

The Saturday Evening Visitor ;

A Cheap Family Paper,

DEVOTED TO TEMPERANCE, EDUCATION, MORALITY, &c. &c

VOL. I.

SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 12, 1842.

NO. 8.

TO THE GENTIANELLA.

BY MISS DEALE.

Oh ! would my breast were like to thine,
Thou dark and lovely flower ;
Open when'er the sun doth shine,
But closed against the shower ;
Gladly receiving all that's bright,
Refusing all that's ill ;
Conscious of tempest and of blight,
But pure and shielded still.

As thou dost ope thy dark blue eye
The mid-day sun to greet,
And gazest deeply on the sky
Until his beams retreat,
So should our inward eye unclose
To every blessing given,
Nor careless sink into repose,
Whilst all is bright in heaven,
So should our inmost hearts unfold
To mercies from on high,
Nor o'er be closed, or dead, or cold,
To sun-like charity.

But wherefore slowly droops thy head ?
Why bends thy stem, sweet flower ?
Are the dark leaves, so late outspread,
To wither in an hour ?
The tempest broods—how keen thy sense !
Each leaf is folded fast,
And thou hast made thy self-defence
Against the sweeping blast.
Harmless the winds have passed thee by,
The rain-drops find no rest ;
Lightly they fall, as tear or sigh,
Upon thy guarded breast.

Thus should the world's keen, biting breath,
And changing atmosphere—
Its poisoned winds that tell of death—
Its blights that fall to sere—
Find the heart guarded well, and steel'd,
Their harsh assaults to bear—
Enclosed in virtue for a shield,
And firmly girt with prayer.

latted window. As we increased our distance the obstacle to the gratification of curiosity was thrown open, and the heads of these Rebeccas were brought full in view, no doubt with the intention of preventing disappointment to themselves as well as to us. Their beauty is remarkable, and their eastern costume, of a gay character, set them off to admiration. The burying ground, at a short distance from the gate, is prettily situated. The synagogue was small ; the women sit apart from the men, in a gallery with a very efficient grating in front of it ; the building was hung with lamps, and the rabbi showed us several old copies of their Testament, which commences with the book of Joshua. Near it is a ruined mausoleum of one of the daughters of a Khan. The sides of this mountain, and several others in the neighbourhood, are so scarped that they might, with very little trouble, be made impregnable.

As usual, it was late before we reached our station for the night, and our arrival was soon made known to the inhabitants of the village by the loud barking and yelling of their dogs ; and every house is provided with at least half-a-dozen, but the wattled fences that surround them being high kept them at a distance. The corporal soon found the Bashi, and the ladies having been allowed time to retire into an inner room, we were shown into the one they had left. A divan, covered with coarse cotton, ran round the apartment, and the fire-place, in the centre of the side near the door, was large enough to admit six or eight persons within the chimney. Of course, there were no tables or chairs ; a low wooden stool or plateau on three legs, as in Turkey, being used for meals. One of them, covered with kalmack (thick cream, which made an excellent substitute for butter), fresh milk, and eggs, was quickly placed before us. Supper being dispatched, we stretched ourselves on the divan, and were soon blowing a cloud from our chibouques. Our host appeared rather astonished at being remunerated in the morning, and said that the generality of his visitors were always on duty ; adding, " Our conquerors, Sir, have left us very poor."

PUBLIC WALKS.

The boulevards on a Saturday—when the Christian population courteously make way for the Jews—yield a glittering but somewhat tawdry sample of fine life on the promenade :—

The scene on the Boulevard on a Saturday evening is peculiarly striking. It is then thronged by the Jewish population, and there seems to be a tacit agreement among the Christians to abandon it to them ; very few individuals, not of their race, are to be seen there on that night, certainly too few to break the effect of the uniformity of their sombre costume. The men are dressed in a long wrapper which reaches very nearly to the ground, occasionally grey, mostly black ; new, or ragged and rusty, as may suit the purse or the habits of the wearer. Though generally of woollen, they are sometimes of silk, and the exquisites, for there are a few, have them of satin ; under this is a pair of black

Notes of a Half-Pay Officer in search of Health, in Russia, Circassia, and the Crimea, in 1839-40. By Captain Jesse.

ODESSA.

Here is a specimen—a town, and the interior of a Tartar case. The former is called Tehoufourt Kale, and is chiefly inhabited by Karaite Jews :—

As we rode through the streets of this almost uninhabited town, bright eyes were occasionally seen peeping from a