

of six hundred men, and was again beaten. Khamco, for whom he had always felt a singular homage, had commanded him, in almost the words of the Spartan mother, "Never to come back but dead, or a conqueror." As he gathered the remnant of his soldiers from this disastrous field, he went into the ruins of a church, near Valera, to rest and think over what was to be done. There, in his agitation, he stood, unconsciously striking his stick into the ground. It at last struck upon something that returned a sound. He dug up the spot, and, to his astonishment, found a box filled with gold coin. He had now found the true way to barbarian victory. It would be a fine juncture for the pencil to seize upon the figure of this mountain warrior at the moment; the countenance lighted up with the wild exultation and fiery foresight of the whole long career of triumph, that burst upon him in the discovery. The accessories, too, of the picture would be powerful. The military equipments, stained and purpled by toil and battle; the sacred ruin round him, with its broken altars and weedy columns; the remnant of his defeated troops covering the hill side; the brilliant mountains and sky of Greece above all.

With this treasure, Ali raised an army of two thousand men, renewed the campaign, swept the enemy before him, and returned to Zepeleni, a conqueror, never to be repulsed again from the way to sovereignty.

On his triumphant return, he by force or persuasion, induced his mother to resign Zepeleni. The heroine retired to the Harem, where she soon after died. Ali, now furnished with the means of indulging his natural impulses, indulged them to the utmost, and became the most renowned among the marauding chieftains of the hills. He threw troops into the principal passes of the chain of Pindus, and was thus master of the whole traffic of Thessaly and Macedonia. Merchants, caravans, public convoys, all fell into the hands of

this young and enterprising lord of the "Robbers." The slow vigilance of the Turkish government was at length roused, and Kourd Pasha, the Dervendji Pasha, or "Governor of the Passes," the officer appointed to protect the communications, was ordered to crush the less licensed plunderer. But Ali's dexterity evaded an open encounter with the Sultan, and the attack which was to have been his ruin, ended in an alliance with the Pasha, and a marriage with the daughter of the Turkish governor of Argyro Castro. A succession of mountain conquests rapidly raised him into higher notice, until the next "Governor of the Passes" found it the wiser policy to make Ali his deputy. The old craft of the Greek was not forgotten. The deputy, instead of extinguishing the Klephts, sold licences for plunder to the amount of 150,000 piastres. The story reached Constantinople. The Pasha was recalled, and beheaded for his neglect or corruption. Ali, still dexterous and fortunate, bribed the ministers, and at once escaped punishment and fixed an interest in the Seraglio.

His character as a leader was now distinguished, and he was summoned to take the command of a body of Albanians in the war with Russia. Ali had now first come within the circle of European politics, and his ambition was suddenly awakened to the more brilliant object of independent power. The purpose of Russia was to assail Turkey at once on the north and south, to penetrate to Constantinople by an army from Moldavia and a fleet from the Mediterranean. To detach the Albanian chieftain became important. The capture of one of his nephews gave an opening for a correspondence with Potemkin, and it seems authenticated that there was a twofold conspiracy, by which Potemkin, at the head of the Russian army, was to make himself sovereign of Constantinople, and to confer on Ali the kingdom of Epirus. But the war ceased in the