

Tripoli; disavowed their conduct, and solicited a reconciliation with the Shaik. Daher, now eighty-five or eighty-six years old, was willing to accept this offer, that he might terminate his days in peace: but he was diverted from this intention by his minister, Ibrahim; who did not doubt, but Ali Bey would, the ensuing winter, proceed to the conquest of Syria, and that this mamlouk would cede a considerable portion of that country to Daher, and in the future aggrandizement of his master's power, he hoped the advancement of his own private fortune, and the means of adding fresh treasures to those he had already amassed by his insatiable avarice. Seduced by this brilliant prospect, he rejected the propositions of the Porte, and prepared to carry on the war with redoubled activity.

Such was the state of affairs, when, in the month of February, of the following year, Mohammed Bey reared the standard of rebellion against his patron Ali. Ibrahim, at first, flattered himself this revolt would have no serious consequences; but he was soon undeceived, by the news of Ali's expulsion, and his subsequent arrival at Acre, as a fugitive and suppliant. This stroke revived the courage of all the enemies of Daher, and the Turkish faction in Yafa availed themselves of it to regain their ascendancy. They appropriated to themselves, the effects left there by the little fleet of Rodoan; and, aided by a Shaik of Nablous, began a revolt in the city, and opposed the passage of the Mamlouks. Circumstances now became very critical, as the speedy arrival of a large army of Turks was announced, which was assembled near Aleppo; Daher, it may be, ought to have have remained in the vicinity of Acre; but imagining his diligence would secure him from every attack, he marched towards Nablous, chastising the rebels as he passed, and joining Ali Bey, below Yafa, conducted him without opposition to Acre.

Ali Bey and Daher, on their return to Acre, determined to take vengeance for the treachery of the people of Nablous and Yafa, and in the beginning of July 1772, appeared before the latter city. They first proposed an accommodation, but the Turkish faction rejecting every proposition, they were compelled to have recourse to arms. This siege, properly speaking, was only a blockade, nor must we imagine the assailants made their approaches after the European method. They had no other artillery on either side, than a few large cannon, badly mounted, ill situated, and still worse served. The attacks were carried on neither by trenches, nor mines;

and, it must be owned, that such means were not necessary against a slight wall, without ditch or rampart. A breach was soon made, but the cavalry of Daher and Ali Bey shewed no great eagerness to pass it; the besieged having defended the inside with stones, stakes, and deep holes which they had dug. The whole attack was made with small arms, which killed very few, and eight months were wasted in this manner, in spite of the impatience of Ali Bey, who had alone the conduct of the siege. At length the besieged, exhausted with fatigue, and being in want of provisions, surrendered by capitulation. In the month of February 1773, Ali Bey placed a governor in the town, for Daher, and hastened to join the Shaik at Acre, where he found him occupied in preparations to enable him to return to Egypt, to accelerate which event, Ali contributed all in his power.

They only waited for a succour of six hundred men promised by the Russians, but the impatience of Ali Bey determined him to depart without them. Daher made use of every argument to detain him a few days longer. But finding nothing could alter his resolution, he sent fifteen hundred cavalry to accompany him, commanded by Otman, one of his sons. Not many days, (in April 1773), the Russians arrived with the reinforcement, which, though less considerable than was expected, he greatly regretted he could not employ; but his regret was severely aggravated, when Daher saw his son and his cavalry return as fugitives, to announce to him their own disaster, and the fate of Ali Bey. He was the more affected at this event, as, instead of a useful ally, powerful in resources, he acquired an enemy formidable from his hatred and activity. This at his age, was a most afflicting prospect, and it is highly to his honour, that he bore it with proper fortitude.

The Porte expecting great success in the intrigues she was then carrying on in Egypt, still entertained hopes of overcoming all her enemies; she again placed Osman at Damascus, and gave him an unlimited power over all Syria. The first use he made of this, was to assemble under his orders six Pachas, whom he led through the vale of Beeka, to the village of Zahla, with intention to penetrate into the mountainous country. The strength of this army, and the rapidity of its march, spread consternation on every side, and the Emir Yousef, always timid and irresolute, already repented his alliance with Daher; but this aged man, solicitous for the safety of his allies, took care to provide for their defence. The Turks had hardly