

come from one who has long lost all relish for the pleasures of this life; who never had the smallest sensation of avarice, and has long since seen the vanity of ambition; who has learned to look at time forward, through the same end of the perspective as at time backward; and thus to estimate the duration of life, nay of the world itself, but as a point in comparison of a boundless eternity; who therefore has no other enjoyment left, but the inward satisfaction of discharging his duty, to the best of his power, to his God, to his King, and to his Country.

(To be continued.)

LIFE OF SHAIK DAHER.

[From the second volume of Volney's travels through Syria and Egypt.]

SHAIK Daher, who in our time, has given so much trouble to the Porte, was an Arabian by birth, descended from one of those tribes of Bedouins who usually encamp on the banks of the Jordan, and the environs of Lake Tabaria, (the ancient Tiberias). His enemies are fond of reminding us that in his youth he was a camel driver; but this circumstance, which does honour to his abilities, by suggesting the difficulties he must have encountered in his rise, has besides in this country nothing incompatible with a distinguished birth; it is now, and always will be, usual with the Arab princes, to employ themselves in occupations which appear to us mean. Thus I have already observed that the Shaiks themselves guide their camels, and look after their horses, while their wives and daughters grind the corn, bake the bread, wash the linen, and fetch water, as in the times of Abraham, and Homer; and this simple and laborious life, possibly, contributes more to happiness than that listless inactivity, and satiating luxury which surround the great in polished nations. As for Daher, it is certain that he was of one of the most powerful families of the country. After the death of his father Omar, about the beginning of the present century, he divided the government with his uncle and two brothers. His domain was Safad, a small town and strong hold in the mountains, to the north-west of the lake of Tabaria, to which he shortly after added Tabaria itself. There Pocock found him in 1737, occupied in fortifying himself against the Pacha of Damascus, who, not long before, had strangled one of his brothers. In 1742, another

Pacha, named Soliman-el-adm, besieged him there, and bombarded the place, to the great astonishment of all Syria, where bombs are but little known, even at present. In spite of his courage, Daher was reduced to the last extremity; when a fortunate, and, it is alledged, premeditated incident, relieved him from his embarrassment. A violent and sudden cholick carried off Soliman in two days. Asaf-el-adm, his brother and successor, wanted either the same motives, or the same inclinations, to continue the war, and Daher was unmolested, on the part of the Ottomans. But his activity, and the intrigues of his neighbours, soon gave him other employment. Reasons of interest embroiled him with his uncle and brother, recourse was had to arms more than once, and Daher, always victorious, thought it best to conclude these disputes by the death of his competitors.

Invested then with the whole power of his family, and absolute master of its force, new prospects opened to his ambition. The commerce in which he engaged, according to the custom of all the Asiatic princes and governors, made him sensible of the advantage of immediate communication with the sea. He conceived that a port in his hands would become a public market; to which strangers resorting, a competition would arise favourable to the sale of his commodities. Acre, situated in his neighbourhood, and under his eye, was suited to his designs, since for several years he had transacted business there with the French factors. This town was in reality but a heap of ruins, a miserable open village without defence. The Pacha of Saïde maintained there an Aga, and a few soldiers who dared not shew themselves in the field; while the Bedouins really governed, and were masters of all the country, up to its very gates. The plain, so fertile in former times, was nothing but an extensive waste, on which the waters stagnated, and infected the environs by their vapours. The ancient harbour was choked up, but the road of Haifa, which is dependant on it, was so advantageously situated, that Daher determined to gain possession of it. A pretext was necessary, which was soon furnished by the conduct of the Aga.

One day, while some warlike stores, intended to be employed against the Shaik, were landing, Daher marched briskly towards Acre, sent a menacing letter to the Aga, which made him take to flight, and entered the town, where he established himself without resistance: This happened about the year 1749. He was then sixty three years old. This age seems rather