

Ptolemies had come in collision with the Roman Eagle, the destiny of the wearer was fixed. Like all who felt the blighting shadow of that influence, he must live a vassal, or die a victim.

In brilliant contrast with the frail and temporising daughter of the royal house of Egypt, stands the fearless and high-souled Zenobia, the self-made queen of that Palmyra in the wilderness whose ruins at this day fill the traveller with awe and admiration. Zenobia—a widow though young—married Odenathus, a chief of some warlike tribes who roved in the vicinity of Palmyra, and shared, as companion and equal, all the perils and adventures of her desert lord. Together they won and ruled their sand-girded kingdom of Palmyra—together revenged the cruel fate of the captive emperor Valerian, and startled the tyrant shah of Persia with their Arab war cry at the gates of his palace. The Roman Senate gave Odenathus the title of Augustus, and General of the East; but, ever ungrateful, when death removed him from their path, they sought to wrest from his widow the throne she helped to raise, or, with mock clemency, effected to regard as a favored vassal one who so short a space before had been an invaluable ally. The undaunted queen asserted her independence, and, in a pitched battle, defeated their general, Heracianus. This success she followed up by the conquest of Egypt, then a Roman province which, with all the territory included in Asiatic Turkey at the present day, she added to her dominions. This immense empire she governed with admirable wisdom and firmness. Commerce and the Arts flourished in security. Asia Minor was never prosperous; the bleeding wounds of oppressed Egypt began to heal; and Palmyra—stately Palmyra—now ruined and desolate, was, under her energetic and elevated policy, made more a wonder than Rome. But Rome had not forgiven her defeat; and what could withstand the overwhelming anger of the Mistress of the World? The fierce and able Aurelian brought the whole force of the empire against her. She was defeated at Antioch and Emesa, and finally besieged in her own capital of Palmyra. Terms were offered in favor of herself personally, but not to her people; they were destined to become the serfs of Rome. Zenobia, still undismayed, refused until, after various vicissitudes, she was made a prisoner. With herself irrecoverably the kingdom of Palmyra. The captive queen was led to Rome, to grace the triumph of Aurelian. There she died, but in what way is much disputed. Her reign was attended by great benefits to the world, and her fall was a deep and lasting evil. The destruction of the kingdom she established made a chasm in commerce that was long felt. It was a secure thoroughfare, and a commodious mart for the traffic between the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, then the great commercial centre and heart of Trade; for her path did not then, as now, lie upon the sea. Maritime commerce was scarcely thought of. They had not learned the economy of going round a whole continent to escape crossing an isthmus; besides, they knew not the way. In the fall of Palmyra, a great market of exchange was overthrown, and the most direct route so beset with difficulties, that centuries passed before the rich commodities of the East were so securely open to the enterprise of the West as in the reign of Zenobia.

This glance at the characters of the most celebrated queen of the East can do but faint justice to a subject which would require volumes to discuss fully; but it is sufficient, so far as it goes to refute the political injustice of the ascription, that female reigns have been generally productive of evil. History disproves it. The termination of Cleopatra's reign was unfortunate—of Zenobia's signally unjust; but the reigns themselves would have done honor to any king who ever swerved the same realms.

PROPHETIC DREAMS.

HENRY III. of France, is related to have had a dream predictive of his unfortunate fate at St. Cloud, and Louis of Bourbon, Prince of Conde, who lived in the seventeenth century, dreamt that after having gained three successive victories, and defeated his enemies, he should be mortally wounded, this came to pass: for the Marshal de St. Andre was killed at Dreux, the Duke of Guise, at Orleans, the constable Montmorency at St. Denys, the triumvirate that had sworn the destruction of the Prince and his religion, he himself was slain at Bassac.

Lady Jane Seymour is reported to have dreamed, when a maiden, that she found a nest with nine finches in it; and which is said to have been verified, when she

married the Earl of Wincelsea, whose name was Finch, by whom she had nine children. 'Dr. Clement,' says the author of the life of Sir Thomas Moore, 'reporteth, from Sir Thomas's own mouth, a vision which his mother had the night after her marriage; in which she saw in her sleep, as it were engraven on her wedding ring, the number and favor of all the children she was to have; whereof the face of one was so dark and obscure that she could not well discern it; and, indeed afterward, she suffered of one of her children an untimely delivery, but the face of one of her other children she beheld shining most gloriously; whereof, no doubt, Sir Thomas, his fame and sanctity was foreshowed and presignified.'

Hollinshead mentions, that William Rufus, not long before he was killed in the New Forest, dreamed that the veins of his arm were broken, and that the blood issued out in great abundance. He also relates the vision of Richard III., the night before the battle of Bosworth Field; which was completely verified by the event of that sanguinary contest.

The night before the arrest and execution of Lord Hastings who was beheaded by the Protector, afterward Richard III., 'Lord Stanley sent a trustie messenger unto him at midnight, in all the haste, requiring him to rise, and ride away with him; for he was disposed utterly no longer to bide, he had so fearful a dream, in which he thought that a boar, with his tusks so raised them by the heads, that the blood ran about their shoulders.' The boar was the cognizance of the Protector. If we receive the account of Shakspeare derived from ancient chronicles, the Duke of Clarence, before his execution,

'Past a miserable night
Fall of ugly sights of ghastly dreams,'
some of which the poet has described with infinite power.

