

MORE ABOUT GREEK BRIGANDS.

Brigands in Greece are not, as in other countries; there they are not a class completely cut off from society. Each troop, formerly, and probably still, its director, its impresario, in a town, sometimes in the capital, sometimes at Court. The subalterns often return to civil life; often also the peasant turns brigand for a few weeks, when he knows that a good haul is to be made. The job finished, he returns to his tillage. Of all the countries in the world, Greece is the country in which opportunity has called forth the greatest number of highwaymen.

A Frenchman, residing in Athens, has told how his servant one day timidly accosted him, twisting his cap between his fingers,—

"You have something to ask me?"
"Yes, effendi, but I dare not."
"Dare, nevertheless?"
"Effendi, I want to spend a month on the mountain."

"On the mountain! What for?"
"To stretch my limbs, saving your respect, effendi. I get rusty here. In Athens, you are a heap of civillises (I have no intention of offending you), and I am afraid of catching your complaint."

The master, touched by such valid reasons, allowed his valet to take a month's man-shooting. He returned at the expiration of his leave of absence, and never touched so much as a pin of his master's property.

There was a poor gendarme, who, for long, long years, aspired after the rank of corporal. He was a good soldier, brave enough, and the least refractory in his company; but his only patron was himself. So he deserted, and turned brigand. Here he was able to display his talents. He was soon well known to all the heads of the gendarmerie. They tried to catch him, and missed catching him five or six times.

Giving up that game, they sent a friend to treat with him. "You shall have your pardon, and to make up for your trouble, you shall be made a corporal to-morrow, and a sergeant in the course of the year."

His ambition was satisfied. He consented to be made corporal, awaiting patiently his sergeant's stripes. He had long to wait for them. One day his patience was worn out, and he returned to the mountain. He had not killed three men before they made haste to make him a sergeant. He afterwards rose to be an officer, with no other patrons than the persons he had put under ground.

There did exist one amazing commandant of the gendarmerie, who seriously endeavored to put down brigandage. In a few months he made all the brigands hide their dimpled heads in their rocky dens. But the authorities lost no time in dismissing him. He was sapping the foundations of society. Two travelers of M. Aubert's acquaintance, on the point of starting for a province infested with brigands, thought of asking for a safe-conduct from the great personages who patronize the principle bands; but one reflection made them desist. "If those gentlemen, to oblige their underlings, should give them notice of our coming, on the sly, and so make them a present of our baggage! Better trust to chance than to the honor of a Greek." They set off on their journey without a safe-conduct.

They were very near repeating it. One day, after climbing a steep mountain all alone, they were quietly contemplating the landscape, when they found themselves exposed to three guns, leveled at them by three Pellicares. Hemmed in on three sides, they escaped by the fourth, and ran down the hill much more quickly than they had come up. In vain the three gunners shouted "Stop! stop!" One of the fugitives afterwards stated that, during the run, for the first time in his life, he felt for stage and other poor creatures who are hunted and shot at, with no means of defence but flight.

A Frenchman was cleaned out while returning from a short excursion. The brigands took their choice of his clothes. They left him his percussion gun, those worthies only caring for flint guns. Of course they took his money; but as he spoke Greek, extremely well, he explained to the chief of the band that he could not possibly return to town without a half-penny. Whether for the love of the Greek language, or out of pure charity, the chief generously gave him five francs. This adventure happened within six leagues of Athens.

Athenians was once all but taken by brigands. The famous Gristioti had got together, in the island of Euboea, a band which was almost a little army. He marched on the capital, and probably would have taken it, if the first shot fired at him had not disabled one of his arms. He fell, and his followers took to their heels. But, had that bullet missed its mark, Athens would have been in the pleasant condition of a hare in the midst of a pack of hounds.

A lady traveler, who was fond of sketching, was robbed of her gold chain, just outside the town, on Mount Lycabettus, by a young Greek very well dressed and very well made. She was busy finishing a sketch, when the handsome scoundrel came up and plundered her. When asked why she let him approach so close to her, "Could I guess," she answered, "that my chain was all he was thinking of?"

FAITH ILLUSTRATED.—A gentleman was one day opening a box of dry goods. His little son was standing near, and as his father took the packages from the box he laid some of them upon the arm of the boy. A young friend and playmate of the merchant's son was standing by and looking on. As parcel after parcel was laid upon the arm of the boy, his friend began to fear his load was becoming too heavy, and said: "Johnny, don't you think you've got as much as you can bear?"

"Never mind," answered Johnny, in a sweet, happy tone, "father knows how much I can carry."

Brave, trusting little fellow! He did not grow restless or impatient under the burden. There was no danger, he felt, that his father would lay too heavy a load on him. His father knew his strength, or rather the weakness of that little arm, and would not overtask it. More than all, his father loved him, and therefore would not harm him. It is such a spirit of loving trust in Him that God desires all His children to possess.

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