

To the Count Pio Vidua.\*

From Cairo, June 20, 1820.

It has been five months that I have not written you; but beyond that I hope that the letters will have arrived to you, which I addressed from here before leaving after the middle of January, I know that that Mr. Drovetti has had the courtesy to give to you news of me. Unsettled these five months being so far, and entirely sequestered from Europe, I could not write, and even being able to I would not have done it because I preferred to give you account of this journey when it was finished rather than in the middle, to not leave you anxious of the outcome.

I will not make for you like the other times a journal of my journey, because I have seen too many things, and it would be too long to tell them, and it would be too boring for you to read the account of a journey that has lasted almost five months.

The reason of the length of the journey is the quantity of the monuments to see, then their distance; since here towards Cairo there are none, all almost was destroyed, except the pyramids and a few other remnants, besides the more ancient Egyptians who came from high Egypt, and there in Thebes was their capital. Thence is born, that travellers, which do not come if not in Alexander or to Cairo, do not see almost anything. The Egyptian colony is 150 miles from Cairo, then one needs to go upstream still another 150 miles from Cairo before reaching the first temple, which is that of Dendera. It is necessary then to go 300 miles, or 240 in a direct line (and with the crookedness of the Nile it would be more than 300), before being situated, I would say, in the land of the monuments. From Dendura and above, a monument is encountered every two days of walking, and sometimes more, and as far as one goes upstream the Nile much more, the benefits always multiply.

As this was the most beautiful of all of the journeys that I have made up to now, so it was also the most comfortable. Egypt, taken in its great extension, is nothing but a desert. The only part cultivated and fertile are the sides of the Nile, that extend at times one, two, and rarely more than four or five miles from the river; in a way that the places inhabited, and the monuments are all found so to say on the banks of the Nile, or far a half-hour, an hour, very few are those that are two hours distant. As a result the manner of travelling in this country is to go on the river; and so I completed the longest navigation that I have ever made, and that I will ever make in my life, now that I have lived five months on a boat. Fortunately there are excellent boats. Mr. Drovetti, who in this as in every other thing was of the most great usefulness to me, procured for me an excellent ship, in which there was a good room for me, and behind a closet, in which were contained the provisions for a long voyage. My room was very spacious, and comfortably contained the bed, and two tables and had small windows on both sides, so that I could being in bed see both of the banks of the Nile, and even fire of the birds and on the crocodiles, so that I can say that in Egypt I went hunting before getting up out of bed. Hunting and a book amused me until Dendera. But from there and after the quantity of subjects, to visit was many, that I did not have any more occupation. Not very far beyond Dendera are the ruins of Thebes, which occupy a vast space on one and on the other bank of the river, which would merit making this trip, even if any other antiquity in Egypt did not exist.

There are very high obelisks of a sole piece of granite, very majestic propelei (porches), a room with 134 columns, which are for the major part five Piedmont feet in diameter, and those in the middle about seven feet, peristyles, granite rooms, avenues of sphinxes, palaces, temples,

\* From duplicate.

sepulchres, triumphant entries, and above all else everywhere colossal statues, bas-relieves, and pictures. On the western bank still exist. . .

(End of translation of Letter by Murray R. Low. The continuation of this letter, No.34, was translated by Cinzia Noble with minor clarifications by Murray R. Low.)

. . .the two colossuses; one of them was very much celebrated among ancient people under the name of the Memnon colossus; it would make a sound at the beginning of the day; and it is possible to see Greek and Roman inscriptions of countless travellers who came to Egypt and testify of having heard it: at one o'clock I, Camillus, heard Memnon, These colossuses are so tall, that I, with my stature, can barely reach one third of the leg.

But, among so many marvelous things, that are possible to be admired at Thebes, the most curious one of all is the valley where the kings' sepulchres lay. It is rather a lonely valley, arid, horrible, in which some holes like caverns are seen. Entering these caverns, long galleries, halls, chambers, and cabinets are found, in short, they are underground palaces, all covered with painted bas-relieves; and it is very marvelous. It is wonderful the preservation of the colors, the amount of the works, the scrupulous attention used to make them. Lately, a new one was discovered which surpasses all the others in beauty, in the perfection of the work, and in execution. I visited it two times. The second time I spent the whole day there, examining everything; it was already late evening, and I couldn't move myself away from there.

