



VIEW OF ALGIERS FROM THE EAST.

SPORTING  
IN  
ALGERIA.

BY  
EDWARD VERNON HARCOURT.

HASTINGS:  
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TO

**THOMAS JOHN ELMORE, Esq.,**

HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S VICE-CONSUL

IN ALGIERS,

THESE PAGES ARE INSCRIBED,

IN TOKEN OF THE ESTEEM AND REGARD OF

**THE AUTHOR.**

## INTRODUCTORY NOTICE.



THE following Letters appeared in the "Field" Newspaper, at a time when an Expedition of Sportsmen was about to set forth to Algeria, under the guidance of Monsieur Jules Gérard. Here they are collected together in a more readable and somewhat altered form.



# CONTENTS.

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## LETTER I.

	PAGE
Voyage to Algiers—First view of the City—Landing—Search for accommodation—Races . . . . .	1

## LETTER II.

Description of Algiers—Native courts of justice—Moorish women—Moorish bazaar.—Bishop's palace—Marengo gardens—Government House—Permis de Chasse—Expedition to Koleah—English colonist—Lake Hallbula—Arab Café . . . . .	11
---	----

## LETTER III.

Shooting expedition—Return to Algiers—Visit to a Moorish house—Maison-carrée—Felix—Arab sportsmen—Arab village—Bombonelle, the panther hunter—Panther killed by a child . . . . .	24
---	----

## LETTER IV.

Fire eaters—Visit to a "Compagne"—Anecdote of a young sportsman—Hare hunting—Boar-hunting . . . . .	37
---	----

## LETTER V.

Boar hunt at Boudouaou—Moorish bath—Moorish feast of the circumcision—Mahometan religion—Visit to the Mosques . . . . .	50
---	----

## LETTER VI.

Expedition to Blidah—Hunting Expedition—Arab feast—Curious accident—Town of Blidah—Kindness of the French—Stud of horses—Colour of the Arab horse—Gazels and hyenas—Feast of Sidi Bel-al . . . . .	65
--	----

## LETTER VII.

Boar hunt at the Foudouk—Staouëli—Milianah—Sorjgo—Journey to Teniet-el-had—Caravansary—Hôtel des Cédres . . . .	79
---	----

## LETTER VIII.

Tell and Sahara—Visit to the forest of cedars—Lion's lair—Hunting the lion—Garrison theatricals—Gazel hunting—Spahis encampment—Ostrich hunting—Visit to a Spahis tent—Mule stolen—Departure from Teniet-el-Had—Snow storm—Sisters of Charity—Colonization in Algeria—Climate—Accommodation . . . . .	93
---	----

## LETTER IX.

Laghounat — “Voiturier” at Blidah — Gorges de la Chiffa — Ruisseau des Singes — Répos de St. Helène — Medeah — Berouagnia — Boukhari — Boghar — Hafa plant — Ain-Ouarsera — The Ganga — Gedestel — Rocher de Sel — Turned back by bad weather — “Route de traverse” — Horse posts — French general and aide-de-camp . . . . .	107
---	-----

## LETTER X.

Expedition to Constantine—Dellys—Djigelly—Stora—Philippeville—Town of Constantine—Turkish execution—Colonel of Artillery—Antiquities of Constantine—Saying of an Arab Marabout—Aïn-el-Bey—Aïn Milah—Arab method of Shooting—Bontehelli—Aïn-Jacouf—Tomb of Syphax—Batna—Lambessa—Verecunda—El-ksour—First view of an Oasis . . . . .	120
---	-----

## LETTER XI.

El-Kantara — Another Rocher del Sel — Aïn-Outaïa — Wretched quarters — Col de Sfa — First view of the great desert — Oasis of Ziban — Biskara — Cultivation of the Palm — Jardin d'acclimatation — The commandant — Bustard hunting — Sid-Okba — The Caïd of Salah — Homeward journey — Mouflon hunting — Diligence adventure — L'Arba — Telegraph in the wilderness — Hamman Meskoutin — Military hospital — Guelma — Bone — Bugeaud — Abd-el-Kader's brother — Return to Algiers . . . 130

## LETTER XII.

Climate of Algiers — Algiers under the Turks — The name of Algiers — Christian Slaves — French Conquests — Prospects of Algiers as a Colony — Schools — The mosque of Djemmâa-Djedid — Statues — Public buildings — Suburbs — Good bye . . . 145





# APPENDIX.

---

## CONTENTS :

### I.

List of Birds in the Museum at Algiers	. . .	159
--	-------	-----

### II.

M. Malherbe's Catalogue of the Birds of Algeria	. . .	162
---	-------	-----

### III.

Captain Loche's Catalogue of Birds	. . .	170
------------------------------------	-------	-----

### IV.

Captain Loche's Catalogue of Animals	. . .	184
--------------------------------------	-------	-----



## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

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View in the Environs of Algiers . . . . . Frontispiece.

Map of Algeria . . . . . End of Text, before Appendix. :



# Letters from Algiers.

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## LETTER I.

Voyage to Algiers—First view of the City—Landing—Search for accommodation—Races.

I PROMISED, on leaving England, to let you hear from me on our arrival in Algiers, and I hasten to fulfil my promise.

We went on board the Messageries' boat at Marseilles, *partant pour Alger*, on Saturday last; and, as quickly as might be, settled our things in our cabins, like experienced old travellers.

Presently 400 soldiers were marched on board; the captain made it twelve o'clock; and we sailed (or rather steamed) out of the Marseilles roads.

The sea, which at first was smooth as glass, became rougher towards nightfall. My cabin was so hot as to be almost unbearable, and it was rendered quite so by the presence of a French *virtuoso*, who occupied the berth above me. My friend made his appearance in the cabin shortly after I had retired to roost. His toilet was not troublesome, and after having kicked off his shoes and pulled off his coat, a lurch of the ship flung him into his berth, and he commenced snoring at once. By degrees, as the lurching of the ship increased, the sounds he emitted became so equivocal that I fairly bolted, and, dragging after me as much of my bedclothes as would stick together, I vainly courted sleep in the public saloon. Morning—and with it a hissing bowl of *café au lait*—at last came to my relief, and, having done what dressing I could, I went into the fresh air. At this early hour (seven a.m.) the deck presented a picturesque scene. Soldiers and families of *colons* had so encroached upon the quarter-deck, that you could hardly move without causing some human limb to writhe; and if you thought to avoid danger by quietly seating yourself on an empty-looking

sack, the chances were that some juvenile colonist poked its head from beneath its parent's *caban*, just as you were on the point of annihilating it. The wind was fair. At twelve o'clock we passed between the islands of Majorca and Minorca; at four o'clock we dined; and so went Sunday. On Monday, at seven a.m., we sighted Africa, and at twelve o'clock we were at anchor in the harbour of Algiers.

The town at a distance presents the appearance of a chalk pit, and as you approach nearer it develops itself into a mass of white flat-roofed houses, extending along the slope of a promontory, and surrounded by a rich verdant landscape. The bay of Algiers forms a semi-circle of some fourteen miles in extent, of which the town itself constitutes the western, and Cape Matifou the eastern extremity. The great plain of the Mitidja, ninety miles in length, opens into the centre of the bay; and the range of the lesser Atlas and the Jujura mountains form its background.

As soon as *pratique* was given we were quickly paddled on shore by a tawny Moor, and then rushed up the stairs of the market-place to try and secure



rooms at the Hôtel d'Orient. We had a tremendous race with a third party, and beat him only by a nose: our friend, seeing himself distanced, wisely sheered off, and made straight for another hotel. Our manœuvre only secured us three wretched bedrooms at the top of the edifice; two looking to the back, and one into an odoriferous court: and these amongst seven! The amiable Marius, our landlord, had promised to keep rooms for us two months before; but a shrug and a smile were the only explanations or apologies that it seemed possible to extort from him. As we were thus lamenting ourselves, our friend, who had by this time been the round of the hotels and lodgings, returned, saying it was impossible to find accommodation anywhere, and begging to be allowed to sleep in the public *salon*—a request which Marius graciously acceded to. *Les temps des courses, les temps des courses*, resounded every where, and seemed to be considered sufficient excuse for everything. When the meaning of this was explained to us, we rejoiced in our good fortune in arriving in time for a sight only to be seen once a year in Algeria, and willingly put up with

the few days' inconvenience which the general demand for accommodation occasioned us. It is the wise policy of the French Government to encourage to the utmost the attempts to obtain a fine race of horses in Algeria, where, in most parts, owing to careless breeding, that noble animal has degenerated considerably in size; and for this end nothing is likely to prove so effectual as the gathering together of all the tribes of Arabs once a year at Algiers, to perform fantasias and feats of horsemanship in presence of the assembled authorities, and to contest for prizes which are given both for races and for excellence of form in their horses.

Shortly after our arrival in the hotel we heard a shout of "Voilà le Maréchal de France;" and, rushing with landlord, landlady, waiters, and a host of others, on to the narrow balcony, we beheld Marshal Randon, the Governor-General mounted on his palfrey, in full *fig*, surrounded by his staff, and closely followed by the Arab chiefs of the desert.

Many have seen a French marshal in uniform, most have seen a French regiment, and even the Zouaves are now very familiar to all who have

visited Paris. Arabs of the desert, however, are not things of every day; and on them, accordingly, our eyes were fastened. There they were, on their ungroomed wiry little horses, tugging away at their ferocious bits, and digging in their long dagger-like spurs. The harness of their horses was a mass of velvet and gold embroidery; whilst of themselves the most conspicuous feature was a large, high-crowned, very broad-brimmed straw hat, covered with black ostrich feathers; red morocco boots encased their feet, which were inserted in broad shoe-stirrups; for the rest, the bernouse completely covered them; and it was not till when at full speed, and standing upright in their stirrups, they brandished their long guns with their bare arms high above their heads, that the streaming bernouse disclosed the gay attire beneath, and that you began to perceive they were not what you at first imagined—old women.

The procession passed on, and we were not slow in following it. Traversing the quarter where stood the old gate of the Babazoun, and passing through a street which still retains that name, we came upon the tents pitched outside the town by the Arabs,

who had assembled from all parts of Algeria to assist in the proceedings of the week. And here, only four days' journey from London, we had plunged into the midst of genuine Arab-life. The camel's-hair tents, which may be struck in a moment, and the ready-saddled horses, with their fore-feet tied together, browsing in front of the tents, is what you might come upon at any moment in the deserts of Arabia, though perhaps with feelings of less security than we now possessed.

It was really a fine sight to see these tents pouring out their hundreds of warriors ready to do their chiefs' bidding.

Arrived at the ground, about a mile distant from the town, we found ourselves on the *champ de manoeuvre*, which had been fitted up for the occasion as an extemporary racecourse ; a dais for the governor represented the grand stand, opposite which was a judge's box on wheels, which was moved at pleasure by a troop of artillery horses, and to the sound of martial music. Booths there were in abundance, in which seats were let ; ropes marked out the course ; and the ground was kept by a regi-

ment of the Chasseurs d'Afrique and by hussars. Silken flags of the different Arab tribes were plentifully distributed everywhere, and enhanced the beauty of the scene.

We secured our seats, but just in time. The blast of the trumpet announced his Excellency's approach. The gay *cortège* settled itself comfortably in the places assigned to its component parts, and the fun began.

There were thirty-two races, each *tribu* contributing a race. The victor in each received a ticket at the hands of the authorities, as well as some small prize; and afterwards there was a grand race between all the winners for the great prize of the week.

How surprised *Nat* would be to see the Arab jockeyship! The riders shoot their horses out like arrows from the bow, and the race is decided in the first hundred yards; after this it is a mere question of wind, and the winner comes in at a very slow pace. The Barbary horse is famous for endurance rather than speed; he is never groomed, and rarely shod; he is ordinarily fed on barley-straw, but will

eat anything at a pinch; his temper is never tried by habitual ill-usage, although on the occasions of racing, hunting, and fighting, his master treats him with great severity, as his bleeding mouth and gory flanks plainly testify.

After the racing was concluded, the mock fights between the Arabs commenced. The judge's box was wheeled off at a gallop, the ropes gathered in, and the course cleared. Two bodies of combatants, consisting of some hundreds each, and at a distance of, perhaps, five hundred yards apart, were arranged opposite each other. At first a few stray horsemen set off at full gallop with their long guns balanced on their heads; presently they tossed their unwieldy weapons in the air, caught them again, and fired; then, wheeling their horses sharp round, returned at full speed, loading their guns meanwhile. By degrees more horsemen were engaged, and at last the whole body on each side was in motion. The sight was now very curious and grand—these wild fellows yelling, firing, loading, and galloping, without a moment's intermission. It was quite impossible for the eye to follow their motions, such a dust, such a

smoke, such a dazzle! Frequently there was a slight intermission in the whirl, and a little knot collected round a mass of fallen horses and horsemen' who had come into violent contact with each other. Immediately, from the side of the Governor's stand was seen to issue a French ambulance, borne by two soldiers at a round trot. This, however, was quickly sent back by the Arabs. If any limbs were broken, the Arabs themselves bore off their unfortunate comrade, either on their backs or on some litter of their own.

The amphitheatre of this gorgeous scene was backed in the distance by the blue Kabyle mountains, and in front was the eastern side of the Bay of Algiers, along the sandy shores of which a long slow line of camels laden with merchandise was picturesquely winding its uneasy pace. It was altogether a sight to see, and one that can only be seen once a year even at Algiers.

## LETTER II.

Description of Algiers—Native courts of justice—Moorish women—Moorish bazaar—Bishop's palace—Marengo gardens—Government House—Permis de Chasse—Expedition to Koleah—English colonist—Lake Halloula—Arab Café.

WE are now beginning to shake down and feel a little more comfortable. We have expanded into three more rooms, and the excitement of first arriving in a new country has subsided; we have, therefore had time to look about us, and I will try and tell you a little of what we have seen.

Algiers consists of a lower and an upper town. The lower town has been so modified by its new masters, that, were it not for the picturesque figures which mob the streets, you might fancy yourself in any French city. The upper town retains almost entirely its Moorish character, and is composed of



white, square, flat, windowless houses, which form a labyrinth of narrow streets stretching up to the *Cashbar*, four hundred and sixteen feet above the sea.

The three great arteries of the lower town are the Rue de la Marine, which leads from the Mole to the Place du Gouvernement, and the Bab-Azoun and Bab-el-Oued, which, branching out from the northern and southern extremities of the Place, run right across the city.

These streets are furnished on either side with arcades, within which are shops that will supply you with anything you may need or fancy. With the difference of price, everything may be bought as well in Algiers as in London or Paris.

The thoroughfares are much crowded, and the passenger has to elbow his way through a motley crowd of Arabs, Jews, Turks, Moors, Cabyles, Negroes, Spaniards, Maltese, and French, all in their distinctive costumes. In our first walk, we visited one of the native courts of justice. On entering, we found a man sitting barefooted and cross-legged, pleading his cause before three cross-legged judges, who

were constantly referring to the koran as the basis of their operations. Several women closely veiled were waiting to prefer complaints against their husbands, (the old story). They are heard by the judges through a little latticed window. There is a great deal of coquetry in the way the women are veiled, as they always manage, if they be pretty, that the gauze shall be so thin as to display their features perfectly; and, by lifting the *foutah* or veil that falls over the top of the head, as if to arrange it, they can give the passer-by a very good idea of their *contour*. Their eyebrows are joined in a broad black band by the dye of the gall-nut, their eyelids darkened with antimony, and their nails coloured an agreeable brown with hennah.

We next strolled into the Moorish bazaar, which is full of beautiful embroideries worked on leather and velvet, silver-mounted guns, daggers, painted ostriches' eggs, all sorts of silks, stuffs, ber-nouses, lamps, slippers, and various handiworks in gold and silver. Then we visited the Bishop's palace, which was an ancient residence of the Deys and is a fine specimen of a Moorish house. Next, passing along

the Bab-el-Oued we came to the Marengo Gardens, the resort of military bands, nursery-maids, and children; and so, winding up the hill we came to the Cashbar: this grand old fortress, where dwelt the former rulers of Algiers, commands a magnificent view of the city, harbour, and surrounding country. On our way down we struck boldly into the tortuous narrow Moorish streets, and very soon lost ourselves altogether.

When we got home we found an invitation awaiting us to a ball at the Government House.

The Governor's palace is an adapted Moorish building, and adjoins the mosque which has been converted into a cathedral. On going upstairs we entered an open court, lighted and decorated with great taste; round this court Arabs were sitting, as if Algiers still belonged to them. Passing onwards, we arrived at a small staircase, where *aides-de-camp* were waiting to usher the ladies into the presence of *Madame*. The ball-room has been built in imitation of the Moorish style of architecture, but is low and ill adapted for large assemblies. After a few dances, rum was handed round, and, later in the evening,

ham and jelly collations greeted us on little trays at every corner. The dining-room was appropriated to whist. At eleven o'clock the company began to disperse—a fashion the London world might follow with advantage to their health and manners.

I now became anxious to see a little of the interior of the country; and, as my gun would of course be my companion in any expeditions I might make, it was necessary to obtain permission to use it. With this view I made my way up to the *Préfecture*, and, producing my passport, requested a *permis de chasse*. I was told to go to the *Mairie*; there my likeness was taken; my age and place of birth were noted, and then a little piece of paper was given me. This I was directed to take to a certain house in an obscure street, which I had great difficulty in finding; and there, *au second*, I found a little clerk who pleasantly received ten francs from me. In exchange I obtained another bit of paper, and was told to take the two documents to another house in another part of the town. Here, again *au second*, I found another clerk who politely requested fifteen francs; and then, in exchange for my two small

pieces of paper I received one big one. I was now bid to go to the nearest stationer's to buy a *timbre* of thirty-five *centimes*, and return with it to the *Mairie*. I obeyed, but was now met with the information that it was too late to obtain the Mayor's signature, and that I must call again to-morrow.

Next morning I went, by appointment, to the *Mairie* at half-past nine, and was told that the Mayor was out, and I must call again at half-past three. I began to think my case hopeless, for at half-past three they seemed as little inclined to forward my business as at half-past nine. As luck would have it, a French acquaintance stepped in, and, by dint of much bothering, persuaded the official to sign my papers. After this my friend was kind enough to accompany me to the *Préfecture*, where it was still necessary to go for the signature of the *Préfet*. On opening our business, the clerks declared it was impossible the paper should be signed that day. My friend again stood me in good stead; as his arguments proceeded impossibilities seemed to become more possible, the papers were gradually written out, and, after a decent resistance to the principle of

doing to-day what might be done to-morrow, the document was completed and the *permis* granted.

On the whole, Koleah seemed to be the place where most game was to be found at the shortest distance, and thither we determined to go. Ori, a *chasseur* to be heard of from Guiard, of the Hotel Mazaran at Boufarik, and Quarrié, a *garde-forestier* at Koleah, were named to us as sportsmen likely to be of assistance to us.

At two o'clock in the afternoon we found ourselves in a five-horse diligence, whose destination was Koleah. We were a party of four—two with a French companion in the *coupé*, two in the *cabriolet* with a retriever. The *coupé* was very small, and our French bodkin was at least six foot high—he turned out to be keeper of the house of entertainment at Douaouda. Our diligence had two wheelers and three leaders—all, of course, harnessed with ropes and driven with loose reins, but very well driven notwithstanding. The roads, planned by the French engineers and made by the troops, are excellent. The soldiers, when employed in these works, receive a slight addition to their pay; this

pleases them, and the occupation is very salutary in every way.

Some of the ascents and descents were very steep; but away rattled our diligence with horses at full gallop, and the whip always cracking.

Our first stage was Cheragas; and, after passing the Trappist establishment at Staouëli, where the French fought their first battle, and Sidi-Ferruch, where they landed, we again changed horses at Douaouda. Here we deposited our fellow-couplet. From this point we could see the *Tombeau des Chrétiens*, which stands above the great salt lake Halloula, and, stretching out seaward beyond it, the hills of Chenouan. It was dark before we reached Koleah, where our first care was to order dinner—our next to inspect our apartments. We found that the landlord, Monsieur Pizot, had been amusing himself that morning with painting all his doors and windows inside and out; so we had the pleasant alternative of admitting the noxious night-air, or of being stifled by the smell of the paint. However, with our dinner all our troubles were forgotten; and we decidedly made ourselves jolly under the circumstances.

