

On the 17th, orders were received at Buyukdere to embark the whole of the detachment on the following Sunday for the Dardanelles.

On the 19th, in the evening, we had a storm of thunder and lightning, attended by occasional showers.

On the 21st, in the morning, I left Buyukdere with the detachment, which was, without loss of time, embarked on board the transport.

The wind being foul, so as to detain the transport in the harbour, I had sufficient leisure, during the two succeeding days, to visit all my friends and connections, and to take leave.

## CHAPTER V.

DEPARTURE FROM CONSTANTINOPLE—VOYAGE TO CHENNECALLY—SESTOS AND ABYDOS—TOWER OF LEANDER—ARRIVAL AT CHENNECALLY JOIN THE CAPITAN PACHA'S FLEET—VISIT OF THE OFFICERS ON BOARD THE SULTAN SELIM—CHARACTER OF THE CAPITAN PACHA—PRESENT STATE OF THE TURKISH MARINE—DISHONESTY OF A TURKISH MARINE—VISIT TO THE ANCIENT SIGÆAN—RECOVERY OF SOME CURIOUS REMAINS OF ANTIQUITY—DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAIN OF TROY, AND THE TOMBS OF ACHILLES, PATROCLUS, AND AJAX—MOUNT IDA—DESCRIPTION OF CHENNECALLY—CASTLES OF THE DARDANELLES—ABYDOS—DECAPITATION OF A TURKISH ADMIRAL—DARDANIA—ORDERS RECEIVED TO RETURN TO CONSTANTINOPLE—ARRIVAL THERE.

ON the 23d, the wind having become fair, we sailed from the harbour of Constantinople. In passing the Seraglio-point, we fired a royal salute, and came to anchor in the evening off Selyvrie, a little beyond Buyukcheckmegi, the pilot being apprehensive that we should otherwise reach the narrows before day-light, and that the safety of the vessel would thus be endangered. Early the next morning we weighed anchor, and steered towards our destination. During the three following days we were becalmed between the islands of Marmora and Gallipoli. In this interval a gunner belonging to the detachment fell a victim to a dysenteric complaint.

On the 28th we anchored in the Dardanelles, opposite Mito, in the bay of Nagara. We were close in with the Asiatic shore, within half a mile of the ancient city of Abydos, and about two miles dif-

tant from the castles of Chennecally, to which we were bound. The station we had taken up was truly classical, being very near the spot where Leander, if the poets may be credited, swam across the Hellespont to Sestos, to procure an interview with his beloved Hero. On the ancient medals of his native city Abydos, he is seen in the act of swimming, and endeavouring to reach the tower, on which, in commemoration of this event, Hero afterwards placed a torch. The vestiges of what is said to have been the tower, which in later times was employed as a light-house, are to be seen standing on a rock at the sea side.

About two hours after we had dropped our anchor, the ship drove, and we were in danger of being carried over to the opposite shore. To prevent this we were under the necessity of cutting our cable, and of making sail. We anchored soon after within the Capitan Pacha's fleet, and about two miles below the town of Chennecally.

On our coming to anchor, we saluted the Capitan Pacha with seventeen guns. Our salute having been returned, he came alongside the transport in a very beautiful barge, manned by a considerable number of rowers, and invited General Kochler on board his ship. The invitation was accepted; and in the interview which took place it was settled that on the following day all the officers belonging to the mission should be presented to the Capitan Pacha.

In the morning of the 29th, the general and officers went on board the flag-ship, the Sultan Selim, of one hundred and thirty guns. They were there presented to the Capitan Pacha, by whom they were received with the utmost attention and politeness; they were then entertained with pipes, coffee, and a variety of refresh-

ments, and were treated, in addition to the usual ceremony, with tea à l'Anglaise, out of an elegant and superb tea equipage. The Capitan Pacha did them the honour to accompany them to every part of his ship, which they inspected minutely, and ordered his crew to go through the exercise of the middle deck guns. This was done by the word of command, and the manœuvres executed with the greatest precision and regularity. On his being complimented on the excellent order and good discipline observed on board his ship, he handsomely declared, that all the merit was due to Captain Samuel Hood, of the Saturn, who commanded the station off Alexandria, previously to the arrival of Sir Sydney Smith. On many subsequent occasions he has expressed his obligations to that very meritorious and intelligent officer, for the essential improvements which, through him, he has been enabled to introduce into his fleet.

