

too advanced for such enterprizes; but when we recollect, that in 1776, at near ninety, he still boldly mounted a fiery steed, it is evident he was much younger than that age generally implies. So bold a measure could not pass unnoticed; this he foresaw, and therefore instantly dispatched a letter to the Pacha of Saide, representing to him that the affair was entirely personal between him and the Aga, and protesting that he was not less the very submissive subject of the Sultan, and the Pacha; that he would pay the tribute of the district he now occupied, as had been done heretofore by the Aga; and would undertake besides to restrain the Arabs, and do every thing in his power to restore this ruined country. This application, backed by a few thousand sequins, produced its effect in the divans of Saide, and Constantinople: his reasons were acknowledged just, and all his demands granted.

Not that the Porte was the dupe of the protestations of Daher; it is too much accustomed to such proceedings to mistake them; but it is a maxim with the Turks, not to keep their vassals in too strict an obedience; they have long been convinced, that were they to make war with all rebels, it would be an endless labour, and occasion a vast consumption of men and money; without reckoning the risk of frequent defeats, and the consequent encouragement to revolt. Their plan therefore, is to be patient; temporize; and excite the neighbours, relations, and children of the revoltors against them; and, sooner, or later, the rebels, who uniformly follow the same steps, suffer the same fate, and end by enriching the sultan with their spoils.

Daher, on his part, well knew the real value of this apparent friendship. Acre, which he intended for his residence, was destitute of defence, and might easily be surprized, either by sea or land; he determined therefore to fortify it. In the year 1750, under pretext of building himself a house, he erected, on the northern angle towards the sea, a palace, which he provided with cannon. He then built several towers for the defence of the fort, and enclosed the town by a wall, in which he left only two gates. These by the Turks were imagined very formidable works, though they would be laughed at in Europe. The palace of Daher, with its lofty and slight walls, its narrow ditch, and antique turrets, is incapable of the smallest resistance: four field pieces would demolish, in two discharges, both the walls and the wretched cannon mounted on them, at the height of fifty feet. The wall of the town was still more feeble; it has neither

fosse nor rampart, and is not three feet thick. Through all this part of Asia, bastions, lines of defence, covered ways, ramparts, and, in short, every thing relative to modern fortification, are utterly unknown. A single thirty gun frigate would, without difficulty, bombard and lay in ruins the whole coast: but, as this ignorance is common to both the assailants and defendants, the balance remains equal.

After these precautions, Daher occupied himself in effecting such a reformation in the country as should augment his power. The Arabs of Saker, Muziana, and other neighbouring tribes, had caused a desertion of the peasants, by their inroads and devastations: he undertook to repress them; and by alternately employing prayers and menaces, presents and arms, he restored security to the husbandman, who might now sow his corn, without fear of seeing the harvest destroyed, or carried off by robbers; the excellence of the soil attracted cultivators, but the certainty of security, that blessing so precious to those who have lived in a state of continual alarm, was a still stronger inducement. The fame of Daher spread through Syria, and Mahometan and Christian farmers, every where despoiled and harassed, took refuge, in great numbers, with a prince under whom they were sure to find both civil and religious toleration. A colony of Greeks emigrated from Cyprus, now nearly desolated, by the oppressions of the governor, the insurrections they produced, and the cruelty with which Kior Pacha expiated such offences. To these Daher assigned a spot of ground, under the walls of Acre, which they laid out into gardens. The Europeans, who found a ready sale for their merchandize, formed numerous settlements; the lands were cleared, the waters drained, the air became purer, and the country at once salubrious and pleasant.

To strengthen himself still more, Daher renewed his alliances with the great tribes of the desert, among whom he had disposed of his children in marriage. This policy had several advantages; for, in them, he secured an inviolable asylum, in case of accidents; by this means, also, he kept in check the Pacha of Damascus, and procured excellent horses, of which he was always passionately fond. He courted, therefore, the Shaiks of Anaza, of Sardia and Saker. Then, for the first time, were seen in Acre, those little dry and parched men, unusual even to the Syrians. He furnished them with arms and cloathing; and the desert, also, for the first time, beheld men in close dresses, and armed with muskets and pistols, instead of bows and match-lock guns.