Next morning, at half-past five, we breakfasted, and afterwards arranged ourselves, guns, and dog, in a kind of inside car; our landlord being transformed into our coachman. The view from Koleah was very beautiful. On the opposite side of the valley of the Mitidja lay the town Blidah, at the foot of the Atlas range, which stretched far away into the blue distance. After driving some two hours in the cool of the morning, we stopped at the cabin of an English colonist. It was long before any one answered our repeated knocks; at length a miserable being habited in a smock, whose pasty face was tinged with yellowish hue, made his appearance. He leaned against the doorpost and stared vacantly at us. He looked so strange that we asked our driver to what nation he belonged. He told us he was English, so we addressed him in the mother tongue, and asked to see his master. A tall gaunt figure presently responded to his summons. This was the colonist; and any more woe-begone specimen of a Briton it is impossible to conceive—his health ruined by the climate, his partner lately dead, his funds almost exhausted—still, with the perseverance



of his race, he holds on. The country is rich in produce, but its soil being undrained and virgin, it is unhealthy to live in. The wheat, in the month of October, was already two inches out of the ground, and the Arabs were still at work sowing more. The cotton crops looked sufficiently flourishing, and the tobacco plant was developing its third yield. We might have fancied ourselves in rich pleasure-grounds, ornamented as the landscape was with gigantic myrtles, bays, and innumerable shrubs; the wild vine twined itself amongst the branches of the road-side trees, and in many places projected so far across our path as to make us bend our heads as we drove along. Through such a country we passed for three hours, all signs of European habitation having ceased, and nothing but Arab *douars*, with here and there an Arab *café* or cemetery, being visible. At last we met a mule-cart, with a boy seated on one of the shafts. We accosted him, and he informed us that the guide we expected to find on the borders of the lake had just started for Koleah; however, as he had not been long gone, the boy volunteered to find him in the bush, which in about

five minutes he accordingly did. Our driver now told us that the road was so heavy that, if he took us any further, his horses would never get us back the same night; so there was nothing for it but to get out and walk. The *chasseur* said that he and his boy were the only Christians who lived in those parts, and the boy observed that what, to use his own expression, *généed* them most was the want of rest in summer; no sleep could be got either by day or night, for by day big flies lived upon them, and by night little ones. As we reached the end of the forest a jackal came and stared at us, about fifty yards distant, but on my levelling my rifle at him he turned tail and disappeared in the wood. At twelve o'clock, after a three hours' walk, we reached our ground. The lake was literally black with ducks of various sorts, and coots. Here and there was a white patch of swans. The ducks, instead of rising from the water as we approached, contented themselves with paddling away out of gun-shot at a slow place—so slow as to allow of our shooting some of their number; even then the others did not rise from the water, but merely increased their speed of

swimming. We found, however, that without a boat we could not recover the birds we shot; for, though our retriever was an excellent beast, still it would tax his powers too much to have to wade forty or fifty yards, as the case might be, through heavy mud, after each bird. As we walked along the side of the lake we sank nearly knee-deep in the mud at each step; and one can hardly wonder at the determination of Government to drain a salt lake which in summer becomes almost pestilential from the vapours it exudes. Let the sportsman and the naturalist make the most of it whilst it lasts.

We had hardly had an hours' shooting before it was time to commence our homeward march. Meanwhile we had filled our bag, principally with snipes. These we shot amongst the bulrushes at the side of the lake; they were very tame, and seemed more disturbed by the noise we made in walking than by the sound of our guns.

On our way home we called at an Arab *café*, where were a dozen swarthy fellows sitting cross-legged on the ground; some were playing at draughts, others smoking, others drinking coffee, others doing nothing.

Their guns were leaning against the sides of the tent, and the produce of their *chasse* was strung upon a cross bar; there were woodcocks, snipes, and coots; the latter they were roasting whole on wooden spits over wooden embers. We partook of their coffee served according to native fashion, in small cups without handles, and with all the dregs of the coffee left in the cup. Having paid our score of two sous, or one penny, per cup, and allowed the Arabs to examine our guns, and whistle at them in token of approbation, we continued our weary way, and at length reached our vehicle. We roundly abused our driver for having so grossly deceived us as to the length of the walk, which he had assured us was only a *petite heure*; he tried to appease us by the promise of a good dinner when we got home—a promise which I must say he kept. We reached Koleah soon after six o'clock. A bowl of claret punch after dinner revived us, and at nine p.m. we turned in to be ready for the morrow.

### LETTER III.

Shooting expedition—Return to Algiers—Visit to a Moorish house—  
Maison-carrée—Felix—Arab sportsmen—Arab village—Bombonelle,  
the panther hunter—Panther killed by a child.

NEXT morning we were up at half-past five, and by six o'clock were under weigh for Sidi Khifa. After leaving Koleah we descended a steep hill till we reached the river Mazafran, which our carriage crossed at a ford; afterwards the road ran along a dead level, for we had entered the plain of the Mitidja. An hour and a half's drive brought us to a farmhouse where it was proposed that we should leave our vehicle. The French *colon* came out to welcome us, and took charge of our horses.

We had brought with us from Koleah an Arab, devoted to the chase, whose name was, as usual,

Mohamed: we put his devotion to the test by loading him with all our spare ammunition, and subsequently with the game.

Our walk began through some marshy ground, which contained a fair sprinkling of snipes; and we skirted some dense *broussailles*, where our Arab assured us we might, at seven o'clock in the evening, amuse ourselves amongst wild boars, panthers, and hyenas. But seven o'clock in the evening in the Mitidja tells of agues and African fevers, yet more dangerous than boars or panthers. After we had marched four in a line for some distance, we determined to separate. One party took the retriever, and the other was accompanied by the Arab. I belonged to the latter section. We struck out in the direction of Boufarik, and walked for about an hour without seeing anything but herds of swine and beasts attended by flights of white egrets. At length we arrived at a so-called river, which consisted of a damp space some ten yards wide, full of rushes, from whence, as we walked along, snipes kept getting up very wild, and generally out of gunshot. Four or five hundred yards of this sort of work brought us to

an increased supply of water and more numerous rushes, from whence rose simultaneously a mallard and a teal. These were quickly fluttering in the reeds; seeing which, our Arab stripped, dashed in, and returned triumphant. It is no slight feat to retrieve game in such ground; for the mudholes are so numerous and so deep, that you may be overhead and ears before you know what you are about. Several times we heard a gurgling sound: this was Mohamed in a mudhole attempting to extricate himself. If he had got into serious difficulties it would have been distressing, as I do not see how we could have helped him. Ducks now began to get up all around us, and the snipes here were very tame. As we advanced, the little river spread itself into a broad marsh, where the wild fowl were apparently feeding; and now we had some excellent sport; for, as we fired, the ducks rose, and, circling in the air, came and settled again not far from us—thus, by concealing ourselves after each shot, we got a right and left at the returning birds. Unfortunately, time failed us, and we were soon obliged to retrace our steps. After each performance of our retrieving Arab I

offered him the use of the brandy flask, which he cheerfully accepted; he also partook, on our return, of meat killed by Christian hands—so I fear he is not a pattern believer. On joining our friends, we found they had also done very well amongst the snipes and woodcocks. Whilst the horses were being harnessed we partook of some well-earned refreshment, and, after a pull at the *bota*, mounted our vehicle and started for Koleah. We arrived just in time to dry ourselves, pack, and secure seats in the Algiers diligence.

The town of Koleah was entirely destroyed in the year 1825 by an earthquake: the Marabout of Sidi-Ali-Embarek was alone left standing, thus adding another miracle to those which the Saint had been in the habit of working for the last 300 years. The town was occupied by the French, and Europeanised in the year 1839.

On my return to Algiers I went to call upon a foreign friend, who resided in the upper part of the town. The door was opened by a Moorish woman, with a very ancient and peculiar countenance, who had passed the time of life when a veil is at all



necessary. The house was a genuine Moorish dwelling. After mounting through two preliminary stories, we arrived at a wooden ladder which conducted through a trap-door to the top of the house: here we found a garden, couches, coffee, and pipes; and sat down to enjoy ourselves. The tops of the Moorish houses adjoining were peopled with unveiled women, whose long hair was tied up in pig-tails, with broad red or other coloured ribbons; they were all laughing and screaming like school-girls. The variegated brightness of their trowsers, in contrast with the glaring whiteness of the houses, produced an exceedingly picturesque effect. The ladies do not seem to mind being seen, unless their husbands are at home; indeed, a Mussulman would never think of such a thing as going on to the house-top, which is considered by them as sacred to women and children. When first the French occupied Algiers the invasion of Moorish house-tops by men was frequently resented by the discharge of guns at the offenders.

Next morning we had appointed to accompany a French friend to the Maison-carreé for the sake of

shooting. This spot was one of the fortified outposts at the commencement of the French occupation. It is distant about an hour and a half's drive from Algiers, and omnibuses take you there for tenpence, leaving the town every quarter of an hour. We took the first omnibus, which starts from the Bab-Azoun at six o'clock in the morning, and were safely landed before the door of Monsieur Felix at half-past seven. Felix keeps a "public" at the village of the Maison-carée; he is a devotee of the chase, and a first-rate sportsman. After partaking of our glass of rum, we received directions from Felix where to go. We were unfortunate in not procuring him as a companion, but he was already *booked*. An Arab volunteered to carry the bag, and we set off on our walk; at the end of two hours we reached the ground which Felix had indicated to us. This consisted of an extensive marsh full of high bulrushes, where we were often knee-deep, and generally ankle-deep, in bog. The mountains of Medeah and Milianah were covered with snow, but in the plain it was very warm; at the same time, a pleasant air took off any feeling of oppressive heat. There were quantities of

snipes, and an abundance also of *chasseurs*. It is the regular cockney *rendezvous* of all the Algiers Do-nothings. Sunday, however, is the day to see it in perfection; then every one turns out with a gun of some sort or another and a still more indescribable dog, and the snipes have anything but a day of rest. Some of the Arab *braconniers* are excellent marksmen; an ordinary day's work with them is to bag twenty-five snipes, a couple of ducks, a couple of hares, and three or four wood-cocks. This pays them well; for in the Algiers market there is a ready sale for game—woodcocks and ducks fetching about two shillings a head, and snipes a shilling. These fellows know the haunts of their game so well, that they pounce upon the birds at their meals or when they are pluming themselves early in the morning. I have frequently watched an Arab prowling about amongst the Palmettas balancing a switch over his head, which he suddenly brings down with wonderful rapidity into the middle of the bush: he has discovered a hare taking its mid-day *siesta*, and has stunned her with his unerring stroke. But to return. We shot on with fair success till one

o'clock, when we reached a little oasis in the plain, with hedges of prickly pears and plantations of palm-trees; there were also many aged-looking olive trees covered with the large nests of the storks. The barking of the dogs announced that this was an Arab *tribu*. We presently perceived the *Dars*, which were composed of mud-beplaistered reeds, thatched with untidy straw, and scattered about without much regularity. By the side of one of these habitations lay an inviting bundle of clean reeds, upon the top of which we threw ourselves, and opened the bag which our Arab carried. Here we found a happy mixture of powder, shot, caps, wadding, bread, curd-cheese, dead snipes, and roast chickens. The Arab watch-dogs were very indignant at our invasion of their territory, but were quickly silenced by a judicious distribution of chicken-bones. After a few minutes, the hovel against which we had pitched our feast began to show signs of life; first, two little fat urchins ran out and stared at us, and next a young woman about twenty years old came to have a look in her turn: we made her understand that we wanted some water, which she presently sent out

to us by one of the children. The vessel which held the water was a primitive earthen jar, with a spout like a tea-pot; its contents, however, were so unpalatable, that we could not touch them.

We had just brought our repast to a conclusion, and were stooping down to take a peep at the interior of an Arab cottage, when a donkey-mounted Bedouin, with bare brown legs and of fierce aspect, galloped up to us. He reined in his asinine steed by the halter round its nose, and began cursing the Christian dogs who had intruded upon the sanctity of his harem. Not wishing further to excite Arab jealousy, we advanced to the outskirts of the village, where we lit upon one of the native "cafés." Having crept in, we squatted down by the side of two ancient Mussulmen; one of these, the keeper of the hut of entertainment, on our asking for coffee, began at once to make his primitive preparations. He took up a little bit of forked wood, which was charred on one side, and blew at it through a small reed. The current of air soon converted it into a glowing ember, which, being placed under a metal pot, produced in process of time some hot

water. Into this was thrown some ground coffee, and the compound thus produced was distributed in cups. After having undergone the usual amount of questioning concerning our various articles, my india-rubber boots coming in for a large share of attention, we departed.

On our way home one of our fellow-travellers related to us an accident that had lately befallen a French gentleman well known in Algiers, who is passionately fond of panther-hunting. Monsieur Bombonelle had set out in the evening, according to his custom, accompanied by some Arabs, who carried a live she-goat. When they had arrived at the selected spot, the goat was tethered to a stake fixed in the ground, and the huntsman concealed himself in a hole in the earth, with the goat's kid in his arms. A few pinches administered to the kid soon reacted upon the goat, which began to bleat frantically; this presently brought down the panther, who hunts entirely by sight and sound. On the evening in question the panther happened to be close at hand, and made his appearance before the Arabs had completed their operations; in the hot haste of

their flight they neglected to drive the post, to which the goat was fastened, firmly into the ground. The panther, having secured his easy prize, was making off without loss of time, when Bombonelle, afraid of losing altogether his night's sport, fired in a hurry, and broke the beast's fore legs. The animal lay for a few moments as if dead; the huntsman incautiously approached; the beast immediately sprang at him; and, his second barrel missing fire, the panther caught him by the cheek; the animal's teeth, however, slipped through the flesh. By a second bite the man's forehead was laid open, the end of his nose taken off, and his cheeks fearfully lacerated. In its third spring the panther caught him by the turban; out of this Bombonelle managed to extricate his head, and the animal rolled down the side of the hill, on which they were fortunately lying. The panther's fore legs being broken, he could not climb the hill again. Another fortunate circumstance was that the panther had been placed across the man; if it had been otherwise, and the animal had obtained a purchase with his hind legs on the man's body, the result must have been fatal.

When the Arabs returned to the spot in the morning, they found the panther dead at the bottom of the hill, and the Frenchman, numbed and senseless from loss of blood, at the top. The sportsman was carried into Algiers in such a state that none of his friends could recognise him. His doctor made a very good cure of it, and, by a judicious application of caustic, his beauty was said to be not only restored but increased. He shot another panther near the same spot three months afterwards.

I afterwards met a gendarme, a *brave garçon*, who was, as the French say, *at* his eleventh panther. This man courts no fame, and does not blaze his deeds abroad; but, whenever he can get leave from his superiors, he goes off to Koleah, and thence sallies forth with only his gun and *couteau de chasse* for companions. When he finds a panther he fires upon him, using no concealment; and, if the beast be merely wounded, he rushes in with his hunting-knife.

A story is current at Koleah of a panther having been slain by a child of only twelve years old. It happened thus: The child had been allowed to take



out a gun to shoot at small birds; he was accompanied by his younger brother. As they were walking through the bush, the boy saw a face peering at him through the briars: hardly knowing what he did, he pointed his gun and fired at a distance of two or three paces from the object; then, seeing it did not move, he went home and said he had shot something near the river. As his account was not very lucid, one of his friends accompanied him to the spot: there, to his horror and wonder, he found a full-grown panther lying quite dead, the whole charge having providentially entered like a ball through the eye.

It is a matter of dispute which is most to be feared, the lion or the panther. Monsieur Jules Gérard seems to consider panther-hunting as child's play. Monsieur Bombonelle, on the contrary, believes the panther to be by far the most dangerous animal of the two.

The French Government gives a reward of fifty francs for each panther that is killed.

## LETTER IV.

Fire eaters—Visit to a “Compagne”—Anecdote of a young sportsman  
—Hare hunting—Boar hunting.

SINCE we had been in Algiers we had heard a great deal about the fire-eaters; and being informed that they were going to hold a *séance*, we determined to be present at it. We made our way accordingly, at 8 p.m., to the upper part of the town, and were ushered into the court of a small Moorish house; here we found assembled a number of dervishes, of the sect of Huän, and the sub-sect of Jesus, prepared to celebrate the feast of the Hiasawa. This feast is intended to commemorate the wonderful manner in which Allah once preserved the faithful in the wilderness, giving them power to eat anything and to perform many wonderful acts without detriment. The

admission into the sect, which is composed purely of fanatics, is thus: the neophyte is introduced into the presence of the brethren, and, squatting down, throws back his head, when the chief, after saying a prayer, spits down his throat, and he is then supposed to be able to perform all the miracles of which the members of the sect are capable.

In the centre of the court the musicians were sitting in a half circle, cross-legged, and armed with large tambarines; in front of them was a small charcoal brasier filled with live embers, and redolent with the incense it consumed. A box full of snakes was also at hand. The other half of the circle was composed of the devotees sitting placidly round. Immediately behind them, a small space some four feet square, was kept clear by two Arabs, who seemed to play the part of bottle-holders to the performers. In the rear of this space were the spectators, who were packed together as closely as possible; these were chiefly Arabs, on whom the exhibition produces a great effect. Behind the musicians was an old grey-bearded individual, who held in readiness the instruments of torture with a

look of intense satisfaction. In the gallery, which ran round the court, was a crowd of Moorish and negro women; when anything particularly horrible took place these ladies uttered a something between a yell and a squeak of applause.

After we had been seated about five minutes, the music began; a sort of strumming on the tambours, which gradually increased in intensity, and was occasionally accompanied by a monotonous vocal strain. In about ten minutes one of the devotees began to show signs of inspiration. In the first instance he threw himself backwards, and one of the bottle-holders disencumbered him of his turban, ber-nouse, &c. The individual thus relieved began jumping up and down on his bare feet, wagging his head backwards and forwards as though he had a neck of whalebone. Under his nostrils was a brasier of incense, the inhaling of which must have added to his stupefaction. After he had been jumping a few minutes, number two began to be similarly affected; the other bottle holder set him going, and placed him alongside his companion. Presently they were bathed in perspiration, foamed at the mouth like mad

dogs, and soon dropped exhausted into the attendants' arms. These kind friends deposited them on the floor, where they rolled about, roaring and bellowing like wild beasts. Some large cacti covered with spines were now produced. The two beasts snatched at them with their foaming mouths and devoured them in a most ravenous manner, uttering all the while unearthly sounds. When the cacti were dispatched, the two performers were removed in a prostrate condition.

The music, which had ceased whilst the scene was enacting, now began again, and in due time wrought its effect; first one individual and then another went through the same course of undressing, dancing, head-shaking, perspiring, and foaming. A long sword was then brought in, and offered us for inspection. Satisfied as to its sharpness, we returned it to the bottle-holders, one of whom grasped it by the handle, whilst the other held it by the end of the blade, round which he had wound his sash. When all was ready, one of the maniacs jumped upon the sword, and danced with his bare feet on the edge, which was held upwards; the breast of the other

maniac was then bared, he laid himself across the edge of the sword, and his friend amused himself by dancing upon his back. Two men now pulled the sword against his body, whilst other two tugged at his hands and feet, endeavouring apparently to cut him asunder; not succeeding in this, they doubled him up, and one of the bottle-holders stamped on his back to revive him. This seems to be a sovereign remedy amongst the Arabs for all ailments; even the women resort to a like method of cure.

After the removal of the second couple, the music aroused two snake-charmers, who went through various antics, and ended by devouring a tender young serpent. Next in turn came a fellow with wonderfully long hair reaching to his knees, which gave him a very wild appearance as he danced and wagged his head. Whilst he was getting up his frenzies, a sort of large spit was handed round; it was weighted at one end with a solid bit of iron, from which were suspended small chains; the other end was pointed. This man howled and shed tears before he commenced operations; then, taking the instrument in his hands he put the sharp end of it into his eye, and spun it

round and round till it had screwed up both eyelids; and the eyeball itself was seen projecting half way down the face. He now removed the spit out of his eye and thrust it into his body, hammering it in some three or four inches with a large stone; he knocked away till the stone was broken, and then capered about the room, the muscles of his body making the iron quiver as it stuck in him. After this man had been revived by the jumping process, he resumed his place in the circle, and appeared to be none the worse.

Presently a huge negro bounded over the heads of the musicians, who, being in an ecstasy, flung himself upon the charcoal brasier, and, seizing a red hot morsel between his teeth, run round the court blowing sparks in all directions. He then threw back his head and let the embers fall upon his palate, which which gave his mouth the appearance of a lamp. This operation he repeated several times, and then upset the contents of the brasier on the stone floor, standing with his bare feet on the hot cinders till the fire was extinguished. When he had been sufficiently jumped upon, he gave a convulsive motion to

his back-bone, which sent the man who was kneading him spinning off with the loss of his turban, to the no small amusement of the spectators. The last man whose performances we staid to see, laid hold of a red-hot iron, which he licked with his tongue and lips, and held between his teeth; he likewise rubbed his hands over it, till the smoke of his frizzling nails went up with a savoury odour; yet there was no mark of fire upon him. This individual ended by sticking metal skewers through his cheeks, neck, and other parts of his body.

Having now assisted for three hours at the entertainment, we thought we had had enough, and took our departure: we were told, however, that the performance would last four hours longer.

A few days afterwards we received an invitation from a gentleman to pay him a visit at his "Campagne," which was some sixteen miles distant from Algiers, and not very far from Sidi Moussa. This district was said to abound in wild boars; we therefore went with alacrity. The road lay across the river Harach: here we saw the damage done to the country by the late inundations of this ordinarily



quiet stream: whole villages were destroyed, and large fields of artichokes washed away; the inhabitants, notwithstanding repeated occurrence of such disasters, were preparing to rebuild their houses on the same sites.

