

## MISCELLANEOUS.

## THE VICEROY OF EGYPT.

As the name of MEHEMET ALI, the PACHA OF EGYPT, is now almost in every mouth, the following sketch of his character (from the *London Watchman*) will probably be acceptable to our readers:—

MEHEMET ALI was born in 1769, at Cavalia, and is now, consequently, seventy-one years of age. He is short in stature, but strong and still hale, or far from infirm. His fine forehead and hazel eyes, deeply sunk in their sockets; his short moustache, flowing grey beard, and little mouth; make up an *ensemble*, which, though it betrays cunning and *finesse*, yet, on the whole, gives him the appearance of a noble and amiable man. His hands and feet are remarkably well made; and, what is very extraordinary for a Turk, he is incessantly pacing up and down his apartments. He is always remarkably clean and neat in his dress, but never wears any orders, nor any of those gorgeous decorations and embroideries which are so much in fashion amongst his countrymen. The Viceroy is excessively passionate, and can but ill conceal the emotions by which for the time he is agitated; but he has much frankness and good faith, and abhors dissimulation. Extremely sensitive on all points of honour, religiously faithful to his word, he is utterly incapable of committing a dishonourable action. His generosity is unbounded, and frequently borders on prodigality. He is reported to have been a very great admirer of the fair sex, but is an excellent father; and it is painful to witness his anguish when bereaved of any of his numerous children, or any person to whom he is attached. Glory is his god, and his whole life has been spent in endeavouring to shed a lustre on his name, and to leave behind him a glorious and unsullied reputation. He is very sensitive on the calumnies which the European papers have circulated about him, and causes all of them to be translated and read to him.

Probably there is no man of his age who equals him in indefatigable activity. He allows himself but a few hours of repose; he rises at four, when he receives reports from his ministers, and dictates his answers. He then reviews his troops, and inspects his shipping and public works. He is endowed with a most wonderful clear-sightedness, which enables him to grapple with his subject, and instantly see the bottom of the most intricate questions; and his unerring judgment renders him capable of forming the most just decisions on affairs with which he was previously unacquainted. Repeated illustrations of this are to be met with in the history of his long political career. Like Casio, he is no arithmetician, but his calculations are always correct. He never learnt to read until the age of forty-five, when he commenced studying with all the ardour of a youthful mind. The histories of Alexander and Napoleon were always his favourite subjects. He speaks no foreign language; but such is his perspicacity, that, whilst conversing with Europeans, he frequently dispenses with the services of his interpreter, having gained from their eyes and gestures a tolerably correct idea of the subject on which they had been conversing. His great delight is to have some distinguished European, or scientific person, to converse with.

He is religious, without being a fanatic or a bigot. But he is the first Mussulman sovereign who has afforded to Christians a sincere protection, which he has caused to be severely respected. Several Christians enjoy his friendship and confidence; he has given them ranks and commands, and has raised to the dignity of Bey. Thus, to soar above the deep-rooted prejudices of his court and people, he has had to struggle against their intrigues and animadversions, when they were jealous of the favours which he bestowed on foreigners.

His amusements are very simple and primitive—tiding, and playing at chess or draughts with his officers and inferiors, and sometimes even with private soldiers. At both of these games he is remarkably skilful. With regard to his warlike qualities, it is only necessary to say, that he rose to be what he is from the ranks by means of his courage and talents. His courage and fearless intrepidity have frequently hurried him into great danger. Even last year, notwithstanding his great age, he was seen undertaking a voyage to Fagazion, upwards of 1,000 leagues from his ca-

pital, braving the rocks of the Nile, suffering shipwreck, swimming ashore, treating it as a joke, and pursuing his journey across the voiceless sands of the deserts, mounted on a dromedary. Mehemet Ali is incontestably one of the most remarkable men of the age.

It is stated in the English papers, that this remarkable man was born the same year with the Duke of Wellington and Napoleon Bonaparte.

THE JEWS OF DAMASCUS.—The following brief recapitulation of the affair of the Damascus Jews may be acceptable to many of our readers:—