Kuchuk Hussein, the present Capitan Pacha, or High Admiral, was originally a Georgian slave, and being a great favourite of the Sultan, with whom he spent his childish years, was elevated to his present office and dignity without having served in any subordinate station in the Turkish marine, in the amelioration of which, however, he has displayed great zeal and ability.

It may be recollected, that at the end of the contest between the Russians and Turks, the marine of the latter was in a very wretched condition. Kuchuk Hussein has since exerted himself, and not wholly without effect, to place it on a more respectable footing. Being divested of the prejudices by which the Turks in general are so powerfully actuated, he has, in concert with the Grand Seigneur, introduced every innovation which could lead to improvement, and



*The Capitan Pachi  
in his dress worn on public Occasions*

*Pub. Monthly and by W. P. ...*

profited by every information he could collect relative to the more advanced state of naval science in the great maritime states of Europe.

In Plate III. is to be seen a portrait of a Capitan Pacha, one of his predecessors, habited in the robes of ceremony in which he appears on all public occasions.

It is somewhat singular that, notwithstanding the Grand Signor possesses more ports and havens than any other European power, and is master of the Black Sea, the coasts of which supply him with materials for the construction of his ships of war, and although his capital is established on one of the finest harbours in the universe, still his navy has for a series of years made but a very insignificant figure in the history of maritime nations. There was a time, indeed, when it vied with the navies of Spain, of Venice, and of several other powers, then deemed of considerable importance by sea; but it has not kept pace with the progressive improvements other countries have made. Under the present Capitan Pacha it is now assuming a much more promising aspect. In addition to the more advantageous system of naval tactics he is gradually introducing, several experienced ship-builders from England, France, and Sweden, have been invited to the Turkish dock-yards, where they have recently built several fine ships of the line, together with frigates and smaller vessels. Thus, was there not a probability that other causes may operate to the decline of the empire, there would be a prospect that the Ottoman navy might be raised to that respectability to which it seems naturally entitled; for it should be recollected that the Grand Signor is the sovereign of those nations, by whom the first

rudiments of maritime knowledge were taught, namely, the Phenicians, the Rhodians, the Greeks inhabiting the coasts of the Archipelago, the Cretans, &c. nations from their local situation destined, it should seem, to the science and practice of navigation.

*Levanti* is the term which the Turks apply to the seamen of their own nation, as well as to all the foreigners employed in their marine. It would appear that it is a corruption of the Italian language, being applied by the Italians themselves to the inhabitants of the coasts of Greece, and of the Archipelago, whence the greater part of these seamen are procured. They are in general a very unprincipled and turbulent set of men, as was more particularly manifested in Constantinople, and in the suburbs of Pera and Galata, a few days before the sailing of the Capitan Pacha's fleet.

To return to my narrative. On the 31st the officers and detachments landed for the purpose of putting into execution the different plans which had been laid before the Grand Seignor, and approved by him; and he had given the necessary authority to have them carried into the fullest effect.

On the 2d of November, the Phaeton frigate, Captain Morris, arrived in the Dardanelles, having on board his Excellency the Earl of Elgin, his Britannic Majesty's ambassador to the Sublime Porte, with his lady and suite. The general and all the officers of the mission immediately went on board to pay their respects to his Lordship, and compliment him on his arrival. The Phaeton saluted the Capitan Pacha with nineteen guns, which were returned by an equal number. His Excellency, together with Lady Elgin, Captain Morris, and the principal persons of the suite, paid a visit to the

Capitan Pacha on board the Sultan Selim. They were saluted on their way by both the ships; and accepted of the Capitan Pacha's invitation to partake of a Turkish supper.

On the morning of the 3d, the Phaeton frigate, with the above-mentioned persons on board, sailed for Constantinople.

On the 5th, a serjeant belonging to the military artificers, in preparing money for the payment of the detachment, in the presence of a well dressed galangis, or Turkish marine, quitted the room for a moment, and left the money lying on the table. On his return, the galangis had disappeared with an hundred and twenty piastres.\* This circumstance having been made known, and the person of the delinquent described to the Capitan Pacha, the galangis, from a conviction that the inquiry which the Pacha had instituted would inevitably lead to his discovery, came on the second evening after to the general's house, and confessed the robbery. The general, with great humanity, yielded to his solicitation, to endeavour, by a timely interference, to save his life, and applied to the Pacha in his favour. Several days elapsed before this affair was brought to the conclusion which the general wished. During that interval, from his anxiety to prevent the unfortunate culprit from being strangled, he had expressed some doubts relative to the identity of his person. In reply to this, the Pacha very handsomely, and without hesitation, declared his full conviction that the galangis in question had taken the money, as he was certain that an Englishman would not tell an untruth.

