

ROANOKE ADVOCATE.

VOL. III.—NO. 12.

HALIFAX, N. C. MAY 19, 1831.

WHOLE NO. 116.

EDITED BY
EDM. B. FREEMAN,
PUBLISHED BY
FREEMAN & CAMPBELL.

The ADVOCATE will be printed every Thursday morning at \$2 50 per annum, in advance, or \$3 if payment is not made within 3 months.

No paper to be discontinued until all arrearages are paid, unless at the option of the Editor; and a failure to notify a discontinuance will be considered as a new engagement.

Advertisements, making one square or less, inserted three times for One Dollar, and twenty-five cents for every subsequent insertion, longer ones in proportion. All advertisements will be continued unless otherwise ordered, and each continuance charged.

MISCELLANY.

ADEMDAI.

(From a Persian Manuscript.)

A young man a poor mechanic, named Adem dai, was one night returning home from his work through the streets of Bagdad. He had already reached the door of his humble habitation, when a confused sound of voices and the clashing of weapons drew his attention. He perceived, by the light of the moon, two men in the Armenian habit defending themselves against six ruffians. Naturally courageous and resolute, Adem dai hastened to the succour of the weaker party, and, though armed only with a stout stick, he laid about him with such effect that the robbers took to their heels.

Without expecting any recompense, or indeed taking the least notice of the persons to whom he had rendered this seasonable service, he unlocked his door and went into his hut.

The next night—it might be about ten o'clock—he had just finished his frugal supper, and was considering within himself how hard a poor fellow is obliged to toil in order to gain a scanty subsistence, and how many, even with the utmost exertion, can scarcely earn sufficient to appease their hunger with the coarsest fare, "What a deal of work," exclaimed he, "have I done to-day, and half a drachma is all that I have received for it! O Mahomet, wouldst thou be pleased to grant me the bare necessities of life. I should deem myself as happy as the grand vizier himself."

Scarcely had he uttered this soliloquy, when he heard a loud knocking at his door. He instantly rose, and lost no time in opening it, under the idea that one of his neighbours wanted something; but what was his astonishment to perceive a majestic figure, clad in a long flowing robe of snowy whiteness, with an immense turban on his head, and a black staff in his hand! Without any other salutation than a slight bow of the head this figure unceremoniously entered his hovel.

Adem dai, though a stranger to fear, was alarmed by the apparition; but the majestic visitant, stroking a beard that reached down to his waist, thus addressed him: "Fear not, Adem dai; I am thy good Genius: I come to see thee. I heard thy complaints, and thy modest wish to possess the absolute necessities of life. Was it not so?"

"Benevolent Genius," cried Adem dai, "when he had some what recovered himself, 'I certainly do wish that I possessed, without labour, the bare necessities of life. Can any man desire less?' 'Certainly not,' replied the Genius; 'but what meanest thou by absolute necessities? How much would procure them?' Very little. 'If I have rice, wood to cook it and to warm myself, and a decent dress to put on, that is all I need to be happy.' 'And how much money would be required to put thee in possession of all these things?' 'About a drachma a day; yes, for that sum I am pretty sure I could obtain all that I absolutely want.' 'Well, here are eight drachmas for eight days; on the eighth day, at this hour, I will appear again to thee. Shouldst thou find this sum inadequate, be not afraid to ask for more. I will give thee as much as thou desirest, till thou hast obtained whatever is necessary, for it is not my intention to bestow on thee aught that is superfluous.' With these words the Genius retired, and Adem dai, with looks of joy, surveyed the money which