I dined inside there in a beautiful hall, much more elegant than our ballrooms. Also, I believe that, considering all, this sepulcher of the king of Thebes is a much more sumptuous dwelling than the dwellings of our living European kings. Who, do you think, gave me the honor of those sepulchers, and who reigns in Thebes in exchange of the dead king? A Piedmontese. Mr. Lebolo from Canavese, formerly a police officer in service of France, came to Egypt and was employed by Mr. Drovetti in the excavations, which he does continuously in Thebes. Our Piedmonteses really have a ready spirit, and are capable of succeeding in everything; from police to antiques is a big jump. Well, Mr. Lebolo works successfully in his new career; he found beautiful pieces for the Drovetti museum; and since he was allowed by him to do some excavations of his own, he gathered for himself a small collection, which will bring him a moderate fortune. In those ten days that I lived in Thebes, Mr. Lebolo accompanied me, took me everywhere, had me come to dinner at his house, which is among monuments and half embedded in tombs, all filled with mummies, papyrus, and little statues. An Egyptian bas-relief was the top of the door; we made fire with pieces of mummies' coffins. Mr. Lebolo commands those Arabs; sometimes he has about 200 or 300 at his command; the Turkish commander respects him for fear of Mr. Drovetti. Oh, if Sesostri had lifted his head up, and had seen a Piedmontese commanding in the city with one hundred doors. When you see count Lodi, tell him that we drank to his health among the ruins of Thebes. Mr. Lebolo served for some time in Piedmont with the carabinieri and spoke very highly of his leader. He was also under count of Agliano in Savoy. To show my gratitude to such courtesy of this Canavese-Theban man, I took the task of sending a letter to his family; which I include here, praying you to make sure that it will reach its destination.

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(Footnote at the bottom of pg 177--Letter 34. "Vidua, Letters, Tom. II.")

After Thebes, I continued to visit many other monuments until Assuan, where there is the first cataract, and the Philae island, all filled with monuments, where there is still standing the famous temple in its entirety, which is believed to contain Osiris' sepulcher. Assuan is the last border of Egypt. It was the end of the French expedition, and till these past years the most valiant travellers stopped at the first cataract, also not reachable without much difficulty and many dangers. Only Norden eighty years ago, dared to enter Nubia, but he risked his life there. But since a few years ago, Mehemed Ali, after establishing order in all High Egypt, made his power felt among Nubia's inhabitants, so that from 1816 and 1816 on many Europeans, and especially English, began to penetrate there more and more. I was provided with good firmans, and letters of recommendation . . .

(End of translation of letter by Cinzia Noble. The conclusion of this letter, No. 34, was translated by Murray R. Low.)

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(letter no. 34 continued, page 179)

