

months' siege; he furnished it with a garrison of six thousand veteran troops. A few British vessels cast anchor before it, under the fire of at least a hundred and twenty cannon and twenty huge mortars, and bombarded it for three hours! What has been the result? An unseen hand was raised in the conflict, and the fate of Syria decided at a single blow. In the heat of the engagement, a terrible explosion took place within the fortress, that shook the earth and the walls like an earthquake; a huge cloud shot up over the place, fold beyond fold, till it seemed to reach the central heavens, and then passed slowly and heavily away; and when it had cleared off, it was found that one-third the city had been utterly destroyed, as if by the earthquake predicted in the Apocalypse, and nearly one-third the garrison buried in the ruins. There was scarcely a house left habitable within the walls. The principal magazine had caught fire; and thus the ruin of the fortress has been signal in proportion to the means taken for its defence. The firing slackened immediately after, and then finally ceased; and at midnight the surviving portion of the garrison stole silently out of the place, which was taken possession of about daybreak by a party of the besiegers. They found it a terrific scene of devastation,—covered with shattered ruins, sprinkled with blood, and strewn with dissevered limbs and dismembered carcasses. An immense hollow, like the crater of a volcano, occupies the place where the magazine lately stood; and for the space of a mile around nothing appears but the broken fragments of what were once buildings, scathed and blackened by fire, and the mangled bodies of men and animals piled in heaps upon cinders and rubbish. In the course of the day, a portion of the garrison, amounting to about seven hundred infantry, intimidated apparently by the mountaineers, marched back to the place, and, delivering up their arms, surrendered themselves prisoners of war. There are more than two thousand