

given them by the Russians, with their present prosperous condition under the Emperor Nicholas, who is styled their "Second Providence." "Under his sceptre," continues the writer, "the Armenians enjoy various privileges and prerogatives, superb churches, populous bishopricks, courts of justice, with judges elected by the people, schools, printing presses, and other institutions protected by the government. The devotion of the Armenians for the august sovereign of the Russians, is without bounds."

Doubtless the writer was aware, that his production would pass under the review of the emperor or his chief officers, and this may account for the adulatory style in which the emperor is alluded to, and for the exaggerated professions of devotion to his service.

The next is a specimen of the Moldavian language, said to be a derivation from the Latin. Its characters are many of them very similar to our Roman letters, others are like the Greek, and the whole seems to be merely a modification of the first specimen in the collection, the Slavenski. It professes to give a short explanation of the names and divisions of the Moldavian and Wallachian nations.

The eleventh specimen is in Chinese running hand (!) but approximating nearly to the characters used in printing. The passage which is from Confucius, is well worth attention, not only from the consideration that it was written at least five hundred years before the Christian Era, but also from its intrinsic merits. Dsy-tou asks his master in what *heroism* consists; and Confucius, being probably ignorant of what certain modern wiseacres have called *abstract* nouns, enquires of Dsy-tou, whether he means the heroism of the people of the south, or of the north, or Dsy-tou's own proper heroism, but receiving no answer, proceeds to say: "The heroes of the south make heroism consist in greatness of soul and moderation. Professing these virtues, they teach how to bear injuries without seeking to revenge them, and have arrived at the highest degree of wisdom. The great men of the north think that virtue consists in physical force. They pass their life under arms, and they harness, and face death without a fear. But can any thing be higher than the heroism of those who seek to live in peace with the whole human race! Are they forgotten in a well-ordered empire?—they complain not of their lot. Live they under a cruel government?—They remain faithful to virtue, and for her, cheerfully die."

The twelfth is in the Manchew language. The characters in form are similar to the Chinese, and like them are also written up and down the page. The passage is the farewell of a Corcan deputy to the Russian mission house at Pekin, and is written in the usual inflated style of oriental complimentary composition.

The next is a Calmuck extract from a chronicle containing some historical details of the progress of

the Calmuck division of the great Mongolian family.

A further account of the Calmucks is contained in the next specimen, in the ordinary writing of Thibet, which states that there are three principal tribes wandering on the banks of the Wolga, numbering about 25,000 "waggon" or families, and 100,000 men.

A paragraph in the literary language of Thibet follows next in order. It gives some curious particulars of the religion of the Lama of Thibet. "The communion which his followers receive from his hands delivers from all diseases, and drives off destructive passions, and the soul passes into the invisible spirit of God. The learned Lamaic clergy believe that their religion will, in time, be extended over the whole earth. All the followers of the Lama have the doors of their houses facing to the south."

The sketch, slight as it is, affords much material for useful reflection, which it might not be amiss to improve; but it is time to close. Mr. Vattemare has the honour of possessing, in these autographs, a treasure as unique as it is valuable. They are, however, but a sample of the immense literary wealth of Asia, and the east of Europe. These countries, for centuries, remarkable chiefly for their valuable natural productions, and the unprogressive character of their inhabitants, have begun to excite that attention, which no countries more deserve, or can better repay. It is gratifying to know that the late Sultan took infinite pains to introduce Mr. Vattemare's system into his dominions; indeed no monarch in Christendom is said to have done more for his people than Mahmoud. There are mines of rarest literary wealth in Turkey, which will one day, we trust, be brought to light, for the good of the world; and, throughout the East, many valuable manuscripts might be found, which the barbarity of former ages failed to destroy. These would be hailed with enthusiasm by the literati of Europe, who would gladly give whole libraries in exchange for one relic of ages gone by, which might shed upon the modern world some rays of that sacred light, which once gilded with its glory the cradle of the human race—the birth-place of civilization—the holy land, where the SAVIOUR lived and died.

A. R.

Montreal, 23d December, 1840.

FORTUNE.

FORTUNE is like the market, where many times, if you can stay a little, the price will fall; and, again, it is sometimes like a Sibylla's offer, which at first offereth the commodity at full, then consumeth part and part, and still holdeth up the price.—*Lord Bacon*.

ALL deception in the course of life, is indeed nothing else but a *lie* reduced to *practice*, and *falsehood* passing from *words* into *things*.—*South's Sermons*.