

## POETICAL ASYLUM

FROM THE BOSTON PATRIOT.

The device upon a seal represents two paths leading in different directions. Motto—"Le penchant nous unit; le destin nous sépare." While Love two hearts in silken bands would join, Fate frowns, and bids the sorrowing pair resign. Their happy intercourse, their greetings sweet

Reluctant part the enamoured, faithful pair, And on their way with tardy steps proceed; When Hope, with beaming eye and aspect fair, Disperses the gloom, and thus augments their speed.

"Fain would the cruel tyrant say—"for aye Your paths diverging from each other go!" But list to me: his dubious threats defy: He dare not say it ever shall be so.

"Your paths, 'tis true, in two directions lead; But where they end, Time only gives to learn. The maxim's old, but truly doth it read—'The lane is long in which there is no turn.'"

"Now onward speed! your ways with care pursue; All devious paths—all flattery disdain. For vanity and license each may deeply rue: Be true—be virtuous—and ye meet again."

Though united in affection, fate separates us.

## STATISTICS OF TURKEY.

The appellation of "*Turk*" was first adopted in the middle ages, as a general title of honor to all the nations composing the two principal branches of *Tartar* and *Mogul*. The word "*Tur*," as adjective, signifies "sublime and pre eminent"—as a substantive, it means "a governor."

The *Divan*. This state council meets twice a week in the emperor's palace, on Thursdays and Sundays. The grand vizier is the presiding officer; the six viziers of the bench, the *testerdar*, or high treasurer, the *reis effendi*, the commissioners of the exchequer, and the military leaders (the *agas*) compose the *divan*. The sultan does not enter the room, but from an adjoining chamber he hears all that passes.

On great occasions a general council is convened, all the leading persons are summoned—the clergy the military and other officers and even the old and most experienced soldiers attend. Such a *divan* is called "*ajak divani*."

The *grand vizier*.—This officer receives his appointment from the sultan. He has the care of the whole empire; he manages the revenue, administers justice (both in civil and criminal affairs, and commands the armies.

Upon his appointment, the sultan puts into his hands the seal of the empire, which is the badge of his office, and which he always wears on his breast. His income amounts to six hundred thousand dollars a year, exclusive of presents and other perquisites.

The *viziers of the bench* are styled *bashaws* of the three horse tails—three horse tails being carried before them when they march.

*Begler beg*.—A *begler-beg* is a viceroy with several provinces under his command.

*Pashas*.—A *pasha* (*bashaw*) is a governor under a *begler beg*; a *san giac* is a deputy governor.

The *reis effendi* is lord chancellor and secretary of state; the name signifies "chief of the writers."

The *testerdar* is the high treasurer. The public treasury is never touched, even by the sultan, except in cases of the utmost emergency. The sultan has his private treasury, which he uses at will. Some idea may be formed of the enormous wealth in the public treasury, which has been accumulating under forty sultans, from a statement of prince *Cantenir*.—He says that, in his time, thirteen million and a half rix dollars were annually returned to the two treasuries.

The *mufti* is the chief ecclesiastic. His name signifies "an expounder of the law"—he is consulted on all emergencies. Should he commit treason, he is punished in a curious manner; he is put into a mortar, in

one of the seven towers and there the law expounder is pounded to death. Such a punishment has not been inflicted since the reign of *Amurath*.

*Musselman*.—The term is a corruption of "*moslem*," which signifies "persons professing the doctrines of Mahomet."

*Three horse tails*.—Three horse tails, surmounted by a golden ball, form the military ensign of the Ottomans. Its origin was as follows:—One of their generals was at a loss how to rally his men, their standards having been lost in a fierce conflict. He cut off his horse's tail, and elevated it on the point of a spear. His troops renewed the fight, and came off conquerors.

The *sublime porte*.—Constantinople is styled "the sublime porte—the porte of justice, majesty, and felicity." There have been various disputes about the origin of this appellation.—*Payne*, an eminent geographer of the last century, says that it is derived from the magnificent gate built by Mahomet II. at the entrance of the seraglio.

*Constantinople*.—It is wonderful how little is generally known with regard to this magnificent city. Its situation is the most delightful in the world. With a harbor affording room for a thousand ships—with the *Euxine* on its east, the natural current of the wealth of Asia is through the Bosphorus; and with *Mamora* on its south and west, the production of Arabia Egypt and Europe, are at the command of its commerce. In the hands of a commercial nation, it would soon become the centre of the commercial world. It is encompassed by walls, which have twenty-two gates—six towards the land, six along the port, and ten on the *Mamora*;—these have stairs and landing places.

Constantinople, like Rome, is an "*urbs septicollis*." Its seven hills rise from the shore in the form of an amphitheatre, gardens, cypress groves, palaces and mosques, rise one above the other, and present a view worthy of all admiration. The castle of the seven towers is used as an honorable prison. A square tower stands in the sea, memorable as the prison of *Belisarius*. Near this are a great many cannon level with the water, and guarding the entrance of the ports and the seraglio.

The *Seraglio*.—The word signifies a "palace." It is a collection of palaces, a mile and a half in compass, enclosed by a strong wall, on which are several watch towers, where guard is kept by night and day. The principal gate is of marble, and is called the *porte*. The gardens are very extensive, the buildings are of white stone, are crowned with gilded turrets and spires, and shining in surpassing splendor.

*St. Sophia*.—The church of *St. Sophia* (divine wisdom) was built by Justinian, in the sixth century.—The dome is one hundred and thirteen feet in diameter, resting on arches, supported by immense marble pillars, and the staircase and pavement are also marble. Here is the tomb of the emperor Constantine.