Strada relates, that the night preceding the execution of Mary Queen of Scots, when Elizabeth was kept awake by the agitation of her mind, an attendant lady, who slept in her room, being awakened by a dream, cried out that she saw Mary Stewart beheaded, and soon after her own mistress struck with the same hatchet. Upon which Elizabeth, who had been distracted by the same images; despatched an express to Fotheringay, to order the execution to be deferred. Unhappily for Mary, however, the messenger did not arrive till four hours after the execution.

There is a remarkable relation in Burant's 'Account of the Life and Death of John Earl of Rochester.' 'The chaplain,' we are told, 'of the Lady Warre, the mother-in-law of the earl, had a dream, which informed him that on such a day he should die, but being by all the family put out of the belief of it, he had almost forgotten it; until the evening before the day which had been mentioned, there being at supper thirteen at table, according to a fond conceit that one of them must die, one of the young ladies pointed to him, that he was to be the person; he, remembering his dream, fell into some disorder; and the Lady Warre reproving him for his superstitious said that he was confident he was to die before morning; but he being in perfect health it was not much minded. It was on Saturday night, and he was to preach next day. He went up to his chamber, and sat up late, as appeared by the burning of his candle, and he had been preparing his notes for his sermon; but was found dead in the morning.'

Thomas Winton, nephew of the celebrated Nicholas Winton, Dean of Canterbury, dreamed in Kent, not long before his death, that the treasury of the University of Oxford had been robbed by some townsmen and poor scholars, five in number. He mentioned it in a postscript to a letter the same day, to his son Henry, then at Oxford. The letter arrived the morning after the robbery, and forwarded materially the detection of the depredators.

From the Lady's Book for December.

THE DYING YEAR.

BY MRS. L. H. SIGOURNEY.

VOICE of the Dying Year!—I hear thy moan,
Like some spent breaker of the distant sea,
Chafing the fretted rock. Is this the end
Of thy fresh morning music, gushing out
In promises of hope? Have the bright flush
Of Spring's young beauty, crowned with budding flowers,

The passion vow of Summer, and the pledge
Of faithful fruitful Autumn, come to this,
I see thy youngling moon go down the west,
The midnight clock gives warning, and its stroke

Must be thy death knell. Is that quivering gasp
The last sad utterance of thine agony?

I see thy clay cold fingers strive to clasp
Some prop—in vain.

And so, thou art no more,
No more. Thy rest is with oblivious years,
Beyond the flood. Yet when the trump shall sound,
Blown by the strong archangel, thou shalt wake
From the dim sleep of ages. When the tombs
That lock their slumbering tenants cleave in twain
Thou shalt come forth. Yea, thou shalt rise again,
And I shall look upon thee—when the dead
Stand before God. But come not murmuring forth,
Unwillingly, like Samuel's summoned ghost,
To daunt me at the judgment. No—be kind,
Be pitiful, bear witness tenderly—
And if thou hast a dread account for me,
Go, dip thy dark scroll in redeeming blood.

NEW WORKS.

Cairo, Petra, and Damascus, in 1839. With Remarks on the Government of Mehemet Ali, and on the Present Prospects of Syria. By John Kinnear, Esq.

Although it is not very likely that the opinion which generally prevails concerning the oppressive rule of Mehemet Ali in Syria, and the desire of the Syrians to free themselves from it, will ultimately turn out to be erroneous, still much curiosity exists to hear the testimony of recent travellers in the East on this interesting subject. The works of Lord Lindley and, we believe we may confidently add, all other writers who have visited Syria and Egypt, agree on the two main facts that Mehemet Ali has overrun and impoverished Syria, wringing from the people the last resources of their industry, and destroying alike their prosperity (such as it was) and their freedom; and that the Syrians, goaded by the tyranny of the government, are willing to make any sacrifice in the effort to throw off the Egyptian yoke. Whether they are desirous of attaching themselves to the Sultan is another question, and one, in the present crisis, of great importance; but we are not invited by the work before us to break ground in that direction.

Mr. Kinnear differs from his predecessors on the points we have indicated. He thinks that the excesses of Mehemet Ali have been exaggerated, and that the Syrians are not quite so much opposed to him as they have been represented. We need not follow our traveller from Cairo into the interior, as the route possesses little novelty; but touching on the principal passages, illustrative of Eastern policy and the condition of the inhabitants, we will enable the reader to form an estimate of the work without wasting time over the details.

One of the Pacha's grand schemes for the improvement of his dominions is the introduction of manufactures. Every body knows that this project, although it exhibited a laudable desire to elevate the industrial operations of his subjects, and must, under different circumstances, have conferred permanent benefits upon them, was a failure. The secret lies in the competing with the manufactures of England.

