

of the affair? I did not like to render the ignorance, simplicity, and credulity of the Turk apparent. I told him that it formed a part of the character of all savages to be great Necromancers; but that I had never before heard of any so great as those he had done me the honour to describe; that it had rendered me the more anxious to be on my voyage, and if I passed among them, I would, in the letter I promised to write to him, give him a more particular account of them than he had hitherto had. He asked me how I could travel without the language of the people where I should pass? I told him with vocabularies: I might as well have read to him a page of Newton's Principia. He returned to his fables again. Is it not curious, that the Egyptians (for I speak of the natives of the country as well as of him when I make the observation) are still such dupes to the art of sorcery? Was it the same people who built the Pyramids?

'I can't understand that the Turks have a better opinion of our mental powers than we have of theirs; but they say of us that we are *a people who carry our minds in our finger ends*: meaning that we put them in exercise constantly, and render them subservient to all manner of purposes, and with celerity, dispatch and ease do what we do.

'I suspect the Copts to have been the origin of the negro race: The nose and lips correspond with those of the negro. The hair, whenever I can see it among the people here (the Copts) is curled: not close like the negroes, but like the mulattoes. I observe a greater variety of colour among the human species here, than in any other country not possessing a greater degree of civilization.

'I have seen an Abyssinian woman, and a Bengal man; the colour is the same in both; so are their features and persons.

'I have seen a small mummy: it has what I call wampum work on it. It appears as common here as among the Tartars. Tatowing is as prevalent among the Arabs of this place, as among the South-sea islanders. It is a little curious, that the women here are more generally than in any other part of the world tattooed on the chin, with perpendicular lines descending from the under lip to the chin, like the women on the north-west coast of America. It is also a custom here, to stain the nails red, like the Chin Chinese and the northern Tartars. The mask of veil that the women here wear, resembles exactly that worn by the priests at Otaheite, and those seen at Sandwich islands.

'I have not yet seen the Arabs make use of a tool like our axe or hatchet; but

what they use for such purposes as our hatchet or axe, is in the form of an adze, and is a form we found most agreeable to the South-sea islanders. I see no instance of a tool formed designedly for the use of the right or left hand particularly, as the cotogon is among the Yorkertick Tartars.

'There is a remarkable affinity between the Russian and the Greek dress. The fillet round the temples of the Greek and Russian women, is a circumstance of dress that perhaps would strike nobody as it does me; and so of the wampum work too, which is also found among them both. They spin here with the distaff and spindle only, like the French peasantry and others in Europe; and the common Arab loom is upon our principle, though rude.

'I saw to-day (Aug. 10.) an Arab woman white, like the white Indians in the South-Sea islands, Isthmus of Darien, &c. These kind of people, all look alike.

'Among the Greek women here, I find the incidental Archangel head dress.

'Their music is instrumental, consisting of a drum and pipe; both which resemble those two instruments in the South seas: the drum is exactly like the Otaheite drum; the pipe is made of cane, and consists of a long and short tube joined; the music resembles very much the bagpipe, and is pleasant. All their music is concluded, if not accompanied, by the clapping of hands. I think it singular, that the women here make a noise with their mouths like frogs, and that this frog music is always made at weddings, and I believe on all other occasions of merriment where there are women.

'It is also remarkable, that in one village I saw exactly the same machines used for diversion as in Russia. I forgot the Russian name for it. It is a large kind of wheel, on the extremities of which there are suspended seats, in which people are whirled round over and under each other.

'The women dress their hair behind exactly in the same manner in which the Calmuck Tartars dress theirs.

'In the history of the kingdom of Benin and Guinea, the chiefs are called Aree Roco, or street kings. Among the islands in the South sea, Otaheite, &c. they call the chiefs Arees, and the great chiefs Aree le hoi: I think this curious; and so I do, that it is a custom of the Arabs to spread a blanket when they would invite any one to eat or rest with them. American Indians spread the beaver skins on such occasions.

'It is singular, that the Arab language has no word for liberty, although it has for slaves.