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the agitation of the sea during the influence of certain winds. About twenty ships, however, may securely anchor, with due precaution; but the greater part of the harbour is nearly filled with rubbish, and as the water is removed several fathoms from the gate of the old custom-house, which it formerly reached in the memory of the present inhabitants, it seems probable that the sea is retiring, and that nature contributes to the ruin of this port.

The old port, which is exclusively appropriated to the use of Mahometans, is tolerably spacious, and affords excellent anchorage, as there is a depth throughout of near six fathoms.

The city is erected on part of the isthmus and the peninsula, and towards the eastern extremity a dilapidated fort is seen, which is connected with the continent by a mole of stone, furnished with wrought arches, and sheltered by a wall on the west, that is also in a ruinous state.

The houses are commonly more than one story high, built of stone, and admirably suited to the mode of living that prevails among the inhabitants. A flat roof is found to be the best security against the rain, which occasionally falls in the autumn, and consequently every native prefers such a form for the top of his residence.

The citizens are supplied with water from seven reservoirs\*, constructed of massy timber, which still remain of a series, that in all probability was formerly continued from one extre-

\* These reservoirs are most probably in their original state, as it seems very unlikely that the modern Alexandrians should have substituted timber for stone, in a place where the former is very scarce and the other extremely plentiful.