

undisturbed in the midst of our camels and baggage. There is no water at this place.

" July 21.—As soon as the moon arose, which was about half past two, we commenced our morning's march. The air was pleasantly cool, and the road, which was good, winded among the gullies of the mountains, at times crossing the dry beds of the torrents. There was at this time little variety of vegetation, almost every thing being burnt up: the Acacia, which grows to the height of about forty feet, nearly covered the face of the country; round the trunks of this tree were twined the stems of various climbing plants, which were completely leafless.

" We were much gratified, after being wearied with the sun-burnt foliage of the Acacia, with the sight of green trees at a distance, indicating the presence of fresh water. We accordingly soon found ourselves on the bank of a torrent called Weah, much discoloured by the dirt and rotten wood brought down by it from the hills whence it rises. By the side of this stream we hung up the walls of our tent on the branches of a tree, resembling the cedar in its general growth, except that the boughs droop like those of the weeping willow. The quill of a porcupine was brought me by one of our attendants. Here also we first saw the dung of elephants, though the natives deny that these animals ever frequent this place. Hitherto we have journeyed in nearly a south course, varying a little to the west, and are, I conjecture, about eighteen miles from Arkeko.

" Our Ascari now conceiving that we had advanced so far into the country as to be entirely at their mercy, began to display their insatiable rapacity and insolence. The camel master and drivers

also made common cause with them, so that, had they not been deterred by the superiority of our fire-arms, I am persuaded that even our lives would scarcely have been safe. They made demands of tobacco, rice, coffee, and liquor, on the plea that the Nayib had given them nothing but a little juwarry. These we resisted; but, at length promised to buy them some goats and juwarry, if we met with any, and to give them a small quantity of tobacco; but to satisfy such villains was impossible. We quitted Weah at three P. M. and passing the torrent, which was shallow, and running in an easterly direction, proceeded over the plain to the south a little westerly. Captain Rudland made an excursion with his gun, and saw many deer of different kinds, hares, partridges, and guinea-fowl: he was attended by a famous Shangalla hunter, armed with his spear and shield, the latter of which was of a circular form, two feet and a half in diameter, and made of the skin of the rhinoceros. He was a very handsome young fellow, straight-limbed, and appeared to be a truly brave man, for he was well behaved, and despised the wrangling of the Ascari.

“ We saw a few people of the Shiho tribe on the hill, and some wolves: after passing a second stream as muddy as the former, we encamped for the night. The name of this station is Markela; it was at that time occupied by a tribe of the Hazorta, which had come down with its flocks into the low country for water. The Sheik of the tribe called himself a Dancallé. Their encampment was nearly circular, and about a hundred yards in diameter, well fenced with thorns and brushwood: within was a circle of rude huts composed of sticks and mats, and placed at equal distances from each other; while the vacant space in the centre formed a secure

resting place during the night for their goats and sheep, of which they had an ample stock.

“ After we had settled our encampment, the Ascari came round me, headed by their chief, and in a very insolent tone repeated their former demands, declaring that unless these were complied with, they would instantly leave us, take the cattle, and return. I told them, that they might themselves depart as soon as they pleased ; but that I would certainly shoot the first person whom I should see meddling with the camels. I now sounded the man in charge of the camels, and found him more tractable than the Ascari, which convinced me that the whole was an attempt to alarm us. In consequence of what had passed, I ordered all our fire arms to be loaded, and a two hours watch was kept during the night, by myself, Captain Rudland, Mr. Carter, and Pearce.

“ The villagers about this time brought in their goats and sheep, consisting in the whole of at least five hundred. I purchased three for two dollars, and distributed them among our guard and drivers ; we ourselves supped heartily on rice and salt-fish, having eaten nothing but a little biscuit in the course of the day. The water has hitherto been very muddy, though not ill-tasted. Our computed distance from Arkęko is twenty-four miles.