he had given him. Eight silver drachmas! he had never been so rich in all his life. "At length," said he, "I am relieved from anxiety respecting my future support, and have no need to toil all day long by the sweat of my brow, in order to obtain a scanty meal of rice at night." Having thus spoken, he considered the affair over again, looked round him, and exclaimed, "By the tomb of the Prophet! I have forgotten to ask my good Genius, for many a necessary; I have not a single article of furniture: look there at my wretched pallet! I must have a bed. A good bed is a necessary; to sleep, and to sleep well, is as essential to life as to eat and drink. I have not a carpet or a cushion to sit upon myself, or for the accommodation of my friends when they come to see me. I want a table, also to eat off: at one's meals one likes to have things convenient." Thus did Adem dai bethink himself of all the articles that he regarded as necessary, and he awaited with impatience the next visit of his good Genius. On the evening of the eighth day, while eating his rice, he once more reconsidered the matter.—"Tis indeed a pity," said he, "that I have no more than a drachma per day to live upon. Rice and nothing but rice, would tire any body. I should like to have something to relish it, were it only on high days and holidays. My good Genius will tell me that it is not necessary; but he is wrong, as I shall be able to prove it to him. It is necessary that man should vary his food, else why hath God created so many things for his subsistence? In order to eat, one must have an appetite; but this everlasting rice-eating takes one's appetite quite away. Holidays ought to be days of pleasure and enjoyment; but what pleasure can there be in the incessant repetition of this insipid diet! Yes, yes; it is necessary that I should now and then have a change. I shall request my Genius to allow me two drachmas for holidays; that is not too much."

The Genius kept his word and appeared punctually at the tenth hour. Adem dai sank at his feet, and solicited what he had forgotten to ask for at the first interview. The Genius listened to him with patience. "Beware Adem dai," said he in a kind tone, "of desiring more than what is necessary: the moment thou appliest for superfluities, that moment I shall abandon thee forever." Adem dai then entered into explanations, tending to prove that none of these things which he desired to possess could be regarded as superfluous. The Genius was convinced: he gave him four gold dinars to purchase household furniture; allowed him the additional drachmas for holidays, and withdrew, promising to return in eight days.

Scarcely had the morning dawned, when Adem dai rose, and presently went out to buy what he wanted. He had the furniture carried home, and fancied that his hovel would be turned into a palace; but it was not long before he made an observation which mortified him exceedingly—the furniture was new and his dwelling old. He examined his house and now discovered for the first time in what a miserable state it was—nay it seemed ready to tumble down. He fetched a builder to inspect it. "Beware my friend" said the latter, "of attempting to repair this hovel, it would cost less to build a new house." Adem dai was grieved to be obliged to place his beautiful furniture in so crazy a hut. "Supposing it were to fall in," thought he, "I should not only lose all these fine things, but my life into the bargain. It is absolutely necessary to rebuild a house that is on the point of tumbling down, and what is more essential than self-preservation?" Adem dai did not fail to acquaint the Genius at his third visit with the danger which impended over him. The Genius admitted the validity of his representations, and gave him on the spot fifty gold dinars to rebuild his habitation. "How happy am I," said he to himself, "in having such a beneficent Genius, who voluntarily supplies me with every necessary! Thanks to his bounty, I shall never more suffer want. He will not refuse me any thing; for I shall never apply to him but for ab-

