

*Rice*, and *Mutton*, as wheresoever I passed up, and down to view the *Spahyes*, and others in their tents, they would often make mee sit, and cate with them very pleasantly, and well: The severall *Courts* of the *Bashas* were served in great state; each of them having three or fourescore *Camels*, besides six or seven score *Carts*, to carry the *Baggage*: and when the *Basha* himselfe took Horse, he had five or sixe *Coaches*, covered with *cloth of gold*, or rich *tapestry*, to carry his wives; some had with them *twelve* or *sixteen*; the least *ten*, who when they entred the *Coach*, there were men set on each side, holding up a rowe of *tapestry* to cover them from being seen by the people, although they were after the *Turkish* manner muffled that nothing but the eye could appeare: beside these wives, each *Basha* had as many or likely more *Catamites*, which are their serious loves; for their wives are used (as the *Turks* themselves told

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me) but to dress their meat, to Laundresse, and for reputation; the boyes likely of twelve or fourteen yeares old, some of them not above nine, or ten, are usually clad in *Velvet*, or *Scarlet*, with gilt *Scymitars*, and bravely mounted, with *sumptuous furniture*; to each of them a Souldier appointed, who walkes by his bridle, for his safety: when they are all in order, there is excellent *Sherbets* given to any who will drink; then the *Basha* takes Horse, before whom ride a dozen or more, who with ugly Drums, brasse Dishes, and wind instruments, noise along most part of the Journey: before all, there goe Officers who pitch his tent, where hee shall dine or lodge: when meat is served up, especially at night, all the people give three great Shouts: These are the chief ceremonies I remember. That w<sup>th</sup> secured, & emboldened my enquiry, and passage these twelves days march, was an accident the first night, which was thus, The  
*Campe*

*Campe* being pitched on the shoare of *Danubius*, I went (but timorously) to view the Service about *Murath Bashaes* Court, where one of his favourite boyes espying me to bee a stranger, gave me a Cup of *Sherbet*; I in thanks, and to make friends in Court, presented him with a Pocket *Looking glasse*, in a little *Ivory Case*, with a *Combe*, such as are sold at *Westminster Hall* for four or five shillings a piece: The youth much taken therewith, ran, and shewed it to the *Bashaw*, who presently sent for me, and making me sit, and drinke *Cauphe* in his presence, called for one that spake *Italian*, then demanding of my *condition*, *purpose*, *countray*, and many other particulars, it was my fortune to hit his humour so right, as at last he asked if my Law did permit me to serve under them going against the *Polacke* who is a *Christian*; promising with his hand upon his breast, that if I would, I should be inrolled of his *Companies*,

nies, furnished with a good Horse, and for other necessaries be provided with the rest of his household; I humbly thanked him for his favour, and told him, that to an *Englishman* it was lawfull to serve under any who were in league with our *King*, and that our *King* had not only a league with the *Gran Signior*, but continually held an *Embassadour* at his Court, esteeming him the greatest *Monarch* in the world: so that my service there, especially if I behaved my selfe not unworthy of my *Nation*, would be exceedingly well received in *England*; and the *Polacke*, though in name a *Christian*, yet of a *Sect*, which for *Idolatry*, and many other points, wee much abhorred; wherefore the *English* had of late, helpt the *Muscovite* against him, and would be forwarder under the *Turkes*, whom we not only honored for their glorious actions in the world; but also loved, for the *kind commerce* of *Trade* which wee find amongst

amongst them : But as for my present engagement to the war, with much sorrow I acknowledged my incapacity, by reason I wanted *language*, which would not only render me incapable of *commands*, and so *unserviceable*, but also endanger mee in *tumults*, where I appearing a stranger, and not able to expresse my affection, might be mistaken, and used accordingly; wherefore I humbly entreated his Highnesse leave to follow my poor affaires, with an eternall *oblige* to *blazon* this honorable favour wheresoever I came : He forthwith bad me do as liked me best; wherewith I took my leave, but had much confidence in his favour, and went often to observe his Court. In this journey wee passed through a pretty little Towne, called *Nisse*, where wee stayed while the *Jews* kept their *Sabbath* : here a little before night, Wine having possist a *Ianizary*, and one other *Turke*, who rode in my Coach, they

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fell out with two Countrey fellowes, and by violence tooke an Axe from one of them, not to rob him, but for present use thereof, which being done, I gave him his Axe againe, as not willing in that place to have so much as the beholders part in a quarrell: These fellows dogg'd us: the *JaniZary* they missed, but at midnight came to our Coach where we slept, and opened the cover; whereat I speaking in *Italian*, they knew me, wherefore leaving mee, they drew the *Turk* by neck, and shoulders, and gave him two blows w<sup>th</sup> *Scymitars*, one over the arme, the other upon the head, in such sort as we left him behind in great danger of death: they fled, I was found there all bloody, and so taken, had surely the next day been executed, but that within lesse then halfe an houre, the hurt person coming to his senses, cleared me, telling how it came, and by whom.

Thus in twelve dayes, wee came to  
*Sophya,*