

# THE LADY'S JOURNEY IN THE EAST

## LEASANT HOURS

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### A LADY'S JOURNEY IN THE EAST.

BY THE EDITOR.

MRS. Brassey made an interesting visit to the old Gothic convent of La Pais, on a bluff 500 feet above the sea. The ancient cloisters and vast halls—one was 150 by 50 feet—with their Gothic tracery, were very noteworthy, though quite ruinous. The English engineers had fitted up the convent for a hospital, but it was found that the sick were worse than in their stuff tents. The fever seems to be caused by the bad water of the island.

Sailing round the eastern end of the Island of Cyprus on the 10th of November, Mrs. Brassey reached the ancient port of Kyrenia, shown in the cut—a charming spot, but smitten with the fever. The natives said the very dogs in the streets died of it. The 42nd Regiment, most of whom were invalided, were preparing to escape the pestilence by immediate departure. As the steward was sick, Mrs. Brassey did the marketing, and found vegetables remarkably cheap—a supply for forty persons costing only 2s. The island will probably be available only for a coaling station. Our tourists visited another convent, where the barefooted monks were extremely kind, though unable to communicate, except by signs, with their guests. Four of them assisted Mrs. Brassey and her daughter to perform their ablutions—one holding a basin, another a towel, a third the soap, and a fourth the candle. She gives a picture of the absurd scene.

Leaving Cyprus, the famous Isle of Rhodes was soon reached. The capital, Rhodes, was founded B.C. 408, and Strabo says, in his time, was the finest city in the world—finer even than Rome. Its celebrated Colossus was a brazen statue of Apollo, 105 feet high, bridging the harbour, between whose legs ships could sail. After standing

fifty-six years, it was thrown down by an earthquake, B.C. 224. It lay for nearly 1,000 years on the ground, and was sold by the Saracens to a Jew, who loaded 500 camels with the bronze. The Knights of St. John, when driven from Jerusalem, captured the island from the Moslems, and held it for 200 years. In 1522, Solyman the Magnificent besieged it with an army of 200,000 men. Its garrison of only 6,000 defended it with heroic valour for many months, and only yielded in the last extremity. It has since been

escaped penniless to other countries, and of 75,000 Greeks, no. 2,000 were left. As an illustration of the wealth of classic art buried beneath the soil of these lands, our author mentions seeing on the beach of the Bosphorus a piece of statuary of the finest Greek period, which had been brought to Cyzicus as ballast, and then pitched ashore as of no further use.

Mrs. Brassey describes with much vivacity the varied incidents, the brilliant pageants, of her visit to Constantinople, the city of mosques and palaces.

to avert the 'evil eye,' consequent on her visit and subsequent misfortunes. The mere caprice of the insane tyrant—for insane he certainly was—must be indulged at whatever cost. His little son, who was nominally Admiral of the Navy, was found crying one day because he could not see from his nursery his flag hoisted on his own particular ironclad. So at a cost of £100,000 the staging of a new bridge across the Bosphorus was demolished, and the whole city put to inconvenience for months, that the huge sea-

kraken might be shown as a toy to a whimpering child. The Sultan was treated with the most abject servility by his viziers, who dared not stand erect in his presence, but bent almost double, and all others addressed him but in monosyllables, and with their foreheads almost touching the floor. The bearer of bad news ran the risk of beheading. So the despot knew little of what was going on in his Empire, and had not even heard of the famine in Asia Minor. His favorite amusement was slicing the heads off turkeys, kept in a yard for that purpose—as a substitute, we suppose, for Turks.



KYRENIA—ISLAND OF CYPRUS.

held by the Turks. The Grand Hospital of the Knights, a fine building, is now used as a barrack. The church and the palace also exhibit evidences of their former grandeur; but the blight and curse of Turkish domination broods over all. The streets of the city, as shown in the engraving on page 141, have that close, shut up look which characterizes all oriental towns.

A more striking evidence of this is seen in the island of Chios, which—after passing Patmos, where the cavern in which St. John wrote the Apocalypse is shown, and Icaria, where Icarus, flying too near the sun, fell into the sea—our tourists visited. In consequence of a revolt against the Turks in 1822, the island was invaded, 45,000 of its inhabitants were carried off as slaves, 25,000 were slain, 15,000

She poetically compares the countless slender minarets to gentrys keeping guard over a sacred shrine. She was especially struck with its strange blending of barbarism, luxury, and civilization. The oriental profusion of barbaric pearl and gold of the bankrupt Sultan was amazing. He lavished upon the Empress of the French over £100,000 in presents; but when the beautiful Eugenie deigned to kiss the cheek of his slave-born mother (to whom his father took a fancy as she was carrying wood to a bath), the withered old crone was scandalized at the insult, retired to bed, was bled profusely, fasted, and took several Turkish baths to remove the pollution of contact with the infidel Giaour. The palace where the Empress lodged was shut up, and part of it demolished,

One mania was a dread of fire. He had acres of houses pulled down, and an enormous palace built, in which not a particle of wood was employed—even the flat candlesticks had to be surrounded by a saucer of water. He had two of the sultanas bowstrung for transgressing this rule, and he beat and trampled on an officer's wife for the same offence. One night he escaped from the palace in his nightgown, and was with difficulty brought back. He lived in continual fear of poison, but still ate, says our author, eleven times a day, an enormous meal, selected from ninety-four dishes, always prepared for his choice. He made a common soldier a colonel, because he gave him some goslings which he fancied, and gave a foremast sailor command of an ironclad because he