solute necessities—superfluities I will never solicit." The house is finished, and Adem dai moved into it with all his handsome furniture. He seats himself first on one, then on another soft cushion, sometimes throws himself on his bed which he scarcely quits, and thinks with joy of the additional drachmas wherewithal to regale himself on holiday. Surely he now has all that is necessary! All that is necessary? Can any one really possess it who is alone! Is there any perfect enjoyment in life unless it be shared with a beloved object? Which way soever he turns his eyes, he sees seraglios containing twenty, thirty, forty of the most beautiful females; and can it be alleged that he is desiring a superfluity if he wishes for one—only one partner of his life? Indeed, cried Adem dai, "that is all I now want. A handsome woman—how she would set off the place! My house would be a thousand times more agreeable. Yes, I will ask my good Genius whether a wife be a superfluity for me?" Wholly occupied with this thought, he could no longer rest in the house. He sauntered unconsciously to one of the squares of Bagdad, just at the moment when a slave-dealer, surrounded by a number of curious persons, was offering his stock for sale. A female slave, of extraordinary beauty, of majestic stature and elegant shape, attracted general notice: Adem dai himself could not turn his eyes from her. For the first time he felt the power of love; so much the more painful was his anxiety when he beheld a young man, in sumptuous apparel, approach the trader to treat for the fair one who had captivated his heart. The damsel was now obliged to unveil, and Adem dai beheld such celestial charms that he stood like a marble statue, petrified with astonishment. The statement of the slave merchant brought him to himself—"This lovely creature," said he, "is a Georgian; she is scarcely eighteen, plays exquisitely on the lute, has an enchanting voice, and dances with such grace that it would be difficult to find her equal. The price I demand for her is 2000 gold dinars." Adem dai's rival hereupon offered fifteen hundred—Adem dai trembled. The dealer rejected the offer; Adem dai breathed more freely. The young man bade eighteen hundred—the owner considered—the perspiration of fear covered the brow of Adem dai; but the merchant would not abate his price, and the customer, less enamoured than Adem dai, renounced the possession of the beautiful captive and withdrew. The slave merchant also quitted the square, without disposing of the fair Georgian. Adem dai hurried home. It was the day on which he expected his genius, and he had never yet waited his visit with such impatience. At length a knock was heard: he flew to the door, and threw himself at the feet of his benefactor. "What ails thee," asked the latter, "why art thou so dejected? What! even in tears? Have I not supplied all thy wants?" "Indeed," answered Adem dai, "thou hast bestowed on me much more than I deserve, but yet not all that I want. Tell me, would a wife be superfluous to me? Must I be doomed to lead a solitary life, without a creature that I can call my own? If thou deemest the possession of a wife a superfluity, then it is evident that what is superfluous, may at the same time be absolutely necessary." The Genius could scarcely refrain from laughing outright. "Adem dai," said he, "a wife may, as thou sayest, be absolutely necessary to thee. Thou must procure one. Choose the daughter of some honest mechanic of thy acquaintance; I cannot object to such a match. Thy house is rebuilt and well furnished; and with these added to thy personal recommendations, thou needest not apprehend a refusal from a girl of thine own condition." "Ah!" cried Adem dai, heaving a profound sigh—"that is not what I want: I am already in love; and when a man is in love, is it not necessary for him to possess the object on which he has set his affections?" "Very necessary," replied the Genius. "Well then, thou wilt surely make me the happiest of mortals, for thou hast promised to supply all my wants. I love a young slave, love

her to madness: never did I behold such beauty, but the price demanded for her is much too high, and I am much too poor." "What is the price required for her?" "Two thousand gold dinars." "That is certainly rather high," said the Genius; but as thou art so desperately in love, this purchase is necessary; for if thou wert sick, it would be necessary to procure medicine, be the price what it might. With you mortals love is a disease. There are two thousand gold dinars for thee—secure thy charmer." With these words the Genius retired, leaving Adem dai overwhelmed with joy and astonishment. Now that our hero is in possession of his fascinating mistress, we shall no more hear him complain that he is in want of any thing. What an erroneous conclusion? No sooner had Arselli, for that was the name of the lovely slave, set foot in Adem dai's house than she started back, exclaiming, "Gracious Allah! whither art thou conducting me? Is this the house in which I am to live? Tell me, wretch, is it for thyself that thou hast bought me? How couldst thou raise such a sum as two thousand pieces of gold?" "Ah!" cried Adem dai, heaving a deep sigh, "that gold was all that I was worth in the world, and yet I have cheerfully given it in exchange for thee. But be of good cheer, though we may not enjoy superfluities, we shall never want what is necessary." Here Adem dai was manifestly out in his calculations. He had a drachma per diem for himself alone; but now he had two to keep upon the same allowance. This he should have thought of before; for to wait eight days till the return of the Genius, seemed like waiting an eternity. In silent sadness he went and prepared the frugal meal, but Arselli would not taste a morsel—she wept without ceasing; and when the trembling Adem dai lovingly offered her the rice, she spurned him from her with disdain. Scarcely could she be prevailed on to sit down, all the cushions seemed to her so extremely hard; and as for the bed, which Adem dai thought so comfortable, she protested that there could not be a worse in all Bagdad. Matters were not mended by a closer investigation. Adem dai had provided the bed for himself alone, and now he wanted one large enough for two. If he ventured to allude to his passion, or to approach Arselli, she repulsed all his advances with scorn. "How," said she, "canst thou presume to come near me in such a beggarly trim? Thou talkest of a bountiful Genius who supplies all thy wants; but does thy stingy patron consider decent clothes as superfluities? Unfortunate creature that I am, I too shall soon be obliged like thee to dress myself in rags! Alas! but for thee I should now be attired in the costliest stuffs of Asia; and thou, who hast reduced me to this wretched condition, canst thou still expect me to love thee? Impossible! I will, however strive to hate thee less." This complaint overwhelmed Adem dai with despondency. He felt more wretched than he ever had done in his most abject indigence. At length, after an absence of eight days, the Genius came to pay his ardently desired visit. Adem dai flew to meet him. "Thou hast promised me all that is necessary," said he in a peevish tone; "but now I am the most miserable of men." "What!" said the Genius with some astonishment, "have I not given thee all thou hast desired?" "Certainly, but I was a fool for I imagined that very few things were absolutely necessary; and I was egregiously mistaken." "Let us hear, then," said the Genius—"explain thyself." "Thou hast readily admitted that it was necessary for me to take a wife; but though my expenditures are doubled, I have still no more than a drachma a day to defray it. As it was necessary for me to have a wife, is it not equally necessary that she should be kept alive?" "Most assuredly!" "Well, then, my wife will not live; she will not eat, or drink, or sleep. The fare which I set before her, and with which I was perfectly content, is far too coarse for her delicate palate. Her wants are totally different from mine; and since I have bought her and love her as my life, is it not necessary

