

On the opposite side of the fire-place, an old woman was seated on a low stool, smoking a pipe in an attitude of great enjoyment. Two countrymen were sitting on the ground near her, with a few potatoes and a jug before them, laughing and talking away with great glee. The youngest, who was very handsome, often looked up towards the reposing beauty; and when he had uttered some witty saying which threw his companion into fits of laughter, he seemed not a little provoked that those long eye-lashes were never raised. We endeavored to sketch the whole scene, and so absorbed were we in this amusing occupation, that we were sorry when the smoking 'pratees' were turned out, and the little serving girl informed us luncheon was ready.

We were somewhat reconciled, however, to the interruption, by seeing our beautiful model open her eyes; jumping up, she placed a basket of eggs on her head, and said something in Irish, while she directed her dark beaming eyes towards the handsome peasant who had been unable to win a glance before. This was the signal for a general move. The old woman took her pipe from her mouth, and adjusting her cloak over her head, moved towards the door. The two men shook hands, and seemed to be taking leave of each other; and the handsome one then accompanied the beautiful girl and woman out into the pouring rain. That he was her intended, and the old woman her mother, we immediately pronounced, and allowed our imaginations to speculate over the history of those three happy-looking people.

A RUINED HOUSE.

About a mile before we reached Cahirciveen, we passed near an old ruined house, situated in a grove near the river. I was struck with the lonely and sad air which pervaded the neglected place, and as usual, I began to imagine and speculate, as to what kind of people had lived within those walls in the olden time. I wondered whether those beings who had thought, and felt, and laughed, and wept, under that old roof, had left any records of their existence, beyond the names which are probably inscribed in the neighboring churchyard—whether the good or evil they had done, had produced any effect on the surrounding country, where this old house seems to have been the principal place. As we passed the dilapidated gateway which led to the ruined mansion, the post-boy drew up his horses, and said, 'That is the house where Daniel O'Connell was born.'

LEARNING.

A bare-footed, tattered young fellow came up to us, and in excellent English, asked us some questions about the ruin. He very good naturedly afterwards came to show the nearest way to Coom-croun, a little harbour in the Bay of Dingle. On our way I discovered that our ragged guide was a mathematician. We did not give him credit for much acquirement in this branch; however, to ascertain the point, one of my companions asked him if he knew the 5th proposition of the 1st book of Euclid, known at school as the 'pons asinorum'; he was so perfect in this, and in the 47th prop., that the inquirer would not venture any further, least he might get out of his depth.

A CONTRAST.

A change of place since I wrote last. I am sitting in a little white-washed room, writing at a rickety table; a turf fire is burning in the grate behind me, and a large battered kettle is hanging on it to make tea for our breakfast. All this sounds homely, and perhaps uncomfortable, but it is not so. Though the window is curtainless, and the room bare, it looks out upon the glorious Atlantic, the intensely blue sea; and white breakers are foaming among the rocks, and the whole scene without is grand and beautiful. Even this homely room, with its scanty furniture, is amusing, by its extreme contrast to the magnificence we yesterday enjoyed at Dromoland castle.

HUMOUR.

The Irish are very fanciful in their signs. One made use of by a tailor at Cahirciveen, illustrates the truth of my favorite doctrine, that misfortunes, defects, and ignorances may often be turned to good account by a mind determined to make the most of every circumstance. A tailor who lived in a little town made once upon a time a long journey to see the world; and on his return put up his name and trade over his shop, adding in large and triumphant letters, 'From London.' His business, of course, increased immensely; and all the other tailors (for there were many in a place which furnished clothes to the dense population of the surrounding country), were in despair. At last the poorest and most miserable of them all resolved to make a desperate attempt to carry away the custom from the usurping traveller. He lived opposite the tailor 'from London,' and one fine morning a large sign appeared over his door, bearing the words, 'Thady o'Shaugnessy, Tailor, and in gigantic letters 'Never was in London.' The sign created first a laugh, then perhaps a feeling of admiration for Thady's honest audacity, and soon the custom was transferred from the illustrious traveller to the honest man 'who never was in London.'

CRITICISM.—A critic, in the literary department, is like an advocate in the legal. Both may cause much evil, if they take a wrong side, and argue against truth and justice; but both may be of much use in espousing the right, and in expounding the laws, and settling the practices of their respective Courts.

EGYPT.

From Mr. Wilde's Narrative.

THE PORT OF ALEXANDRIA.

