

EXCURSIONS
IN
THE MEDITERRANEAN.

ALGIERS AND TUNIS.

BY
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navibus atque
Quadrigis petimus bene vivere :
HOR. EP.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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DIVO.

ANTONINO.

CAESAR.

COLONIA.

AELIA.

AVG. LABES.

At Alarbus we find many ruins, but all of the lower empire, and built with the component parts of a more ancient town. Several inscriptions are also seen. (See Appendix, Nos. 149 to 156.) One of the buildings is a large church, containing many fine columns of granite, and brescia corollata, but many more have at different times been removed to Tunis.

Riding fifteen miles to the north-north-west, we arrived under the walls of El Kaf, after having crossed a range of hills, (in which is a very curious pass called Hunka el Akroob, leading through a perpendicular wall of rock,) and beyond that, an extensive and well-cultivated plain.

El Kaf, الكاف, is the ancient *Sicca Veneria*,

and stands on the western declivities of a rocky range of bold hills, which rising gradually towards the east, form a conspicuous feature in the landscape, and are seen from a great distance. This town is considered the next in rank after Tunis and El Keerwan, but it does not occupy above two-thirds of the space inclosed by its walls: these are kept in good repair, as is also the Kazbah, an extensive and strong fortress rising above the town. Kaf is considered the key of Tunis from the Algerine territory, and on that account Hammooda Basha took great pains, and expended large sums to render it as strong as possible. The citadel is built of stone, chiefly taken from ancient buildings, and mounts one hundred and thirty-two pieces of cannon, some of which are forty-two pounders, whilst others are curious from their antiquity and strange forms.

The garrison is composed of seventy Turks, two hundred Makazzeneahs, and seven hundred militia, or inhabitants of the town. The works might be commanded, but on the whole, they

are more than sufficiently strong to baffle all the attempts that the Algerines might make to possess themselves of them. The walls are provided with sentry-boxes, a luxury I had never before seen in Moslem countries; but as usual, the sentries themselves were dispensed with. The view from the Kazbah is very fine, embracing a great extent of country, which is happily diversified with rich and sweeping plains, and with the bold forms of many mountains, among which I recognized the Kalaat Snaan, the Bou-el-hanash, and the Jebel Slatah, جبل صلاطه. In winter, the mountain of Kaf is often covered with snow, which is preserved in wells for the use of the Bey, who has also other dépôts for it at Gorrah, and at Zaghwan. Kaf is a very ancient town; and some writers, namely, Selden and Vossius, derive the name of *Sicca Veneria* from the Assyrian deity, Succoth-Benoth, thus mentioned in the second book of Kings. "Howbeit, every nation made gods of their own, and put them in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made,

every nation in the cities wherein they dwelt. And the men of Babylon made Succoth-Benoth, and the men of Cuth made Nergal, and the men of Hamath made Ashima." Succoth-Benoth was the Assyrian Venus, mentioned by Herodotus and Strabo.

The town contains several remains of antiquity, but none in much preservation. Forming part of the wall of a house is seen the gate of a temple dedicated to Hercules, as we find by this inscription:—

HERCVLE. SACRVM.
M TVTICIVS. PROCVLVS. PROCVRATOR. AVGVSTI.
SVA. PECVNIA. FECIT.

In different parts of the town are many other inscriptions, chiefly sepulchral; one of which contains the ancient name of the place. (See Appendix, Nos. 158 to 175.) Over a spring of most excellent water are seen portions of the edifice which covered it—resembling those at Ghafsah. There are also extant parts of two palaces with baths, &c. one near the marabet

Sidi Ellalaj, and the other not far from the Bey's house, as well as some arches, half domes, walls, cisterns, &c. most of which are still in a good state. At the former one are the following fragments of inscriptions :

.. TO. PORTICVM. AR . | E. TEMPORVM. D . .
 ... EAEFR | . . VDIN . . .

There is also part of a paved street with *trottoirs* like those at Pompeii, as well as a variety of capitals, columns, friezes, &c.

The Kaeed was absent, but his deputy received us with the greatest kindness and hospitality ; gave us excellent dinners and suppers, and beds of the richest Lyons silks, and he moreover seemed quite disinterested and to expect no return ; for on my giving him some English powder, his gratitude was strongly expressed. Having told me that he suffered very much from lumbago, I advised him to take a bath and then to rub in some opodeldoc I gave him for the purpose ; from this simple remedy he derived the greatest benefit, and his joy was so unbound-

ed, that he entreated me very much to remain at Kaf.—The best, and, in fact, the only medicines necessary to take with one in travelling through these countries, are salts, quinine, opodeldoc, and extract of golard—the two latter in sufficient quantities to serve also for the horses; to these should be added rags, lint, and a lancet.

The Vice-Kaeed of this place related to me his history, which was very interesting. He is at present one of the richest men in the whole Beylek, but his *début* in life was made from the lowest step of the ladder. It appears that the whole property he inherited from his father, consisted of two donkeys; these he drove out every morning to the mountains, where he cut wood, and brought them back loaded with it in the evening; the profit he derived from the sale of this was, as may be supposed, very trifling. One morning as he was passing by the marabet of a living saint, this holy personage rushed out upon him and belaboured him with a stick most severely; and whilst the poor boy was writhing on the ground half dead from the blows he had

received, the saint gave him a kick, telling him at the same time to go to a certain place and dig there: he did so, and soon found a jar containing two thousand mahboobs in gold; with these he traded so successfully, that in a short time he obtained great wealth, which was yet further increased by finding a considerable treasure in a house he was repairing.