We had some difficulty in making out our friend's abode. The surrounding country was dotted with the cabins of colonists; but we in vain strained our eyes to discover anything answering the rather grand description we had received of our destination. At last it occurred to us to ask of a boy, who was tending swine, where Monsieur —— lived. He pointed out a small wooden edifice not far distant, to which we soon made our way. The basement story served as a stable, above which were three rooms—one a granary, another a sleeping-room and parlour, and the third a servant's room. Our host welcomed us from the summit of the ladder which led to his rooms, and bid us ascend. This when we had done, we found set out for us a feast of absinthe and cigars. Our friend told us we could not have come to a better person than himself, if sporting were our object: he pointed out of the window to the forest, which he told us

abounded in game. He then proceeded to relate how the love of sporting had early smitten him. "When I was a boy," he said, "the house next to the one in which we lived was inhabited by a Moor. One day I saw a large eagle hovering over our neighbour's precincts; it was the work of an instant to seize my father's gun, run along the flat roofs, and shoot the bird. Down it came, into the middle of the Moorish house. Amazed at my own rashness, I rushed back home. I had hardly got there, before a thundering at the door announced some impetuous visitor. I hastened to be the first to answer the summons; it was the Moor, and under his bernouse I could perceive my eagle's tail. 'Is your father at home?' said the visitor. 'Oh, no!' I replied; 'but can I give him any message?' 'I have a little history to relate to him!' said the Arab, who was in such a towering passion as to be scarcely able to speak; 'my wife and I were sitting in the court of our house, when the report of a gun was quickly followed by the descent of a large bird into my wife's lap. My wife was in an interesting state, and all my hopes have been blighted, in consequence of the

fright she has sustained.' I luckily remembered that my Arab had a weak point, namely, an inordinate love of vinegar; so, hastening to the store-cupboard, I confronted the Sidi with a bottle of that article. After a little parance, the Arab, to my great joy, went off with the vinegar, leaving me my bird, together with a promise of no further reference to his blighted hopes."

Our host now whistled to his dogs, and invited us to go out with him: the dogs that answered his call were a liver-coloured pointer and two French foxhounds. The pointer, it seems, was expected to combine the properties of pointer, spaniel, and retriever. We struck out into a cover of *palmettas*, or dwarf palms. Our companion commenced by lighting his pipe, and said: "You will see before my cigar is lit my big hound will wag his tail, and then *défiex vous*; there is sure to be a hare; he never deceives me." We received instructions how to comport ourselves. "When the hare is started," said our host, "lie down; the dogs will chase her in a circle? she will return to us, and then we will all fire." He had hardly done speaking, when his

hounds went off full cry. "Is it not magnificent?" said the *propriétaire*. "Lie down; they will soon be back." However, we had obtained a pretty clear idea of what to expect in these quarters, and made our bow without awaiting the return of the pack. We now made a stretch across the country to the Reghaya, which we reached after a ride of about four hours. Here we found a new village, consisting of some forty houses; there were only two French families in the place, the rest of the inhabitants being Mahonese, Spaniards, Maltese, and one German. Having given out on our arrival that boar-hunting was our object, a French *sapeur* colonist, a handsome fellow, stepped forward and volunteered to accompany us. As it was getting late, we loaded our rifles and started immediately for the forest. The moon had not yet risen, on whose light we had mainly to depend for our sport. Our guide took us through the forest along the banks of a stream, which he said the wild boars always crossed at night on the way to their feeding-ground. Here he placed us in ambush near the runs of the boars, and at a distance of about five hundred yards from each other.

We lay perfectly still for about two hours; but the moon never came out, and it was so pitchy dark that we could hardly have seen to shoot an animal three yards distant. Under these circumstances, our guide came and picked us up each from our place of concealment on his way home. He told us we must start again at half-past five in the morning, and try to intercept the wild boars on their way back to the forest. Many a fall we got on the rough ground owing to the darkness, and we were not sorry when we reached our quarters in safety. Having satisfied the cravings of hunger, we retired to the only other room in the house, and rashly got into bed. There was not much need to call us in the morning, for owing to the insect tribes we had not been able to sleep, and were all ready waiting for our chasseur, who came to join us at five o'clock. We lay concealed in our appointed places till eight o'clock, when we began to hear the wild boars moving all around us. One of the party presently got a snap-shot, and we tried to follow the boar he had wounded into the thicket. The only passage through the tangle of thorns was that made by the wild beasts, and, if we had happened

to meet a boar coming in the opposite direction to ourselves, it would have been unpleasant; we therefore soon gave up the pursuit as useless and returned to breakfast.

## LETTER V.

**Boar hunt at Boudouaou—Moorish bath—Moorish feast of the circumcision—Mahometan religion—Visit to the Mosques.**

THE want of success in our last expedition only made us the more keen, and a boar hunt on a larger scale was soon organised. We were up at four a.m. on the appointed day, and by five o'clock were already two miles on the road to Boudouaou: an uninteresting drive of five hours brought us to our journey's end. We were in excellent time for the meet. Our horses had been sent on over night, and were waiting for us where we descended from our vehicle. Around us was a crowd of Arabs, some mounted, some on foot; they were armed with long guns and heavy boar-spears: there were also a few Europeans, some

with large hunting horns, others with pistols, others with guns.

Before mounting our horses we entered a house of entertainment, where we made a very satisfying breakfast of coffee and wild-boar pomade spread upon coarse household bread.

The word was given, and the hunters threw off. We struck immediately into an undulating country, covered with dense prickly *broussailles*, which in many places reached breast-high. It was difficult enough to wend our way through the tangle at a sober pace; but when the cries of "Hallouf, hallouf!" announced the joyful news that a boar was on foot, and we all rattled helter-skelter after him, few but Arab horses could have pulled us through.

About a hundred Arabs were mounted, and about as many more were on foot. Those who were on horseback galloped through the bush, yelping objurgations at the boars; and those on foot trotted on as best they could. There were also a few Arab boarhounds, eccentric hieroglyphic animals, such as Cheops once hunted with. These dogs somewhat resemble the rough Scotch deerhound; their tails are



curled tight round on their backs, and their ears stick out at right angles to their heads.

Soon the shot of a skirmishing Arab announced that a pig had been "sprung;" the report was followed by a general scurry of all the field in the direction of the sound. We perceived a large-sized boar trotting leisurely amongst the bushes, and taking a direction towards an open tract of country, which formed a small plain at the base of the mountains. Off went the Arabs in a white cloud after him, their bernouses streaming in the wind, and with their bare arms brandishing their spears and long guns over their heads. Every one tried for the first place. When the animal had gained the "open" he increased his speed, and there was a general blaze of musketry at him: this was the most dangerous part of the sport, for the Arabs fired totally regardless of all intervening objects, and those who rode forward stood an equal chance with the boar of being damaged by the bullets. We now came to a small though deepish ravine, which was intersected by a brook. The brook was for some time an obstacle to many, but at last all were again in full cry, galloping

over bush and brake. After a run of ten minutes we came to a check; the boar had taken refuge amongst some high bulrushes: his shelter did not avail him long; he was soon forced to take again to his hoofs, and narrowly escaped many an Arab spear. The agility with which the Arabs hurl these spears and pick them up again at full gallop is surprising. Suddenly the boar was seen to roll over, and he never moved again. A stupid "braconnier," on foot, perceiving the direction the animal was taking, had concealed himself behind a large stone, and fired into his ear as he passed. Thus ended a brilliant twenty minutes. Then the trumpeters wound their horns, and off we went to seek another quarry. Soon a second boar was found; he got up close to my horse's feet, from under a bush, where he had apparently been sleeping. After a gallop of ten minutes, the honours of the chase fell to Sidi Hamet the Caid's son, a boy of twelve years old. The little fellow shot the boar, at full gallop, right through the head. His father, the Caid, was extremely proud of him, and looked on with great delight as the sportsmen patted him on the back and shook hands with him.

The boy was mounted on a grey colt of two years old; and his long dagger-like spurs, large stirrups, and huge Arab saddle, made himself and his steed look still more diminutive. The third boar gave us a long run, and was killed by a lance-thrust behind the shoulder. After this the horn sounded for a repast, which was spread out on a hill side in the midst of the cover. Arabs held our horses whilst we regaled ourselves. After the meal came pipes, and then the empty bottles were stuck on sticks to serve as marks. At these we tried the shooting qualities of our various rifles. In point of price the French have a decided advantage over us in firearms.

Presently, the horns sounded to horse, and off we went. We found almost immediately. The boar must have been lying close to us during our eating and shooting operations. The excitement and delight of the Arabs was very great; and, considering the reckless way in which they fired, and the headlong way that they rode at the boars with their spears, it is a marvel that no accident happened. After eight boars had been killed, the sport was supposed to have been sufficient; packhorses were laden with the pigs, and the company dispersed.

When we got home, we determined to refresh ourselves by taking a Moorish bath. We went to the first that presented itself. In the outer court we found a group of Arabs, incumbered with a very small amount of raiment, who were ready to wait upon us. Everything of value that we had about us we gave to the door-keeper, and deposited our clothes upon a shelf. A tawny Moor then came and wound a small bit of blue rag round us, clapped a pair of wooden sandals on our toes, and led us into a large vaulted lofty room, at a temperature of about 120 degrees Fahrenheit. In the midst of this room was a stone altar-like erection, on which there was space for about four men to lie at full length side by side. We were each provided with a little pad for our heads, and laid upon the altar. We soon broke out into a violent perspiration, and continued streaming for twenty minutes. In this state we were seized by Arabs, and carried off to a warm fountain close by. Here we were deposited upon the ground, being still allowed the privilege of having our little pads. After we had been pumped upon, the operation of squeezing began. Our attendants kneaded us with all

their might, tried to press in our ribs, caught at our sides in a playful way, punched our chests, skated down our backs with their bare feet, and otherwise performed gymnastics at our expense. After they had sufficiently amused themselves in this line, they gave us a smack of approbation, and commenced scrubbing us with rough cloths, dabbing us the while with warm water. Our tormentors next took some soft Cabyle soap, and with a sort of mop they whipped up a lather, which was quickly applied to our devoted persons. When we had been thoroughly soaped, buckets of warm water were dashed over us. We were then adorned with turbans, and a sort of winding sheet was wrapped round our bodies; our wooden sandals were again put on, and we were conducted to the outer court to cool. There we were placed on mattresses and covered with gauze cover-lids. After we had been drying for a short time, our attendants came and gave us a final knead. The whole process being now completed, we put on our clothes and walked off a good deal exhausted.

In the evening we were asked to assist at the feast of a Moorish circumcision. The entertainment com-

menced at eight o'clock. We were ushered into the house by a Moor who was standing at the door. We found the court covered in at the top, and the galleries protected with canvass, so that the women should not be seen. The floor of the court was covered with carpets, and there were innumerable Moors sitting cross-legged upon them. In one of the sides of the court were the musicians, seated on a low divan: their leader was an old fellow, with a large turban and a grey beard; an expression of most supreme fun lighted up every movement of his face. The music was, as usual, very monotonous, and generally accompanied with the voice. As soon as we entered we were presented with chairs. All were dressed in their best; some were drinking coffee, some were smoking, some playing at cards, some eating couscousou; but the majority were doing nothing. Coffee was perpetually handed round, and was brought to us at intervals throughout the evening. The master of the house now made his appearance. After greeting us, he ordered couscousou to be set before us. The attendants brought a linen cloth, which they placed under our feet. Our knees

were enveloped in a similar article, and a five-legged stool was set in the midst of our small circle. On the stool was a metal dish, which was presently uncovered, and we were supplied with wooden spoons. At the side of the great dish were little basins of sour milk ; into these we dipped our spoons, and, having drunk some of the disagreeable contents, we took a mouthful of the couscous, and then with rapacious fingers seized lumps of the meat which was stuck into various corners of the dish. It is considered the highest proof of good breeding to hand the most savoury morsel to your neighbour, and let him have a nibble before you eat it yourself. We could by no means, even with the best intentions, keep pace with the Arabs, who bolted the viands at an incredible rate. When we showed signs of being satisfied, the table with its appurtenances was removed, and we were again served with coffee and supplied with pipes.

The music now ceased, and the boy, a pretty little fellow of eight years old, was brought in. His hair, which was cut short over his forehead, hung in long ringlets behind ; it was dyed with hennah, as

were also his hands and feet. His crimson jacket was beautifully embroidered in gold; he had on a girdle of gold brocade, and a sash of richly-worked silk was tied across his shoulders. The child was passed from one guest to another, and smothered with caresses. Matters kept oscillating between music, tobacco, and coffee, till midnight, when the musicians moved up stairs; the women having previously ascended a story higher. The mother of the child, however, remained in the gallery, and did not seem to mind appearing unveiled, which showed how much she was absorbed by the proceedings. We went into a long room, in the centre of which was a divan for the musicians, and at one end, behind a beautiful silk curtain, was a bed splendidly ornamented. As soon as the rite had been performed, a man rushed to inform the women of the fact, and they forthwith began yelling in chorus something that sounded like "hear, hear, hear, hear!" quickly repeated, and with the omission of the aspirate. A friend of the family stood near the bed, holding a bag, into which the guests now began putting their donations. If any one dropped in rather more than the



rest, the recipient exclaimed, "All honour to Sidi—who has given with magnificence!" *pour encourager les autres*. Even amongst the poorer classes as much as nine hundred francs is often collected in this way, which makes the feast a very important one to them.

As we went out of the door we were sprinkled with rose-water. On going down stairs we were pressed to partake of some more refreshment; but, as it was now nearly one o'clock, and we had seen all that was to be seen, we salamed and retired.

The conscientious observance by the Mahometans of their religious rites must strike every one. A French cab-driver one day remarked to me: "You may give an Arab any amount of money you will, and you cannot get him to move a finger for you on one of his holy days. And he's right," said the man; "I work both Saints' days and Sundays, and am none the richer for it." If a Moor wishes to ingratiate himself with a Christian, he says: I "am your friend, I eat pork, drink wine, and do not believe in God." In Algiers there are two sects of Mussulmen, the *Maleki* and the *Nanefi*: to the

former the Moors belong, who acknowledge the Emperor of Morocco as their spiritual head; and to the latter the descendants of the Turks who adhere to the Sultan. The Cabyles differ from the Arabs in not being governed by the Koran; they have substituted for it a traditionary law, said to have been in force for two thousand years. They have an idea that they were once Christians, and their women frequently tattoo their faces with the cross. They also cross themselves as a charm.

On the following morning we went to visit some of the mosques in Algiers. The first we arrived at was the marabout of Sidi Abd-el-Hamet, the most sacred of all the holy places. Of course we had to take off our shoes, and, entering through a low outer court, we came at once upon the shrine; it was surrounded with silken banners, which had at various times been presented to the Saint by the Commanders of the Faithful. Hung around were various other presents, such as rough attempts at pictures, lamps, coloured ostriches' eggs, &c. The ground was covered with rich Turkey carpets, on which, in various postures, of prayer, were Arabs, Turks, Moors, and Negroes,

in their various dresses. In a corner apart were several women and children. The walls were ornamented with glazed tiles of many colours, bearing inscriptions from the Koran. We next went into a room by the side of the mosque, where was seated on a mat a small blear-eyed man, said to be the guardian of the marabout. Delicate hints were given us that a little gift would be acceptable to the old fellow; so we each tipped him a franc, and, having resumed our shoes, were conducted into another court. This was a burial-place for such as could afford to pay from one hundred to five hundred francs for the accommodation; there was again an outer court, where the price ranged from thirty to forty francs. The graves were formed with a head-and-foot piece of slate, having a crescent and verses from the Koran carved upon them. In the centre were flowers, and at either end little cups were placed on a level with the ground, into which it is usual every Friday for the relatives to put water for the birds to drink. Attached to the establishment was a slaughter-house, where the sheep and oxen given by rich believers for the use of the poor are

slain. Of course the guardian of the sacred rites takes first for himself and his family; and afterwards, at seven o'clock on Friday evenings, he distributes what is left to the poor. Close to this marabout, but independent of it, is the tomb of the famous pirate Dey, Barbarossa.

Next we went to the mosque of Sidi Ramdan; it is built in the shape of a long room, three sides of which are surrounded by projecting galleries: there was likewise a small recess, seated in which, with his back to the congregation, was the leader of prayer; when he bowed the people bowed, and when he chanted the people chanted. The galleries round the mosque are used during the Rhamadan for women, infirm old men, and children. Children begin to observe the Rhamadan at the age of twelve years. In the mosque of the Kleber, five men were sitting together chanting the Koran. Whilst we were in this mosque, two unbelievers entered without having taken off their shoes. This caused a great scandal. A frequent mode of getting over this inconvenience, is for some functionary to go up to the offender and wipe his shoes with a cloth, exacting at the same

time some payment. This is supposed to cleanse the transgressor of his offence, and he pays, as it were, his footing.

We then visited the marabout of Sidi Mahomet Sherif. The devotions here were all private, and those performing them were in strange attitudes, turning neither head nor eye to look at intruders. Attached to this marabout is a school for young Moors; but, as Friday is a holiday, we had no opportunity of watching the process of teaching.

## LETTER VI.

Expedition to Blidah—Hunting Expedition—Arab feast—Curious accident—Town of Blidah—Kindness of the French—Stud of horses—Colour of the Arab horse—Gazels and hyenas—Feast of Sidi Bel-al.

WE were informed that a great “chasse” was about to take place some twenty miles on the other side of the town of Blidah. This was an opportunity not to be lost; so we sent on our horses beforehand, and ourselves took places in the diligence, which was to start at twelve o’clock. The road lay through Birmandreis, Birkadem, and the town of Bouffarik. Our conveyance was very crowded. There were ten of us in the *rotonde*, of various creeds and degrees of cleanliness. In the *coupé* were three ladies; and the *banquette* was filled with officers and soldiers. Owing to the rains of the previous night, the roads were very bad. Three times our rope traces gave

way, and as many times were the three leaders their own masters. Our rate of going brought us very late to Blidah, and we only reached our destination at seven o'clock in the evening, after a journey of seven hours.

The Hôtel de la Régence being full, we were forced to put up at the Hôtel de France; here we found the wherewithal to eat and sleep in moderate comfort. When we got up, at five o'clock in the morning, it was raining; however, by six o'clock—the hour at which it was appointed we should start—the weather looked more promising. Our horses were ready waiting for us, as also was an officer of Spahis, who had kindly undertaken to show us the way. We took a direction west by south, along the Milianah road, and jogged along at a solemn pace, followed by two Spahis *ordonnances*. The hills above Blidah were covered with snow, and the clouds looked as if they intended to deposit shortly a good deal more.

Our guide, who had been twenty-four years in Algeria, pointed out to us many places on the road where the French had had fierce contests with the

Arabs. One sugar-loaf hill he showed us where the loss of the French was never less than five hundred killed. "We often fought there," said he, "and the number of killed was *une affaire réglée*."

After we had ridden on for about half an hour we were overtaken by the carriages containing the ladies who were to be present at the chase. An officer next drove by in a carriage drawn by four mules at full gallop. Various horsemen now came up, Spahis, Turcos, Zouaves, Chasseurs, Hussars, and "Civils." We presently reached the village of Moussaïa; here fresh relays of horses and mules were harnessed to the carriages. After fording three rivers, the last of which, the Ger, took our horses to their middles, we came to the Hel-el-Telt hills. On a slope of one of the hills we found a squadron of Hussars drawn up; and, on the summit were pitched four magnificent tents, in which were spread rich carpets, cushions, and divans. In front were the Arab flags of silk, surmounted by the crescent and the star. Five *tribus* of Arabs were assembled under their respective chiefs.

At a given signal the whole band of Arabs dashed



into the bush, which thickly covered the sides of an opposite hill. The company had all dismounted, being separated from the scene of action by a deep ravine. A regimental band was playing, and the Caïds stood on the mountain-top, directing the movements of their men. There was a constant blaze of firing from the line of beaters. The bush was so thick, and the ground to be gone over so wide, that the operation of beating was a very long one. We therefore varied our amusements by watching the proceedings of the Arab cooks, who were hard at work behind the tents, preparing our repast. The first we came upon were the coffee-makers; these men had a tub of nut-brown water out of the river as a basis for their operations. As fast as the coffee was made it was carried about amongst the guests; each coffee-pot had three attendants, one to carry the tray, another to hand the cup, and a third to drop orange-flower water into the beverage, out of a small bottle with a perforated cork. Next we came upon two defunct sheep, which were longitudinally stuck upon large stakes; either ends of the stakes were held by Arabs, who slowly twirled them round

over a fire of charcoal embers. Besides the two turners, each sheep was attended by two butterers; one man kept gashing the flesh in all directions, whilst the other ladled into the slits a liberal supply of melted butter. A frantic head cook was rushing about in all directions, giving orders to his subordinates with unceasing gesticulations. A little further on, a sheep was lying which had recently been slain in the name of the prophet, and another, smelling at its late comrade, was awaiting a similar blessed fate. From various points divers savoury odours were arising, announcing the manufacture of couscousou and many other equally tempting dishes.

