

however, they are driven within the walls of the city, and are likewise brought thither for protection, when any of the hostile tribes are encamped at a small distance.

Wherever a vegetable mould is discovered, the soil is light and generally fertile; but, in all probability, it has been brought from some other part, as the natural soil consists entirely of sand or stone, and is consequently unfit for the purpose of cultivation. The gardens already alluded to, are pleasantly sprinkled with a variety of esculent herbs, and roots may be raised without any other labour than that of watering. Orange and lemon trees are found in small quantities, and dates are cultivated in great abundance, as the fruit is very profitable to the proprietors of the ground, and the cheerful foliage of the trees forms an agreeable contrast to the whiteness of the buildings, and the dry, sandy soil, by which they are encompassed. The other fruit-trees, which seem peculiar to the place, are the kishné and the nebbek; the former of which is likewise found in the West Indies, and the latter bears a fruit that resembles the cherry in size and formation, but in colour and flavour approximates to the apple.

The population of Alexandria, comprising Mahometans, Greeks, Armenians, and Jews, may be computed at twenty thousand souls, though, on account of his short residence, Mr. Browne was unable to decide with accuracy upon this point.

The Greeks have a church and convent, pleasantly situated upon a gentle acclivity among the gardens, but only containing three or four religious. The Franciscans of Terra