

Turks of all denominations. There is hardly a Mahometan who does not bear upon one of his fingers this kind of ornament. The Turkish signet is generally a carnelian stone, inscribed with a few words from the *Qorân*, a proverb in Arabic, or a couplet in Persian. We found, as usual, ample employment among these men; and were so much occupied in the pursuit, that we even neglected to visit the Cathedral of *St Sophia*, built in the Gothic style by the emperor *Justinian*, when he raised the edifice of the same name in *Constantinople*. We have the testimony both of *Drummond* and *Maviti* for the architecture exhibited in this building. The cathedrals both of *Famagusta* and *Nicotia* are described as Gothic. If it be true, therefore, that the *Nicotian* church was erected by *Justinian*, we have authority for the existence of that style of architecture, in a high degree of perfection, so long ago as the middle of the sixth century, six hundred and forty years before the conquest of *Cyprus* by *Richard the first*; and certainly long anterior to the introduction of any specimen of the architecture called Gothic in *Great Britain*. Other instances of still higher antiquity exist in *Egypt* and *Palestine*.

Our success in collecting gems was so great, that the number of our acquisitions in *Nicotia* exceeded the total of what we had been able to procure since our departure from *Constantinople*. We found also silver medals of *Antoninus Pius*, *Severus*, *Faustina*, and of the *Ptolémies*. The bronze were all of late date, and almost all after the time of *Constantine*. We also made diligent inquiry concerning the *Yeny Maden* crystal. Some detached and very ordinary specimens of crystallized quartz were shewn to us, by the name of *Baffa stones*; but the inhabitants were unable to polish even these. All the stones found in the island, capable of being polished, are sent to *Grand Caïro* for this purpose. This fact, while it serves to shew the wretched state of the arts in *Cyprus*, also conveys a proof of their flourishing state in the present capital of *Egypt*, beyond the notions usually entertained of that remote city. Among our intaglios were numerous representations and symbols of *Isis*, *Ceres*, and *Venus*, a very beautiful gem representing *Mercury* leaning upon a sepulchral *Stélé*; of *Anubis*, kneeling with the dove upon his left hand; and one of very diminutive form, but of exquisite beauty, meriting a more particular description: it is a highly transparent garnet. The subject engraven represents a colossal statue, whose two arms extended touch the extremity of the stone. Before this figure is seen a person kneeling, in the act of worshipping the idol. This corresponds so accurately with the descriptions given of the statue of *Jupiter Serapis* at *Alexandria*, whose two hands touched the sides of the temple, that it is probable the gem was intended to preserve a memorial of the image. It has no resemblance to the appearance of any Grecian Deity; the calathus, or rather the pileus, upon its head, is like that seen upon Indian or Chinese idols; and this further coincides with the history of the worship of *Serapis*, transferred by one of the *Ptolémies* from *Asia* to *Egypt*.

In the evening we mounted our mules, and again returned to *Attien*. Our good friend *Mr Sékis* had laden an ass with all sorts of provisions for our journey, but we would only accept a basket of his apricots. These he said were nothing in comparison with the apricots he received annually from *Famagusta*, yet they were the finest we had ever seen. We met caravans of camels in our way to *Attien*, marching according to the order always observed in the *East*; that is to say, in a line, one after the other; the whole caravan being preceded by an ass, with a bell about its neck. Camels never seem to seek the shade; when left to repose, they kneel down, exposed to the hottest beams of the sun. Trees, however, are rarely seen in this part of the island; the inhabitants relate, that eastward of *Nicotia*, towards *Baffa*, the country being more mountainous is also well covered with wood. The rivers of *Cyprus* are dry during the summer months. Sudden rain swells them into torrents. Some fell during