On the 7th, at eight in the morning, I accompanied the general and officers to Koum Kali, which we reached between ten and eleven

\* A piastre is equal to about one shilling and sixpence English.



o'clock. We there paid our respects to the Bey, Adam Oglu, governor of the four fortresses, and of the district of the Dardanelles. He gave us a very civil reception, and supplied us with horses to proceed to the village of Giawr-keuy, or Janizari Cape, built on the site of the ancient Sigæum, and standing on an eminence which commands the plain of Troy. The purport of our journey thither was to procure a very curious bas-relief, and the celebrated Sigæan inscription, for Lord Elgin, who had seen them, and was desirous to transmit them to England. To accomplish this, a firman was procured from the Capitan Pacha, who also furnished a chaous to be the bearer of it. We were not long in coming at these valuable antiquities, which we found at the entrance of a small Greek chapel. The Greeks, by whom the village was exclusively inhabited, were extremely averse to their being taken away. Their reluctance, we were told, arose from a superstitious opinion they entertained, that by touching these stones agues were cured. We were, however, more fortunate on this occasion than the Count de Choiseul Gouffier was some years before, in his attempt to remove the marble containing the Sigæan inscription. He failed, notwithstanding the firmans of Hassan Pacha, who had aided him with all his influence over the Greeks: but our chaous, with the Capitan Pacha's firman, effected his purpose. The block of marble on which the Sigæan inscription, so frequently mentioned by antiquarians, is cut, constituted originally the pillar of an hermetic column. The words of the inscription itself are alternately written backwards and forwards, a peculiarity which denotes it to be of the highest antiquity. On the bas-relief we found five figures very finely sculptured, but the heads of which, with one exception only, were unfortunately

broken off. As this curious remnant of antiquity has, as well as the Sigæan inscription, been since conveyed to England, any further details relative to it would be superfluous.

We next visited the tumuli, or barrows, which tradition has described as the tombs of Achilles and Patroclus. At some distance from them we saw another barrow, which is styled the tomb of Ajax.

The plain of Troy, over which we rode, is of very considerable extent, being about twelve miles in length, and from five to six in breadth. It is fertile, and in a good state of cultivation. A great part of the land is laid out in pasturage, on which numerous herds of cattle browse. The rivers Scamander and Simois run meandering through the plain; and near to their confluence stands the village of Bourna Bashi, on the site, as is supposed, of the ancient Ilium. At an inconsiderable distance from this village are to be seen the vestiges of an ancient temple dedicated to Apollo. Several other small villages are interspersed. The Scamander being at present but scantily supplied with water, a part of its bed affords herbage for cattle.

From Giawr-keuy we had a fine and distinct view of Mount Ida, and also of the tomb from whence Polites, the son of Priam, reconnoitred the forces of the Greeks. We were under the necessity of deferring till a more convenient opportunity our projected excursion to Alexandria Troas, or, as it is now styled by the Turks, Esca Stamboul. We slept in a house which the Bey had prepared for us.\*

\* For a more minute description of this highly celebrated spot, I refer the reader to the Remarks and Observations on the Plain of Troy, published in 1800, by Captain Franklin, in the service of the East India Company; wherein the author expresses himself thoroughly satisfied with the correctness of the poet Homer in his beautiful description of Troy.

On the 8th we paid an early visit to Adam Oglou, who accompanied us on our return to Chennecally, in compliance with an imperious message he had received from the Capitan Pacha to repair thither. On this occasion he was extremely dejected, and appeared to labour under strong apprehensions that his visit to the Capitan Pacha would be attended by very serious consequences. Indeed he did not scruple to confess as much to General Koehler, whom he solicited to interfere in his behalf. In this the general was successful, but not before the Bey had been exceedingly alarmed at the appearances which manifested themselves against him. He had previously declared to several of our gentlemen, that he had constantly at his command ten thousand fighting men, and that in the space of three days he could assemble an army of forty thousand. With so considerable a force in his hands, such is the system pursued in Turkey, and such the consequences to be apprehended from a menacing message received from a minister or other person high in authority, that Adam Oglou found himself placed in a very precarious and hazardous situation.