After having taken an Irishman's anticipation of his breakfast, we returned to witness the chase. The Arabs were still fighting their way through the thicket, yelping and firing without cessation. The only game they moved was a young panther; but, out of consideration for the safety of the ladies, he was allowed to depart unmolested, As soon as the beaters had reached the end of the cover, the bugles played to breakfast. The first course consisted of a sort of twisted sweet dish; then came

large bowls of couscous; these were followed by many indescribable ragouts; and lastly in procession came four sheep, each on its pole, and steaming as it went. The poles were sharpened at one end and stuck into the ground; the company then proceeded to pick pieces of meat with their fingers from the backs, legs, or any parts they particularly fancied. One sheep was poked "fore and aft" into the ladies' tent, to be operated upon by the hungry damsels with their delicate fingers. Champaign was abundantly supplied by the Caïds; for the Arabs conveniently consider that champaign is not wine. Altogether the feast was very delicious, and its novelty, with the beauty of the whole scene, gave zest to the appetite. Just as the popping of the champaign corks had abated, and the fumes of tobacco were mingling their fragrance with the mountain air, the rain began again to descend. This caused a rush of gentlemen to the vacant tents, where such as were musical and comic favoured us with lively ditties. Here we lay stretched on Moslem rugs, little accustomed to these signs of mirth, till the rain had ceased. The whole party now mounted,

and we wound our way down into the plain. The Arabs, with the exception of the Caïds and a few Spahis, were all on foot, and drawn up in a long extended line; behind them, in the same order, were the mounted hussars; and at a little distance in the rear were the ladies and their attendants. The trumpet sounded, and the march began, the Arabs beating the palmettas with their long sticks. Soon a miserable little hare was started; the hussars drew their swords, every one who had a gun shouldered it, and all order was forgotten. The hare had died an inglorious death long before the blaze of musketry had ceased; and now came a grand scramble for possessing the prize. One gentleman, in high delight, came up to me and said: "Ah! you have no such sport as this in England"—a sentiment in which I cordially agreed. After about twenty hares had been thus put an end to in as many minutes our old enemy, the rain, came down upon us again. This time it was so much in earnest that the word was soon given, "Se sauve qui peut," and we beat back for Blidah. The rivers were so swollen that we could but just ford them;

in another two hours they would have been impassable. We reached our hotel at five o'clock, and dried ourselves as best we could in anticipation of dinner. Whilst I was thus engaged, the waiter came to my room and told me that an Englishman in distress wished to speak to me. I followed my guide into a small bedroom, and there found an individual in bed. His story was soon told; he had been caught by the rains in the mountains on his way from Médéah, and, having no change of clothes, had ordered a fire, and gone to bed whilst his things were drying. He was awakened from a pleasant slumber, into which he had fallen, by a smell of fire, and but just in time to see the last smouldering ashes of his habiliments. I was unable to help him, as I had only what I required for myself. However, we summoned the landlord and the waiter, and, what with the coat of the one and the inexpressibles of the other, my friend managed to present a very decent appearance at the *table-d'hôte*.

The town of Blidah was totally destroyed by an earthquake in the year 1825, and 18,000 persons are supposed to have been buried in its ruins. The

survivors retired to the distance of about a mile from the old town, with the intention of raising there a new city; however, their love for their old haunts induced them soon to abandon this idea, and a new town rose from amidst the ruins of the old one. Blidah was surnamed the "voluptuous" by the inhabitants of Algiers; its situation at the foot of the Atlas Mountains, and its beautiful environs with their stately orange groves, combine to render it a most attractive city. It is here that the Government have placed their *Haras*, or establishment for improving the breed of Arab horses. A French officer did the honours of the stud.

The civility and genuine good-heartedness of all those French gentlemen with whom we became acquainted added greatly to the enjoyment of our visit to Algeria, and we shall always entertain a lively recollection of the hospitality and consideration shown us by our French friends.

The stud is composed of about forty horses. There are horses from Syria, Tunis, Morocco, and Algeria. Some of them have been bought for large sums. "El-Maz," a white Syrian horse of great strength,

and standing about fifteen hands, had cost one thousand guineas, and was a present from the Emperor. I was also much struck with the symmetry of a little chestnut horse, up to immense weight, called "Maihadin," which was bred near Blidah. During the spring months these horses make the tour of the provinces, so that any of the Arabs may improve the breed of their animals gratis, receiving at the same time a certificate of the parentage of the colt. The stables are all open sheds, having straw blinds in front, which may be let down as a protection against either wind, rain, or sun. The food of the horses consists of barley-straw, with a little barley. They are well cared for, and treated with scrupulous kindness. Their docility is surprising. It is a striking sight to see so many entire horses standing in long open sheds without partitions, close together, and merely fastened with the usual cord, which hobbles them all by the fore leg.

As I have before observed, the wind of these horses is quite astonishing. Sometimes in expeditions against the Arabs the French soldiers have

been in the saddle from five a.m. till ten p.m., and performed a distance of eighty-five miles, without giving a mouthful of food to their horses. The horses when on the march never sleep under cover, they are always ready for work, and never ail anything. Three things are indispensable to an Arab horse—a good eye, a good foot, and a good appetite. The price given for regimental horses varies from 350 to 400 francs. The Arabs illustrate their estimate of the different colours of horses by the following tale:—A chief of a tribe was once pursued by his enemies. He said to his son, “My son, drop to the rear, and tell me the colour of the horses of our foe, and may Allah burn his grandfather!” “White,” was the answer. “Then we will go south,” said the chief; “for on the vast plains of the desert the wind of a white horse will not stand in a protracted chase.” Again the chief said, “My son, what coloured horses now pursue us?” “Black, O, my father.” “Then we will go amongst the stones and on rocky ground, for the feet of black horses are not strong.” A third time the young Arab was sent to the rear and reported chestnut horses.



“Then,” said the old chief, “we are lost; who but Allah can deliver us from chestnut horses?” Dun or cream-coloured horses the Arabs consider worthless, and fit only for Jews to ride. They say also that a flea-bitten horse is never a bad one.

In the yard belonging to the Government stables twenty gazels were running about, perfectly tame; and with them, in apparent amity, were two hyenas running at large. These ugly brutes came and rubbed their snouts against us in loathsome endearment.

Shortly after our return to Algiers we assisted at the feast of Sidi Bel-Al, Mahomet's slave, and the first Mouëtsin who called the children of Islam to prayers. This feast is held once a year on the seashore, and about two miles out of the town. It is one of the few gatherings at which the Moorish women make their appearance; of course they are closely veiled, but I have before remarked how the difficulty of a veil is got over. Around the “koubba,” or spot sacred to the saint, were pitched thirty or forty tents, in which the Moorish and Negro women were sitting cross-legged. The

negresses vied with each other in the brilliancy of the coloured silks which covered their ebony limbs. In front of them sat their high priestess. She was distinguished by her head-dress, which was in the shape of a horn, and at least a yard long.

The Caïd of the Negroes was also present, and another dignitary, whose office was to sprinkle every one with rose-water. A band of musicians formed a circle on the sand, and played the one everlasting Moorish tune on their tambours, tum-tums, bems, and other instruments; round these again was formed a larger circle of Negroes, within which were various dancers, who beat their heads with sticks and otherwise comported themselves like maniacs. The centre of another circle was formed by some negresses, who were holding a wretched little ox, covered with strings of cowry shells and garlands of flowers. This was to be offered in sacrifice, and was the cheapest possible bit of devotion. The black ladies were diligently employed in filling the animal's mouth with grass, its nostrils with incense, and bathing its back, which was very dirty, with rose-water. Six chickens were also tied

together by the legs in a bunch, and a man was swinging the poor wretches over his head with a cord, in honour of Bel-Al. When the right moment arrived the heads of the ox and the chickens were simultaneously twisted, knives were stabbed into their quivering bodies, and the women all passed in line before the operators, to have their foreheads sprinkled with the blood.

The Negroes and Negresses were now supposed to be worked up to a pitch of the highest excitement; they accordingly commenced, both men and women, plunging into the sea, and feigning a desire to drown themselves: very little persuasion was sufficient to divert them from their purpose, and that being accomplished, the feast was over. Ours now began, for a friend who resided in the suburb of Mustapha, conducted us to his house, and entertained us most sumptuously.

## LETTER VII.

Boar hunt at the Foudouk—Staouéli—Milianah—Sorjo—Journey to Teniet-el-Had—Caravansary—Hôtel des Cédres.

LAST week we had another excellent boar hunt. We started over night for the Foudouk, where we dined on wild boar, quails, beef soup, and omelet. Next morning early, our friend the Caid sent one of his Arabs to conduct us to the meet. We rode through a very pretty country, much resembling the Highlands of Scotland. As we proceeded, mounted Arabs kept joining us at every turn; some were armed with guns, others with spears; these they drew out from under their bernouses on our approach. When we reached the rendezvous we found many beaters assembled; but the Caid himself had not yet arrived. Amongst the first to appear was a marabout, distinguished by the

colour of the camel's-hair roll which surrounded his headpiece. Groups of white horsemen were seen approaching in the distance, and at last a cry was raised of "The Caid is coming." Each Arab stooped to kiss the Caid's knee, who in his turn placed his hand with a paternal blessing on his vassal's head. Presently another chief, known by the name of the black Caid, arrived with his retainers—a mountain tribe. The hunt now began; but, as I have already described a boar hunt, and one very much resembles another, I need not enter into more minute particulars.

In one of my shooting expeditions I found myself near the Trappist Monastery, at Staouëli, about twelve miles from Algiers. Being anxious to see the establishment, I accosted a brown brother, who was standing near the door; he would not speak, but bowed low and rang the bell for me. The door was opened by another brother, who did not seem to be under a vow of silence; he took me into a room where the little objects the monks manufacture for sale are kept. These consist of rosaries made of the palmetta seeds, crucifixes, and other things.

After having made some purchases, which were taken into the chapel to be blessed, I was conducted to an inner door; this was opened, after a short delay, by a white father. He conducted me into a side apartment to write my name down in a big book, and then we went to the church. As we were about to cross the threshold of the court, the father said to me: "Now you will observe that after entering this court I shall not speak, as that is not allowed to the keeper of the cross." Service was going on in the church, which is a very plain building, on the principle of *point de luxe à la Trappe*. Next we went into a large room, with little seats all around it; under each seat was a drawer, containing books, and suspended to the wall was a card, on which were written the names of the fathers and the brothers (fifty-four of them), with their tasks allotted to each. The prayers were divided into subjects, and a certain number of names appeared under each subject—one subject for prayer was the keeping holy of Sunday. The tasks of manual labour were allotted in like manner. The next place we went into was the refectory. Nothing

could be more primitive than the arrangements; each had a little earthen jug, a knife, and a spoon. Meat is never eaten by any of the order, unless in extreme cases of illness. On fast days even oil is forbidden, and only salt, bread, and water are permitted. The place where the superior sits differs in no way from the other seats, excepting that by the side of his jug are placed a bell and a hammer—the bell to ring for grace, and the hammer to summon any brother who should misbehave himself. There is also a rostrum, from which a portion of the Fathers is read during meals. We next visited the dormitories; these, which are under one roof, are open at the top, and only separated from each other by a thin plank. The furniture is of the simplest sort; everything, however, is scrupulously clean. The library is a very small affair. The Trappists form an essentially agricultural order; out-of-door pursuits, and prayer, seem to occupy all their time. When I had seen all they could show me, I was invited to partake of some breakfast; and, being very hungry, I was not slow to accept the invitation. I was therefore shown into the strangers'

room, where I found an Italian—a traveller like myself. We were waited upon by a father and a brother. The first dish was an excellent thick soup, made of a preparation of flour; then came a bowl of rice, seasoned with pepper, a first-rate omelet, cheese, butter, and dessert. On my remarking that the fare was very good, the attendants shook their heads and said, “Ah non, rien de bon à la Trappe.” Whilst we were eating, a father read to us something that seemed to relate to the lives of the saints; but the manner of reading was such that we could not understand much of it. The wine was of their own making, for wine is not forbidden them by their rules. It was very bad; but they said that when they grew enough to sell they should take more pains in the manufacture of it. After breakfast we went to see the workshops, where some of the brothers were turning beads for rosaries, others making carts, horseshoes, ploughs, and various other things. None could speak, being under vows: the vows of silence are made for different periods, varying from one to six months. The monastery employs thirty workmen. In the farmyard were the



beasts being harnessed for work, and the signs of two dumb brothers to each other concerning a restive ox were curious to behold. Our conductor was most communicative, and seemed glad to have a little mundane talk, in spite of his having resigned all interest in that orb. We then visited the cemetery; over the gateway is inscribed the motto, "Though my life has been hard, my death is sweet;" and this is the only *luxe à la Trappe*. Simple, amiable people are they, the good brotherhood. We lastly inspected the strangers' dormitories; any one who asks for lodging is welcome.

The day was so hot, owing to a wind that was blowing from the desert, that we did not accomplish much more shooting.

Being desirous of extending my excursions a little further into the interior, I made my way again to Blidah, with the intention of starting from thence. I found that there was a species of conveyance from Blidah to Milianah; so I booked my place, and was ready at the *bureau* at half-past three in the morning, at which hour we were advertised to start. We did not get under weigh till 4 a.m. The vehicle

was calculated to hold four, and six of us had taken places. The *conducteur* allowed the passengers to settle this anomaly amongst themselves. The party consisted of a fat old woman, very noisy withal, and much addicted to *le petit verre*; a portly old Agha, with the decoration of the Legion of Honour on his *bermouze*; a young soldier of hussars; and a *grisette* with a young *ouvrier*, who passed for her brother. We travelled in a state of extreme discomfort till half-past ten o'clock, when we stopped at a wayside hut for breakfast. Here we found "bouillon" provided for us, with an after-course of dried fish, olives, and Bologna sausages; such are the virtues of a good appetite, that even these were palatable, and we washed our meal down in sour wine with great gusto. After breakfast I clambered up on to the top of the vehicle, and preferred assorting with the luggage for the rest of the journey to facing again all the miseries of an inside place. After having passed the plain of the Mitidja, and when we entered the mountain districts, the country assumed a very beautiful aspect. Milianah is situated on the Atlas range, and stands in a bold command-

ing position. It is plentifully supplied with water, consequently its suburbs are ornamented with rich verdure. In the time of the Romans this city flourished under the name of "Malliana," and blocks of marble, carved with Latin inscriptions, still testify to their ancient domination. Milianah is the key to the possession of a vast tract of fruitful country, and it was long before the Arabs allowed the French to become its peaceful masters. The road from Blidah is the only one by which wheeled vehicles can obtain access to the place, and in bad weather even this road is impassable. Thanks to the propitiousness of the season, we accomplished our journey in nine hours; and soon after our arrival were installed in the Hotel d'Isly.

My first care was to procure means of starting on the following morning for Teniet-el-Had. With this view I visited the Arab fondouk, or market. Here, after much difficulty, I secured a wretched mule for myself, and a still more wretched horse for my guide and baggage. There is not much worth seeing in Milianah, but I visited the Jardin d'Essai, where I saw the famous "Sorjo" growing,

from which the French expect great things. The plant has been brought from China, and the seed is employed in making sugar and spirits.

At four o'clock on the following morning the Arab whom I had engaged to take me to Teniet-el-Had began knocking at my door. It was in vain I told him that I did not want to start till six; all he said was "chouïa—chouïa" (directly), and kept up an incessant rapping. At five o'clock, finding it was impossible to sleep through the noise, I got up in self-defence.

On coming down stairs, I was quite taken aback at the sorry show made by my cattle. The mule intended for my own riding was very small, old, and covered with sores; and the horse destined to carry the luggage and guide was of the same sort, whilst its hanging head and drooping lip betokened anything but the energy of life. Neither animal had either bridle or saddle; but I had luckily brought a saddle with me. I let the Arab make his own arrangements, and, after a bowl of *café au lait*, I started. My attempts to elicit information from my guide in Arabic were very poor, and he was innocent of any

other tongue. The only redeeming point in my fortunes seemed to be the fineness of the day.

We first descended a precipitous tortuous road, into the plains of the Chélif, and crossed the river of that name at a ford. The stream ran swift and strong, and it was all our animals could do to keep their footing. The plain, which is about nine miles across, was covered with a profusion of flowers, and several hawks and kites were skimming about in search of quails. As we began to ascend the high ground on the opposite side, the country had a very park-like appearance, with an abundance of ever-green shrubs, and junipers growing to the size of considerable trees. There seemed to be no lack of water, and we forded innumerable streams. We passed but few habitations; and those so closely resembled in colour the ground on which they stood, that they were not easily distinguished. Once or twice we fell in with bands of Arabs, with long sticks in their hands, accompanied by their dogs; they were looking for wild boars, which swarm in those parts. It is not uncommon for a troop of these beasts to trot out in front of your path. The

old males are at certain times very savage. There was a multitude of garrulous Rollers hopping amongst the bushes; bee-eaters were darting to and fro', with their brilliant plumage glittering in the sun; the raven with his sombre coat and croaking voice, the beautifully-painted Barbary partridge, various sorts of pigeons, and many huge eagles, all approached us with fearless familiarity. I did not take advantage of their innocence, for though I had my fowling-piece in my hand and my rifle slung over my shoulder, I did not like to disturb their enjoyment, and my own in watching them. Six hours riding through a magnificent country brought us to the Caravansary, at twelve o'clock. It is here that travellers between Milianah and Teniet-el-Had generally pass the night; but, as I had no time to spare, I determined to push on. I therefore contented myself with breakfasting and taking an hour's rest. The man in charge of this Government establishment has a wife and three children, and these are the only Europeans he sees, with the exception of chance travellers, who are chiefly military. A more desolate life can hardly be con-

ceived. I started again at one o'clock. After leaving the Caravansary the road became very rugged and bad; moreover, my unhappy animals were quite knocked up, and I was frequently obliged to stop to let them feed. We went on for some hours in a continuous ascent, and when we had reached what appeared to be our highest point the view was very grand. The varying forms of the Atlas mountains, here covered with snow, there green with verdure, and intersected everywhere by deep valleys, formed a panorama of no ordinary beauty. We now began our descent, and presently entered the plains inhabited by the Bedouin Arabs, whose dwellings consist of camel's-hair tents, and their possessions of large flocks and herds. We followed for some distance the course of a clear stream, full of fish, till we found a convenient place for fording it. Here beautiful blocks of white marble showed themselves at various points where the soil had been broken. It was six o'clock when we arrived at this spot, and I began to think we should never reach our journey's end. I had long been forced to walk, as my quadruped could carry

me no further. The everlasting "Chouïa, chouïa," was all I could get from my Arab guide in answer to my questions about the distance. How glad I was to come at length upon a French cottage! Another weary hour and a half now brought me to Teniet, having been thirteen hours and a half on the road. A bleaker and more exposed situation than that of Teniet-el-Had does not exist. It is placed on an elevation between two ranges of hills, which form a funnel, down which the wind always roars. There is but one house of entertainment—the Hôtel des Cèdres, as it magnificently calls itself. Not being able to see, however, anything that looked even like a pothouse, I inquired of a passer-by where it was; he told me if I wanted the cèdres I should find them in the mountains; and, having cracked his joke, he condescended to point out the house to me. I alighted at a small abode, the property of a Swiss, who promised me all I could require. My parlour was a share of the kitchen, and my bedroom a small solitary cowshed, two hundred yards off; its door hung upon one hinge, the damp floor was covered with potatoes, there was



no glass in the window-frame, and the board roof was perfectly pervious to the weather. This was not a cheering reception after a long tiring journey ; but travellers must not be too nice in their ideas of comfort. It appeared I had just arrived too late for a panther and a lion hunt, which had taken place in the morning. A panther had been devouring donkeys, about five miles off, on the very road I traversed ; and a black-maned lion had been carrying off cows to his lair in the "Forêt des Cèdres." Neither of the animals had been yet killed, so I might still be in time for the fun.

## LETTER VIII.

Tell and Sahara—Visit to the forest of cedars—Lion's lair—Hunting the lion—Garrison theatricals—Gazel hunting—Spahis encampment—Ostrich hunting—Visit to a Spahis tent—Mule stolen—Departure from Teniet-el-Had—Snow storm—Sisters of charity—Colonization in Algeria—Climate—Accommodation.

Teniet-el-Had is about 150 miles from Algiers, and stands on the confines of the Tell and the Sahara. The Tell and the Sahara are distinguished by their produce. Perhaps the simplest definition is, that the country where corn is the rule belongs to the Tell, and where it is the exception to the Sahara. The Tell extends, at most, 150 miles inland, and presents a surface of about forty million acres. The boundaries of the Sahara are not quite so well defined. South of the Sahara and beyond what the French call "the natural limits of Algeria," lies the great unexplored desert.

Teniet consists of a camp, as it is called—which is, in fact, an extended fortress, surrounded with walls and flanked by towers. Outside the camp lies the village, composed of a few wretched houses. The place is chiefly famous for its magnificent forest of cedars. This forest covers a space equal to more than six thousand acres, and the trees grow to a great size.