not only for the Turkish commanders, but likewise for the Hassen cascev, who at other times was prince of Nubia, and still to the present conserves not little authority, I determined to pass beyond the first cataract. Whence left my boat, which waited for me in Assuan, I took a smaller boat attended by Nubian boatmen, and transporting my equipage and my provisions I commenced at the end of February my journey in Nubia. The country there of the first cataract is still more Africa than Egypt; the inhabitants almost entirely black are mostly nude, and are true savages. The ardour of the sun is so burning that barley is reaped in February, and grain in March, and neither one nor the other would grow without the help of the Nile. The grain fields resemble our rice-fields, divided by small embankments and small canals. In the month of March the thermometer placed in the shade climbed ordinarily to 27, 28, 30 degrees, and exposed to the sun one day it rose to 49 degrees of Reaumur, great heat, almost unbelievable. Not being able to suffer European suits anymore, I made me an Arab garment, which is a large blue shirt that reaches to the feet, and thus I dressed until my return to Cairo. The more I advanced into the country, the more I found very conserved monuments, and mostly temples and sepulchres all in Egyptian style. There are most beautiful and all expenses of sculptures, and often the colors are made use of intact. Arrived at Derr (which on the maps is found with the name of Derri) I went to visit the Hassen cascev, and according to the eastern usage, I gave him a gift, and I was received with much distinction. He also gave me a gift of a ram. Later on at Edbrim (on the map of Anville it is written Ibrim) I met the Turkish Commander Mustafa aga for which I had a strong letter of recommendation from the Governør of High Egypt Acmet bassa. He gave to me an old sheik or head of the Arabs who accompanied me; but I anticipated that he could not go farther than the second, or the Great Cataract. Until there he corresponded with my life, but further on the authority of Lower Egypt does not extend, and he counselled me to not go there. I departed consequently, with this sheik Ali, who was an old man still very fearless, and has 45 wives. In a few days I reached the second cataract, which was the end of my journey. It is placed beyond 23, and a little less than the twenty-second degree of latitude. There because of the fatigue, of the great heat, and of sunstroke, I had an attack of ophthalmia, a sickness really of the country. The eyes swell, all of the muscles of the face are irritated, the white of the eye becomes the color of blood, and continuous stinging is felt in the eye and in the eyelid. I was three days and three nights without sleeping. Fortunately I had brought from Cairo a remedy, which in seven days healed me perfectly, without leaving me any mark, nor weakness. I am in the third year of my journey, and this was the first, and I hope will be the last sickness. I was assisted with supreme attention by Leonard. The sickness hanging, I left the boat, where it was too hot, and I in a village called Uafi and Ueliab

near the second cataract, recuperated; luckily that was the dwelling of a brother-in-law of the Hassen cassev of Deir, who had given me in fact for him a letter, so that I was well received, and he helped me recover with the usual gift. Departed from there, I returned to Ebrin and to Deir, visiting all of those temples, and working continually to get plans and measures, and finally I reached returning to Assuan after having been two months and eight days in Nubia; from Assuan with my first boat I returned to Cairo, having been in all almost five months, because I departed from Cairo January 21 and I returned there June 14. My journey was very successful, the which I owe first of all to the firman and the letters of the Bassa obtained for me by Mr. Drovetti, then to have had faithful people. Besides Leonard I took here as a dragman of the Arab language a renegade Maltese named Abdalla. Then I had as guard of the boat a Turk, of the ferocious Albanese, named Ibrahim, good young man; then I took another young man at Assuan. We were well armed; and finally in Nubia I came to the most able reis, or ship's captain; and thus all of his black boatmen served me with great faithfulness, and I would say also with affection.

Here I want to end, because if I begin to enter into particulars I would never finish it.

No. 35.

To the Marchese Doria Di Cirie.\*

From Cairo June 28, 1820.

My dear friend. -- I do not know if you have received the letters that I wrote to you from Constantinople and from Smyrnia, and that which I addressed to you from here after the middle of January. After my latest letters I have undertaken the longest, the most beautiful, the most curious of all the different voyages that I have made up to now. I took five months. One could have been able to do it in three, but I wanted to examine all at leisure.

At first sight you will know that except the pyramids and some monuments at Alexandria, Lower Egypt offers only some sparse ruins, and very little interesting. To see the great Egyptian monuments, it is necessary to go into Higher Egypt. There is a hundred miles from Cairo at Assuan, formerly Hermopolis, that one finds the first Egyptian colonnade, and the first temple is at Dendura, more than 500 miles from here. It is necessary then to be resolved to make a long journey to find the Egyptian antiquities, and another long journey to examine them and to observe them. ~~The more one goes away from Cairo, and consequently the more one advances to the south, the more the monuments increase in number and are found in a better state of~~ conservation. Fortunately they are all placed or on the banks of the Nile or at a very small distance; by destiny that navigating on the river one has the ability to see all. I embarked on the twenty-first of January on a small boat, that I rented to such a degree for me that I could stop for all the time that I would like. This vessel was my abode, my domicile, my home during five months. I had a room for me, a cabinet for my provisions, and on the front was made a kind of tent for my dragmen. An Albanese soldier, the captain and eight seamen formed the rest of the crew. The English flag floated on the top of the mast; it is common here that when a traveller known a bit makes a journey to High Egypt, and who has a boat to himself,

