

which he had so recently invoked to crush them with all its maledictions.

From Zaidi el Baranous, our author travelled along deep gorges, parallel to the great hills, for about six miles, when he entered the monastery of Zaidi Sourian, whose name indicates that it was formerly in the possession of Syrian monks, who have been succeeded by the Copts. This convent is built upon a similar plan to that of Zaidi el Baranous, but it is laid out in a much better and more convenient manner. The ancient Syrian church is still standing, and is described by our traveller as being tolerably handsome. Upon one of the pillars are cut, the names of several European visitants; and the church is embellished with sculpture and paintings in fresco. This building, however, is not used by the Copts, who have built another church, in the form of a cross. The little sort, or place of retreat, is as well constructed as that of the other convent, and the monks are apparently less filthy in their persons, and less ferocious in their dispositions. The superior, seen by Sonnini, was a man turned of thirty, absolutely without any beard. As the beard is an appendage, in this country, that creates respect, the monk was much dissatisfied with his personal defect, and earnestly entreated the European to point out some method, by which he might obtain such an embellishment to his face.

In a little garden belonging to the monastery are a few date trees, some small olive trees, and one almond tree. Among a variety of esculent plants, is observable the liblab, a species of large, perennial, kidney bean, that grows very high. Its

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