

conclusion of the above-mentioned period, they heard him inform Sir Edward, that on the following day he must take leave of his hospitable mansion.

The day arrived, and the youths having finished their morning studies, had roused up a blazing fire, and were examining some beautiful volumes of Christian Biography, which their friend had presented as his parting gift, when he entered ready equipped for his journey. As he opened the door, Horace was saying, "Now of all men's various dispositions, Charles, which do you dislike the most?"

"O, a mean, deceitful, grovelling nature, decidedly," replied his brother. "If a man have but a noble spirit, I could pass by a great deal for the sake of that."

"And what is a noble spirit my friend," inquired the old gentleman, patting Charles on the shoulder.

"Why I believe, sir," rejoined the youth, with an ingenuous blush, "I am not prepared to define the term exactly; but I have the *beau ideal* on my own mind."

"So had I at your age," answered Mr. Hammer, smiling, "and I set forth upon search, with all the zeal of famed Diogenes, though not indeed with his lantern; for I had no doubt that the first ray of the sun would point to the object of my pursuit."

"Perhaps, sir, you will sit down," said Horace, "and tell us how you succeeded?"

"I would willingly, did time permit: but it is already so late, that unless you would like me to break off just when you begin to be interested, I had better not attempt it."

"How I wish," exclaimed Charles, his intelligent eye beaming with affection, "you could have prolonged your stay: we do so enjoy your kindness in talking to us. But a fragment, sir, will be better than nothing."

"Not now, though I am sorry to disappoint you. But if you would really feel interested by a letter from an old man, I will endeavor to recall some of my early experiments, and pen them down for your perusal."

"Thank you, sir," replied the brothers with one voice, "we shall be delighted to receive a letter."

"And remember, I shall be equally pleased to hear from you, whenever you have an hour unclaimed by employment or recreation."

"I know not where you can find us better recreation," rejoined Charles, with his own sincere and native polish, "than by permitting us to write to so honored and endeared a friend."

Mr. Hammer embraced them both, and it was not long before they had the gratification of receiving the following letter.—

"My dear young friends,

"Being confined to my room by a cold this evening, I will devote the hour to memory and to you. And while I pray that the retrospective column I am about to raise, may serve as a guide post in some of the doubtful windings of your road, I would pray also that it may stand before my eye, deeply and legibly presenting the characters of Ebenezer.

"I was indulgently brought up, and carefully educated for this world; nor was it until I had attained my eighteenth year, that my parents sought a situation for me. A friend of mine had lately become clerk in an eminent banking-house in London: and my kind relatives, ever anxious

to promote my happiness to the best of their judgment, endeavored to place me in the same establishment. In this wish they at length succeeded, with an ultimate prospect of partnership: and that I might not miss the comforts of my paternal home, or be exposed to those temptations which assail a young man destitute of family ties, my father removed with his household to a residence near London, whence I could proceed daily to the scene of my future labors. For this arrangement I can never express sufficient gratitude: it saved me from a thousand snares by which my companions were entangled; and I have no doubt similar benefits will always follow, where a desire to render home agreeable on the one hand, and a disposition to prize its advantages on the other, are manifested.— Before entering on my new avocations, many were the maxims I received from my revered father, and many the tender admonitions of my gentle mother. 'You are now called on,' said the former, 'to maintain your own character; you are of an age to think and act for yourself; and I trust the fixed and honorable principles which have been instilled into you, will produce conduct creditable both to you and me. Be upright and conscientious; and cultivate that manly strength of mind which will prevent your being led astray, either by your own passions, or the sophistry of others. Self-government, William, is the secret of superiority. Remember many eyes are upon you; and more is expected from you than from those who have had fewer advantages.'

