

CHAPTER XII.

*Expedition to Africa—Proceeds to Paris—thence to
Marseilles—Sails for Egypt—Proceeds to Cairo—Ill-
ness—Death—Character—Reflections.*

1. ALTHOUGH Ledyard now found himself in the society of friends and acquaintance, he was unhappy, for he had no object in view. In this state, Sir Joseph Banks recommended him to the African Association, as a proper person to explore the interior of that continent. He was accordingly introduced to the Board, and when asked when he would set out, replied, with his characteristic promptness and decision, "To-morrow morning." It is scarcely necessary to say that the Association immediately took him into their service, and commenced preparations for his departure without delay. According to his instructions he was first to repair to Egypt, and travel thence across the continent as circumstances should direct.

2. The prospects of Ledyard were once more bright, and he did not conceal the satisfaction which he felt, in