There was nothing so particularly tempting in my quarters as to make me wish to lie longer in bed than was necessary. Accordingly, I was up at day-break, and began to make arrangements for a visit to the forest. It was at a distance of only six miles that the lion of the black mane had taken up his abode, and I had a strong wish to have a look at his lair. The morning was intensely cold, and at six o'clock a violent thunderstorm, attended with snow, burst over the village. It was eight o'clock before the storm had abated sufficiently to admit of my setting forth. My horse was supplied me by an officer of the *bureau Arabe*; this was my first trial of an Arab saddle, and, as far as my experience went, I should much have preferred riding on the

bare back of the horse. Several officers, with whom I had the good fortune to become acquainted, also accompanied me; they were attended by their mounted servants, and we picked up a few Arabs on the way. We found the mountains covered with snow, upon which our unshod horses slipped about most unpleasantly. The beauty of the scenery, and the great size of the cedars, far surpassed all my expectations. The forest is planted on a lofty mountain ridge, rudely broken into picturesque forms, and extends over a vast tract of country. The trees, many of which may be truly called gigantic, cover the crests and sides of the hills down to the valleys below. The cedars on the higher ground were now clotted with snow, which lay in masses on their flat table-like boughs. The French army at the time of the conquest ruthlessly destroyed some of the finest trees for the sake of obtaining firewood, and the charred carcasses of many still remain to show how great the work of destruction has been. Now, however, further devastation is forbidden. There are also some fine oaks in the forest, the black acorns of which are edible. In-

numerable eagles and vultures flew close to us without exhibiting any fear. I also saw the African jay and magpie, the Barbary partridge, and a host of smaller birds. Many of the flowers were curious; Amongst them a wild tulip of a brown colour striped with green. After riding some distance through the forest, we came to a steep sugar-loaf peak covered with underwood and crowned with cedars—It was here that the lion had formed his lair. The plain below was dotted with the tents of the Arabs, around which their flocks and herds were feeding. When the lion felt hungry he had only to descend, and take his pick. It was to dislodge the animal from these comfortable quarters that the unsuccessful hunt of yesterday had been organized. Nor were we on this occasion more fortunate in our endeavours to rouse the *yellow one* (*El-ouerd*) from his slumbers. The hill was surrounded by Arabs, who kept up an incessant noise of shouting and firing of guns, but all to no purpose; the lion either was not there or disdained to take any notice of the hubbub, and no one cared to venture into his lair. A few days afterwards a third attempt was

crowned with victory ; the lion showed himself, and was slain by the famous Caid of those parts, who had already laid low thirteen lions. This man is possessed of enormous strength ; it is said that he can hold out at arm's length two full-grown Arabs, one in each hand. In hunting the lion the Arabs address him by his titles, and reason with him as with a human being ; the haughty, the valorous, the tremendous, the devourer, the recluse, the hero, are amongst the many epithets by which they designate the king of beasts. A lion will stand watching his victim for some time before he makes his spring, and has been known to walk away and leave the man unmolested who has sufficient presence of mind to go on without appearing to notice him. A panther, on the contrary, springs upon his victim unexpectedly from ambuscade, and the Arabs always hunt him in silence.

In the evening I went to witness the garrison theatricals. The parts were all taken by non-commissioned officers and privates, and wonderfully well got up. A little corporal, dressed in female attire, made one of the prettiest women I ever saw.

The scenes were painted by a young lieutenant, a clever and very agreeable man.

- . The following morning snow again greeted us on our rising. It had been arranged the night before that I should accompany a party of officers on an expedition to hunt gazels, and one gentleman had kindly offered to mount me on the occasion. The day was not propitious; but we clad ourselves in waterproof clothing, and, thus protected, started at 7 a.m. After three hours and a half sharp riding we arrived at the point where it was arranged we should alight. The country we had traversed was so monotonous in its aspect, that without a guide it would have been impossible to find our way through it. At the spot where we halted a small river had formed at its bend a high embankment, under the shelter of which were pitched some forty tents, made of goats' hair and camels' wool. These were the tents of a detachment of Spahis, or native cavalry, and a wooden hut in the centre was occupied by two French non-commissioned officers. The Spahis soldiers are all volunteers. An Arab makes his appearance at the office established for that purpose,

and says, I wish to be a Spahis for a month, three months, a year, as the case may be; he is then enrolled, his horse is bought of him by Government, and he receives handsome pay; out of his pay he has to find his dress and arms. He brings with him his tent and family, and they all live together till the expiration of the term of service. These arrangements suit the Arabs very well, and there is no lack of volunteers. This body is officered entirely by Frenchmen; which is not the case with the "Turcos," or *indigène* infantry regiments. As we descended into the encampment, the Arab dogs attacked us right vigorously. An Arab took hold of each of our horses as we dismounted, and we entered the wooden hut, where an excellent breakfast was prepared.

Over this said breakfast a great deal too much time was wasted to please a sportsman; after breakfast came pipes, and after pipes absinthe. At last we were allowed to mount our horses again, and began our search for gazels. The coldness of the weather was against our finding much game; however, at the end of an hour's riding a beautiful



little animal started from behind a rock, and bounded on before us, keeping well out of gunshot. We soon found that our horses were not fresh enough to give us any chance of success, and we were reluctantly obliged to give up the chase. In hunting the gazel, as well as the ostrich, the Arabs are in the habit of having relays of fresh horses, placed at given distances. This is easily managed, for the game generally runs pretty straight towards the desert. The ostrich, when he finds himself beaten, lays his head down on the ground and is killed by a rap on the crown of the head with a small stick; the gazel usually attempts to double back, and is shot by the hunters; sometimes he falls down from fatigue and is picked up alive. We saw no other four-footed game all day. On our return to the Arab encampment we were seized by a desire to examine the tents. We expressed our wishes to a dignified-looking Spahis, and he nodded his assent. Before we went into his dwelling he insisted upon our each drinking some milk out of a huge bowl he handed to us. We found the tent divided into two parts, one side for the men, the other for the women.

The men's compartment was very comfortably furnished with carpets and cushions; the partition was formed by a suspended *foutah*, or veil. On taking a clandestine peep behind this, I saw two women, one old, the other young; there seemed to be but little furniture in the women's compartment, no mat or carpet, but only a spinning-wheel, a large chest, painted red and blue and richly gilt, and a few earthen jars of curious shapes. The Arabs do not veil their women like the Moors, and do not appear to be so jealous of them.

It was late in the evening before we reached Teniet-el-Had. My French friends told me that now in the time of the Rhamadan it would be hopeless to expect any efficient help from the Arabs in my hunting excursions. During this long fast they are incapable of exertion by day, which is chiefly spent in sleep. I therefore determined to return to Algiers, having seen all that was to be seen at Teniet.

During the last night that I passed in my wretched sleeping-place I was disturbed by various noises, proceeding from a neighbouring abode. On

asking the cause in the morning, I was informed that a mule which was lodged there had been stolen by a party of Bedouins.

At six a.m. the horses procured for me by the *bureau Arabe* came to the door. The morning was cold and bright, and a hard frost caused everything to crackle under the feet; there were, however, ominous clouds on the horizon, which made me doubt the smiling sky. The first two hours of our ride passed without accident or incident. On ascending into the higher mountains, a heavy cloud, black as night, hanging above us, warned us of impending storms. I had but just time to pull up my boots, put on my cloak, and bag my guns, when a few drops, large, sharp, and decisive, told us we were in for it. And now came down as heavy a snowstorm as I ever saw. The wind at the same time blew very keenly. My poor Arab companion, clothed in his *bernouse* began singing mournful muffled ditties. Perceiving my waterproof cloak shining with moisture, he thought I must be wet; and the good creature offered to strip himself of his *bernouse* and cover me with it. When we had crossed the highest ridge, and had

descended some distance on the other side, the snow began to convert itself into rain. By degrees we got out of the influence of the storm altogether, and were now baked by the heat of the sun. As we were leaving the regions of snow, I met two ambulance mules, each laden with two Sisters of Charity. The ladies were escorted by foot-soldiers. They asked "What news from Teniet?" "Snow, my sisters," was the genial answer. The remainder of my journey to Milianah was safely and expeditiously accomplished.

The country about Milianah, and generally indeed throughout the district of the Tell, is very fruitful. The miasma, however, produced by the first turning of the virgin soil, has proved a great bar to colonisation. The uncultivated land is generally disposed of by grants from Government, and is allotted in proportion to the wealth of the applicant. Three hectares of land are given for every four hundred francs of capital. To have any concession at all made, a man must prove that he is possessed of 3000 francs. When a Frenchman has had a grant of land made him, he obtains at the

same time a right to a free passage from Marseilles to Algiers. A fixed time is allowed for bringing the land into a proper state of cultivation. At the end of this time, if the terms have not been fulfilled, the property is forfeited. If, on the other hand, the Government Surveyor is satisfied, the grant is confirmed, and the possessor is charged by the State with an annual rent of something like a franc per hectare. This rent is redeemable by paying a certain sum down. These arrangements seem only to have impeded colonisation by trammelling the settlers with irksome conditions. A French colonist soon gets discouraged; and the return to France is so easy for him, that we find the French civil population in Algeria forming an almost imperceptible minority. There are 43,000 Spaniards, 10,000 Italians, 7000 Maltese, 6000 Germans, 2000 Swiss, and a few of other nations. Of these the Spaniards are the most thriving; their wants are few, and they are very industrious.

The climate of Algeria is not unhealthy in itself, and the greater part of the diseases contracted there are the result of imprudence. Warm clothing,

avoiding exposure to marshy exhalations, abstaining from spirituous liquors, a careful and moderate diet—these are the secrets of health. Those who seek health in visiting Algiers would do well to study the work written by Dr. Foley, and published by Baillière in Paris. Dr. Mitchell has also put forth a statement, founded on his own experience, of the capabilities of the climate. We gather from these works that the air in Algiers is equable but bracing, and that it disposes to bodily and mental exertion, excepting, of course, during the hot months of July, August, and September, when the heat is very enervating. During the winter months a great deal of rain falls, which makes the consumption of waterproof clothing larger in Algiers than almost in any other town.

It is only for European children that the climate of Algiers is really to be dreaded. Dr. Foley says, after an experience of twenty years: "It is next to impossible to rear any child brought to Algiers between the ages of six months and two years."

Another thing to be considered by those who

purpose making a long stay in Algiers is the badness and dearness of the accommodation; though this, of course, is a matter that may improve with time.

## LETTER IX.

Laghouat—"Voiturier" at Blidah—"Gorges de la Chiffa"—"Ruisscau des Singes"—"Répos de St. Hélène"—Medeah—Berouaguia—Boukhari—Boghar—Halfa plant—Ain-Ouarsera—The Ganga—Gedestel—Rocher de Sel—Turned back by bad weather—"Route de traverse"—Horse posts—French general and aide-de-camp.

A HOT sun shone over our heads as we again crossed the Mitidja on our way to Blidah. This time we were bent upon a still longer excursion—namely, to Laghouat. Laghouat is one of the furthest military posts which the French have advanced to the south, and was taken by General Pelissier in the year 1852. Itself situated on an oasis, it forms a convenient military centre from which to command the other oasis of the Sahara. It is about 250 miles distant from Algiers.

We were informed that the whole extent of the little desert (Sahara) might be traversed in a carriage ;



we therefore went to a "voiturier" at Blidah, named Page, and arranged with him to take us in a two-horse calèche at the rate of twenty francs per diem. We started very early in the morning, and at a distance of two leagues from the town commenced the ascent of the famous "gorges de la Chiffa." This ravine extends over a distance of ten miles, and displays some very grand scenery. At one point the river Chiffa falls over a precipitous rock to a depth of about three hundred feet; at another point, one of the armlets of the river obtains the name of the "Ruisseau des Singes," from the number of monkeys which are sometimes seen congregated there. We baited at the "Répos de St. Helène," and in the evening reached Médéah, after a drive of thirty miles. The environs of this town are wooded and fruitful; but we find here a very different climate to that we left behind us at Blidah. In these mountain regions the orange-tree and the olive will not grow, and snow often lies on the ground during the winter months. In summer the heat is excessive. The French were forced into occupying Médéah, finding that as long as the Arabs were in

possession of the mountains their colonies in the plains were subject to perpetual ravages. In fact, "annexation" becomes a necessity to those who give way to the lust of conquest.

The "Hôtel du Gastronom" offers to the traveller once all he can require.

The next morning we pursued our journey along a road which still continued to ascend for some miles to a dreary mountain pass. On descending again we passed through a beautiful cork wood, where a jackal jogged quietly before our carriage for some distance. Having driven twenty miles, we put up at a solitary house called Berouagua, kept by Monsieur Cliqueux. The house was not of large dimensions, one room served for kitchen, parlour, and sleeping apartment; a little sort of offshoot had just been added in the shape of a cabin for general officers to sleep in, and we were lucky enough to obtain the use of it. The following day we drove six miles before breakfast to a wayside house, which boasted two rooms containing several beds for travellers. Whilst the horses were baiting we strolled on along the road with our guns. There

seemed to be an abundance of game, and with a steady old English pointer some excellent sport might be obtained. We only found one other house on the road, which laboured under the disadvantage of being destitute of water. At half-past five in the evening we reached Boukhari. This is a purely Arab village, and stands on the opposite side of the valley to Boghar.

Boghar was an ancient Roman establishment. It is situated on the confines of the Sahara, and is well watered and wooded. The trees are chiefly pine and juniper. On the next day we entered the Sahara of the province of Algiers. We now found ourselves on an extensive plain, bounded by low hills to the south. The weather was very dry, and the ground so hard and even that our carriage rolled on as smoothly as though we were driving along a well-macadamised road. Quantities of gazels were feeding close to us, and large herds of camels were munching away at the halfa. The halfa, which is a sort of very strong rush, seems to grow where no other vegetable production is capable of existing; it is so tough, that it requires either a sharp knife or

the teeth of the camel to sever it. The Arabs make mats of this plant, and it is invaluable to them in furnishing food for their camels in the desert.

This night we put up at the Caravansary of Ain-Ouarsera. These caravansaries are all built on the same model; they are large square buildings, loop-holed externally, and with the windows looking into a court. In the centre of the court there is a well, and at one end of it a covered shed for horses, mules, and camels. They were originally garrisoned by soldiers; but, since the complete reduction of the Arabs, they are only used as resting-places for travellers, whether military or civil.

On the following day we shot some of the desert partridges (*Pterocles alchato*, *Temm.*), called by the French "Ganga," and by the Arabs "el-chata." At the next caravansary, Gedestel, we found the water was obtained by cutting a reservoir in the solid rock. Here the rains that fall in the winter months are collected, and afford a supply during the summer; by the side of this reservoir, in dry weather, the gangas may be shot by scores. The water on this pond was so putrid that we were glad to keep to

windward of it. The next day we were overtaken by the rain, which quickly turned to snow. It came down in such earnest that, when we were three miles from the Caravansary of the Rocher de Sel, the progress of our vehicle was all but arrested. Under the circumstances, we thought we had better travel on foot; and we reached the caravansary a good hour before our carriage arrived there. Gazels and camels were wretchedly wandering in the snow; and some Arabs we passed seemed to be suffering quite as much, if not more, than the animals. They tell us it is very unusual to find such bad weather so far south; and that when it does occur, which is the case about once in fifty years, the Arabs and camels die in great numbers. We walked, dripping with wet, into the house of entertainment, where the good landlord cheered us with a roaring fire and what little luxuries his cupboard contained.

Close to the caravansary was a small pond, on which, in the morning and evening, ducks of various sorts always congregated. We shot there the ruddy sheldrake, the pochard, and the burrow duck. We

next proceeded to visit the famous Rock of Salt. It is a brown-looking hill, about a thousand feet in height, composed of, or coated with, pure crystallised salt; the fissures and caverns are all white as snow. These caverns are filled with innumerable pigeons. Our soldier-guide threw handfuls of lighted halfa into the fissures, which made the birds fly out, and we might have shot hundreds of them.

Near this mountain is a large salt lake, which has been made by damming up a stream that flows from the rock. This piece of water was covered with flocks of wild fowls; but, as the sides of the lake were bare and flat, we were unable to approach sufficiently near it to obtain a shot.

There seemed to be so little promise of any improvement in the weather, that our host of the caravansary strongly advised our returning to Algiers, instead of continuing our journey to Laghouat; for, as he justly observed, although we might possibly reach our destination in safety, yet our return might be delayed for an indefinite period. Taking his advice, we commenced retracing our steps. We found the roads, over which we had before rolled so

pleasantly, were now next to impassable; and, on arriving at Boukhari, we determined to leave our carriage and proceed to Médéah by the *route de traverse*. This road is six leagues shorter than the ordinary carriage road, and conducts the traveller through some very beautiful scenery. Along this route Arab tents are placed at stated distances, about twenty-five miles apart, where horse-posts have been established by the Government. These horses can only be used by those who have been so fortunate as to obtain a medal from the *bureau Arabe*. This badge is worn round the neck like a cabman's number, and on sight of it the Arabs at the various stations turn out as many horses and mules as may be required. No payment is expected from the traveller, as the horses are kept at the expense of Government for the use of officials. At one of these tents I asked the Arab occupier for the loan of a cup to drink from; he answered by taking me to a neighbouring stream, and then placing himself on his hands and knees, commenced drinking, motioning me to do the same. The idea of being caught in a snowstorm between these distant posts, without

shelter, and with nothing but a horse-track to guide us, was so extremely unpleasant, that we were most devoutly thankful to reach Médéah in safety.

A French general and his aide-de-camp, with whom we had parted at Gadestel, were overwhelmed by the floods, and well nigh drowned in attempting to cross the Chélif. It was with difficulty that the general scrambled out on one side of the stream, and the wretched aide-de-camp on the other. Many days elapsed before the two were able to effect a junction; and when at length they reached Médéah, it was with the assistance of fourteen mules, which it was found necessary to harness to their charrette.

On our return to Algiers, the ladies of our party went by invitation to visit the wives of some Moorish gentlemen who lived about a mile out of the town. They took the precaution of going armed with toys, as presents for the children. On arriving at the court of the house, they were received by one of the Moorish ladies. Their hostess shook hands with them, and conducted them to an inner room. Here they found four or five other ladies, with a whole tribe of boys and girls.



After more shaking of hands, the visitors were invited to be seated, and the toys were distributed. The mothers were so delighted with the toys, that their children had but a small chance of ever becoming possessed of them. Some of the women were more or less handsome, and all very much painted. Their dress consisted of full trowsers of different colours, tied round the waist and below the knee, and light vests which concealed very little of the person ; a red head-dress, anklets and armlets of gold or silver, with large diamond rings and earrings, completed the costume.

These ladies are wives of different husbands ; and, as no man is allowed to see his friend's spouse, their living together in one house must sometimes prove inconvenient. An example of this was afforded by the unexpected appearance of one of the husbands, when all the other wives fled in the utmost dismay, for fear of their faces being seen by a stranger. After the object of their fear had departed, they began questioning the Christian ladies as to how they could dare to cross the public streets unveiled, and without feeling shame at being seen by men.

The youngest of the women was only fourteen years old, and but just married; she would have been considered beautiful anywhere; her hands and feet were remarkably small.

The visitors were presently taken upstairs and regaled with coffee. Then all the dresses were exhibited, and, after a little conversation and a good deal of laughing, the party broke up.

The probabilities are that as soon as the Moorish ladies were left alone, they set to work to curse the toys they had received as the works of the Devil, and to pray that he might receive the givers into his keeping as dogs of Christians. Pleasant people to visit!

Those who wish to see a Moorish woman in full splendour must behold her arrayed for her nuptials. European ladies are readily admitted to the wedding feasts. They are received at the door by the bridegroom, who is supposed to keep guard there till midnight. The lower court of the house is reserved for the dancing women, whilst upstairs the bride sits in state to receive her company. As the lady is seen for the first time by her future husband

on the day of her marriage, she makes it her aim to appear to the greatest possible advantage on that occasion. She is first bathed, then painted, and then dressed out in her best garments. Her bosom, if she be rich, is covered with strings upon strings of enormous pearls, and her head is literally concealed by diamonds : these are generally set on branches that tremble at each motion of the neck. At such times the faces of all Moorish babies are carefully covered to avert the evil eye of the Christian.

## LETTER X.

Expedition to Constantine—Dellys—Djigelly—Stora—Philippeville—Town of Constantine—Turkish execution—Colonel of Artillery—Antiquities of Constantine—Saying of an Arab Marabout—Ain-el-Bey—Ain Milah—Arab method of shooting—Bontenelli—Ain-Jacouf—Tomb of Syphax—Batna—Lambessa—Verecunda—El-ksour—First view of an Oasis.

No one can be said to have seen Algeria who has not paid a visit to the province of Constantine.

We left Algiers at noon in an old hospital ship, by favour of Government, and were fortunate enough to be admitted to the captain's table. The fare was excellent, and we were accommodated with a good cabin amidships. The fate of non-official passengers to Stora is often far different, and they have generally a great scramble to get there at all. We hugged the coast all the way: the country looked well cultivated and covered with verdure. The first place we touched at was Dellys, the *Rususcu-*

*rium* of the Romans; this town is chiefly famed for its salubrity. Next we came to Bougie, the ancient capital of the Vandals in North Africa; it has been strongly fortified by the French, and is considered impregnable either by land or sea. Djigelly, which was our next stopping point, is a miserable little place; it was totally destroyed a few months ago by an earthquake; the huts and barracks were immediately rebuilt, and again laid low by another shock. At the time of our visit the inhabitants were still experiencing "*quelque petits tremblements de terre, tous les quinze jours.*"

At Stora we disembarked; this is merely a roadstead at the entrance of the bay of Philippeville, and three miles distant from the town. We were conveyed to Philippeville in boats, as carriages are not to be obtained unless ordered beforehand. Philippeville is quite a new town; it was built in 1838, after the capture of Constantine by the French. There are two tolerable hotels looking on to the sea, the remains of vast Roman reservoirs, and an amphitheatre. The environs of the town are picturesque, and the country is fruitful.

On the following morning we started at six a.m., in an eight horse diligence, for Constantine. The late rains had made the roads abominably bad, and the ruts yawned like great gulfs under the carriage as we swung along. The driver's skill consisted in going at a great pace without meeting with an accident. In many places the passengers were turned out to walk. The roadside abounded in beautiful flowers, and a fellow passenger in a seedy coat, apparently a botanist, was busily engaged collecting specimens.

We stopped to dine at a little village perched up on a hill, through which a river seems to have burst open a passage for its waters, giving a most picturesque aspect to the troubled mountain. Our fare consisted of boiled gazel and wild asparagus.

As we approached Constantine the road became much better, and at seven o'clock our diligence rolled comfortably into the classical streets of Cirta, ancient capital of Jugurtha. We found a comfortable new hotel in the market place, close to the city gates. The town is most singularly situated on a precipitous rock, approachable only by a narrow

isthmus, and surrounded by the river Rummel. The river disappears in some places through natural tunnels, and falls in a fine cascade at the foot of the town.