The exchanges are splendid buildings, and the richest and rarest productions of the east are daily sold in them, in large quantities. Add to these the numerous mosques, the 30 churches of the Greeks, and those of the Armenians, the many private places and public buildings, and you have some idea of the opulence and splendor of the capital of the great Ottoman empire.—*N. Y. Courier*.

We are highly indebted to an intelligent American gentleman, now in Europe, for three very interesting letters from the island of *Minorca*, the first of which we lay before our readers to day.

*N. Y. Jour. of Com.*

Port Mahon, Island of Minorca, April 1st, 1828.

You requested me, at our parting, to write you an account of all things in my travels which had interested myself. Mercy upon your patience will prevent my full compliance, but I will give you a pretty full account of this island in the simple style of friendship.

I find in the current history of this island the following account: "*Minorca* was discovered by *Tubal* grandson of Noah, one hundred and forty-two years after the universal deluge."

The first object that meets the eye in approaching this island from any quarter is a famous *Augustine Convent* seated on the very summit of a lofty mountain that rises from the centre of the Island, called *Mount Toro*.

The first salutation that a stranger receives upon landing here is from the beggars. A company of them, composed of both sexes, always hold themselves in readiness (upon a new arrival) to pay the first compliments to a foreign minister the moment he sets his foot upon the wharf, and to escort him into town. They are not like those gentlemen who receive a stranger with great warmth upon his first introduction, and immediately withdraw into distant coldness but continue their attentions with increasing zeal so long as they are kindly reciprocated. When I first came here they were so attracted by my civility, that they surrounded me like bees about the hive. My train through the streets of the city was equal to that of any European Nabob; but soon finding my resources of money and patience not at all equal to the demands of such a retinue I with much difficulty dismissed them at the point of a threatening rod. However, they often return with as much cordiality as before. Americans are treated with more attention by them than any other people. They seem to think that the silver scales hang loosely about them, and that they can easily pick them off. The truth is, we know but little about human degradation and misery in America; and when it is exhibited to an American upon his first entry into a foreign port, he is ready to empty his pocket at once.

This island seems to be one entire mass of calcareous rock, spread over with a thin coating of soil. In this rock, although many parts of it stand several hundred feet above the level sea, are a great variety of fossils. Whether they are antediluvian or whether the whole island has been cast up from the bottom of the sea by some mighty volcano, is a query. Curiosity may here find a wide range among wild flowers. I have made a pretty large collection of these, which I hope to be able to exhibit to you upon my return.

The population of this city is about ten thousand, and of the island eighty thousand. Every thing here moves upon a low scale, except ignorance, superstition and vice. In this they go far before any city in the United States. There are no manufacturing establishments on the island; the productive power of the soil is inferior to the demands of the people, so that they have nothing to export except their corrupt habits. The strong laws of necessity bind them to a good degree of temperance. Although the finest harbor I ever saw, invites to commercial pursuits, the power of the king binds its deadly folds so closely upon all kinds of business, that they cannot move to any profit. Being too weak to shake off the monster, and too timid to utter complaints, they patiently pine as he sucks away their vital blood.

The priests and monks are still

poisonous, and scarcely less oppressive. The consequence is that the population is dwindling away; and should the present policy continue, this city will be tumbling in a few years, into heaps of ruins.

The objects of curiosity which the people are proud to exhibit to strangers, are a splendid organ, a public cemetery, and a delightful valley. The organ is said to be the third in excellence that the world possesses. The other two are, one in *Cantania*, and one in *Holland*. It has a multitude of pipes of all possible sizes;—from eight inches diameter and fourteen feet in length, down to little whistles, and its range of sounds fill a scale from a rumbling much resembling thunder, down to the soft notes of a little bird.

The cemetery is a plain of solid rock, somewhat less than an acre in area, inclosed by a colonade. In this rock are a few catacombs, commenced at the top upon a surface about three feet square, which widen as they descend till they become quite spacious. In these, thousands of men, women and children are all thrown together. One coffin serves for all. The friends never follow the remains to the place of deposit. The funeral procession is composed only of priests and monks, who exact pay for their services. The corpse being conveyed to the cemetery by the procession which is lighted along by a dozen burning candles at noonday, it is taken from the coffin, and not lowered down with care and decency, but just pitched into the catacomb as we should throw a dead dog into an old well.


The door which is on the principle of a trap door in a floor, is shut and plastered around with lime mortar so as to be air tight till another body comes for admission. A few of the wealthy have private apartments where they bury with more decency but without coffins. All the common people find a common sepulchre.

The Valley has almost every thing of the vegetable kind, that richness of soil, mildness of climate, and fountains of water can produce under a high state of culture.

I am almost inclined to add to these the female sex although I have no reason for placing them among the objects of curiosity, except their perpetual exhibition to the public eye. You know I told you there appeared to be but one sex in *Tunis*. The women are all kept locked up like money in secret chambers. It would be considered a very immodest thing indeed for a Turkish woman to show her face to any man except her husband. Here it is the very reverse. On a Sabbath or holy day when they get on their better dress, one might almost number the young ladies in the city by passing along the streets. They do not walk out much except to church and back, but where there are too many in a family to fill all the windows the remainder find accommodations in the front door. They lie on their arms, with their hands out at the window, hour after hour, that nothing which is passing may escape them, and themselves escape no body.

The date fish is taken here, which is curious from the fact of its being taken out of rocks, which are broken off far under water, and being hammered to pieces these come to the light. They are as interesting as curious, on account of their delicate addresses to the palate.—I am yours &c. AN AMERICAN TRAVELLER.

"He that hath a Trade, hath an Estate."

 Apprentices Wanted, THE subscriber wishes to take four or five APPRENTICES to learn the COOPERS TRADE—By 17, would be preferred. L. BROOKS, Vincennes, May 27, 1828. 17-1f