for me to supply those wants?" "Nothing can be clearer," replied the Genius: "how much needest thou each day to procure her what is necessary?" "I have not made an exact estimate; but with two tomans a-day we might both live very comfortable, though not luxuriously." "Well, if this be all that afflicts thee, here are sixteen tomans for eight days; at the expiration of that time I shall call again to inquire if there be any thing else thou wishest to possess." Thus spake the Genius and was about to retire, but Adem dai begged pardon for detaining him a little longer, and thus proceeded: "I have still a good deal to say to thee. I love Arselli with all the ardour of youth; is it not necessary that she should return my love?" "Certainly it is." "But she cannot endure me in this shabby plight. She declares that but for me she should be the favourite of some wealthy and distinguished man. If then it be necessary for her to love me, I must dress in a totally different style; and thou must admit in this case elegant and fashionable clothes are not a luxury." "Thou art right," she says, also, that but for me she should herself be attired in the finest and richest stuffs. She is fond of dress, and therefore if I wish to be loved by her I must necessarily strive to procure for her all that she desires. She possesses accomplishments, sings divinely, and plays the lute: ought she neglect these fruits of a brilliant education? When one has talents, is it not necessary to cultivate them? I should therefore like to buy a lute for Arselli it would afford her infinite gratification." "All the things thou has mentioned seem to me, indeed, to be absolutely necessary," said the Genius, "but how much dost thou suppose the whole would cost?" "At a rough guess, a thousand pieces of gold." "There they are, fare thee well, and now procure all thou wantest." The Genius disappeared; and Adem dai, with light heart, rejoined Arselli. His eyes beamed with delight; but he carefully abstained from betraying his joy, for he wished to surprise his charmer, and therefore said nothing to her concerning his interview with the Genius. Next morning, however, as soon as it was light, he went out, and the first thing he did was to equip himself in an elegant and tasteful suit of clothes. He returned with a number of tradesmen, who were not a little surprised to find that a person of such genteel appearance lived in so sorry a house. Arselli could not conceive the meaning of all this train; she scarcely knew Adem dai in his magnificent attire. "Did I not tell thee," said he, going up to her, "that a good Genius supplies me with all I have occasion for: be assured, then, that thou wilt not henceforth want any thing, provided only thou desirest not what is superfluous. Choose from among these articles what thou likest best." Arselli now began to think her lover an amiable young man, and his voice particularly musical: she had no scruple to testify her satisfaction, ordered the goods to be spread out, selected such as took her fancy, and as she was not deficient in foresight, she paid a prudent regard in her purchases, not only to present necessities, but what she might want in future. She then chose a lute which surpassed in sweetness of tone any that she had ever tried. Adem dai paid for the instrument and the other articles, and dismissed the tradespeople: and he was quite intoxicated with joy when Arselli, taking up the lute, accompanied it with a confession which proved that he had now found out the way to her heart.

Adem dai is beloved! what needs he more? has he not now all he wants?

(To be concluded in our next.)

A tough story.—The Literary Subaltern contains the following:—"If any man, woman, or child, resident this side of the Cape of Good Hope, or Cape Horn should stand in need of a goose, they can be accommodated with one, on application to the editor of this paper. We have one on hand, that was purchased last Saturday, and has been seven times roasted, six times baked, & fifteen times stewed and boiled, and yet the saccophagi that envelopes his flesh, resists the edge of the axe, the cleaver and the knife."