

*March* Ther. Winds.

18. 40. S. SW. I Clear. The City was sprinkled over with small Ashes, like Kitchen Ashes, which were attracted by the Loadstone.
19. 42. 0 W. I A few thin Clouds.
20. 37. 0 0 Almost clear. *Vesuvius* became entirely quiet.

VIII. *A short Account, by Mr. John Eames, F. R. S. of a Book intituled, Tuhfat ilki-bar, printed at Constantinople, Anno Dom. 1728.*

THE Advantage of Printing above Writing, has at last prevailed with the Grand Signor to permit a Printing-Press to be set up at *Constantinople*. It was obtained upon a Memorial presented to him by the Grand Vizier, with the Consent of the Mufti.

The Privilege is granted to *Zaid* the Son of *Mehe-met Effendi*, late Ambassador in *France*, and *Ibrahim Mutafarrica*, the Author of a small Tract in this Book. The Licence extends to the printing all Sorts of Books written in the Oriental Languages, except such as treat of the *Mahometan* Religion.

The Book before me seems to be one of the first that ever was printed there. For though *Giaubauri's Arabic* Dictionary, translated into *Turkish*, was what the *Turks* designed, for particular Reasons, to begin withal; yet the Manuscript, from which they printed off the first Sheets, was found to be so incorrect, that the Grand Signor ordered the printing of it to be stopp'd, 'till a more correct Copy could be procured.

During

During this Stop, the Book I am to give a brief Account of was printed, containing about 150 Leaves.

The Language of it is not *Arabic*, as was supposed, but *Turkish*, though it has several Words and some Sentences that are so. The Title, or what may serve as such, is *Tubbfat ilkibar*, or, *A Present to the Great*; containing an Account of several Engagements at Sea. The Author is *Hagi Califa*, siled *Coelebi Almurbbum*, i. e. A Gentleman who has obtained Mercy, or deceased. It consists of two Tracts, a large, and a very small one. The latter is done by the Publisher, *Ibrahim Mutafarrica*. *Mutafarrica* is a Title of Honour signifying a Horse-Soldier, obliged to go to the Wars when the Grand Signor goes in Person, but not else.

It is a short Account of Geographical Measures of Distances, &c. particularly of the Circumference of the Earth.

The principal Treatise is partly Historical, and partly Geographical; the latter treats of the Nature of the Terrestrial Globe, the Use of Maps, and Situation of Places, particularly of *Venice*, *Corfu*, *Albania*, &c. and such as border upon the *Turkish* Dominions.

The Historical Part is an Account of several Naval Expeditions and Battles between the *Turks* and *Christians*, especially during the Holy War, in the *Mediterranean* Sea, with their Conquest of the Islands and Places of Note upon the Sea-Coasts. It is an Abridgement of the History of their Admirals, from the taking of *Constantinople* to the Year 1653; gives a Description of the Grand Signor's Arsenal at the *Porte*, with the Charges of maintaining it; and concludes with some Directions to the *Turkish* Officers.

Besides a general Map of the World, there are three others; one of the *Mediterranean*, or *White Sea*, as

the *Turks* call it; another of the *Archipelago*, and the third of the *Venetian Gulph*: They have each Scales of *Turkish*, *French* and *Italian Miles* annexed; but what is something surprizing, these Maps have the Degrees of Latitude, but not of Longitude, marked upon the Sides.

The last Plate has two Mariner's Compasses, the one containing the *Turkish* Names of the several Points; the other, besides the *Turkish*, has the *Arabic* Names, which are taken from certain Stars supposed to rise and set upon or near those Points.

The Book ends with Words to this Sense: This Treatise was done by the Persons employ'd in the Business of Printing, at the Printing-House erected in the noble Month of *Dulkaadab*, in the Year 1141, (*i. e.* 1728) in the good City of *Constantinople*. May God, &c.

I forgot to observe, it has the Imprimatur, or Comendations of a *Turkish* Divine, and three *Effendies*, prefix'd; and at the End an Index of the *Errata*, with their Emendations in three Pages. The whole is done upon shining or gumm'd Paper, stamp'd with three Crescents in Pale, and an Imperial Crown, proper to the *Turks*.

I join with the learned Mr. *Clodius* (Author of a *Turkish* Lexicon and Grammar lately published at *Lipsic*) in wishing the *Turks* would print a compleat *Livy*, which Fame says is repositid in the Grand Signor's Library in the *Turkish* Language, together with other *European* Books translated into *Turkish*, whose Originals are not to be met with in *Europe*, a Catalogue of some of which is expected from the younger Monf. *Fourmond*.