

and a spirit resolutely bent upon overcoming every difficulty opposed to its high aspirings. He was not the heir to the Ottoman throne ; an elder brother, Ibrahim, claiming that dignity by birth ; but Chandara was the favourite of the harem ; and though the policy of the Turkish court confined all the males of the royal house to as rigid a seclusion within the palace walls as allotted by the custom of the country to every female above the lowest rank, the united influence of the mother and son prevailed, and the youthful suppliant was permitted to go forth in search of glory. The terrors of the sword of Osmyn Mehemmed were spread throughout a vast portion of the globe. A conqueror wherever he appeared, he had defeated the troops of Hungary and of Austria upon their own soil, and brought fire and famine into the centre of Ispahan. The rebellious Moors, on the shores of the Mediterranean, had felt the power of his arm, and the wild Arabs of Upper Egypt trembled at his name. With the splendour and the speed of a comet he rushed to battle, and victory crowned him with her greenest laurels. Nor did his prowess alone win for him a name exalted amid nations ; filled in all the learning of the East, the cultivation of his mind shed a brighter lustre over the conquests he achieved. Intrepid and generous, brave and compassionate, mercy followed his triumphal car, nor sued to him in vain. Adored by his soldiers and respected by his enemies, Osmyn Mehemmed had run a career of glory worthy of a veteran in arms, ere the fresh bloom of youth had deepened into the fiercer flush of manhood's prime. Belgrade had submitted to his sword, a deadly battle was fought beneath its walls. The imperial eagle fled before the light crescent, and the banks of the Danube were covered with the corpses of the slain. The tumultuous joy of conquest had subsided in Osmyn's breast ; he gazed upon the scene before him with tender melancholy, strongly, yet vainly wishing—that other path to glory could be chalked out, unstained with human blood, and that he might become a benefactor to neighbouring kingdoms rather than a scourge. The victorious soldiers were busily employed in the burial of their dead. Suddenly a