display the signs of the nation. As no Italian are not recognized uniformly by our laws, it is necessary to put ourselves under the protection of a power well respected; so the more that I am seen in the east, I pass always as English. However this thing is very useful in becoming respected above all by the Arabs. I had in my boat all kinds of provisions, principally of wine, but also of war. We had eight pistols, a gun of double shot, some knives, other guns. Besides these I fixed provisions of gifts to distribute to the Arabs and to the Arab chiefs, of necklaces for the Arab Bedouin, and Kaffir women. I had some letters of recommendation for the cascove (which is to say governors of provinces), for the sarrafs (money exchangers), for the aga and some for the black merchants, for the Cofts, and the sheiks of the Bedouins. The English consul had given me a firman for the Kafia bey, he is the lieutenant of the pacha, it is like the vizier at Constantinople. In the end that here that was of greater value to me than all the other things, was a letter of the great pacha to Acmet Pacha, governor of High Egypt, in which he recommended personally, and a firman signed for the pacha himself. This was a particular favor that I owe to Mr. Bonatti, and was of great advantage to me. In High Egypt the governors are not more than the lieutenants of Kafia bey; thus when they saw me bringing some letters and the firman of the pacha himself, they regarded me as a favorite more especially, and they procured me all sorts of facilities for my journey. However one can say in the honor of Mehemed Ali, that not at any time one could not journey into this country here with as much security, and what more the French been so respected. I left from Cairo the twenty-first of January and I arrived at Assuan the twentieth of February; at Assuan is the first cataract; it is the end of Egypt and the boundary of the conquests of the French expeditions. Formerly travellers restrained themselves to go just to there; many more of the same reached there, and always with great difficulties and great perils. But after some years the pacha has not established order in Egypt, but has made his power felt in the mountains of Arabia. The country includes between the first and the second cataract to have been during three centuries to the Turks only to name, but in effect it was an independent country, and involved in barbarities. The modern masters established at the time of the conquest of the Turks succeeded here in founding a type of principality, limited in other respects by the powers of the many families; there was a kind of feudal regime, where war was continually made from one village to another. The sheiks and the masters were perpetually in enmity; the foreigners, above all the French, could not penetrate without running all sorts of risks. Before the first European who penetrated here in 1738, did not save himself except for a kind of miracle; the famous Bruce, explorer so brave, having reached Assuan recognized the impossibility of penetrating further. It is the country that the pacha of Egypt subdues since little; it is not generally until years that one can travel safely; since 1817.-- My ship was not big to be able to pass the first cataract; I was obligated to leave from Assuan where he awaited my return, and renting another ship I went up into the mountains. It was the biggest that one can find in the country; I obliged to build two layers. I made a type of cupola to guarantee me the sun; at last I had a second house, small the truth, but where I lived very well during more than two months.-- I thought of you when I saw two sheiks and two slaves suffering pain transporting my equipment and my provisions; in presence I said of myself, Arabia does not reproach me more to want to reduce my equipment to the minimum possible.

In ascending to the Arabia there were spots all done new. The Nile is much reserved, the fields returned almost to nothing, the mountains of sand contain the beds of the dried river, and the desert comes right to the

