

proprietors in Canea, is a man of about seventy years of age, of a majestic stature, a fine face, and still exhibits in his features the marks of strength and vigour. He has had the command of several of the Grand Signior's caravelles, and passed some time at Venice; he has travelled through Egypt, and visited, according to the religious custom of the Mahometans, the tomb of his prophet. His travels had entirely divested him of that pride with which ignorance and the prejudices of their religion inspire the Turks, nor does he, like them, despise strangers, but on the contrary takes pleasure in and courts their society. Having invited us to spend some time at his country house, he sent horses for us, and ordered his sons to show us the way. We accordingly set out from Canea at eight in the morning, crossed that beautiful part of the country covered with olive trees which extends to the foot of the White Mountains, and having rode through the whole length of the delightful plain of myrtles, arrived about noon at his house, situated a league beyond it on the declivity of a hill. Ismael received us with friendship, but without any of those demonstrations of joy and pleasure which ceremony lavishes in other countries. You are welcome, said he, with an air of cool satisfaction, and immediately conducted us to the place of entertainment.

The heavens were clear and serene, but the atmosphere was heated by a burning sun, to which we had been four hours exposed. Nothing could now be so desirable to us as coolness, and our wishes were amply gratified. The table was spread in the garden, under the shade of orange-trees. Six of these beautiful trees, planted in a circle, united their branches, which had never been mutilated with the sheers, and formed over our heads a roof impenetrable to the rays of the sun. In the middle of a very hot day we enjoyed in this arbour, which nature had so profusely embellished, a delicious coolness. On every side flowers hung in garlands over the guests and formed a crown for each. The brightness of their colours, their exquisite odours, the beauty of the foliage, gently agitated by the zephyr, every thing conspired to make us imagine ourselves suddenly transported to some enchanted grove. To complete the whole, a beautiful stream, which descended from the adjoining hills, passed under the table and contributed to preserve the pleasantness and coolness of our arbour; on each side of us we beheld it gliding over a golden sand, and winding its crystal stream through the garden, in which a great number of small canals had

been dug to convey its waters to the orange, the pomegranate, and the almond trees, which repaid the moisture they received with interest in flowers and fruits.

The table was now served; the Aga had endeavoured to provide for us suitable to our tastes; We were presented with all the utensils common in France, and our host himself conformed to all our customs. Knowing that we were used to take soup, he served us with a great dish of roast meats, served with a delicious jelly: Round this were barravelles, almost as large as our hens, and with a fumet which excited the appetite; there were besides excellent quails, a tender and delicate lamb, and hashed meat dressed with rice and perfectly well seasoned. The wine corresponded with the excellence of the rest of our entertainment. We were served with Vin de Loj, Malmesey of Mount Ida, and a sort of perfumed red wine, equally agreeable to the smell and taste. Our good patriarch, wishing to imitate his guests, and take his glass in defiance of the prophet, had sent away his servants and his children. Laying aside the Turkish gravity, which never condescends to smile, he chatted with much vivacity, and frequently astonished us by the penetration of his understanding, the aptness of his replies, and the justness of his ideas. When the dishes were removed we were presented with Moka coffee and pipes. Do not be too much shocked, madam, the pipes made use of here are of jasmine, and the part applied to the mouth, of amber; their enormous length entirely takes away the pungency of the tobacco, which in Turkey however is mild, and being mixed with the wood of aloes, produces a vapour neither disagreeable nor incommodious as in other countries.

Let me not be accused of painting the Turks in colours blacker than they deserve. I have travelled through their empire; I have seen the injuries of every kind which they have done to the sciences, the arts, and the human race. I see them carrying the plague with them from island to island, from country to country, without suffering their eyes to be opened by the example of every other nation. And shall I not raise my voice against the abominable indifference of this barbarous people; shall I not inveigh against the destructive fatalism, and endeavour to find words sufficiently forcible to paint the crimes and horrors of their government, the enemy of the human species, which has destroyed more men by its odious tyranny, than ever fell by the sword of the most cruel conquerors. At the sight of these melancholy spectacles my heart groans, and is filled