

orders to the muleteer not to go any further with me, and that they should not permit any *Franks* to come into the city, on which I sent the *janizari* with the letter to the Governor, who was very satisfied, and said he should be glad to see me.

The city of *Famagusta* is about two miles in circumference, and well fortified by the *Venetians*; it is of an oblong square figure; the bastions are all semicircular; on the west side of the town, a rising ground runs along from north to south, on which they took the advantage to build the rampart, which makes it exceedingly strong this way, a fosse being cut into the rock on the three sides to the land; and in that to the west there are covered ways to sally out. This high ground, which is the strength of the west side, exposed the south part of the town to the enemy, for it was from this part that the Turkish general battered the south gate, which is the only entrance from the land; and it is probable, that from the high ground on the north side they planted their batteries against the north east corner to the sea, where there is a strong castle also fortified within. There is a gate from the city to the port, which is well sheltered by several rocks, and the entrance to it, which is at the north east corner, is defended by a chain drawn across to the castle; it was here that the stuffed skin of the brave unfortunate *Bragadine* was hung up at the yard of a galley, after he had been most inhumanly slay'd alive by the treacherous *Turks*, against whom he had bravely defended the city. I observed on the ramparts the names of several of the *Venetian* Governors of Cyprus; and near the gate there are two statues of lions, one of which is very large, they were probably set up on some pillars in the principal parts of the city after the *Venetian* manner. The antient piazza seems to have been very beautiful; the house of the Governor with a portico before it, is on one side, and the western front of the church of saint *Sophia* on the other; it is a most beautiful *Gothic* building, now converted into a mosque, but about three years ago two thirds of it was thrown down by an earthquake, together with the greatest part of the city. Before it there is a Greek inscription on a black stone, which might be part of a pedestal for a statue; near the north west corner of the church there are two pillars, which probably had on them the *Venetian* ensigus; near these is a coffin of white marble adorned with lions heads, and festoons held by cupids. It is surprising to see what a great number of churches there are in this city; *St George's*, one of the most magnificent, was thrown down by the earthquake; another large one, which, if I mistake not, was dedicated to saint Catherine, is now the principal mosque.

There is very little trade at the place, which is the reason why all provisions are cheap here, the price of a fat sheep being only half a crown. No Christian is suffered to live within the walls, unless it be in confinement, in which condition I saw a Greek patriarch of *Constantinople*, who being deposed, and intriguing in order to supplant his successor, was banished to this place a few months before; I saw him afterwards in one of the *Princes Islands* near *Constantinople* returned from banishment. They will not suffer a *Christian* to go in or out of the city, otherwise than on foot; and a *European* having obtained a firman from the Grand Signor to enter the city in his chaise, when he sent it to the Governor, received this answer in a very cool manner: "That in obedience to the firman he might enter in his carriage, but that he would not permit him to go out of the city in it."

The present buildings do not take up above half the space within the walls, and a great part even of those are not inhabited. They have very good water brought three or four miles by an aqueduct, which is carried for the most part in a channel on the ground.

Between the two chains of mountains that stretch along the island, there is a large plain seven or eight miles wide, and between thirty and forty long, beginning about *Famagusta*; as it is one of the best parts of Cyprus, and most secure from the privateers, so it is chiefly