The variety of little anecdotes with which he intermixed his recital amused us greatly. His head steward was a renegade Jew, whose sole occupation, or rather amusement, seemed to consist in abusing his former brethren: — “ You despicable offspring of a hell-burnt Jewish dog ! ” “ You blue-turbaned fuel of the devil’s fire ! ” and a variety of similar epithets were lavishly bestowed on the Jews who came to offer me different articles for sale.

The inhabitants of Kaf were exceedingly civil to us; and when it was known that I was searching after antiquities, they surrounded me in great numbers, telling me where *muktoob*, or inscriptions were to be seen; persons also

who had any within their houses, came out and invited me in. In one habitation I saw a very curious capital of a column in white marble; it represented four men, three of them in the full armour of a Roman or Carthaginian soldier, and the other one naked; the execution was very good, and formed a very tasteful piece of sculpture.

On the seventeenth I quitted Kaf, and, accompanied part of the way by our worthy host, pursued my course to the east, visiting by the way the remains of an ancient town, where are the vestiges of a gate, a bridge, and some private houses, as well as a few much damaged inscriptions. This place which is very picturesquely situated, is called at present Kanterah-el-Kadecm, قنطرة القديم, "the old bridge," and may perhaps be the ancient *Siguessa*. Leaving this, we crossed the Wady Khikh, وادي خلك; this stream rises near Zoowareen, and empties itself into the Majerdah, previous to which it takes the name of Wady Tissah, وادي تسة. In seven hours after leaving Kaf, we reached the

153.

IMP. CAES.
 M. AVRELIVS
 ANTONINVS PIVS
 MAX. AVGVSTVS
 ARTIFIC. MAX. ERIT.

154.

DIVI NERVAE NEPOS
 DIVI TRAIANI PARTHI
 NVS HADRIAN

155.

. . DEVM AVG . . .
 . . MAGNAE DEV . .

156.

LAETIT . .

At El Kaf.

157.

HERCVLE SACRVM
 M. TVTICIVS PROCVLVS PROCVRATOR AVGVSTI
 SVA PECVNIA FECIT

158.

VICTORI
 CENTVRIONI
 LEGIONARIO
 EX EQVITE ROMANO
 OB MVNIFICENTAM
 ORDO SICCENSIVM
 CIVI ET
 CONDECVRIONI
 DD. PP.

159.

.....
 FAVSTINVS SATVRNINVS
 OMALIB HONORIB FVNCTVS
 IVSTO VIRO OB NOSTIS
 MAM OMNIBVS IN SE BONI -
 TATEMQVA IMP PERPET.
 VM EST RESERVAT

160.

D. M. S.
 IVLIO CNEIO . . .
 NO . . . OMANOQVE
 .. RNIO VIXIT ANNIS
 XVII . . . FORTVNIA
 TVS SARMORTA
 NVS SVBERNIVS
 .. NOM VII SAT
 VRNINA PARENTES
 LOCVS DATVS A
 . . . NVARIO
 PARENTES . . .

161.

D. M. S.
 AVATIA
 VICTOR
 IA OVIT
 MONNA
 VOCITAE
 VIX . ANNIS. XX .

162.

D . M . S
 . CLONVSII
 PIRA PIVS VIX
 IT ANNIS

163.

D . M . S .
 C . IVLIVS SA
 TVRNINVS
 VIX . AN . IIII

164.

AQVILTAE SEX FIL SALVIANILLAE
 AOR . . . VRIN . . . IAVILLIQVA
 . . . ORATI
 . . . ATICA . . AVRINATIO
 . . . VIO . . AFII POMP
 . . O AVINIO . . VA
 Q IVIR DRAIONI R
 . . . CII . . . O PARVI

165.

IVLIA L. F.
 LVPVLA
 VIX . ANNIS
 IIII . H . S . E.

166.

D . M . S .
 L. MVNATIVS TES
 SIANVS PI
 VS VIXIT AN
 NIS . LXXXXVII
 H . S . D .

167.

D . M . S .
 CERVCIUS SERV
 SABINIANVS
 QVI VIXIT ANNIS
 XVI
 H . S . E .

169.

MELAVIO
 MESABARRO
 VETVR . . BVE
 OC OCO
 PRO . . . ERI

171.

D . M . S .
 NEMONIA
 QVINTINA
 VIX . ANNIS
 LXXXXV.
 H . S . E

168.

D . M . S .
 L . IVLIVS M . F
 QVITORVI
 NVS MARI
 ANVS VIX
 ANN. XXV.
 H . S . E

170.

D . M . S .
 TAVIANI
 . . . MIS
 . . OR FILI
 . . S VIXIT
 ANNIS
 XXI . M . VI.
 H . S . E

172.

PORTAE NOVAE
 SACRVM EX VISV
 . . . S . . MIN
 FECIT

173.

MVCIA
VICTO
RIA . . .
.....

174.

. . . N AERE DVCI AVG . . .

175.

. . TO PORTICVM AR . .
. . E TEMPORUM D . .
. . EAEFR . .
. . VDIN . .

On the Mausoleum at Hanoot el Hajam.

176.

D . M . S.

M . CORNELIVS RVFVS VIXIT AN . . LV .

At Sidi Abd-er-rubbu.

177.

. . . A CVMQV . . .
. . VAE PROMISEBAT . .
. . TIONEM MVSTITANIS . .
. . DEDICAVIT DATIS . .
. . SIS PO . . ARIBVS . .

178.

. . . O CORPIT ET . .
. . GYMNASIO VNIV . .