banks. Difficultly one finds a place to sow a bit of barley or of wheat on the sides. The inhabitants there are sparse. There are not properly villages, but some small hamlets. There are some huts of earth without windows, big in all more than seven or eight of our feet, covered by leaves. ~~The inhabitants are dark brown who resemble very much more black than bronzed.~~ I felt in Nubia the strength of custom; when we read the accounts of the African interior, to us it seems extraordinary that there are countries oh dear where men walk ~~clothes~~. And it is well here that I was accustomed so well, as when I returned to Egypt I found it almost odd that all my Egyptian seamen were not unclothed when they had to row. When one says, meanwhile, the men go all nude, it is necessary to make some exceptions; at first sight children until about the age of ten do not worry to clothe themselves; only the young ladies wear a small belt, the same not always. I saw some old people of 60 and 70 years working in the fields not having besides a very light sash, but ordinarily the women, especially if they are young, wear a tunic, which is to say a large coat, that goes on them to the feet, and also a veil; but this veil is so badly flung and their coat makes them so hot, that they are often half-dressed. Although Muslims they are much less careful to hide the face than the Arab and Egyptian women. With regard to the men, they dress in the night when it is cold, also with a long tunic, or same the length of the day sometimes, when they have nothing to do; but all the time they are working they take off their clothes, and they are content to wrap a schall around the loins. My seamen dive often into the Nile free at all times of the schall. These habits so indecent when one reads them, become indifferent when one sees them. I believe that two causes contribute here, the blackness of the inhabitants, and the excess of the heat; ~~this heat is so hot~~, that in the month of March the thermometer rises habitually much more hotter than among us in the strength of the summer. I arrived at Derr, which is the capital of Nubia, and there I stopped to make a visit to the Hassen cascev, who was once the prince of Nubia, I could not support any longer such a great heat with European clothes, and I had made for me a tunic in the manner of the country, which is a type of long and large blue coat that falls down just to the feet. I took such savour to this type of clothing, that from there until Cairo I did not wear in Frankish when at the moment I had to make some visits; I was beheld, therefore, dressed as an Arab, or rather as a Barbarin, for such is the name of the inhabitants of the Nubiâns. To complete the resemblance, and to be less encumbered, in the place of carrying a gun, I accustomed myself to carry one of the African spears, ~~whose work is curious~~; you will see it, and I will bring also to Piedmont some sheilds made of crocodile skin that are of an extraordinary hardness.—Another proof of the strength of the heat below the tropics is to see ~~the~~ wheat ripen in the month of March and the barley in the month of February. and that which seems yet mor extraordinary to a European is to see the fields of wheat and of barley cut by channels and by small locks as our ricefields. Except for the banks of the Nile, where by the means of machines water is raised to water those fields, all the rest offers to the sight an arid desert, and an immense country of sand.

I arrived at the second cataract near the middle of March; it was the limit of my journey. I would have been farther if it had been possible, because the monuments continue in the direction of Dangola, But the power of the pacha of Egypt ceases at the second cataract; one cannot find beyond that tribes of independent Arabs, besides other the Bechari, who are of an extreme ferocity, and the Mameloucks withdrawn at Dongda, who do not miss to slaughter the Europeans who dare to advance to that part, as ~~some~~ <sup>some</sup> of the pacha. It was necessary, therefore to think of the return; I was meanwhile,

stopped at the second cataract by an attack of ophthalmia that was caused by a blow of this terrible sun. ~~It is a sickness much more painful than I believed; the inflammation at the eyes spreads to the whole face, and gives a very strong sting; one cannot hold the eyes neither open nor closed, there is a continual contraction; the white of the eyes becomes the color of blood; I stayed three days and three nights without sleeping, and I lost entirely my sight.~~ Fortunately I had made the precaution to bring some remedy from Cairo against this sickness so common and so terrible in these climates; to a degree at the end of seven days I was found healed, without resting on me that is to say, a few marks, neither any weakness on the eyes. This is the first time that I have been sick in all the paths of my trips, and the pains of this voyage have been amply recompensed by the view of many of the magnificent monuments that ornate Nubia, and recalls the greatness and the power of the Egyptians. The heat of the climate, absent of all humidity, has contributed strongly to their conservation; in this weather calm and fine nothing alters the polish and the whiteness of these enormous rocks, nor the contours of the sculptures; the colors of the paintings are conserved well in some of the places. Most of these temples subsist still whole, the Propylaeum of the one of Dakke seems to have been finished yesterday, it is not missing a single stone.--One finds in Nubia some temples of a particular type, these are not buildings, but excavations. The whole temple is cut in the interior of the mountain. ~~The one of Abusimbi is the chief of works of this genre.~~ Outside four enormous colossi cut in the rock appear to guard the entrance; their total height, without the base which is hidden in the sand, is about 38 meters, or more than 6 Piedmont trabucs. The entrance was closed by the sand that the wind had blown there from the desert; I cleared it away, I entered there with some lights; the interior was hot as a kind of furnace, I found a very big room with eight pillars, to which were attached eight colossi, then a quantity of halls, chambers, cabinets, in ~~all 14 rooms~~. All is covered by paintings and by sculptures. ~~The colors, although in a sort of underground vault, are conserved fresh after 3000 years.~~ Mr. Drovetti was the first to see this temple in 1816, but he did not stop long enough to clear away the entrance; Belzoni employed by the English consul cleared it in 1817; but the wind always blows sand there in a way that it was necessary for me also to work there. ~~On one of the colossi outside, Leonardo, my Greek dragman, engraved, me this inscription: "Carlo Vidua Italian who came from Laponia. 1820;" it is short, but few persons, I think, could make one similar.~~

