

And whispered comfort for each ill,
 And prayed to Him above,
 That he would deign to spare me still,
 To bless a Mother's Love!

And yet my father's second choice
 In nothing can offend,
 And I would willingly rejoice
 To know her as a friend;
 But when she pleads a dearer claim,
 The mockery I prove,
 And, shrinking from a Mother's name,
 Sigh for a Mother's Love!

MISCELLANEOUS.

Hospitality and Politeness of Chouder Aga, the Governor of Hilla, a Turkish Town on the Euphrates.

[From Dr. Hawkesworth's account of the late discoveries made in the Southern Hemisphere.]

A little before four o'clock we got up pretty near to the governor of Hilla's palace situated in that part of the town which stands on the left or south side of the river. Our sandals carrying so guns, we could only salute with five bounces; their report however was equal to that of a four pounder. We were surrounded by a very numerous company of people, of boys especially, even the women, who came down to the river with their pitchers for water, satisfied their curiosity by looking at us; most of them had their faces half covered, many were comely, and of a pretty good complexion. The men in general were well made, some are white, but most of them tawny. We had been but a very little while near the shore, before one of the governor's officers came to bid us welcome; he sat with us on a stool by the side of the river, and took care the crowd should not press upon us. In the mean time we sent by Mr. Hemet, and our man Vertan, Mr. Shaw's letter, and another from Aly Aga; they soon returned with the governor's compliments, and an invitation for us to repair to the seraglio; an officer with a silver battoon, and high cap, came also to conduct us.

Notwithstanding it was the fast of the Ramazan and before sunset, we found the governor, Chouder Aga, seated on a carpet in his porch, at the entrance of his palace, ready to receive us; (he was about forty years old, and of the genteel department) he had us heartily welcome, thrice told us we should do him honour by taking up our abode at his house, expressed his unfeigned sorrow at the fatigues and difficulties we had passed through, of which he said he had been informed three days ago; hoped we should rest well under his roof, and recover our lost strength and that we might depend on every assistance in his power. At our first coming in, he obliged us immediately to seat ourselves on the side of the porch, opposite to him, where he had placed a carpet and cushions. The rules of the fast were still farther dispensed with, for coffee was brought to us, as soon as we were seated. In the course of the interview, he said, as every people had their different manners, and he could not but be a stranger to our's, he must desire the favour, of us, while we continued with him, to pursue our own inclinations in all things, especially in what respected refreshments; he should therefore be glad if we would trouble ourselves to direct his domestics what sort of repast they should provide for our supper. We replied in his civilities but begged we might be admitted to be served only with a plate of what was the

usual provisions of his family: upon his repeating his wishes, we answered, "nothing could be more acceptable than a common *Pilaw*," (boiled fowl and rice). We begged indeed the favour of being accommodated with a warm bagnio, which he immediately ordered to be got ready and directed his attendants to be there in waiting with *sherbel*, &c. but before we went to the bath, he ordered his people to show us the apartments that were provided for us above stairs. We then took our leave, each paying the other the most obliging compliments they could think of; but the Turk was very much our superior in this sort of conversation.

Our rooms were the best in the palace, lofty with painted walls, and gothic arched roofs. We were accompanied to and from the bagnio, by an officer carrying a silver-headed staff. At our return to the seraglio, we found six or eight dishes placed upon our own table, with our stools set round it; and though the whole was dressed after the Turkish manner, it was by no means disagreeable to an English palate. An intimation was also given to us, that the governor made it his particular request, that in regard to our liquors, we would be quite free and untrammelled. This was carrying his complaisance to a great height, considering how very strict the regular Turks are on this article: we doubted at first, whether we should send for wine, but the governor having interrogated our domestics, and learned our common practice, repeated his request by a message sent on purpose.