The Egyptian fleet was moored at the entrance of the harbour; and in number and appearance far surpassed what we had heard of it. They are a magnificent set of vessels, all in commission, in the most perfect order; the majority of them two-deckers, but mounting many more guns than ours of a similar class; with round sterns, and all the other modern improvements in naval architecture. The yacht of the Basha is a most beautiful craft, magnificently fitted up, and fully equal to any of the Cowes squadron. On bringing up we were visited by a health officer; and seeing the yellow flag flying from some Swedish men-of-war, were rather frightened lest we should be again in quarantine, but we were admitted sans ceremony; and immediately after the Egyptian Admiral sent his boat with two officers to know if he could be of any service to us. They were exceedingly polite, and spoke very tolerable French. They use more men in their boats than is usual in vessels of war, and direct every thing by the boatswain's whistle, even to the stroke of the oars. Altogether the harbour of Alexandria presented a picture the most imposing; and the stir and bustle, both warlike and commercial, one we could have had no idea of. The flags of the different nations of Europe were here displayed beside the red banner of Mohammad Alee, to which he has added a star within the crescent. Were this port to be taken as index of the flourishing state of the country, great indeed would be its wealth."

THE DOCK-YARD OF ALEXANDRIA.

We must pay a visit to those fine vessels now upon the stocks and here is one just ready to be launched, which I will tell you something about, without having your ears assailed by the most stunning of all noises, caulking and coppering. This is a two-decker, but corresponding in number of guns to our three-deckers, than any of which it is larger, being 3,000 tons. It is not so long as some of ours, being but 189 feet by 40 feet in beam, and will mount 100 guns. The timber of these vessels is confessedly very inferior, and much smaller than would be used in any English vessel of war; but as there are no forest trees in this land, most of it is imported from Trieste. They endeavor to make up in quantity for deficiency in quality, so that the bottom of those vessels are perfect beds of timber. This is the tenth of this class, and there are eight in commission. The ninth was brought out of the dock yesterday to be rigged and got ready for sea. The complement of men on board each of these is 1,000, including officers, who in rank and number correspond to those of the English navy. Besides ten line-of-battle ships, there are seven frigates, an armed steamer, four corvettes, eight brigs and other small craft in commission. So far as the vessels go, they are, I suspect rather more than a match for the Porte. In our walk round the yard we were surprised at the number and extent of the works all divided into their several departments, and at the order and regularity that prevailed. Brass foundries, carvers, blacksmiths, carpenters, sail-maker, and all the different requisites in ship building, upon a most extensive scale, all worked by native hands, who amount to about 800. The stores and arsenal were as neat, as clean, and as orderly as could possibly be. Originally the heads of the different departments were Europeans, but at present the situations are nearly all filled by natives, who rose under their instruction, or were educated in France or England; among them was the principal mathematical instrument-maker, a very intelligent young man. How very fluently, and with what good accent, many of these speak our language! There is an extensive rope-walk, and we saw some of the cables being worked by a patent machine; the head of this department is a Spaniard, but there is also a native fully capable of conducting the work. I was much struck with the skill and neatness of several of the workmen, particularly in brass turning, carving, &c. We were shown a handsome room for the drawings, plans, engineering, &c. and several models of the crack English vessels.

There is a mosque in the yard, whither the men go five times a day to pray for about five or ten minutes. It is a small but pretty building, covered with clematis and other creepers now in bloom, and has a pretty fountain attached to it, where they perform their ablutions each time they go to worship. All the workmen are enlisted in the Basha's service, as sailors or soldiers, and are drilled occasionally. They are fed, clothed, and get from fifteen to thirty piastres a month, pay, which they and all the men in the service of Mohammad Alee receive into their own hands, to prevent any sort of peculation. The wages of these artisans are raised according to their merit, and are never in the same arrear as those of the army or navy. The greater number are married, their wives inhabiting wretched hovels outside the town; if they have sons each receives fifteen piastres a month from the government, and the child must be brought to receive it in his own hand.

The men work from sunrise to sunset, with the exception of an hour at breakfast and dinner; they get three meals a day, and during our visit the drum beat to the mid-day meal, which consists of a plentiful supply of coarse brown bread and bean porridge; and for breakfast they are allowed, in addition, olives with some vinegar and oil. All the artisans are given meat once a week, and the troops once a month. They are divided into messes of three and five each. The greatest order and quiet prevailed, and if the countenance be an index of the inner man, contentment seemed to reign amongst them. The anchors, and most of the foreign

goods in the dock-yard were English, and there was also a vast number of fine brass and metal guns, in most perfect preservation lately fished up in Aboukir Bay.

