

custom of the country, by inroads and skirmishes, in which the Turks but rarely gained the advantage.

The expences it occasioned soon drained the coffers of the Pacha; and, to reimburse them, he had recourse to the grand expedient of the Turks. He levied contributions on the towns, villages and individuals: Whoever was suspected of having money, was summoned, bastinadoed, and plundered. These oppressions had occasioned a revolt at Ramla in Palestine the very first year he obtained the government, which he suppressed by still more odious cruelties. Two years after, in 1767, similar conduct occasioned a revolt at Gaza; he renewed these proceedings at Yafa, 1769, where among other acts of despotism, he violated the law of nations, in the person of the resident of Venice, John Damiani, a respectable old man, whom he put to the torture, by five hundred strokes on the soles of his feet, and, who could only preserve the feeble remains of life, by collecting from his own fortune, and the purses of all his friends, a sum of near sixty thousand livres, (twenty-five hundred pounds), for the Pacha. This tyranny is common in Turkey; but as it is not usually either so violent, or so general, such cruelties drove the oppressed to despair. The people began to murmur on every side, and Palestine, emboldened by the vicinity of Egypt, now in a state of rebellion, threatened to call in a foreign protector.

Under these circumstances, Ali Bey, the conqueror of Mecca and the Saïd, turned his projects of aggrandizement toward Syria. The alliance of Daher, the war with the Russians, which entirely occupied the Turks, and the discontents of the people, all conspired to favour his ambition. He accordingly published a manifesto in 1770, in which he declared, that God having bestowed a signal benediction on his arms, he thought himself bound in duty, to make use of them for the relief of the people, and to repress the tyranny of Osman in Syria. He immediately dispatched a body of mamlouks to Gaza, who seized on Ramla and Loud. Their appearance divided the adjacent town of Yafa into two factions, one of which was desirous of submitting to the Egyptians; while the other was for calling in Osman, who flew thither immediately, and encamped near the town. Two days after, Daher was announced; who had likewise hastened thither for the same purpose. The inhabitants of Yafa, then, imagining themselves secure, shut their gates against the Pacha; but, in the night, while he was preparing to escape, a party of his troops, passing along the sea-shore, entered, by an open-

ing in the wall, and sacked the city. The next day Daher appeared, and, not finding the Turks, took possession of Yafa, Ramla, and Loud, without resistance, in which towns he placed garrisons.

Things thus prepared, Mohammed Bey arrived in Palestine, with the grand army, in the month of February, 1771, and followed the Shaik along the sea coast to Acre. There, having been joined by twelve or thirteen hundred Motoualis, under the command of Nassif, and fifteen hundred Safadians, led by Ali, son of Daher, he marched in April towards Damascus. We have already seen in what manner this combined army beat the united forces of the Pachas, and how Mohammed, master of Damascus, and on the point of taking possession of the castle, on a sudden changed his design, and again took the road to Cairo. On this occasion, Ibrahim Sabbar, minister of Daher, receiving no other explanation from Mohammed, than evasions, wrote to him, in the name of the Shaik, a letter filled with reproaches, which proved eventually the cause, or, at least the pretext of a fresh quarrel. Osman, however, on his return to Damascus, re-commenced his oppressions and hostilities; and imagining that Daher, chagrined by the unexpected news he had received, would not be prepared for defence, he formed the project of surprising him even in Acre. But scarcely was he on his march, when Ali, Daher, and Nassif, informed of his intentions, proposed to turn the tables on him: they, therefore secretly left Acre, and learning he was encamped on the western bank of Lake Houla, arrived there at break of day, took possession of the bridge of Yakoub, which they found negligently guarded, and fell on him sabre in hand, in his camp, where they made a dreadful carnage. This, like the affair of Mablous, was a total defeat; the Turks, pressed on the land side, threw themselves into the lake, hoping to swim across it; but the terror and confusion of this multitude of men and horses, which mutually embarrassed each other, was such that the enemy made a prodigious slaughter; while still greater numbers perished in the water and mud of the lake. The Pacha was thought to be among the number of the latter, but he had the good fortune to escape, being saved by two negroes, who swam across with him on their shoulders.

The Porte, terrified at the defeats she had met with, both from the Russians, and her rebellious subjects, now offered peace to Daher, on very advantageous conditions. To induce him to consent, she removed the Pachas of Damascus, Saïde, and Tripoli;