Turkish forces at Alexandria, and the strength as well as the disposition of the Mamlouks, that they exposed such a handful of men to certain destruction. The beys availed themselves of this opportunity to make their peace with Mohammed Ali, and consented to follow his standard against the invaders, who had established a footing on their coast. The melancholy result is well known. Alexandria yielded to General Fraser after a smart encounter; but, failing in his successive attempts on Rosetta and El Hamet, the flower of our little army was cut off, wounded or taken prisoners.—Four hundred and fifty of their heads were publicly exposed at Cairo, while the unfortunate captives were treated with every species of contempt and cruelty.

The departure of the British allowed the pasha to return to the internal affairs of his turbulent province. As he relied chiefly upon the army, he had increased its numbers till the expense of maintenance emptied his coffers, and compelled him, in order to replenish them, to resort to measures of extreme severity. He felt that his popularity was endangered; and being convinced that the Mamlouks would embrace the first opportunity of attempting to precipitate him from the viceregal throne, he resolved upon their final destruction at whatever expense of candour or humanity. This horrible determination, it has been conjectured, was confirmed by the necessity imposed upon him of conducting the war against the Wahabees in Arabia,—an undertaking in which he could not engage without employing in that country his best troops and commanders. The Porte had urged him to prepare for this expedition, so important to the purity of the faith and to the integrity of the empire; rewarding him, before hand, by conferring upon his favourite son, Youssouf, the dignity of a pasha of the second order.

The same youth had been appointed by his father general of the army which was destined to serve in Arabia. The 1st day of March, 1811, was named for the investiture of the new chief,—a ceremony which was to take place in the citadel. The Mamlouks were invited to share in the parade and festivities of the occasion; and accordingly, under the command of Châhyn Bey and arrayed in their most splendid uniform, they appeared at the hall of audience, and offered to the pasha their hearty congratulations.—Mohammed received them with the greatest affability. They were presented with coffee, and he conversed with them individually with apparent openness of heart and serenity of countenance.

The procession was ordered to move from the citadel along a passage cut out in the rock; the pasha's troops marching first, followed by the Mamlouk corps mounted as usual. As soon, however, as they had passed the gate, it was shut behind them, while the opposite end of the defile being also closed, they were caught as it were in a trap. Mohammed's soldiers had been ordered to the top of the rocks, where they were perfectly secure from the aim of the Mamlouks, while they poured down volleys of shot upon their defenceless victims, who were butchered almost to the last man. Some of them, indeed, succeeded in taking refuge in the pasha's harem, and in the house of Youssouf; but they were dragged forth, conducted before the kiaya bey, and beheaded on the spot. The lifeless body of the brave Châhyn was exposed to every infamy. A rope was passed round the neck, and the bloody carcass dragged through various parts of the city. Mengin, who was in Cairo at the time, assures his readers that the streets during two whole days bore the appearance of a place taken by assault.—Every kind and degree of violence was committed under pretence of searching for the devoted Mamlouks; and it was not until five hundred houses were sacked, much valuable property destroyed, and many lives lost, that Ali and his son ventured out of the citadel to repress the popular fury.

Mohammed noted among the slain four hundred and seventy mounted Mamlouks, besides their attendants who usually served on foot. The number of victims in the end did not fall short of a thousand; for orders were given to pursue this devoted race into the remotest parts of the country, and, if possible, to exterminate them throughout the whole pashalic. The heads of the principal officers were embalmed, and sent as an acceptable present to the sultan at Constantinople. Only one of the beys, whose name was Amim, is understood to have escaped the massacre in Cairo. Being detained by business, he was too late to occupy his proper place in the procession, and he only arrived at the citadel at the moment when the troops were passing the gate. He waited till they had entered the fatal passage, intending to join his own body; but seeing the gate shut suddenly, and hearing, almost immediately after, the discharge of fire-arms, he put spurs to his horse and galloped out