Early in the morning we paid our respects to the General Commandant, and presented our letters. We met with every civility. Saddle and baggage horses and two Spahis were ordered to be at our service on the following day. This was very fortunate for us, as no decent horses can be hired in the town, and the departure of the diligence to Batna is uncertain. The palace occupied by the general is a very curious building, with inner courts much resembling those found at Damascus. We saw there a Turkish executioner, a bland looking old gentleman, who had cut off eight hundred heads for the Beys in former times, and fifty-six for the French since their arrival.

We next visited a colonel of Artillery at his quarters, beautifully placed in the Cashbar, with gardens overhanging the Rummel. The colonel very good-naturedly mounted us, and sent an orderly with us to do the honours of the place. Our guide

conducted us first to an ancient mosque, which has been converted into a Christian church. We then went to see the aqueduct of Justinien, and the remains of some Greco-Byzantine tombs, discovered two years ago close to the city walls, rich in Mosaic pavement, in ancient paintings, and drawings of uncouth galleys.

Passing over the bridge of El-Kantara, we came to the tomb of General Damrémont, where we obtained an excellent bird's-eye view of the town. This general paid with his life the victory which placed Constantine at the mercy of the French, and falsified the saying of the Arab Marabout, that "the city was a stone in the midst of a stream, and to take it would require as many Frenchmen as would be wanted ants to lift an egg out of a coffee-cup."

If I were writing a history of Algeria, Constantine would occupy a very long chapter; but I must hurry on.

Starting at seven a.m., we took the direct or bridle road to Batna, which is nine miles shorter than the carriage road. A barren, uninteresting ride of twelve miles brought us to Aïn-el-Bey, and,



passing over treeless hills for twenty miles more, we arrived at Aïn-Milah, where we baited at a small inn. Learning that there was good shooting to be had in the neighbourhood, we sent the horses on, and pursued our way on foot. We found an abundance of ducks, chiefly widgeons and teals, together with swarms of bald coots. The pools which the birds frequent are very small and surrounded by tall reeds, so that the shooting is very easy. An Arab boy who accompanied us took the water very willingly, and retrieved our game. A usual method amongst Arab sportsmen is to assemble in great numbers, and then, setting fire to the rushes, to blaze away at the affrighted ducks.

After walking for some miles, we joined our horses and pushed on for the half-way house where we intended to pass the night. This is a small one-roomed inn, kept by a man of the name of Bon-tenelli.

We were off early the next morning, and had a fine ride between two large lakes. In the distance, their banks for several miles, seemed fringed with white. As we approached, the white line rose, and

thousands of flamingoes passed *en masse* over us. At ten o'clock we reached the caravansary of Ain-Jacouf, the fountain of diamonds. Here we stopped to breakfast on Carthage fowl and light claret. At the picturesque fountain in front of the caravansary was collected a group of Arab women, unveiled, who had come with their pitchers, like Hagar, to draw water. They were much darker than the women of Algiers, and ornamented with a profusion of golden armlets, anklets, rings through their ears, and bead necklaces. After breakfast we rode to the tomb of Syphax, called by the Arabs Medrasham. This tomb closely resembles the "Tombeau des Chrétiens," near Koleah; it is circular in form, solid, with a diameter of about fifty feet, and has steps up to the top. The base is ornamented with Doric pillars. The Arabs regard this monument with superstitious feelings, and suppose it to contain a treasure which is guarded by genii. One of the Beys is said to have attempted to destroy the tomb with his artillery, for the sake of obtaining its contents, but of course he failed in his impious design. Our digression took us about six miles out of the

direct road, and we did not reach Batna till six o'clock.

We had letters to the general commanding the district, but we heard that he had been absent for upwards of two months with a column of the army on an expedition to Ouaregla, and that he had not yet returned. We were just introducing ourselves to the officer commanding *pro tem.*, when the general himself rode up. Before dismounting he read our letters, gave orders that all our wants of horses, Spahis, &c., should be attended to, and invited us to dine with him.

People may talk of French civility being only skin deep, but I doubt if from any other people unknown travellers would have met with such courtesy as we invariably experienced at the hands of the French.

On the following morning we took the route to Lambessa; travelling in a gig along a well-macadamised road we were not long in performing the two leagues.

The ruins of this fine old city occupy a space of about one square league. In the days of the

Romans it was the head-quarters of the Second Legion; it has now been converted by the French into a great military penitentiary. We found the officer commanding the Engineers to be a zealous antiquarian, and from him we received much interesting information: he also showed us his valuable collection of drawings.

All the monuments which characterise the civilization of the Romans are to be seen here. Conspicuous amongst them is the beautiful Temple of Esculapius, the Temple of Jupiter, the Arch of Septimus Severus, and the Prætorium, in which are found statues, mosaics, and inscriptions in a high state of preservation. There are also aqueducts, triumphal arches, baths, and palaces enough to afford many days' amusement to the lover of antiquities.

Five leagues further on, the extensive remains of the city of Verecunda are to be seen. These, however, we had no time to visit.

The country about Lambessa is famous for lions, and we had the satisfaction of hearing one roar whilst we were there. One of the Spahis who accompanied us told us that he had three times met

one on the same spot, standing in the middle of the road; but by turning back and going round a little way he was enabled to proceed without molestation.

We returned to Batna about noon, and at one o'clock set off again with fresh horses and Spahis *en route* for Biscara. The snow which covered the mountains prevented our passing through the cedar forests, said to be almost as fine as those we visited at Teniet-el-Had.

The road we now took was dreary, but good, and brought us early in the afternoon to the caravansary of El Ksour. From thence we walked to visit some Arab tents, and were furnished by their inhabitants with a breakfast of dates and coffee.

Like the nomades amongst whom we dwelt, we did not suffer the grass to grow under our feet, but, starting at five a.m., we reached an encampment of Spahis at eight o'clock, and a further ride of eleven leagues through a wild mountainous country brought us to the gates of the desert. At this point a rushing stream has formed for itself a narrow gorge, which is crossed by a Roman bridge in a state of

perfect preservation. Below us we beheld an oasis composed of some seventy thousand palm trees, with which also the banks of the river were thickly fringed. In the centre of the oasis was a large village built entirely of mud, and of a character quite different from anything we had seen north of the pass. The temperature, as we descended into the valley, became suddenly many degrees warmer, and we felt ourselves in a different region.

## LETTER XI.

El-Kantara—Another Rocher del Sel—Ain-Outaïa—Wretched quarters—Col de Sfa—First view of the great desert—Oasis of Ziban—Biskara—Cultivation of the Palm—Jardin d'acclimatation—The commandant—Bustard hunting—Sid-Okba—The Caid of Salah—Homeward journey—Mouflon hunting—Diligence adventure—L'Arba—Telegraph in the wilderness—Hamman Meskoutin—Military hospital—Guelma—Bone—Bugeaud—Abd-el-Kader's brother—Return to Algiers.

WE lodged the following night in the caravansary of El Kantara. About two hours after leaving this spot we came upon a spring of hot water, which served as a warm bath for our Spahis, who stopped to say their prayers and wash themselves in the pool. The next object of interest which attracted our attention was a *rocher de sel*, larger even than that we saw on our way to Laghouat. This supplies all the surrounding country with edible salt.

After crossing a rapid river we reached our next

halting-place, the Caravansary of Aïn-Outaïa. We found these to be most inhospitable quarters, and if it had not been for the timely assistance of the Caï of the village we must have starved. We vowed many a vow not to be caught here again, and shook the dust off our feet at the place as we sallied forth in the morning with empty stomachs to toil up the Col de Sfa. Arrived at the top of this eminence we were well rewarded for our labour by the beauty of the scene. The boundless desert, with its sea-like horizon, lay stretched before us, extending as is believed, to the banks of the Niger; below us was the large bright green oasis of Ziban, of which Biskara is the capital; whilst other similar spots appeared to be sprinkled about at various points in the distance.

On entering Biskara we passed on one side some large barracks, and on the other the house of the commandant. On the "place" we found a pretty club-house, with a garden in front of it, whilst the opposite side of the square was bounded by the public pleasure-grounds. The market was a very busy scene, thoroughly African, and attended by



natives of all sorts and colours; the traffic is chiefly in corn. The whole oasis is thickly covered with palm trees, from which the revenues, both public and private, are derived. Great pains are taken with the cultivation of these trees; water is led in little channels to the roots of each of them for a limited time every day. The rapid and broad stream of the Oued-Kantara, which falls into no river or sea, is entirely absorbed in giving nourishment to the products of the oasis. To ensure fertility the seed of the male palms is conveyed by the natives to the top of the female trees. This oasis is said to contain more than one hundred and fifty thousand palms and twenty thousand olive trees. Some of the palm-trees attain to a height of ninety feet, and produce an immense quantity of dates. About one-half of the fruit is sent into Europe, the other half finds its way into native mouths. Nor are these mouths only human, for the Arab dogs and horses eat the dates whenever they can get them with great avidity.

A grateful shade is generally to be found in the palm groves, even when the thermometer is standing at 118° Fahr. outside.

This high temperature was supposed to be favourable to the cultivation of many tropical plants; accordingly, a *jardin d'acclimatation* has been established here. Within a few days of our visit some of the more delicate productions were injured by the frost—such has been the unaccustomed rigour of the season.

In the course of our rambles we fell in with the commandant, who invited us to dine with him in the evening; he was walking with the Caïd of Biskara, a portly, dignified man, decorated with the insignia of the legion of honour.

In the commandant's drawing-room we found a blazing fire, whilst on the table was laid a copy of the *Illustrated London News*, only ten days old. Singing and playing were the order of the evening. Our host, on our departure, promised that a party of Arabs and horses should be at our service the following morning for a *chasse aux outardes*.

We rose early in hopes of sport, and, after proceeding three or four miles into the desert, found plenty of bustards. The horsemen form in a circle round the birds, and draw closer and closer to each

other till they drive them within shot. This amusement is not totally devoid of danger, for the Arabs never like to miss a chance; if therefore, you happen to be in a line with the game, so much the worse for you. After satisfying ourselves with the pursuit of bustards, we loaded our guns with small shot, and, giving our horses to the attendants, walked leisurely on towards the oasis of Sid-Okba, shooting the sand grouse as we went.

Sid-Okba was a famous conqueror who flourished in the seventh century; a mosque has been erected to his memory in the centre of this oasis, and his tomb which is to be seen in the mosque, is an object of great veneration amongst the natives.

The Caïd entertained us with an excellent breakfast *d'arabe*. The repast lasted an hour and a half; we afterwards walked in the great man's garden, of which he seemed very proud—palms, pomegranates, sweet lemons, figs, and turtle doves were there in abundance.

On leaving the oasis we struck into the desert in another direction; our course took us by some thermal springs, which are said to be capable of

cooking a leg of mutton. We attempted to bathe in them, but found the water rather too warm to be pleasant.

The next day, in compliance with the directions of the *bureau arabe*, the Caïd of Salah organised a wild boar hunt for us. We rode twelve leagues to the meet, and then found that we were expected to go through a breakfast before the commencement of the chase. The meal was a very long affair, for Arab notions of hospitality make it necessary that you should see your meat cooked as well as eat it. A good deal of valuable hunting time was thus lost to us. The sport differed in no respect from that we had enjoyed in the neighbourhood of Algiers, saving that there were more boar-hounds and fewer boars.

At the conclusion of the chase, the Caïd accompanied us home to Biskara; and we did our best to return his hospitality. He seemed to look with suspicion upon our food, and would only partake of fruit and milk. We afterwards turned over the contents of our portmanteaus for his edification. What seemed to please him most was a small

bottle of sal-volatile, which he offered to buy at any price. However, he was perfectly satisfied to forego the drug on our presenting him with a large clasp-knife from Sheffield, armed with a spring and with a corkscrew at the back. Our friend stuck to us like a shadow all the rest of the time we remained in the place. We tried to give him a hint to depart by expressing fears that he was wasting his time with us; but he assured us that it was the custom amongst the Arabs when they had chosen a friend to see as much of him as possible. Our Caïd also intimated his intention to accompany us to England: we told him he would want a bag of dollars to take him there, a bag of dollars to spend there, and a bag of dollars to bring him home. This set him thinking how he could grind so much money out of his *tribus*; and, as the result of his cogitations was unfavourable, he became very sad. In the evening there was a ball at the club-house. The reading-room was very prettily rigged out for the occasion. There were plenty of *beaux* of all denominations, but ladies were very scarce. This difficulty was

met by extending the invitations to female Christians of all classes, to the exclusion of their industrious husbands.

After another day's bustard-shooting we took leave of Biskara, and turned our horses' heads towards El-Kantara, carefully avoiding the inhospitable Aïn-Outaïa.

On our way we fell in with a party of mouflon hunters: we were very glad to accept their invitation to join them, and met with tolerable sport. I use the word tolerable in the English sense, which makes sport depend upon the number of creatures killed; though, for my own part, I am better pleased with an indifferently-filled bag, which has been procured after the exercise of considerable patience and skill, than with the slaughter of hundreds of half-tame victims that can make no fight for it.

For shooting gazels, the method pursued in this part of the country is to lay flat on the ground and await their approach, having first raised a low screen of stones to hide you from sight, and as a rest for your rifle. To shoot the mouflons, you must watch for them by the pools at which they come to drink.

These mouflons sometimes carry a magnificent "head," and are considerably larger than the Sardinian mouflons, examples of which may be seen at the Zoological Gardens in the Regent's-park.

From El-Kantara we rode to Batna; and from thence made some very interesting excursions into the Forest of Cedars. Finding that a diligence started from the very door of our hotel, we took places in it for Constantine.

Our journey was anything but pleasant. Soon after we started it began to rain; the roads became very sticky, and our conveyance, which was badly horsed, began to go slower and slower. At length the passengers were requested to get out and walk. There was nothing for it but to do as we were bid. The diligence never overtook us, and towards night-fall we arrived in woeful plight at the Caravansary of Aïn-Jacouf. I was so far fortunate as to obtain a bed to myself, which I immediately got into for fear of losing it. Nor did I get out of it till ten o'clock the following morning, vainly hoping that my clothes might have time to dry; however, as the accomplishment of this wish seemed hopeless, I put

on my dripping garments and joined a party which was about to return in quest of the missing diligence. We found that the *conducteur* had enlisted the assistance of six artillery mules stationed in the neighbourhood, by whose aid we at length succeeded in reaching Bontenelli's house. By the time we arrived at Constantine I had had quite enough of diligence travelling. The *bureau arabe* supplied us with horses and Spahis guides, and the next day we started for Bone. For the first few miles we found the road very good; it suddenly stopped short as we came to the foot of some grass-covered hills, and our horses had to pick their way through large boulders and deep mud holes. We passed the night at a solitary farmhouse called L'Arba. This house is built in form like a caravansary, and was originally fortified. We were received with the greatest hospitality. Our host told us that he found farming anything but a profitable pursuit, and his chief wish seemed to be to part with his stock and become a Spahis. He farmed about three thousand acres of land, devoting his chief attention to the improvement of sheep. Labour in these parts is scarce



and dear, two francs a day besides board and lodging being expected.

Here we obtained some excellent wild-fowl shooting, on the banks of a stream which ran just below the farm. Whilst we were shooting, a number of wise-looking vultures kept watching our proceedings. They sat immovable on the impending crags, and only when a bird fell did they give a slight turn of the head, which displayed the covetous twinkle of their eyes.

We pursued our journey for forty miles over some vast downs without seeing a single habitation. At night many wild beasts' concerts may be heard there; but in the daytime the silence is only broken by the screech of the eagle and the moaning of the telegraph wires. The Arabs look upon these wires as a means of communication between the infidels and their demons, and never dream of meddling with them.

The village of Hamman Meskoutin, as approached from the south, is very attractive; it is surrounded by rich woods, and situated in a beautiful undulating country.

The name of the place means in Arabic "enchanted baths." It is famous for its hot springs, which were used by the Romans. The Roman baths have been restored by the French as nearly as possible on their original model. A military hospital has been established here, capable of containing 200 patients. Those soldiers who are afflicted with rheumatism are sent to Hammam Meskoutin during the season—that is to say from April to July; later, unwholesome vapours are said to be exuded. Very beautiful natural cascades are formed, and white calcareous deposits left by the waters. These deposits are in the shape of cones, some of them twenty feet high. The baths are both vapour and douche.

The road to Guelma passes through a finely-wooded country abounding in lions. Guelma is the ancient *Calama* of the Romans. The remains of a Roman gateway and theatre are still to be seen. The town is well watered, and furnished with a church, schools, and large military and civil establishments. Near the town are the thermal waters of Hammam-Berda; hot springs exist everywhere in this neighbourhood. There is also a lead mine in the *tribu*

of *Beni-Addom* which, is still worked, and is supposed to have been known to the ancients. There is a comfortable hotel at Guelma.

In pursuing our route to Bone, we came to a wild mountain pass, from which we obtained a fine view of the lake Fetzara. This lake abounds in wild fowl of every description, and the shooting on its banks is inexhaustible. Government has forbidden the destruction of grebes and swans, whose feathers are articles of some value.

We reached Bone at five o'clock, and established ourselves in a good clean hotel on the *grande place*. This "place" has an enclosed garden, much resembling that of a London square, with the difference that the trees in it are palms and pomegranates.

The town of Bone was built in the year 697, by the Arabs, out of the ruins of the ancient city of *Hippone*. This city was founded by the Carthaginians, under the name of *Ubbu*. Besides its intimate connection with all the stirring acts of Roman history, it was famous as the residence of St. Augustine. In modern days the daring deeds of General

Jussuff, during the siege of Bone, rival those of the heroes of antiquity.

From the Cashbar, which stands a short distance out of the town, a fine panorama of the bay, forests, and surrounding scenery is presented.

Amongst the ruins of Hippone, a statue of Saint Augustine has been placed.

We also visited the village of Bugeaud, situated high up in the forest of Edough. This forest is composed of oak and cork trees. In the village we fell in with a brother of Abd-el-Kader's, a short, sharp-eyed, clever-looking little man. He told us, if we were so inclined, we might have some capital wild-fowl shooting and boar-hunting in the neighbourhood. Time, however, pressed, and evening found us on board a fast-sailing steamer bound for Algiers.

At Stora we took some hundred Zouaves on board. They make themselves at home in a ship directly, and are great favourites with sea captains. They seem to be able to stow themselves out of the way, in a manner unknown to other troops and are ready to turn their hands to anything required of them.

At Bougie many bales of cotton were shipped. The price obtained for Algerian cotton is anything but remunerative to the grower. The loss on the sale is borne by the Government, and a slight *bonus* is added to encourage the production.

We reached Algiers forty-eight hours after leaving Bone.

## LETTER XII.

Climate of Algiers—Algiers under the Turks—The name of Algiers—Christian slaves—French conquest—Prospects of Algiers as a colony—Schools—The mosque of Djemmâa-Djedid—Statues—Public buildings—Suburbs—Good bye.

THE time of our departure has now arrived, and this is probably the last letter I shall write to you from Algiers.

I may safely say that there is no place within such easy reach of England which affords more pleasure to the visitor than Algiers does.

You are aware that the reason of our coming here was, in the first instance, for the health of one of our party. Amusement is often in itself very beneficial to the class of invalids who are sent abroad in search of health. Those of a more vegetable nature may be content with breathing a pure air in a fine climate: to the majority this would

prove extremely irksome. It is true, on the other hand, that in some localities, where works of art abound, the traveller is tempted to spend many unwholesome hours in draughty galleries. In Algiers, however, the objects of interest are all out of doors.

The result of our experience certainly induces us to agree with Dr. Mitchell in his praise of the climate. We are told that the air of Algeria is favourable in all complaints of the throat, heart, and lungs, in cases of gout, and in dyspepsia. The progress of disease in the chest is undoubtedly arrested here. Dr. Le Clere made many researches on this subject. He examined the bodies of 500 Europeans who died after a residence in Algeria. In only five cases did he find any tuberculous disease. In England or France the number of persons thus affected is in the proportion of 30 or 40 per cent. It follows, therefore, that of the number of bodies examined by Dr. Le Clere, 200 must have originally contained tubercles, from which they had been relieved by the climate. The nature of the air is bracing, and has a certain influence upon the action of the skin, liver, and kidneys : it stimulates both to bodily and mental

exertion. During the hot months—that is to say, from the middle of June to the end of September—the heat is excessive, and no one should remain in the country during that season. As a French doctor expressed himself to us, “those who come here in the winter and go away in the summer have no want to die.” What is most to be feared by the inhabitants of Algeria is intermittent fever. This is caused by the miasma proceeding from the marshy country in the hot months. To this the visitor need not be exposed. European children certainly suffer from a residence in Algiers. The rainy season lasts from the beginning of December to the beginning of March, in which period as much rain falls as during all the rest of the year. Those who arrive here for the first time are generally attacked by English cholera: the quality of the water may perhaps be to blame, and a careful, sparing diet is, above all things, necessary. Once acclimatised, you have nothing more to fear. Frosts, east wind, and fogs, are unknown in Algiers.

Algeria under the Turks was governed by a despotic sovereign, nominally dependent upon the



Sultan of Turkey, and called the Dey. He resided at Algiers, the metropolis, which comprehended four Beyliks. These were governed by three Beys, nominally subject to, but virtually independent of, the Dey. The Beylik of Algiers Proper, being dependent on the Dey himself, required no other government. The other Beyliks were Oran, west; Tittery, south, with Médéah as its capital; and Constantine, east. Since the French occupation, Tittery has been united with the province of Algiers Proper.

