

their craft and obstinacy, no little annoyance to the traveller; and woe be to him if his servant proves craven in the hour of need! On such occasions, often have I seen my courageous follower opposed to many times his number, but in himself a host, and though unarmed, possessing in the chest of a buffalo, and a pair of huge and brawny fists,

“ what seemed both spear and shield,”—

dash down his pipe upon the sand, and menace the delinquents; (nor did he always confine himself to mere threats;) till pacified by their submissive appeals, he would resume it, subside, under the blessed influence of half-a-dozen whiffs, into his habitual state of placability, and presently be seated in the midst of the Arabs like a little king. Such a man was invaluable: I could have trusted him with my goods and life; and his continual good-humour to myself, among all the difficulties of the Desert, was indeed a continual feast. In fact, he lacked but one thing, and that was the gift of tongues, speaking only Arabic, besides a few words of broken English and Italian, which, combined in different ways, and eked out with signs and gesticulations, served as the sole basis of our intercourse with each other, and, what was worse, with the Arabs.

Mrs. L. had bespoke for me a tent, which was pitched that I might see it: a superb and very commodious affair, ornamented with colours and devices fit for a pasha, and far better than I should have thought of; but it was not in human nature to refuse so smart a thing when once up; besides that, the price was moderate, I think, three hundred piastres. I afterwards found the comfort of it, and frequently rejoiced that I had not chosen an inferior one. It is true that one *may* do without tent or bedding in the Desert; but it is hard work: you have no shelter either from heat, cold, rain, or sand-storms; no privacy, of course, or sense of comfort, to say nothing of consideration in the eyes of the Arabs. A second and smaller tent was lent to us by Mr. L., for the servants; but they rarely took the trouble of pitching it.