

Elymas the sorcerer was struck blind, and Sergius Paulus the proconsul converted by Saint Paul.

Near Baffo, to the westward, are what they call their Diamond-mines, where, in some places, the spar seems to be crystalized, and pellucid stones are found, like those in the western and northern mountains of Scotland, though not near so good in quality. A mahassil, some time ago, deceived by the name of Diamond-mines, sent thither twenty or thirty men to dig for what he imagined would soon enrich him; but he was grievously disappointed; for all that he got was a few rock-crystals, at the expence of three or four hundred dollars. At Poli di Chrisofon he expected, or pretended to expect, to find solid iron; and having employed his people to dig, without success, he laid a tax upon both places, granting to the christians of Baffo the privilege of the Diamond-mines for four hundred and fifty dollars, and to others that of the Iron-mines, for three hundred and fifty dollars per annum; so that he exacted eight hundred dollars annually for nothing from those poor, oppressed people, and his successors have ever since religiously followed his example. From Baffo I took my route northwards through the mountains, from some of which I took the bearing, &c. of the land about Acamas, where flows the celebrated spring called the Fountain of Love: but I had no curiosity to taste of the water, the effect of which upon old people like me, is said to be that of making the spirit willing while the flesh continues weak. The roads are very rugged, extending through several precipices which are dangerous for the traveller: the woods are thin, the hills very bare, the intermediate grounds good; but the grain was as if it had been sown ten degrees north of the plains I had left a few hours before: but about Stroumbi the fields have a better aspect; for in the neighbourhood of the village which is pleasant and well-peopled, one might easily perceive that more industry had been used in the agriculture: and indeed, through all Cyprus, the soil is such as will well reward the labour of the farmer.

When I entered the village, I was surrounded by almost all the people both young and old, few of whom had ever seen a person in my habit: I gratified their curiosity by standing amongst them, and amusing myself with their pretty children, after I had viewed their church. The poor little creatures were shy at first, but soon flocked round me at sight of a Para; so natural it is, even for children, to be allured by money.

In my progress forwards I arriv'd at Poli di Chrisofon, which is beautifully situated in a bottom among hills; and its vicinity to the sea adds to the agreeableness of its situation. Though there is no trade worth mentioning any where but in Larnica, where the Europeans live, yet a variety of creeks for small craft are to be found all around the island, particularly a bay near this place, formed by the Acamas land, which would be of infinite service to the inhabitants, in manning their grounds, were they freed from oppression, and secured in their properties; but those blessings seem to be at an infinite distance from them, for the misery of the people is at present inconceivable, occasioned by a total want of rain, whereby vegetation was in a manner choaked up in the earth: what little did appear above ground, was in many places almost totally destroyed by innumerable swarms of locusts, which covered the island, and devoured every thing that had the least verdure, so suddenly, as to have destroyed, in one night, a field which would have given bread to fifty thousand men for a week, besides fodder for the cattle: nay, a farmer-priest told me, that of three hundred scals of wheat (each consisting of about forty-five yards square) which he had sown, he had not reaped twenty. All these circumstances of distress, one would imagine sufficient to drive those poor people to despair; but the government is of another opinion, and never indulges them with the least compassion or forbearance: those who were obliged to depend upon the produce of