

For some years, the Pachas of Saïde and Damascus had been incommoded by the Motoualis, who pillaged their lands, and refused their tribute. Daher, sensible of the advantage to be made of these allies, first interposed as mediator, and, afterwards, in order to accommodate the parties, offered to become security for the Motoualis, and pay their tribute. The Pachas accepted this proposal, which rendered their revenues certain, and Daher was content with the bargain he had made, since he had secured the friendship of a people who could bring ten thousand horse into the field.

The Shaik, however, did not peaceably enjoy the fruit of his labours; since he still had to fear the attacks of a jealous superior, and his power was shaken at home, by domestic enemies, almost as dangerous. Agreeable to the wretched policy of the East, he had bestowed separate governments on his sons, and placed them at a distance from him, in countries which were sufficient for their maintenance. From this arrangement it followed, that these Shaiks seeing themselves the children of a great prince, wished to support a suitable state, so that their revenues soon fell short of their expences. Their subjects were oppressed by them and their agents, and complaints were made to Daher, who reprimanded them; and court flatterers irritating both parties, a quarrel was the consequence, and war broke out between the father and his children. The brothers, too, frequently quarrelled with each other, which was another cause of war. Besides, the Shaik was growing old, and his sons, who considered him as having arrived at the usual limits of human life, longed to anticipate the succession. He must necessarily leave a principal heir to his titles and power; each thought himself entitled to the preference, and this competition furnished a fresh subject of jealousy and dissension. From motives of narrow and contemptible policy, Daher somented the discord; this might indeed produce the effect of keeping his soldiery in exercise, and insuring them to war; but, besides that it was productive of numberless disorders, it had the farther inconvenience of causing a dissipation of treasure, which obliged him to have recourse to ruinous expedients: the custom-house duties were augmented, and commerce, oppressed, lost its activity. These civil wars, besides, were destructive to agriculture, which cannot be injured, without the consequences being always sensibly felt, in a state so limited as the small territories of Daher.

Nor did the divan of Constantinople behold, without chagrin, the increasing power

of Daher; and his ambitious views, which were now become apparent, increased its jealousy. Its jealousy was still more increased by a request he presented. Till that time, he only held his domains under the title of a renter, and by annual lease. His vanity was wearied of this restriction; and, as he possessed all the essentials of power, he aspired to its titles: nay, perhaps, he thought them necessary, more effectually to establish his authority over his children, and his subjects. About the year 1768, he therefore solicited a permanent investiture of his government, for himself and his successor, and demanded to be proclaimed, *Shaik of Acre, Prince of Princes, Governor of Nazareth, Taboria, and Safad, and Shaik of all Galilee*. The Porte conceded every thing to fear and money: but this proof of vanity, awakened more and more her jealousy and displeasure.

There were, besides, too many causes of complaint, which, though palliated by Daher, could not but increase this distrust, and rouse a desire of vengeance. Such was the adventure of the celebrated pilgrimage of the caravan of Mecca, 1757. Sixty thousand pilgrims plundered, and dispersed over the desert, a great number destroyed by sword or famine, women reduced to slavery, the loss of immense riches, and above all, the sacrilegious violation of so solemn an act of religion, produced a commotion in the empire, which is not forgotten. The plundering Arabs were the allies of Daher, who received them at Acre, and there permitted them to sell their booty. The Porte loaded him with the bitterest reproaches, but he endeavoured to exculpate himself, and to appease the divan, by sending the white banner of the prophet to Constantinople.

Such also was the affair of the Maltese corsairs. For some years they had infested the coasts of Syria, and, under the false pretext of a neutral flag, were received into the road of Acre: where they unloaded their spoils, and sold the prizes they had taken from the Turks. No sooner were these abuses divulged, than the Mahometans exclaimed against the sacrilege, and the Porte thundered vengeance. Daher pleaded ignorance of the fact, and, to prove he no way favoured a commerce so disgraceful to the state and to religion, armed two gallies, and sent them to sea, with ostensible orders to drive off the Maltese. But the fact is, that these gallies committed no hostilities against the Maltese, but served, on the contrary, to correspond with them at sea, remote from all witnesses. Daher did more: he pretended the road of Haifa was unprotected; that the enemy might take shelter there in
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