A Catholic priest, named Father Thomas, suddenly disappeared from the quarter of Damascus in which he resided, on the 7th of February last. Having been seen on that evening near to the shop of a Jewish barber, the latter was apprehended and questioned; and finally subjected to torture—when he made what was termed a confession, and accused several of the principal Jews in Damascus of having put Father Thomas to death. This declaration was accompanied with various details, confirmatory; in the opinion of such judges as Damascus could furnish, of the guilt of the persons accused. They were seized, committed to prison, and also tortured, to extort a confession of what they had done with the body. Even young children, for the same purpose, were subjected to similar atrocities. It need not be stated, that before such a tribunal what was deemed an entire and satisfactory proof of guilt was elicited. In this stage of the affair, an appeal was made to the Pasha of Egypt by the Jews of Damascus, to put an end to the application of torture, as a means of procuring evidence in criminal process, and to permit the further investigation of this affair to take place at Alexandria. To the first part of this application Mehemet Ali immediately assented, and, in a manner which does him honour, prohibited the use of torture against the accused persons; he refused, however, to have the process referred to himself, but directed that it should be removed from the jurisdiction of the Damascus authorities, and conducted before a tribunal composed of European consuls, specially delegated for that purpose. Thus, as the affair now stands, the Christian monks are the accusers, and Christians also judges; but the population and authorities of Damascus are prejudiced against the accused persons, and eager for a conviction. For their defence, European advocates of eminence are engaged, and are now on their way to Damascus, accompanied by Sir Moses Montefiore, who is specially deputed by the Jews of London and Paris to encourage the persons under trial by his presence, and to afford them such assistance in money and advice as they may require.—*London Watchman*.

RUSSIAN EMPIRE.—This empire extends over 100,000 square miles in Europe; more than 243,000 miles in Asia, and the residue in America; in the whole, 368,000 square geographical miles, of 15 to a degree, (being upwards of four times as long as an English statute mile, 69 of which go to a degree.) This empire comprehends one half of Europe, and a third of Asia; it forms the ninth part of the habitable globe. Its population is calculated as not exceeding 60,000,000.

## ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

In the miscellany of our last number, we inserted an article on TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCH, by which information of the coronation of William IV. was conveyed from London to Portsmouth in three minutes; the following article, which we copy from the *Kingston Chronicle*, states that intelligence now can be conveyed not merely at the rate of 72 miles in three minutes, but at the rate of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND MILES PER SECOND!

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.—This extraordinary machine is now being worked on the Great Western Railroad, between Drayton and Paddington; and, though no distinct idea of the apparatus can be imparted without plans and draughts of the dial, pipes, rods, &c. of which it is composed; yet the principle will excite unqualified admiration when our readers learn, that intelligence is conveyed at the rate of 200,000 miles per second, or 8000 times quicker than light travels during the same period, by means of electrical currents passing through coils of copper wire placed immediately

behind some fine magnetic needles, made to operate upon a circular series of twenty letters, which indicate such terms, either separately or collectively, as they have been arranged to represent. This telegraph will act both day and night, in all states of the weather, and with a rapidity so superior to the common process, that one minute only is required for the communication of thirty signals.

AWFUL COINCIDENCE.—On Tuesday, Sept. 22, 1829, died Lewis, the celebrated Comedian. *The night before*, Mr. L. represented the part of Frankenstein's valet, in the piece called *Frankenstein*, at the Cobourg Theatre: expressing "a wish to be tucked up in a bridal bed." Quadro, a butler, is made by the author to give the following answer:—"Aye! you will soon have a nice little bed in the church-yard, and be tucked up with the sexton's shovel." The audience laughed at the jest, but little anticipated that the dramatic prediction would be so speedily fulfilled.

EXEMPLIFICATION OF THE USE OF THE TERMS PREJUDICE—BIGOTRY—CANDOUR—LIBERALITY.—When Jesus preached, PREJUDICE cried "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"—"Crucify him, crucify him!" exclaimed BIGOTRY.—"Why, what evil hath he done?" remonstrated CANDOUR—and LIBERALITY drew from his words this inference: "In every nation, he that feareth God and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."

POVERTY.—The man who hath food to eat and raiment to put on, is not poor, because his diet is plain and his apparel homely; but he is truly poor, whose means of subsistence are insufficient for his proper place in society, as determined by the general complication of his circumstances—by his birth—his education—his bodily strength, and his mental endowments.—*Bp. Horsely*.

## POETRY.

## THE FEMALE PILGRIM:

WRITTEN AFTER A CONVERSATION WITH MISS —  
THE DAY PRECEDING HER DISSOLUTION.

"WHITHER goest thou, pilgrim stranger,  
Passing through this darksome vale?  
Know'st thou not 'tis full of danger;  
And will not thy courage fail?"

"Pilgrim thou dost justly call me,  
Wandering o'er this waste so wide;  
But no harm can e'er befall me  
While I'm bless'd with such a Guide."

"Such a Guide! no guide attends thee—  
Hence my fears for thee arise;  
Should some guardian power befriend thee,  
'Tis unseen by mortal eyes."

"Yes, unseen—but yet, believe me,  
Such a guide my steps attend;  
He'll in every strait attend me,  
He from every harm defend."

"Pilgrim, see that stream before thee,  
Darkly winding through the vale;  
Should its deadly waves roll o'er thee,  
Would not then thy courage fail?"

"No—that stream has nothing frightful:  
To its brink my steps I'll bend;  
Thence to plunge will be delightful—  
There my pilgrimage will end."

While I gaz'd, with speed surprising,  
Down the stream she plung'd from sight;  
Gazing still, I saw her rising,  
Like an angel cloth'd with light.

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