Abu Simbel

All reckoned, this journey of Nubia and for its similarities, and for its dissimilarities made the counterpart of the journey to Laponie. There I traversed the polar circle, and pushed just past the sixty-eighth degree; here I passed the tropics, and I arrived close to the twenty-second, which is to say between the twenty-third and the twenty-second, in Laponie we saw ice in the month of August, in Nubia I have been in the month of March habitually 27 and 28 degrees in the shade, and the sixteenth of this month the thermometer exposed to the sun rose up to 49 degrees; there some forests eternal, here the continual sands, the endless deserts; sterility on one part by too much cold, on the other by too much heat. The cataracts at last complete the resemblance; in Nubia and in Egypt the only good way to travel is to go up the river, but these cataracts are not so inconvenient and so frequent as those of the Laponie; instead of forty I found only two, but one does not pass there barely; the first one goes to in some seasons, while the Nile is high; it is at 55 miles from here at Assuan which has been my Torneo.--Uadu Kalfa, or the great cataract, at 120 or 150 miles higher is my Torneo Trask of the south, and the cascev of Uadi and Ueliab gave me .....(the translation is continued on from this point by Cinzia Noble until page 194).



(End of translation of Letter by Murray R. Low. The continuation of this letter, No. 35, was translated by Cinzia Noble with minor clarifications by Murray R. Low.)

. . . the hospitality at the end of my trips, like the venerable pastor Dom Pierre Palmgren has given it for us to Juckasjervi. But it is a wrong that I do to a good pastor to compare him to a barbarian like cascev Husseim. If I had time, I would do a comparison of these two men; it is the comparison between extreme civilization and extreme barbarity; that would allow you to judge the difference between the two countries. But it is not possible to say everything; it is necessary to leave something for later on, when, after reentering Piedmont, I'll have the pleasure to embrace you.

I don't know if you received the letters that I wrote to you from Constantinople or Smyrna. I explained the details to you about my trip in Asia Minor; I will write for you a journal on my trips. Here a journal will become a volume; only the ruins in Thebes will give me a very long description. Only the kings' tombs could give you to read for one hour. They are like underground palaces; there is one discovered by Belzoni that is perfectly preserved; I remained there for a whole day; I dined there; I could choose from any of the rooms, I was asked in which one I wanted to be served, and really there are many from where to choose. All these rooms, cabinets, tunnels are covered with perfect sculptures and paintings perfectly glittering of varnish. It is not exaggerated to say that the underground palaces of the ancient kings of Thebes have so magnificent decorations, richer than the ones belonging to living kings. There is one thing that gives me more pleasure, the fact of having one of our compatriots as a guide in these undergrounds. Who could have guessed, that [it was a Piedmontese who gives me the honors in Thebes? Well, he is from Castellamonte in the Canavese, who became a successor of Osimandia and Sesostri. His power doesn't go far in the provinces; but in Thebes he is obeyed. The sheik and the caimacan follow his orders; he looks for tombs; he gathers mummies; he finds papyruses; often fifty, sixty, even one--two hundred Arabs work under his orders. Mr. Lebolo, was a French police officer; in consequence of events, he came to Egypt; Mr. Drovetti, who helps all the world, and especially the Piedmonteses, [has employed him to preside over the excavations and the diggings continuously, done for him in the vicinity of Thebes.] I saw in him a new proof of the natural activity and the aptitude that we Piedmonteses have for all kinds of occupations and for always knowing how to do business. From a soldier, which he had been all his life, he became an antiquarian; he succeeded so well, that not only he marvelously served Drovetti, but also he was allowed to do some diggings of his own, and he gathered a small collection that is worth to him a moderate fortune.