"A mother's happiness too," added my female parent, the tears starting in her eyes, "is closely linked with the reputation of my beloved child; but I feel assured you will never lose yourself. I admit the wisdom of your dear father's advice; for I am aware you are in more danger of being led astray by the warmth of your heart, than of steeling it against the influence of affection; otherwise I should have been tempted somewhat to soften the high unheeding character he has placed before you.— You will, however, I doubt not, meet with many occasions on which, consistently with prudence, you may call into action all the generous feelings of your nature."

(To be Continued.)

INTERIOR VIEW OF ORFAH, FROM A TERRACE.

We found here in waiting a servant of the Patriarch of the Syrian Church, who came to congratulate me in his master's name, on my arrival at Orfah, and to say that having been informed by letters from Aleppo of my intended passage this way, his reverence was desirous of seeing me at his convent.

I accordingly accompanied this man to the residence of his master, towards the south east quarter of the town, to which the church and the burying-ground of the christians is attached, and which is surrounded chiefly by christian dwellings. On being shewn up into his room, I was received by a middle-aged personage of more natural tranquillity than affected gravity of appearance, who did not move from his place, as is usual on the entry of a supposed equal, but desired me to seat myself opposite to him. His conversation was in so low a tone of voice, that it was with difficulty I could understand it, although we were not ten feet apart; it turned chiefly on news, and the state of affairs in general; for, he asked about

China, the New World, and the country of the Franks, all in a breath, and seemed more ignorant of them all than any Arab I had yet found.

We were soon relieved from this, by the entry of a cawass, or silver stick bearer of the Mosesslem, the Turkish governor of the city, very gaily dressed as a moslem soldier. My surprise was excited, when I saw him kneel and kiss the patriarch's hand, until I was told, that though one of the Mosesslem's personal guard, he was known and avowed as a christian. This, and a similar instance at Tripoly, in Syria, are the only ones that have come to my knowledge of christians being allowed the same privileges of dress as mohammedans, even when in the actual service of the government.

Soon afterwards, the priests to assemble all of whom kissed the hand of the patriarch, raised it to their foreheads, and then kissed it again a second time. Some of them, when they approached him, even uncovered their heads,—an act of reverential humility not paid even to sovereigns in Asiatic countries, and observed by the christians of the East only to their bishops and their God. There were but two of the whole number who could speak Arabic, they being chiefly from the north of Asia Minor, though most, except the patriarch himself, had performed their pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

At sun-set, we ascended the terrace, where we enjoyed an extensive and commanding prospect of the town, from a new point of view, in which it looked still more interesting than before. We saw from hence many of the inner courts of christian houses, which the females unveiled, among whom, one peculiarity was pointed out to me namely, that while virgins, they wear a red cloth of cotton over their heads, to distinguish them from moslem girls; but, that when become mothers, their having borne children entitles them to the same privileges as the women of the country, and from thenceforward they wear white muslin, as is done by Turkish females.

I had been so pressed to remain the night here, that it would have been an ill return for my host's kindness to refuse, so that I sat down with the rest to supper. Previous to the meal, a small plate of fried fish, (stolen, it was admitted, from the Birket il Ibrahim,) was placed before us, of which all partook. Rakhee, or brandy distilled from dates, was then served from a rude image of a bird moulded in clay, the stream being made to issue from its mouth, and each of the guests drank from ten to twelve china coffee cups of this strong spirit, before the supper began. In serving the patriarch, the same reverence was shewn to him as had been done below. When the cup was given to him, or when it was taken away, when his pipe was presented or when he wiped his mouth with a napkin after drinking, his hand was invariably kissed by the priests who attended him—*Buckingham's Travels in Mesopotamia.*

ORIENTAL CONVERSAZIONE.

The noon-day sleep of the Hadjee and his followers was enjoyed on the sofa of the room that overhangs the Lake of Abraham, at its eastern end; and after this, on our way back to the town, we halted to take a pipe and nargel at a public coffee-house. The great bench in front of the house, on which the principal guests generally sat, was a seat of raised masonry, smoothly plastered, railed around with open