The name Algiers comes from some small islands, which were said to exist in front of the town. These were called *El Djezair* (the islands), corrupted into Algiers. The town stands in latitude 36 deg. 49 min. 30 sec. north, and longitude 3 deg. 28 min. east of Greenwich. It is distant 471 miles from Marseilles, and 834 miles from Paris.

The French expedition against Algiers, in the year 1830, was undertaken in consequence of the gross insult offered to Monsieur Deval. Hussein-Dey boxed the ears of the French Consul at a morning audience, and then kicked him out of his pre-

sence; little thinking that the dogs of Christians would dare to resent any act of so high and mighty a potentate. The insolence of the Deys, and the outrages committed by their subjects, had at various times called for the interference of Christian powers. Still, at the time of which we write, the Algerine treasury was receiving about 160,000 piastres annually, as a species of black mail from different European states.

It is said that as many as thirty thousand Christian slaves were employed in the works about Algiers; and their condition, as may be supposed, was not an enviable one. Monsieur Mouette's account of his sufferings may be taken as a fair sample of Algerine slavery. The vessel in which he was, had the misfortune to be captured by pirates; the master, thinking to save his life, offered to abjure the Christian faith. This he was allowed to do; and, when he had professed himself a Mahometan, the Dey had him immediately suspended from the city gate, congratulating him upon dying in the true faith and going direct to Paradise. The rest of the party were exposed to a public auction. The purchasers

looked chiefly at their hands, to conjecture the quality of the different individuals, and the probability of obtaining large ransoms. On being sold, the captives were thrust into dungeons underground about twenty feet in diameter, with a narrow opening at the top, which was shut in by an iron gate.

Into this abode they were let down by rope ladders, and, when within it, lay in a circle with their heads towards the sides and their feet in the centre. As the place became warm, the damp began to exhale, and the atmosphere became intolerable. Their labour consisted in building houses and collecting firewood. If they ever paused a moment from their work, a volley of stones was discharged at them, and they were beaten savagely with sticks. Time was not allowed even to eat the black bread which was their only diet; they were expected to eat with one hand and work with the other. When illness was complained of, there was only one remedy, which was conceived to be equally salutary and cheap. It consisted in heating an iron rod, and applying it red hot to the part affected. The slaves,

consequently, chose rather to conceal their sufferings than to enjoy the benefit of the cure.

When war had been resolved upon, the French lost no time in making preparations for it. The command was intrusted to General de Bourmont; and an invading army landed without opposition at Sidi-Ferruch, about eighteen miles west of Algiers.

The first great battle was fought at Staouëli, when the French became possessed of the tents and the entire baggage of the enemy. The Mahometans made another stand at Sidi-Khalef, and finally, after the fall of the emperor's fort, which commands the town, Algiers was surrendered to the Christians. This was but the beginning of the war, for the Arabs have disputed every inch of territory in Algeria.

A campaign of twenty-eight years in Africa has given to France a seasoned army, and brought to light the names of some of her most able generals. It was at the capture of Bone that the brave You-souf first distinguished himself. In 1835 the Duke of Orleans recommended himself to the affections of the French army and people. In the following year General Bugeaud obtained notable success. The

names of the Generals Damrémont, D'Aumale, Lamoricière, Changarnier, Baraguay d'Hilliers Saint Arnaud, Cavaignac, and Pelissier form an illustrious list, which the annals of any country may well envy.

The crowning event of the war was the surrender of Abd-el-Kader to the Duke d'Aumale, in the year 1847. After this, the French met with no organized resistance. The torch of Mars was not, however, finally extinguished till Marshal Randon, in 1857, completed the subjugation of Kabylia. How long the tribes will remain in peaceable allegiance is another matter; at any rate the French have avoided the error we committed in India, in leaving ourselves destitute of a competent European army.

Nothing is now left but to consider what civil improvements may be introduced into the colony. With this view a minister for Algeria has been appointed.

The French have certainly a fine possession here; whether it pays them is another question. The revenue of the colony is about twenty millions of francs, and the expenditure required about three

hundred millions. The first colonists were helped by the Government with pecuniary assistance; but these, as a natural consequence, when the aid was withdrawn, failed. Frenchmen seem to want that patience which is requisite to form good colonists. In Algeria, therefore, we find the bulk of European colonists to consist of all other nations but the French. The increase of the population, owing to the mortality amongst children, is very slow. Labour is difficult to be obtained, dear, and not always safe. The general drainage of the country is a step in the right direction; but till the shackles are removed from trade, and till the article in the "Code Napoleon" is abrogated which prevents any accumulation of property, the French will continue to lack that freedom which would put them on a par with English colonists.

There are several schools in Algiers, established on the same footing as those in France. The chief of these is the *Lycée imperial*, which is attended by many day scholars as well as boarders. The children of Mussulmen are admitted, and taught the French language. There are besides many purely Mahome-

tan places of education. Some think that the Lancasterian schools were originally formed from these Arabic models. The course of instruction is this: each child is provided with a slate and a pencil; one of them writes down a verse of the Koran in large characters; this is copied by the other scholars, who help each other to write and understand it. The verse is afterwards repeated aloud and learnt by heart. The master sits in a corner with a long stick, with which he keeps order. A young man's education is finished when he can write and read correctly, when he knows by heart the Koran and its principal commentaries, and when he is acquainted with the rudiments of arithmetic.

The chief mosque in Algiers is that of Djemmâa-Djedid on the Place du Gouvernement. It was built by a Christian architect, a slave. When completed, it was pointed out to the Dey that the mosque was cruciform, and he accordingly gave orders that its builder should be crucified.

On this same "place" is to be seen a fine equestrian statue of the Duke of Orleans, by Marochetti. The statue is made of the cannons taken at the

capture of Algiers, and its pedestal is of white marble.

The only other statue which adorns Algiers is that of Marshal Bugeaud on the Place d'Isly.

Amongst the public buildings may be named the theatre, a hall for the exposition of the products of the province, and a museum: to the latter is attached a library, which contains 800 Arabic manuscripts, and 2000 volumes of Oriental literature. In the museum the objects of most interest are the antiquities of the town, which are collected together there, as well as specimens of the mineral riches of the colony. One of the most curious relicts in Algiers is a marble pillar in the street of the Bab-Azoun, bearing a Latin inscription, which fixes the name *Icosium* upon the town. The name was derived from the Greek, *είκοσι*, or the *twenty* companions of Hercules, who were supposed originally to have founded the city.

The suburbs of Algiers are justly celebrated for their beauty. A richer panorama than they present can be nowhere seen. The poetical Arabs used to compare their beautiful town to a bright diamond



set in a breastplate of emeralds. In these voluptuous regions did the rich Moors plant their seraglios. Here, surrounded with verdure, marble fountains, and delicious gardens, the true believer thought he obtained the clearest foretaste of his future Paradise.

And now, till we meet again, good bye.

THE END.

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of the

1907 to 1911  
of  
M. J. J. J. J.  
L. J. J. J. J.

146

**APPENDIX**

**TO**

**SPORTING IN ALGERIA.**



# APPENDIX.

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## I.

### LIST OF BIRDS IN THE MUSEUM AT ALGIERS.

DURING my stay in Algeria, I succeeded in obtaining specimens of many of the Birds of that locality; a far more perfect collection has, however, been made by an able naturalist, the Rev. H. B. Tristram; and it is to be hoped he may be induced to publish some account of it.

M. le capitaine Loche is employed by the French government to superintend and arrange the natural history collection in the Museum at Algiers. The gallant captain is one of the most enthusiastic sons of science I ever met with, and he is worthily assisted in his pursuits by his accomplished wife: his own private collection, which he intends presenting to the nation, is a very admirable one, and embraces specimens from all quarters of the globe. Captain Loche's name is already known to science as the discoverer of the *Zorilla Vailantii*, &c.

The following, is a list of the birds at present found in the Museum at Algiers; their numbers will be about doubled before the collection is perfect.

- Gyps fulvus.*  
*Vultur monarchus.*  
*Gypaëtus barbatus.*  
*Aquila fulva.*  
     — *Nœvioïdes.*  
     — *nœvia.*  
*Pseudactus bonelli.*  
*Paudion haliaëtus.*  
*Circœtus Gallicus.*  
*Buteo cinereus.*  
*Milvus regalis.*  
     — *niger.*  
*Elanus melanopterus.*  
*Falco communis.*  
*Hypotriorchis subbuteo.*  
*Cesalon lithofalco.*  
*Tinnunculus alaudarius.*  
*Erythropus vespertinus.*  
*Accipiter nisus.*  
*Circus ærugineus.*  
*Strigiceps cyaneus.*  
     — *Swainsonii.*  
*Strix flammea.*  
*Syrnium aluco.*  
*Otus vulgaris.*  
*Brachyotus palustris.*  
*Phasmoptynx capensis.*  
*Bubo maximus.*  
*Scops zorca.*  
*Athene Persica.*  
*Corvus corax.*
- Corvus frugelius.*  
*Monedula vulgaris.*  
*Pica Mauritanica.*  
*Garrulus cervicalis.*  
*Sturnus vulgaris.*  
     — *unicolor.*  
*Pastor roseus.*  
*Passer domesticus.*  
     — *salicarius.*  
*Loxia coccothraustes.*  
*Fringilla spodiogenia.*  
*Petronia rupestris.*  
*Fringilla chloris.*  
     — *carduelis.*  
     — *serinus.*  
*Linota cannabina.*  
*Emberzia miliaria.*  
     — *schæniculus.*  
     — *citrinella.*  
     — *cirlus.*  
     — *hortulana.*  
     — *cia.*  
*Turdus pilaris.*  
     — *musicus.*  
     — *merula.*  
     — *torquatus.*  
     — *saxatilis.*  
     — *cyaneus.*  
*Saxicola aurita.*  
     — *stapazina.*  
     — *ænanthe.*

*Saxicola leucura.*

— *rubetra.*

— *rubicola.*

*Sylvia phœnicurus.*

— *tithys.*

— *suecica.*

— *rubicola.*

— *luscinia.*

— *Orphea.*

— *atricapilla.*

— *cinerea.*

— *conspicillata.*

— *Sylvia subalpina.*

— *melanocephala.*

— *provincialis.*

— *turdoïdes.*

— *arundinacea.*

— *phragmitis.*

— *aquatica.*

— *luscinoïdes.*

— *cetti.*

— *polyglotta.*

— *locustella.*

— *rubiginosa.*

*Sylvia modularis.*

*Hypolaïs pallida.*

*Crateroptus numidicus.*

*Jxos obscurus.*

*Columba livia.*

*Perdix petrosa.*

*Petrocles arenarius.*

— *alchata (setarius)*

*Coturnix communis.*

*Grus cinerea.*

*Ciconia alba.*

*Botaurus stellaris.*

*Ardea bubuleus.*

*Anas anser.*

— *rutila.*

— *leucocephala.*

*Hœmatopus ostralogus.*

*Tringa Helvetica.*

*Alca torda.*

*Limosa rufa.*

*Totanus calidris.*

*Puffinus Anglorum.*

— *cinereus.*



## II.

M. MALHERBE'S CATALOGUE OF THE BIRDS  
OF ALGERIA.

The following is a Catalogue of the Birds of Algeria, printed at Metz, in the year 1846, by M. Alfred Malherbe.

*Vultur gyps. Kolb.* Common from March to November.

*Neophron percnopterus.* Common from March to September.

*Gypaëtos barbatus.* Common all the year.

*Aquila chrysaëtos.* Common.

— *imperialis?*

*Aquila Bonelli.* Only one example, a young bird of the year.

— *brachydactylus.* Common.

*Pandion haliaëtus.* Common.

*Falco subbuteo.* Inhabits all the north of Algeria.

— *cesalon.* The same, but more rare.

— *tinnunculus.* The same.

— *tinnuculoïdes.* The same.

— *palumbarius.* Rare.

*Accipiter nisus.* As common as in France.

*Milvus regalis.* Common.

*Buteo vulgaris.* Common.

*Circus rufus.* Common.

— *cyaneus.* Less common than the last.

— *cineraceus.* Idem.

*Strix aluco*. Found in forests and ravines.

— *flammea*. Idem.

— *passerina* (noctua). Common.

— *choucou*?

— *bubo*. Common.

— *otus*. Common.

— *brachyötos*. Common.

— Scops (*Aldrovandi*). More rare.

*Corvus corax*. General, but not numerous.

— *corone*. Common.

— *monedula*.

*Pica mauritanica*. New.

*Garrulus melanocephalus*. Common.

*Bombycilla garrula* (waxwing). Bird of passage.

*Coracias garrula*. Common from January to August.

*Oriolus galbula*. Common in the spring.

*Sturnus vulgaris*. Common in the autumn.

— *unicolor*. Common.

*Pastor roseus*. Bird of passage.

*Lanius cucullatus*. *Tem.* Rare.

— *meridionalis*. Common.

— *rutilus*. Not so common.

*Muscicapa grisola*. Common resident all the year.

*Muscicapa albicolis*. Abundant.

*Turdus musicus*. Common in autumn in woody places.

— *iliacus*. Idem.

— *torquatus*. Rare.

— *merula*. Common all the year.

— *saxatilis*. Idem.

— *cyaneus*. On the mountains.

*Jxos obscurus*. *Tem.* Common.

- Sylvia turdoïdes*. A few all the year.  
 — *arudinacea*. Common, in passage, in the spring.  
 — *cisticola*. Common, in passage, in autumn: a few all the year.  
*Sylvia lusciniæ*. Common near water courses, in passage, in the spring.  
 — *rubiginosa*. Common.  
 — *atricapilla*. Rare.  
 — *melanocephala*. Common all the year.  
 — *curruca*. Idem.  
 — *provincialis*. In the autumn, but more rare.  
 — *rubecula*. Common, in passage.  
 — *suecica*. Rare; seen in the spring, but only in passage.  
 — *tithys*. A few all the year.  
 — *trochilus*. Common in the autumn.  
*Troglodytes vulgaris*. Rather rare, all the year.  
*Regulus cristatus*. Common.  
 — *ignicapillus*. Idem.  
*Saxicola cachinnaus*. Occasionally.  
 — *ænanthe*. Common.  
 — *rubetra*. Common.  
 — *rubicola*. Common.  
*Motacilla boarula*. Very common, in passage.  
 — *flava*. Common.  
 — *flaveola*?  
*Anthus arboreus*. Very common.  
 — *rufescens*. General.  
*Alauda arvensis*. Very common, particularly in winter.  
 — *Alauda arborea*. Not common.  
 — *aristata*. Common all the year.

*Alauda brachydactyla*. Common.

— *calandra*. Very common, particularly in its spring passage.

*Parus major*. Common.

— *Ledouci*. New, Ledoux.

— *cæruleanus*. New, like our blue tit.

*Emberzia miliaria*. Common all the year.

— *schænielus*. Common.

— *cirlus*. Rare.

— *lesbia*. Rare.

*Fringilla chloris*. Common all the year.

— *Hispaniolensis*.

— *serinus*. Rather rare.

— *cœlebs*. Smaller than ours.

— *cannabina*. Common all the year.

— *linota*.

— *carduelis*. Very common, particularly in the autumn.

*Cuculus canorus*. In spring, in passage.

— *glandarius*. General.

— *Abyssinicus*?

*Picus numidicus*, new.

— *minor*, in all the forests.

— *viridis*. Idem.

— *canus*. Not so common.

*Yunx torquilla*. Common.

*Certhia familiaris*. Common.

*Upupa epops*. Very common in the spring and autumn.

*Merops apiaster*. Very common in the summer only.

*Alcedo ispida*. Common.

*Hirundo Boissonneanti*? *Tem.*

- Hirundo rustica*. Very common at the same time as in France.
- *urbica*. The same.
- *rupestris*. Very common.
- Cypselus alpinus*. In May, in passage.
- *apus*. As common as in France.
- Caprimulgus ruficollis*. Very common.
- Columba palumbus*. Very common, particularly in spring.
- *œnas*. Common, in passage. February and October.
- *turtur*. Very common in the spring.
- Petrocles arenarius*. Common in the autumn.
- *setarius* (*alchata*). Common all the year.
- Perdix petrosa*. Very common; lives sometimes with common fowls.
- *coturnix*. Very common in March and April.
- Hemipodius tachydromus*, Common all the year.
- Glareola torquata*. Very common; flocks in the spring.
- Otis tetrax* (*campestris*) common from May to September.
- Cursorius Isabellinus*. Occasionally.
- Œdicnemus crepitans*. Sufficiently common.
- Himantopus melanopterus*. Sufficiently common in the autumn.
- Hæmatopus ostralegus*. Occasionally.
- Charadrius hiaticula*. Generally.
- *cautianus*. *Idem*.
- Vanellus* (*Squatorala*) *melanogaster*. Not very common.
- *cristatus*. Common from August to February.
- Grus cinerea*. In the autumn, in passage.

*Ciconia alba*. Very common, from March to September.

*Ardea cinerea*. Found near lakes.

— *purpurea*. The same.

— *egretta*. The same.

— *stellaris*. Common all the year.

— *ralloides*. Ditto.

— *minuta*. More rare.

— *nycticorax*. Not common.

*Phænicopterus antiquorum*. At the lakes.

*Recurvirostra avocetta*. A few in winter.

*Platalea leucorodia*. At the lakes.

*Ibis falcinellus*. All the year.

*Numenius arquatus*. In the autumn, in passage.

— *phæopus*. The same.

*Tringa subarquata*. Common on the sea-shore.

— *variabilis*. Idem.

*Totanus ochropus*. Rare, in passage.

— *macularius*? According to Ledoux.

— *hypoleucos*. Rare, in passage, on the coast; not found inland.

*Limosa rufa*. Common in passage. Spring and autumn.

*Scolopax rusticola*. Very common in places.

— *major*. Seen in spring.

— *gallinago*. Common.

— *gallinula*. Not so common.

*Rallus aquaticus*. Common.

*Porphyrio hyacinthinus*. Common.

*Podiceps auritus*. Common in winter.

— *minor*. Ditto.

*Sterna cantiaca*. As common as on the coasts of France.

— *Anglica*. On the coast and lakes.

— *minuta*. Rather common.

*Larus argentatus*. Common.

— *marinus*. Ditto.

— *tridactylus*. Ditto.

— *ridibundus*. Ditto.

*Thalassidroma pelagica*. Ditto.

*Anser segetum*. Ditto.

*Cygnus olor*. In large flocks, in passage, and on the lakes.

*Anas tadorna*. Very common. All the species of *Anas* are common in the winter.

— *boschas*.

— *strepera*.

— *acuta*.

— *Penelope*.

— *crecca*.

— *clypeata*.

*Fuligula fusca*. Not common.

— *nigra*.

— *marila*.

— *ferina*.

— *lecoptalmos*.

— *oristata*.

— *leucocephala*.

*Mergus serrator*. Found in winter.

*Carbo cormoranus*. Rather common all the year.

— *Africanus*. New.

The localities in which these species were found extended from Ora, west, to Bone, east; and included the mountain districts, the forests, the principal lakes, and the plains. Captain Loche, from his better acquaintance with the country, will doubtless some day give a much fuller account of the general zoology of Algeria.

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## III.

## CAPTAIN LOCHE'S CATALOGUE OF BIRDS.

I am enabled at the last moment to add a perfect list of the birds of Algeria. It has long been a desideratum, and will be accordingly valued by naturalists.

Captain Loche has kindly favoured me with this list, which he has recently printed in Paris.

The arrangement is that of Bonaparte.

*Gyps fulvus*. In all parts of Algeria.

*Vultur monachus*. Bird of passage.

*Otogyps nubicus*. The provinces of Constantine, Oran, and the south of Algeria.

*Neophron percnopterus*. All Algeria.

*Gypaëtus barbatus*. All Algeria.

*Aquila fulva*. All Algeria.

— *heliaca*. Accidental in Algeria.

— *nævioides*. Provinces of Algiers and Constantine.

— *nævia*. Accidental in Algeria.

*Pseudaëtus Bonelli*. All Algeria.

*Jeraëtus pennatus*. The province of Algiers.

*Haliaëtus albicilla*. Accidental in Algeria.

*Pandion haliaëtus*. The province of Algiers, in September.

- Circaëtus gallicus*. The three provinces.  
*Buteo cinereus*. All Algeria.  
— *cirtensis*. Provinces of Algiers and Constantine.  
*Falco communis*. All Algeria.  
*Gennaja sacra*. The south of Algeria.  
— *barbara*. The south of Algeria.  
*Hypotriorchis Eleonaræ*. The province of Constantine.  
— *concolor*. The province of Constantine.  
— *subbuteo*. All Algeria.  
*Æsalon lithofalco*. All Algeria.  
*Tinnunculus alaudarius*. All Algeria.  
— *cenchris*. The south of Algeria.  
*Erythropus vespertinus*. Province of Algiers.  
*Astur palumbarius*. Accidental in Algeria.  
*Accipiter nisus*. All Algeria.  
— *major*. The same.  
*Milvus regalis*. All Algeria.  
— *niger*. The same.  
— *Ægyptius*. The province of Algiers.  
*Elanus cæruleus*. The provinces of Algiers and Constantine.  
*Circus æruginosus*. All Algeria.  
*Strigiceps cineraceus*. Province of Algiers.  
— *Swainsoni*. The same.  
— *cyaneus*. All Algeria.  
*Strix flammea*. The same.  
*Syrnium aluco*. All the woody parts of Algeria.  
*Otus vulgaris*. All Algeria.  
*Brachyotus Ægolinus*. The same.  
*Phasmoptynx Capensis* (a variety). Rare.