'The Pacha's manufacturing speculation appear to be a complete failure; not that the articles made are inferior in quality, but produced at an expense far above that at which they might be imported from England. I have seen a great deal of the cloth woven at the power-loom factory here. Both the spinning and weaving are bad; and, notwithstanding the low price of labour, the cost of production is so great that the cloth can scarcely be sold in the bazaars, and is almost entirely used in clothing the soldiers. The climate is exceedingly unfavorable to the working of any fine machinery, as it is impossible to exclude the dust and sand. The machinery is quickly deteriorated by the dust and irregular friction; and it is impossible to obtain that degree of moisture which is indispensable for many parts of the process of spinning and weaving. Nor it is possible to obtain, in a factory of this kind, the same systematic niceness and economy of management as under the superintendence of the parties immediately interested in the profit to be realized. In fact, from the extensive competition which exists in England, great part of the manufacturer's profit arises from his economy of management; almost the only advantage he can gain over his competitors in trade, is the discovery of some by which he may be able to reduce his cost of production; and it is probable that Mehemet Ali will, before long, discover that it is more profitable to export the whole of his cotton, and to receive manufactured goods from us. The whole system is a bad one for the country. The people will only improve in manufactures when they come to have a direct interest in them, and are stimulated by competition with each other.

'The same remarks apply to all the Pacha's speculations of this kind. Carpets, in imitation of the fabrics of England and France

are produced at a price far above the value of those of Turkey and Persia; and have as yet, only been made for the Pacha himself, as in fact they could not be sold in the bazaars. An engineer in the service of Ibrahim Pacha told me, that having to construct a small railroad at the coal mines in Mount Libanus, the rails were sent from the government foundry at Boulak, charged at the rate of £45 per ton—about four times the price at which they might have been imported from England.'

This is a fair specimen of the go-ahead principle of Mehemet Ali. He runs too fast for the country to keep pace with him. He is not only in advance of his age, but of his means. It is not merely to say that another century at least must elapse before the people could profit by his plans, but that it is doubtful whether they ever could enter with success into the manufacturing contest he has attempted so prematurely, and at such a ruinous outlay.

The slave-market so far as the physical condition of the slaves is concerned, did not excite any painful feelings in the traveller. The young slaves appeared healthy and cheerful, and the domestic slaves appeared to be well taken care of. Upon this matter there are some revelations worth noting.

'The state of public morals is very low, and cannot be otherwise, under the degrading state of Mahomedism. The people may complain of the oppression of the government, but a vile spirit of tyranny, every man over his inferior, appears to pervade all classes. Servants are kicked and cuffed by their masters, labourers by their employers, and donkey-boys by every body. I have seen a tradesman bastinado his apprentice on the soles of his feet with a bamboo, in a way that made my flesh creep. The poor boy screamed most piteously; but the other lads in the shop continued their work quite unconcerned, and people passing by scarcely turned their heads to see what was the matter. I am sorry to say that Englishmen are too ready to use the stick on every slight provocation; and I have been told, again and again, that there is no other way of managing an Arab; and that if I do not beat my servant now and then, he will soon be of no use to me. I have no faith in this, but believe that kind treatment will be returned by good service here as elsewhere; and, at all events, I shall try the experiment. I often wish that the knaves would retaliate, and strike again like men; but they are an abject, degraded race, and crouch like spaniels under the rod.

The household slave, although he may receive an occasional box on the ear, or a cut over the shoulders with the *hoorbadji*, is generally well treated. His master has too direct an interest in his health to treat him very ill, and his duties are not more laborious than those of a domestic servant ought to be. Indeed I have seen slaves who appeared to have little else to do than to fill their master's pipe, and present it to him or his visitors. The sale, or groom, seems to have pretty hard work, as he has not only to attend to his horses in the stable, but to run alongside of his master when he rides out; and at whatever rate the effendi may choose to ride, the snai must either keep up with him, or contrive to overtake him when he slackens his pace.'

From time immemorial the household slave has been better treated than the predial slave. Horace somewhere threatens one of the former class to send him out into the farm by way of punishment. But Mr. Kinnear seems to us to miss the real question at issue when he complains of the tyranny of men over their inferiors. What produces and licenses that tyranny? Why the tyranny of the government, of course. This is the spring of all oppression, which naturally descends through every grade, each revenging upon that below in the injustice it has itself suffered. We see the same thing in China and in Russia; and if tyranny exists, the government is to blame. It is necessary to arrive at the truth. There is no justice without knowledge, says George Sand, in one of those profound sentences which the polite world has agreed to banish from good society.

Of Mehemet Ali's policy, Mr. Kinnear is disposed to think rather favourably than otherwise. Capital punishments, he says, are less frequent under him than under the Turks, and it must be allowed that he has done much to advance the country by founding schools of medicine, introducing the art of painting, and allowing missionary societies to be established. All this is true; but it is not incompatible with the charges which have been brought against him by the Syrians. Let Mr. Kinnear, however, be heard on this subject. He is undoubtedly a dispassionate witness:—

'In order to form a fair estimate of the good or evil of Mehemet Ali's government in this country, you must not try it by the standard of enlightened and civilised governments in Europe, but by a comparison with that which it superseded. It is not a good