ECONOMY OF AN EGYPTIAN MAN OF WAR.

I found this vessel and others that I visited, particularly clean and orderly; and this is the more marked, as there is a greater quantity of brass inlaying and ornamental work in them than is usual in any of our men-of-war. This is a 100 gun-ship, but equal to ours carrying 120. The uniform is a dark brown; and the officers are principally distinguished from the men by the fineness of the regimentals, and having an anchor, star, or crescent, emblematic of their rank, and composed of silver, gold, or jewels, on the left breast. In the navy as well as the army neither beard nor whiskers are allowed; except the moustache, all must be close shaven daily: this at first was considered a very great innovation, and was loudly complained of as quite too Christian and uncircumcised a form. The men are trained to military tactics as well as to go aloft; and in this latter they are often very clumsy, to the no small amusement of any English tars who may be lowering topgallants or reefing topsails at the same time. But much cannot be expected from a navy called into existence since the battle of Navarino, and whose service has heretofore consisted in a visit to Candia during the summer. There is a moolah or priest on board each ship. The men are now allowed to smoke in watches; and a certain number each night are permitted to go to their families who live near the town. There was an air of great simplicity in the officers' berths, even in that of the Captain's; a plain decan surrounded two sides of the cabin, a table with writing materials, and a couple of chairs; and on the side of each was hung a plain glazed frame, in which was written the name of God, and sometimes a verse of the Koran underneath. From a desire to avoid even the appearance any 'graven image,' there are no figure-heads to any of the Egyptian vessels.

THE PACHA'S COLLEGE AND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

I was next transferred to the care of Dr. Sieber, who conducted me through the college and school of medicine, which, as I before stated, forms a part of the building of the hospital, so that the student has but to cross the court from his dormitory to the ward, and can proceed from thence in a few minutes to the dissecting theatre or lecture-room, become acquainted with materia medica under the same roof in which he sleeps, and enjoy his morning walk in the botanic garden beneath his window. Besides this, they all required to become acquainted with practical operative chemistry; and for that purpose are sent for a certain time to the chloride of lime and saltpetre manufactories. This system, added to that of the general medical education here given, is one well worthy of imitation in Great Britain, and reflects no small credit on its founder, Clot Bey.

At the date of my visit there were three hundred students in the college, who were fed, clothed, educated, and paid by the Basha. The dormitories and other apartments of these young men were clean and airy, and they themselves appeared orderly and attentive. They all wear a uniform, are regularly drilled as soldiers, and rise in rank and pay according to their proficiency. The pay varies from twenty to fifty piastres a month; and they are allowed out of the college once a week, on the Sabbath.

The nominal duration of study is five years; but the greater number are drafted off into the army or navy after three years: some few remain as long as seven.

The school of medicine consists of seven professorships, viz. anatomy and physiology, surgery, pathology and internal clinique, pathology and external clinique, medicine and chemistry, botany and materia medica, and pharmacy. Instruction is given by means of an Arab interpreter or dragoman; the professor writes his lecture, and it is translated to the class by the interpreter. The majority of the professors are French, and their salary is somewhat more than £200 a year. They are all obliged to wear the Egyptian uniform and shave the head, but no sacrifice of religion or principle is demanded; and I need hardly remark that all Europeans, or Christians, are under the protection of their respective flags; and should they be convicted of any misdemeanour, must be handed over to their Consul.

The laboratory contained a good chemical apparatus, and the dissecting-room several subjects. This latter indispensable requisite to medical education it would be scarcely worth mentioning but that it occurred among a people whose strong religious prejudices prohibited even the touching of a dead body in some cases; and the introduction of this noble science was one of the most difficult things Mohammad Alee had to enforce for a long time. He in the first place referred it to the priesthood, who obstinately set their faces against it, declaring it utterly incompatible with the religion of the Prophet of Mekka. The Basha's answer, that it was his royal wish and pleasure that they should legalize the act, and that, if they did not speedily do so, it was more than probable they themselves should form material for the first experiment in this branch of the practical sciences, soon brought them to reconcile their prejudices with his unbending will.

A tree upon the land throws a sombre shadow, but upon the water it traces a beautiful reflection. So poetry, operates very differently on different characters. Some are susceptible of its shadows only, while on others it descends in all its beauty, and melts into the mirror of the soul.