

a little below the point where the river divides, each in the neck of a peninsula formed by a bend of the river; across which neck or isthmus a new bed for the water is to be made as soon as the bridge is completed; after which the old bed surrounding the peninsula is to be filled up. These two bridges are to be connected with each other, and with Es-Suweys (or Suez) on the one side and Alexandria on the other, by a rail-road. The difficulty of the undertaking is immense; for these bridges are to withstand the tremendous tide of the inundation, and occasionally to be closed by flood-gates, so as to increase the height of the river above sufficiently to cause it to fill all the small canals by which the Delta and the adjacent provinces are irrigated. A similar undertaking was projected by Bonaparte, when here.

18th April.—9th Zu-l-Heggeh.—This is the Day of the Pilgrimage; that is to say, of the six-hours' journey from Mekkeh to Mount 'Arafát, which gives to each person who performs it the title of Pilgrim, and without the performance of which he would not obtain that title even if he had journeyed to Mekkeh from the most remote part of the Muslim world. The halt upon Mount 'Arafát happening this year on a Friday, the Sabbath of the Muslims, has made several of my friends express great regret that they have been unable to perform the pilgrimage under such a propitious circumstance.

19th.—The 'Eed el-Kebeer.—Nothing unusual to remark upon.

May 25th.—We were somewhat alarmed to-day, about an hour after noon, by a shock of an earthquake. I was three times, with less than a moment's intervention, rather violently shaken on my seat; and several long cracks were opened in the walls of the house in which I am living. I have heard of no house having been thrown down or much injured by it. It is supposed to have shown its greatest violence (that is, to have originated) in Syria.

June 7th.—During the week which is now closing all classes of courtesans, including the *ghawázee* (or public dancing-girls), have been suppressed in the metropolis and its neighbourhood. This measure has been talked of, as about to be put in execution, for some months past. The courtesans had become extremely numerous, and were scattered in every quarter of the town; some of them living in houses almost fit to be the residences of grandees; and acquiring considerable wealth.

July 29th.—Went to the Pyramids of El-Geezeh. Stayed in "Caviglia's Tomb."

30th.—We again experienced a shock of an earthquake, more violent than the former, at about half-past nine P.M. Heard of no injury done.

Aug. 2nd.—Returned from the Pyramids.

5th.—The dam of the Canal of Maşr cut. I have given an account of this in another note-book.*

12th.—Last night, Seleem Bey, a general in the Báshà's service, hired a large party of *fíkées*, to perform a recital of the *Qur-án*, in his house in this city; and then went up into his harem, and strangled his wife. He had written to Ibraheem Báshà, accusing this woman (who was the daughter of a Turk in high office) of incontinence; and asking his permission to punish her. He received for answer, that he might do as he pleased. He then sent Ibraheem Báshà's letter to Moḥammad 'Alee, asking the same permission of the latter; and received the same answer. The case presents a sufficient proof of Moḥammad 'Alee's ideas

of justice and humanity. Had he wished to indulge his creature with permission to exercise the utmost severity of the law, he could only have said—"If you can produce four witnesses against your wife, or if you can swear that you have witnessed her crime by the oath ordained in cases of this kind, and she will not take the same oath that the accusation is false, let her be stoned to death."

Sept. 17th.—My 33rd birth-day. I have completed, as far as I can see, my notes on the manners and customs of the Muslims of Egypt. I have only to look over them; and to ask a few questions respecting the Copts.*

Oct. 27th.—I generally pay a visit to the shop of the Báshà's booksellers on the mornings of Monday and Thursday, when auction-markets are held in the street where the shop is situated, and in the neighbouring bázár of Khán El-Khaleelee (the chief Turkish bázár) which occasion the street above-mentioned to be much crowded, and to present an amusing scene: but I am often more amused with the persons who frequent the shop where I take my seat. When I went there to-day, I found there an old man who had been possessed of large property in land; but had been deprived of it by the Báshà, and been compelled to become a member of the university, the great mosque El-Azhar. This man, the *Hágg*, is a celebrated character. He rendered great assistance, both by his wealth and by active service, to Moḥammad 'Alee, in his contest with his predecessor, Khursheed Báshà, when the latter was besieged in the Citadel. The greater part of his property was confiscated by the man he had thus served, through fear of his influence. He thus shared the fate of most of those who had rendered eminent services to Moḥammad 'Alee; but he contrived to hide much of his wealth; and has since employed friends to trade with it privately on his account, so that he has still a large income; but the third part of his receipts he always gives to the poor. The elder of the two booksellers was relating his having just purchased a house. There lived next-door to him, he said, a *fíkée*, a member of the Azhar, and of some repute; to whom 14 *ķeeráts* (or 24th parts) of the house in which he (the *fíkée*) lodged belonged: the other 10 *ķeeráts* of this house belonged to a tailor. The bookseller's house was entered, from the roof, and plundered, three times, of wheat, butter, &c. The *fíkée* was accused by the bookseller of having committed these thefts; and confessed that he had; urging, in palliation, that he had only taken his food. The bookseller caused him to be imprisoned in the Citadel; and, after he had been confined there many days, offered to procure his liberation if he would sell him the above-mentioned share of his house. This was done; it was sold for six and a half purses. The bookseller then wanted to procure the tailor's share; and proposed to him to repair or separate or sell: for the house was in a ruined state. The tailor, refusing to do either, was summoned to the *Ķádee's* court, and compelled to sell his share; for which he demanded five purses. Having received this sum of money, he met, on his way home, a friend, whom he told what he had done. "You fool"—said his friend—"you might have asked ten purses, and it would have been given." The tailor threw down the purse in the middle of the street; kicked off his shoes; and for several minutes continued slapping his face, and crying out, like a woman,—“O my sorrow!”

* Here follows an account of the nine days' festival which took place on the marriage of the sister of Aḥmad Báshà; ep. Mrs. Poole's *English-woman in Egypt*, vol. iii. pp. 61—77.

* Cp. *Mod. Eg.* pp. 493—8.