In the afternoon I made an excursion of several miles into the interior of the country. Chennecally is situated on the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles, in a flat territory, which extends for several miles, and is terminated by a lofty chain of mountains reaching from Mount Ida. On the east and south-west sides the town is surrounded by marshy grounds, which, being contiguous to it, must unquestionably subject the inhabitants to intermittents. On the eastern side there is a very fine grove of sycamore trees. About eighteen months before the date of this part of the narrative, the plague extended itself to Chennecally, and carried off daily from thirty to forty of the inhabitants.

It is said that the Dardanelles are never infested by that disease, unless when it rages with great and uncommon violence at Constantinople. A still more singular fact has also been stated, namely, that in the town of Mito, on the European side, and opposite to Abydos, the inhabitants are not susceptible of the plague; and that the infected persons, who have occasionally been brought thither by stealth, have all recovered.

The water in Chennecally being brackish, and of a taste disagreeable to the palate, the inhabitants are under the necessity of obtaining their supplies from the neighbouring fountains. The surrounding plain is in a tolerable state of culture, and abounds in vineyards, in addition to which there is some produce of cotton, hemp, and different kinds of grain. Camels and buffaloes are employed for agricultural and other purposes. The town is filthy in the extreme, the streets very narrow, and the houses, which indeed resemble almost all those that are to be met with in the Turkish towns and villages, wretchedly bad.

Game is in great plenty at Chennecally, as are also turkeys, geese, ducks, and fowls. The mutton is of a good quality; and there is a constant supply of excellent vegetables, as well as of fruits of every kind, when in season. We had not as yet been able to ascertain whether there was any public market for fish. The wine made at Chennecally is pleasant and cheap.

At this place there is a manufactory of earthen ware, and another for the preparation of the skins which are converted into the red, yellow, and black Turkey leather, held in such universal estimation. Near this place the Capitan Pacha brings his fleet to anchor once a

year, to collect, for the Turkish government, the annual tribute from the adjacent districts. He was expected to sail for Constantinople in the course of a few days.

The Dardanelles are principally defended by four castles, on which are mounted a considerable number of guns, many of them of an uncommonly large caliber, having, in some instances, a diameter of not less than thirty inches. In one of these guns a Turk was seen by our party, seated, and in the act of eating his meal. One of the castles is situated at Chennecally, and another on the opposite side of the straits at Kelletbahar. The other two are at the entrance of the Dardanelles, one at Settelbahar, on the European side, and the other at Koum Kali, on the Asiatic side.

At the time when Lieutenant-colonel Holloway and Major Hope were engaged in the survey of the castles and coast, a practice was made by the Turks from the great guns at Chennecally for the purpose of convincing the English officers that their large marble and granite balls, discharged *à ricochet*,\* would reach quite across the Dardanelles. They indeed furnished a melancholy proof of this; a family of three individuals, sitting in a field on the opposite side, having been killed by one of the shots.

On the 9th, in the morning, the officers and men belonging to the British military mission assembled on the esplanade, to receive the

\* In firing *à ricochet*, the piece is no more than half charged, inasmuch that it carries the ball to a certain distance only. In its fall, the latter skips, rolls, and makes rebounds (*ricochets*), as is the case with pebbles thrown in a horizontal direction on the surface of the water, in skimming which they produce what by boys are called *ducks and drakes*. This practice is employed to sweep and clear a covered way, a rampart, &c. and its invention is ascribed to the celebrated Vauban.

Capitan Pacha, who came thither in state to inspect the nature and situation of the proposed additional works, which had been traced out for that purpose. He was saluted by the men of war and castles, his Kia Bey, with a numerous retinue, attending on the beach.

The inspection having been gone through, and the necessary explanations made to him, the Pacha paid many compliments to the general and officers, and expressed his full and entire approbation of all that was proposed to be done. The works were accordingly commenced without loss of time.

On the 11th, much rain, accompanied with thunder and lightning, having fallen the preceding evening, and the storm having continued during the whole of the night, we experienced a very great and sudden change of weather. The wind had shifted to the north-east; and as we were without fires, we found the cold, which had come upon us thus unexpectedly, very unpleasant. In riding out this day, I examined the spot on which the ancient Abydos is said to have been situated, and found upon it scattered fragments of old bricks, stones, &c. which furnish an evident proof that it was the site of some ancient town. Near to this spot a late Capitan Pacha erected a kiosk ornamented by a fine fountain, and also a mosque. The kiosk being situated at the head of a bay, which, during the winter months, serves for the anchorage of the Turkish ships of war, is a favourite residence of the present Capitan Pacha.