But I must end. I have already exceeded the boundaries of a letter; I would be too long, if I still continued to tell you of so many different adventures on my trip, my introductions to so many Turchish cascevs, to Arab princes, the meeting of an English man coming from China, with whom I became a friend, the details of the travels I took, on the hunting of crocodiles, which I was very successful, on the sheik Ali and his 45 women. Returning to Cairo, I prepared myself for a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. I am occupied with my Turkish attire, which is very necessary for a trip to Syria. I saw again

LE BOLD

the pyramids and some other remarkable objects, I visited Pacha. Mr. Drovetti also took me one evening to the house of his son Ismail Pasha, and to the house of his son-in-law Defterdar; I know well the whole family. Mr. Drovetti is in great favor with them all; in all Egypt people speak about Drovetti taev and bakscis ketiri, which means, Drovetti is good and distributes big new year's gifts. This paints the Arab's, and his avidity for money. Even in Nubia one they told about him. The Turkish governors, to whom he sent me, were very kind to me. When he travels in High Egypt, people welcome him with artillery salutes. Finally, . . .

(End of translation of letter by Cinzia Noble. The conclusion of this letter, No. 35, was translated by Murray R. Low.)

there are not still of the Europeans who have acquired as much influence in a Muslim country; and I must say to his honor, who has never served except to good. Recently the pacha gave him a great proof of benevolence by putting at his disposition 2000 men and some pieces of artillery, in order to penetrate in the desert to the west amongst the barbaric tribes as far as Sievah, where it is believed the rest of the temple of Jupiter Ammon exists. If I had not been in Nubia, I would have been of the party. The expedition was successful; some walls ornated of paintings and of sculptures that represent Jupiter Ammon were discovered; they have been drawn for the paintings that Mr. Drovetti has at his issue; it is the same temple that was visited by Alexander the Great, who was at the point of perishing in traversing the desert to go consult an oracle. I acknowledge to you that I felt very much the pleasure of seeing one of our compatriots play a large role; but I am displeased that in far Piedmont taking part in it, one is not, let us say, informed of it.

Recently a certain French knight Frediani had to have printed in some Italian journals an account of this travel, in which he attributes almost all to him; it is the fabric of falsities, the pacha almost does not know him, he is gone to his course, and travelled at the detriment of Mr. Drovetti.

*Frediani  
-  
falsities*

I looked for Ismael Gibraltar, but he is not here. It is two days that we have finished the fast, which is to say, the Ramadan, and who does the Paque(Bairam) Tuesday the eleventh and the two days following. It is like the first day of the year among us, all the world goes to the court. And it is precisely a sovereign court; for the pacha is not viceroy only in name, but is the king in actuality; it is a court as all others, it had its great dignitaries, its pages, its gentlemen of the chamber, and above our courts 25 beautiful young ladies.

There also in the harem all is determined, all is regulated. The lady ruler of the ceremonies destines four young ladies who must serve His Highness in the bath, thoses which are guards each night, for there are always two there. They must veil, giving coffee to the Effendina (the Lord) and especially arrange for him the covers, while His Highness is sleeping worn out in bed; the principle function is that which the book of ceremonies says. Besides each one to his particular employ, it is not rare that from place of court one jumps to an administrative place; cafegei of His Highness, that is to say he who presents the coffee, is become, by intervention of some of the women of the court, governor of a province in High Egypt. Regarding morality it is also a court as all the others; I have told you only a trace. Some secrets enemies have said of bad of Mr. Drovetti, and have tried to discredit him in the mind of the pacha. He here responds nothing; one night in crossing the state room where all the great dignitaries were, appeared Mr. Drovetti, who regarded him with a gracious smile, and said to him: Drovetti taybin? are you enduring well? merely that, behold the backbiters confounded, the true friends reassured, the false friends mingled to their praise. "Have you taken care?" he did not say anything to persons, he did not talk except to him, "and with those expressions of benevolence! taybin, he will not ever lose his favor: tay bin, not even a remark to the kiaia bey" (it is a sort of plan).

*SOME ENEMIES  
OF DROVETTI*

No. 36

To Cavaliere Cesare Saluzzo  
From Cairo July 15, 1820

My trip is prolonged much more than I had thought, and instead of three