

of two tails at Famagusta and Larnaca; but seventy years ago the inhabitants wrote to Constantinople that the island every day became poorer, and that the expense of these Pashas' establishment was too heavy on it: the Porte attended to their complaint, and gave the island as an appendage to the dignity of Captain Pasha, who keeps a Musellim in it to govern in his name.

The peasants of Cyprus work only for themselves, there being superabundance of land for the population in the island since its decline. Those who cultivate the Sultan's farms have no other pay than their food, and exemption from the *miri* or land tax.)

The Musellim farms it, and of course squeezes it more than it can bear. He resides in Nicosia (called by the Greeks *Λευκωσία*), but comes annually to Larnaca to receive the visit of the consuls, when it is the custom of them to present him with gifts to the amount of 500 piastres, in return for which he gives an old *benish* (outer robe) to the dragoman, and an embroidered handkerchief of Constantinople, valued at 20 piastres, to the consul. His administration is very strict, and keeps in good order the Turks who, as they drink very hard, would otherwise be very disorderly; but Signor V. very earnestly absolved them from the charge of being so bad as the Cadiotes, which I had heard. The Greeks are better than the Turks, and the latter have no greater privileges than the former, at which they are constantly expressing great discontent.

The cheapness of living in Cyprus is extraordinary, considering the declining state of the island. Mr Vondiziano, with all the expenses of the consulate, a wife and five children, a large house, six servants, two janizaries, a carriage, horse and mule, spends only 5000 piastres a year. Servants' wages (men-servants the dearest) a few years ago were only from fifty to sixty piastres a year; but now they are generally ten, and sometimes even twenty, piastres a month.

In the morning I went with Signor Vondiziano (who put himself in grand state, with a large cocked hat which he always wears, even in the house, a gold-headed cane, and preceded by a janizary) to visit the Austrian consul, who lived in a good house near us. He has lately married a young lady of the country, who was tolerably pretty. He was now much frightened by a report brought two or three days ago by a ship from Constantinople, that Austria, in conjunction with Russia, had declared war against the Porte; from which fear I delivered him. I afterwards walked to the Marina, where I bought two or three little trifles of which I stood in need, as almost all the magazines and bazaars are there. Being caught here in a most furious storm of hail and rain, I ran for shelter to the house of Mr How, but it lasted so long that I staid and dined with him (the consul's hour being past) on some salt fish, and some delicious small artichokes; for as it was the Greek Lent no meat could easily be had. As I saw there was no chance of the storm ceasing, I was forced to walk to Larnaca in the middle of it, and went to call on Dupont, whose house, after a long search, I found: he was not at home, but I was very civilly received by his mother and sister, the latter of whom I thought very pretty, perhaps because she was like an English woman, having light hair and blue eyes. Both of them were ill with the fever, from which they said they had never been totally free for four years past. Indeed I cannot wonder at it, for besides the marshes and the mud in the streets, which is so deep, and smells so offensively, that it is hardly possible to pass, the room where they sat, as is the case in all the houses here, was paved with stones about four feet long, and two and a half broad, through some of whose crevices water was coming up. In the evening, the rain being moderated, I returned to Signor V.'s house.

March 18. (Thermometer 61.) The traveller certainly sees in Cyprus that he is in