On the morning of the 12th I rode to a Turkish village, distant from Chennecally about three miles. It was of the same description with the villages I have already noticed. The late heavy falls of rain had set the country people to work: while some of them were busied

in pruning their vines, others were employed in the fields in ploughing and in sowing their barley.

On the 15th the Capitan Pacha, who had moved his fleet to the bay of Nagara, near Abydos, promoted one of his captains to the rank of rear-admiral. We were given to understand that this promotion took place in consequence of a Turkish admiral having been decapitated for neglect of duty, in suffering Bonaparte to make his escape by sea from Egypt. The newly created admiral was saluted on the occasion by the ships of the Turkish squadron.

On the 18th I received a visit from Dr. Rhazi, physician to the Capitan Pacha, with whom I had made an acquaintance the preceding evening at the house of the Russian consul. On the following day, after having accompanied him to the general's house, we visited together two of the Turkish captains who were indisposed. A confirmation of the news of Bonaparte's escape from Egypt reached Chennecally this day.

On the 24th I walked to the site of the ancient Abydos, which I had more leisure to inspect than on my first visit. In addition to the abundance of fragments of bricks, and heaps of stones and rubbish, which were scattered over the entire surface of the ground, I noticed a small portion of a wall of a tower of considerable thickness, the only vestige of a ruin still standing.

For several preceding days the weather had been cold, rainy, and tempestuous, the thermometer ranging from 42 to 45 degrees. It cleared up on the 25th, when I had a pleasant morning's ride to the spot where the ancient Dardania stood. On the ground I found fragments of bricks profusely scattered. These, together with the stones

and rubbish with which they were blended, were irrefragable proofs of the remote existence of buildings on the spot, near to which I observed the vestiges of an ancient fort.

On the 26th I made an excursion to the mountains, whence I had the satisfaction of surveying one of the most beautiful prospects imagination can paint. In my rear was Mount Ida; and in front the Dardanelles, together with Imbros, Samothrace, and the Saronic gulf. Tenedos, Lemnos, and the Ægean Sea, were to the left; and to the right Gallipoli, Marmora, and other distant objects. The sun shining very bright, the tops of Mount Ida, and of the Samothracian hills, glittered with accumulated masses of snow.

The Capitan Pacha having this day given an order that several un-serviceable guns should be broken in pieces, the Topgis Bashi, or commandant of Turkish artillery, took the following method to carry it into execution. A large pile of wood having been laid on the guns, was set fire to in the evening, and kept burning until early the next morning, when an account was brought that a Turkish gunner had been killed, and the Capitan Pacha's chief gunner wounded, by the bursting of one of the guns in the fire. In accounting for this accident, various opinions were entertained. It was ascribed by some to the circumstance of a quantity of cold water having been thrown on the heated metal by the Turks employed in the operation; but it appeared to us still more probable that, having neglected to withdraw the charge, an explosion took place on the gun being heated. Several of the fragments were thrown to a considerable distance. The poor Topgis Bashi was so much alarmed by the disastrous event which had occurred, that he immediately betook himself to flight, as did



also his brother, from an apprehension of the consequences of the Capitan Pacha's displeasure.

On the 30th the Phaeton frigate arrived from Constantinople with letters which occasioned the removal of the mission to that place, as a step preparatory to its being employed on some important service. Orders were in consequence issued by the general that the officers and detachment should hold themselves in readiness to embark the following morning on board the transport. The wind being northerly, however, there was a prospect of our being detained at Chennecally for some days.

On the 1st of December I embarked on board the transport with my baggage; and on the following day the officers and detachment embarked. The general was to proceed to Constantinople in a Turkish boat. In the morning I went over to Mito, on the European side, and purchased a cask of wine at six paras the okc, somewhat less than three pence English per bottle. In the afternoon we sailed for Constantinople, with a fair and steady breeze, and passed Gallipoli late in the evening. On the 3d we entered the Sea of Marmora with a fresh gale; and on the 4th at noon, the transport anchored in Constantinople harbour. On our landing we found that the general was not yet arrived, which happened two or three days afterwards. The officers paid a visit to Lord Elgin, by whom we were invited to dine on the following day.