

On September 13 we again weighed anchor, shook out our sails, and coasted gaily along for fifty miles, passing the point of Cryptæ, then Masoto and Chiti. About four in the afternoon we reached the Salines, where we found good holding ground near the shore, and anchored. The day was waning, and as it was not convenient to land we waited for the morning. The next day, having offered the customary gifts to the *Emin* (the chief collector of customs and imperial revenue), we received permission to land. But before we left the vessel an Italian merchant from the neighboring town of Arnica, a great friend of the Minorites, came to visit us. He told us that only a short while since the Pasha of Nicosia had thrown into the prison a Venetian merchant living in Arnica, because he had re-converted and helped to escape a Minorite of German origin who had last year abjured Christianity and openly embraced the falsities of Mohammadanism: that a rumour too was abroad that the vicar of the order at Jerusalem, who was now our fellow-passenger, and who at that time was visiting Cyprus, had persuaded him to run away, and that it was chiefly his doing that the monk had renounced and abjured Islam, and that the Pasha was aware of this. Wherefore it were well that the vicar should not land, a thing which might be dangerous to himself and the rest. It would be impossible for him to remain hidden, there were so many people in Arnica who knew him, and among them would be some who would tell the Pasha: he had better then avoid the risk by remaining quietly on board. We all joined in persuading the vicar to take the Italian's advice, and he stayed alone on the vessel until we had completed our business and sailed for Jaffa.

CHAPTER XV.

Landing at Cyprus, and stay there. Description of the towns of Comercio and Arnica, and of the valley of the Salines.

On September 14 we entered a boat and rowed to the shore, landing at a place called Comercio, huilt, it is said, on the ancient site of the city Cypria, which gave its name to the island. This was once a populous place, and the chief seat of the island trade. The name says as much, and extensive ruins bear it out, a good many merchants frequent it even now, but fewer than when Cyprus was under Christian rule. There used to be immense stores here, full of every kind of merchandise and grain, in which the island abounds. Now either fire has destroyed them, or the Turks, whose carelessness lets everything fall into ruin, have abandoned them.

From Comercio we went on foot to Arnica, called by the ancients Piscopia, about a mile from the shore. As we walked, at a stone's throw on our left, we found a church, an ancient building, with a roof composed of several round domes; against the eastern side are sundry low huts, of a single storey, for the use of travellers, and convenient enough for those who land from shipboard. Turks and other strangers who come here for business pass the night in them. The Minorites of Arnica a few years ago bought from the Turks a chapel on the left of the high altar as a place of sepulture. For if it happen that a sailor from one of the ships in port should die, they bury him in this spot, which is but a little way from the shore, and perform the funeral ceremonies according to the Roman rite. From the church of Lazarus to Arnica we saw nothing but ruins, wide plains full of the caper plant, and fields generally deserted. That Arnica or Arnicum was once a remarkable and very populous city is sufficiently attested by the remains of public buildings, and ruined houses. Now there is nothing to see but some small buildings, few and poor, of one storey only. There is still a