

to the members of the community. In the performance of their worship, the Copts neither sit, kneel, nor stand upright; but remain upon their feet, with their bodies bent forward, and support themselves on a kind of crutch. The priest celebrates mass with water, and consecrates common bread, which he cuts in pieces, and mixes with water. This makes a kind of soup, of which he eats a few spoonfuls, and then administers the remainder to such of his brethren or attendants as are present. The sacred vases are only a kind of glass plates, similar to those used at a European dessert. After the communion, the officiating priest washes his hands, and places himself at the door of the chancel, whither every person of the congregation walks in procession, to present his face to be stroked or sprinkled with the holy water. Some little half-baked loaves are then distributed, though not without much altercation, and the service concludes. The person who officiates at the altar in celebrating mass, is arrayed in a sort of white shirt, covered with crosses, and made with a cowl; but, during the other prayers, he only wears a large fillet of white linen, twisted round his head, in manner of a turban, and adorned with similar little crosses.

"These Copts," says our author, "are fond of a rapid succession of rites and ceremonies, and are continually in motion during the time of service. The officiating monk, especially, is every moment employed in scattering incense over the saints, books, and pictures, kissing his left hand, or applying his hand to the forehead of every person present. When all his rounds are finished, he gives his benediction, bearing in his hand a small cross and lighted taper, and each individ-

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