- Bubo Maximus.* The woody mountains of Algeria.  
*Ascalaphia Savignyi.* The same.  
*Scops zorca.* All Algeria.  
*Athene persica.* The same.  
*Corvus corax.* The same.  
     — *cornix.* Accidental in the plains of the Chélif.  
*Corvus corone.* Bird of passage.  
*Trypanocorax frugilegus.* The same.  
*Monedula turrium.* The province of Algiers.  
*Crave Coracias.* The high mountains of Algeria.  
*Pica Mauritania.* The three provinces.  
*Garrulus cervicalis.* The same.  
     — *minor.* The south of the province of Algiers.  
*Sturnus vulgaris.* All Algeria.  
     — *unicolor.* Accidental.  
*Pastor roseus.* Bird of passage.  
*Passer domesticus.* The three provinces.  
     — *Italiæ.* Province of Algiers.  
     — *salicicola.* All Algeria.  
*Pyrgita montana.* The province of Algiers.  
*Corospiza simplex.* The M'zab.  
*Coccothraustes vulgaris.* All Algeria.  
*Fringilla montifringilla.* The same.  
     — *Spodiogena.* The same.  
*Petronia stulta.* The same.  
*Chlorospiza chloris.* The same.  
*Chrysomitris spinus.* Bird of passage.  
*Carduelis elegans.* All Algeria.  
*Citrinella Alpina.* Accidentally met with.  
*Serinus meridionalis.* The province of Algiers.  
*Loxia curvirostra.* Accidentally met with.

*Rhodopechys Phœnicoptera*. The most southern parts of Algeria.

*Bucanetes gythagineus*. The K'sour.

*Linota cannabina*. All Algeria.

*Cynchramus miliaria*. The same.

*Emberiza citrinella*. Province of Algiers.

— *cirlus*. The same.

— *cia*. The same.

*Schœnicola arundinacea*. Ditto.

*Hortulanus chlorocephalus*. The Sahel of Algiers.

— *cæsius*. The south of Algeria.

*Fringillaria sahari*. The M'zab.

— *striolata*. The most southern part of Algeria.

*Turdus viscivorus*. Accidentally met with.

— *pilaris*. Province of Algiers.

— *musicus*. The woody parts of Algeria.

— *illiacus*. The woody parts of Algeria, where it is common in the autumn.

*Merula torquata*. Provinces of Algiers and Constantine.

— *vulgaris*. All Algeria.

*Pptrocossyphus cyaneus*. The high mountain districts.

*Monticola saxatilis*. The same.

*Dromolæa leucura*. All Algeria.

— *monacha*. The M'zab.

— *Isabellina*. The Sahara.

*Saxicola ænanthe*. All Algeria.

— *stapazina*. The same.

— *albicollis*. The province of Algiers.

— *deserti*. The south of Algeria.

— *salina*. The Sahara.

*Pratincola rubetra*. All Algeria.

- Pratincola rubicola.* All Algeria.  
*Ruticilla phænicura.* Ditto.  
     — *tithys.* The Province of Algiers.  
     — *Moussierii.* The Sahara.  
*Cyanecula suecica.* Province of Algiers.  
*Rubecula familiaris.* All Algeria.  
*Philomela lusciniæ.* Ditto.  
*Curruca atricapilla.* Province of Algiers.  
     — *Ruppelli.* Milianah.  
     — *hortensis.* Province of Algiers.  
     — *Orphea.* All Algeria.  
*Sylvia curruca.* Accidentally met with.  
*Sylvia cinerea.* All Algeria.  
*Stereoparola conspicillata.* Ditto.  
     — *subalpina.* Milianah.  
*Pyrophthalma melanocephala.* All Algeria.  
*Melizophilus provincialis.* Ditto.  
*Philopneustes sibilatrix.* Province of Algiers.  
     — *trochilus.* All Algeria.  
     — *rufa.* Province of Algiers.  
*Calamoherpe turdoides.* All Algeria.  
     — *arundinacea.* Province of Algiers.  
*Calamodyta phragmitis.* Ditto  
     — *aquatica.* The moist parts of the province of  
         Algiers.  
*Lusciniola Savii.* Accidentally in the province of  
         Algiers.  
*Cettia sericea.* All Algeria.  
*Chloropeta pallida.* Province of Algiers.  
*Hypolaïs polyglotta.* Ditto.  
*Locustella nævia.* Accidentally in the province of  
         Algiers.

- Ædon galactodes*. All Algeria.  
*Cisticola schœnicola*. The marshy parts of the province of Algiers.  
*Prunella modularis*. Sometimes in the province of Algiers.  
*Malurus Sahara* (*Loche*). The Sahara.  
*Crateropus Numidicus*. The Sahara.  
*Jxos barbatus*. All Algeria.  
*Troglodytes Europæus*. Ditto.  
*Certhia familiaris*. The province of Algiers.  
*Sitta cæsia*. The mountainous and woody districts of Algeria.  
*Cyanistes ultramarinus*. All Algeria.  
*Parus major*. Ditto.  
— *Ledoucii*. Beni Sliman.  
*Regulus cristatus*. All Algeria.  
— *ignicapillus*. Ditto.  
*Cinclus aquaticus*. The water-courses, province of Algiers.  
*Motacilla alba*. All Algeria.  
*Pallenura sulphurea*. Province of Algiers.  
*Budytes flava*. All Algeria.  
— *Rayi*. Province of Algiers.  
— *cinereo-capilla*. Ditto.  
*melanocephala*. Ditto.  
*Corydalla Richardii*. Accidentally met with.  
*Agrodroma campestris*. All Algeria.  
*Anthus Spinoletta*. Province of Algiers.  
— *pratensis*. All Algeria.  
— *cervinus*. Accidentally met with.  
*Dendronanthus arboreus*. All Algeria.

- Otocoris bilopha.* The Sahara.  
*Calandrella brachydactyla.* All Algeria.  
 — *Reboudia (Loche).* The Sahara.  
*Annomanes Isabellina.* The Sahara.  
 — *deserti.* The Little Desert.  
 — *elegans.* The Sahara.  
 — *regulus.* The Sahara.  
*Alauda arvensis.* All Algeria.  
 — *arborea.* The south of Algeria.  
*Rhamphocoris Clot-Bey.* The plains of the Sahara.  
*Melanocorypha calandra.* All Algeria.  
*Galerida cristata.* Ditto.  
 — *Randonii (Loche).* The south of the province  
 of Algiers.  
 — *Isabellina.* The Sahara.  
*Certhilauda desertorum.* Ditto.  
*Telephonus tchagra.* All Algeria.  
*Lanius Algeriensis.* Ditto.  
 — *dealbeatus.* The Sahara.  
*Enneoctonus rufus.* All Algeria.  
*Oriolus galbula.* Ditto.  
*Ampellis garrulus.* An irregular bird of passage.  
*Muscicapa atricapilla.* Province of Algiers.  
 — *collaris.* Ditto.  
*Butalis grisola.* All Algeria.  
*Erythrosterina parva.* Accidentally found in Algeria.  
*Hirundo rustica.* All Algeria, during the summer.  
*Cecropis rufula.* Accidental in Algeria.  
*Ptyonopyrogne rupestris.* The rocks on the borders of  
 the Chiffa.  
*Cotyle riparia.* The province of Algiers.

- Chelidon urbica*. All Algeria, in the summer.  
*Oxylophus glandarius*. The woody parts in the south of Algeria.  
*Cuculus canorus*. All Algeria.  
*Picus Numidicus*. The forests of Algeria.  
— *minor*. Ditto.  
*Gecinus Vaillantii*. All Algeria.  
*Yunx torquilla*. Ditto.  
*Coracias garrula*. Ditto.  
*Merops apiaster*. Ditto.  
— *Egyptius*. Bird of passage in the province of Algiers.  
*Ceryle rudis*. Accidental.  
*Alcedo ipsida*. All Algeria.  
*Upupa epops*. Ditto.  
*Cypselus melba*. Province of Constantine.  
— *apus*. All Algeria.  
*Caprimulgus Europæus*. Ditto.  
— *ruficollis*. Ditto.  
— *Isabellinus*. Province of Constantine.  
*Palumbus torquatus*. All Algeria.  
*Columba livia*. Province of Algiers.  
*Palumbœna columbella*. All Algeria.  
*Turtur auritus*. Ditto.  
— *Senegalensis*. The Sahara.  
*Grus cinerea*. Bird of passage ; province of Algiers.  
*Anthropoides virgo*. The South of Algeria.  
*Balearica pavonina*. Accidental.  
*Ciconia alba*. All Algeria.  
*Ardea cinerea*. Ditto.  
— *purpurea*. All the great lakes of Algeria.



- Egretta alba*. Province of Constantine.  
*Garzetta egretta*. All Algeria.  
*Bubulcus ibis* (garde-bœuf). All Algeria.  
*Buphus comatus*. Provinces of Algiers and Constantine.  
*Ardeola minuta*. Province of Algiers.  
*Botaurus stellaris*. All Algeria.  
*Nycticorax griseus*. All Algeria.  
*Phœnicopterus roseus*. The great lakes of Algeria.  
 — *erythreus*. Provinces of Oran and Constantine.  
*Platalea leucorodia*. Provinces of Algiers and Constantine.  
*Comatibus comatus*. The South of Algeria.  
*Falcinellus igneus*. All Algeria.  
*Pelecanus crispus*. Accidentally met with.  
 — *onocrotalus*. Ditto.  
*Phalacrocorax Carbo*. The great lakes of Algeria.  
*Graculus cristatus*. The great lakes of Algeria.  
 — *desmarestii*. Ditto.  
*Microcarbo pygmœus*. Ditto.  
 — *Algeriensis*. Province of Constantine.  
*Procellaria pelagica*. Accidental visitor.  
*Puffinus major*. Ditto.  
 — *arcticus*. Ditto.  
 — *kuhlii*. Ditto.  
 — *obscurus*. Ditto.  
*Dominicanus marinus*. Ditto.  
*Laroides argentatus*. Common.  
*Clupeilarus fuscus*. The coasts.  
*Gavina Audonini*. The coasts of Algeria.  
*Larus canus*. Ditto.  
*Rissa tridactyla*. Ditto.

- Gelastes Lambruschinii*. Ditto.  
*Pagophila eburnea*. Accidental visitor.  
*Atricilla Catesboei*. Ditto.  
*Gavia melanocephala*. The coasts of Algeria.  
—— *ridibundus*. Ditto.  
—— *capistrata*. Accidental.  
*Hydrocoleus minutus*. The coasts.  
*Sylochelidon caspia*. Ditto.  
*Gelochelidon meridionalis*. The province of Contantine.  
*Thalasseus cantiacus*. The coasts of Algeria.  
—— *affinis*. Ditto.  
*Sterna hirundo*. Ditto.  
—— *fluviatilis*. Ditto.  
*Sternula minuta*. Ditto.  
*Hydrochelidon fissipes*. Ditto.  
—— *nigra*. The great lakes of Algeria.  
—— *hybrida*. Ditto.  
*Alca torda*. Accidental.  
*Mormon arctica*. Ditto.  
*Colymbus glacialis*. Accidental winter visitor.  
—— *septentrionalis*. Ditto.  
*Podiceps cristatus*. The lakes of Algeria.  
    *subcristatus*. Lake Fetzara.  
—— *sclavus*. The Lakes.  
—— *nigricolis*. Ditto.  
*Tachybaptus minor*. The three provinces.  
*Pterocles arenarius*. Ditto.  
—— *coronatus*. The Sahara (new).  
*Pteroclorus alchata*. All Algeria.  
—— *Senegalus*. The Sahara.  
*Caccabis petrosa*. All Algeria.

- Coturnix communis.* (In passage.)  
*Turnix Africana.* All Algeria.  
*Otis tarda.* Accidental; (or rather, is found at certain seasons.)  
*Tetrax campestris.* All Algeria (at certain seasons).  
*Hubara undulata.* The south of Algeria.  
*Choriotis Arabs.* Accidentally met with.  
*Œdicnemus crepitans.*  
*Squatarola Helvetica.* Occasionally met with on the coasts.  
*Pluvialis apricarius.* All Algeria.  
*Charadrius hiaticula.* Ditto.  
 — *caronicus.* Provinces of Algiers and Constantine.  
*Charadrius cantianus.* The province of Algiers, and the South of Algeria.  
*Pluvianus Œgyptius.* Accidentally met with.  
*Glareola pratincola.* The three provinces.  
*Streptilas interpres.* The shores of the province of Algiers.  
*Hæmatopus ostralegus.* The three provinces.  
*Himantopus candidus.* Ditto.  
*Recurvirostra avocetta.* Ditto.  
*Lobipes hyperboreus.* Rarely met with.  
*Scolopax rusticola.* All Algeria.  
*Gallinago major.* A bird of passage.  
 — *Scolopacinus.* The three provinces.  
*Lymnocyptes gallinula.* Ditto.  
*Machetes pugnax.* A bird of passage.  
*Calidris arenaria.* Accidental.  
*Limicola pygmœa.* Ditto.  
*Tringa canutus.* A regular bird of passage.

- Ancylocheilus subarquatus*. A bird of passage.  
*Pelinda cinclus*. A bird of winter passage.  
— *Schlinzi*. Of accidental winter passage.  
*Actrodomus minutus*. A bird of passage.  
*Actrodoma Temminckii*. Ditto.  
*Glottis canescens*. Accidental.  
*Gambetta calidris*. Bird of passage.  
*Helodromus ochropus*. Ditto.  
*Rhyncophillus glareola*. Ditto.  
*Actitis hypoleucos*. Ditto.  
*Limosa cegocephala*. Bird of passage.  
— *Laponica*. Ditto.  
*Numenius arquata*. Provinces of Algiers and Constantine.  
— *phœpus*. The three provinces.  
— *tenuirostris*. The south of Algeria; a bird of passage in the north.  
*Rallus aquaticus*. The three provinces.  
*Porzana maruetta*. Ditto.  
*Zapornia pygmœa*. (*Baillonii*). Ditto.  
— *minuta*. Ditto.  
*Crex pratensis*. All Algeria.  
*Porphyrio veterum*. The Lakes.  
*Gallinula chloropus*. All Algeria.  
*Lupha christata*. The lakes.  
*Fulica atra*. All Algeria.  
*Cygnus olor*. The great lakes.  
*Olor cygnus*. Ditto.  
*Anser segetum*. In passage.  
— *cinereus*.  
*Bernicla leucopsis*. Rare, in passage.

- Bernicla brenta*. Rare in passage.  
*Chenalopex Egyptiaca*. Bird of passage.  
*Casarca rutila*. The three provinces.  
*Tadorna Belloni*. Bird of passage.  
*Anas boschas*. All Algeria.  
*Chaulelasmus streperus*. The lakes.  
*Rhynchaspis clypeata*. Ditto.  
*Pterocyanea circia*. The three provinces.  
*Querquedula crecca*. The lakes.  
*Marmaronetta augustirostris*. Ditto.  
*Dafila acuta*. The three provinces.  
*Mereca Penelope*. Ditto.  
*Melanetta fusca*. Bird of passage, occasional.  
*Oidemia nigra*. Bird of passage.  
*Fuliga cristata*. The lakes.  
*Marila frenata*. The lakes.  
*Nyroca leucophthalma*. The three provinces.  
*Aythya ferina*. The lakes.  
*Callichen rufina*. Ditto.  
*Clangula glaucion*. Bird of passage.  
*Erismatura leucocephala*. The lakes.  
*Mergansa castor*. Ditto.  
*Mergus serrator*. Bird of passage.  
—— *albellus*. Ditto.  
*Struthio camelus*. The South of Algeria.
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The Birds that follow, appear in Captain Loche's list,  
but are not given on his own authority.

Pandion halioetus.	Motacilla Algira.
Buteo ferox.	Otocoris Alpestris.
Poliornis rufipennis.	Annomanes cinnamomea.
Chiquera macrodactyla.	Leucometopon Nubicum.
Tinnunclus alaudarius.	Muscicapa speculigera.
Micronisus Gabar.	Cotyle obsoleta.
Strix Africana.	Oxylophus phaiopterus.
Passer rufipectus.	Palumbus excelsus.
—— arboreus.	Columba gymnocycla.
Chlorospiza aurentiiventris.	—— turricola.
Pyrrhula coccinea.	Ardea atricollis.
Saxicola leucomela.	Garzetta egretta.
Ruticilla mesomella.	Ardeiralla gutturalis.
Cyanecula leucocyana.	Ibis religiosa.
Philomela major.	Phalacrocorax carbo.
Pyroptalma sarda.	Gelochelidon Anglica.
Calamoherpe brachyptera.	Pluvialis longipes.
Lusciniopsis fluviatilis.	Chettusia leucura.
Chloropeta oliviterum.	Hæmatopus moquini.
—— Elceica.	Porphyrio chloronotus
Hypolaïs Verdoti?	Bernicla ruficollis.

## IV.

## CAPTAIN LOCHE'S CATALOGUE OF ANIMALS.

*Pithecus inuus*. The "Gorges de la Chiffa" and some parts of the province of Constantine, and Kabylia.

*Lupulus aureus*. All Algeria.

*Vulpes Algeriensis*. The three provinces.

— *Niloticus*. All Algeria.

— *famelicus*. The South of Algeria.

*Fennecus Bruceii*. The M'zab and the Souf.

*Hyæna striata*. All Algeria.

*Mangusta Numidica*. Ditto.

*Genetta Afra*. Ditto.

— *Bonapartii*, *Loche*. The province of Algiers.  
(new)

*Felis leo*. All parts of Algeria, chiefly province of Constantine.

— *pardus*. All Algeria.

— *Serval*. Ditto.

— *jubata*. South of Algeria.

— *Caracal*. All Algeria.

— *Libycus*. The woody parts of Algeria, and the Sahara.

— *Catus*. The woody parts of Algeria.

— *Margarita*, *Loche*. The Sahara. (new)

*Putorius Boccamella*. Province of Algiers.

- Zorilla Vaillantii*, *Loche*. South of Algeria, and frontier of Tunis.
- Lutra vulgaris*. The chief water-courses of Algeria.
- Phoca monachus*. The coasts.
- Thursiops Tursio*. Ditto.
- Sus scrofa*. All Algeria.
- Camelus Dromedarius*.
- Cervus Elaphus*. The frontiers of Tunis, especially near Calle.
- Dama vulgaris*. Ditto.
- Antilope addax*. The Souf, and the Touaricks.
- Gazella Dorcas*. The South of Algeria.
- *corinna*. Ditto.
- Alcelaphus Bubalis*. Ditto.
- Musimon Tragelaphus*. The Souf, Djemel Amour, and the Mountains of the Sahara.
- Vespertilio murinus*. About Algiers.
- Miniopterus Schrebersii*. About Algiers.
- Pipistrella noctula*. Province of Algiers.
- *vispistrella*. Algiers and its environs.
- Plecotus auritus*. Accidentally at Blidah.
- Rhinolophus unihastus*. Algiers and its environs.
- *hippocrepis*. Ditto.
- Sorex tetragonurus*. Ditto.
- Crocidura aranea*. All Algeria.
- Pachyura agilis*. Provinces of Oran and Constantine.
- Crossopus fodiens*. River banks.
- Macrocelides Rozeti*. The environs of Oran, Bône, and Djelfa.
- Erinaceus Algerus*. All Algeria.
- *Deserti*, *Loche*. The Sahara. (new).



- Myoxus Mumbyanus. Provinces of Algiers, and Oran.  
 Dipus Gerboa. Provinces of Algiers, and Constantine.  
 — Mauritanicus. Provinces of Algiers and Oran.  
 — deserti, *Loche*. Ouargla. (new)  
 Alactaga arundinis. The South of Algeria.  
 Gerbillus Shawii. All Algeria.  
 — campestris. The Sahara.  
 — Selysii. Provinces of Algiers, and Oran.  
 — Gerbii, *Loche*. (new) Province of Algiers.  
 — Schousboeii, *Loche*. (new) The Sahara.  
 — robustus. Ditto.  
 — minutus. Ditto.  
 Ctenodaetylus Massonii. Mountain districts in the  
 south.  
 Mus decumanus. The south.  
 — rattus. All Algeria.  
 — Alexandrinus. All Algeria  
 — sylvaticus. Environs of Algiers.  
 — Algerius. All Algeria.  
 — musculus. Ditto.  
 — chamæropsis. Province of Constantine, and the  
 Sahara.  
 — Barbarus. All Algeria.  
 Hystrix cristata. Ditto.  
 Lepus Mediterraneus. Ditto.  
 Cuniculus Algerius. Ditto.
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The following appear in Captain Loche's list, but not on his own authority.

*Putorius communis.*

*Putorius vulgaris.*

— *Erminea.*

*Meles taxus.*

*Ursus arctos.*

*Phoca vitulina.*

*Vespertilio Nattererii.*

*Talpa.*

*Myolgalea moschata.*

*Crocidura leucodon.*

*Sciurus Getulus.*

LONDON:

WARREN HALL AND CO., STEAM PRINTERS, CAMDEN TOWN.