Chouder Aga, whilst we were at supper, sat on a terrace at some distance with several principal officers: his treasurer accompanied us the whole evening, who eat, and would have drank wine with us also (as he whispered to our interpreter) had he not been surrounded by many observers, who were assembled to remark our customs. At this repast, both before and after supper, we were careful to say grace; the Turks thought it a very odd custom, I believe, for they talked to one another about it a good deal. We sat without hats while at our meal, and the treasurer, who seemed to have some drollery, after we became a little familiar with one another, pulled off his turban and sat uncovered too; this afforded great merriment to the spectators, and they all seemed greatly pleased with our manner of eating, so different from their own, for they never make use of knives and forks, chairs or tables. Soon after the cloth was taken away, a messenger came for the treasurer; he went, but presently returned with the governor's respects and a message, importing, that "as it was his real wish, we should be gay, and use his house as our own, and as it was probable his presence might be a restraint upon us; he therefore had taken the liberty (begging our pardon at the same time) to withdraw himself to the *Mufti's*, merely to convince us, that what he had said about our being free and unrestrained, proceeded from the very bottom of his heart, and he flattered himself, that we would display our belief of his sincerity, by our actions." Upon receiving this message, the bottle passed about very briskly; the governor's health was drank and a chorus song was sung. Among the lookers on, were two young gentlemen, son and nephew to the governor:

We had before this time, given in by an *Aga*, an inventory of such things as were necessary for our journey to Bagdad; and the treasurer at his

taking leave this evening, told us, that our beasts, provisions, guards, &c. should be ready for us as soon as possible in the morning; for though the governor had given us the most pressing invitation to spend a few days with him, yet we excused ourselves upon account of the hurry we were in, and the necessity there was for our getting forward.

It was five in the afternoon before our beasts were loaded, and we ready to begin our journey. We had very handsome provisions made, both for our breakfast and dinner; and, in the morning on the supposition we should have gone earlier than we did, the governor again broke in on the rules of the fast, and seated himself in his porch, with a design of giving us an opportunity of taking our leave. Our whole party attended him, except myself who was greatly indisposed; but I afterwards learnt from them, that they were as much outdone in hyperbole of compliment at this second, as we all had been at our first interview. The whole of our host's behaviour was such, as greatly to prejudice us in his favour, and we wanted only a proper present to send him, as a grateful acknowledgement for his favours. We could not offer him money, consistent with the instructions Mr. Shaw had given us, and of every thing else that was valuable we had stripped ourselves at Kerec. At last our good friend Mr. Hemet spared us a white *Shawl*, made of fine goats hair from Carmania, and worn much in habits by the Turks of fashion: its value was about sixteen zechins, or eight guineas: this, with an handsome apology, was sent by one of his domestics, who soon returned with his master's compliments, and "That he hoped we were convinced, the trifling services which he had done us, proceeded altogether from the respect he had for our characters, and from his friendship to Mr. Shaw: these were his only motives, for endeavouring to become useful to us in our long and wearisome journey: that he had done nothing with an interested view, and he flattered himself we would do him the justice to believe it; that the present which we had been so kind as to make him, with such an obliging apology, was the more acceptable to him, as it was greatly expressive of our satisfaction in his conduct: that he made not the least difficulty therefore in accepting of, and was infinitely obliged to us for it." Such was the complaisant and polite behaviour of this Turkish governor, which, to say the least, did honour not only to himself, but to his country.

OLD EDWARD.

From the French.

Old Edward had suffered much trouble, and at last lost his senses. He was quite harmless, but used a walk about the streets oddly dressed, with five or six hats on head, and by his behaviour showed that he was quite silly. While thus wandering about, the people in general pitied him; but there were some wicked children who used to hoot after him, and call him names; he would bear this for a long time patiently; but sometimes when his persecutors teased him more than usual, he would at last turn round and throw stones at them or any thing else he could find.

One day, old Edward passed by Mr. Wilson's house, and as this gentleman opened the window to see what caused the noise, to his great surprise and sorrow, he perceived his son Henry active in the crowd of boys who followed and insulted the poor man.

In the evening, Mr. Wilson said to his son, "Who was that old man I saw you following and hooting after to-day?"

Henry. Surly, father, you must know him; it was old Edward; he is out of his mind.