“ July 22.—Our attendants made no preparation for commencing our journey at the time appointed ; we found, on inquiry, that the delay was occasioned by the non-arrival of the long promised mules of the Nayib, which were to have joined us at this place. Very intelligible hints were also thrown out by the Ascari, that none of them would move until their former demands were satisfied. From this disagreeable state of suspense we were happily

relieved soon after, by the arrival of an Abyssinian Christian with ten mules in his charge, from Dixan. He was sent, by the express command of the Ras, to convey us and our baggage, with all possible speed, to his presence at Antalow, and the strictest orders had been issued to ensure our personal safety during the remainder of the journey. On receiving this welcome intelligence, I called the chief of the Ascari to me, and acquainting him with what had happened, gave him and his followers full liberty to quit us as soon as they pleased. This they none of them chose to do; but finding that all hopes of obtaining any thing by force were now at an end, they promised better behaviour for the future; upon which we consented to their continuing with us.

“ By this time it was ten o'clock, and the intense heat of the day induced us to defer our journey for a few hours; we therefore hired, for a little coffee, the hut belonging to the Sheik of the tribe near which we had encamped: it was just large enough to hold our two beds,\* which we covered with mats, and thus obtained a comfortable retreat from the rays of the sun. The old Sheik and his wife paid us many begging visits in the course of the day, with which we could readily have dispensed, as the lady was neither young nor handsome, and possessed a most invincible volubility of tongue. Before our departure she came in to examine all her valuables, and gave us a vociferous scolding for having drank some water without leave.

“ This tribe seem to fare tolerably well; they have milk and butter, and a fruit called Gersa, which when boiled greatly resem-

\* Two small beds taken from our sea cots, which Captain Rudland and myself had found very serviceable to us.



bles the common pea; they also kill two goats for their daily consumption. The Nayib's two servants, with his mule, quitted us at this place, and at three P. M. the rest of the party set out, mounted on the mules from Dixan, which with our thirteen camels made a very respectable appearance. The road seemed perfectly secure, and well frequented, as we saw, almost every hour, small kafilas of twenty or thirty people passing with merchandize to Arkeko.

"After winding about among the acacias, for three miles or more, we turned into the dry bed of a torrent, where at first we suffered much from the heat. Our servants having neglected the most necessary precaution of filling the skins with water, we were in the course of our march incommoded with thirst, the heat being intense. I was for a time relieved by the kindness of a poor fellow coming down from the hills, who gave me a portion of a small quantity that he carried in a cruise upon his back. As we proceeded, the valley became contracted to a rocky gully not more than one hundred yards wide, bounded on each side, and overshadowed by steep and lofty hills.

"We passed a small burying place on our left; and soon after, the two ridges of mountains apparently closed, having at their foot a little rising ground called Hamhamou, a few yards distant from the bed of the torrent, where we halted for the night. We had just unloaded our camels, and were congratulating ourselves on having arrived at the end of a harassing day's journey, during which we had taken no refreshment, except breakfast, when our guide told us that a storm was at hand. We accordingly collected our baggage in haste, covered it over with the walls of the tent, and were in the act of pitching the tent itself, when the rain came on with

great violence, accompanied by loud thunder and vivid lightning, We all huddled together in the tent for shelter, but could not boast much of the protection which it afforded. To add to our trouble, it had no sooner grown dark, (the storm being now at its height), than an alarm was given by the Ascari, who were on the outside, that the natives were coming upon us. We instantly seized such fire-arms as were at hand, and rushed out to receive the enemy, into so drenching a rain as would presently have rendered our fire-arms entirely useless. Fortunately, however, it proved to be a false alarm, excited, I have no doubt, by our Ascari, who, if we had not shewn ourselves ready to repel aggression, would in all probability have taken the opportunity of at least plundering us.

“ About an hour after this disturbance, we heard the torrent come rushing down, while the thunder still continued roaring in tremendous peals among the mountains. The air was now become so cold as to render both a cloth coat and camoline\* very acceptable, although the thermometer, when we first arrived at this station, was as high as eighty-four degrees.

“ The storm continued for four hours, during which some of our party, exhausted by fatigue, fell asleep, and the rest of us soon after, notwithstanding our uncomfortable situation, followed their example.

“ July 23.—It was curious to observe, in the morning, how completely our tent was filled, there being not only ourselves and servants, but the Ascari, camel-drivers, and three asses, that had crept in during the night for shelter.

“ The hills that here seem to close, run nearly in a south direction; they are composed of large strata of burnt brown stone, with

\* An Arab cloak.

here and there layers of white spar; they are thinly covered with stunted Acacias and brushwood, and rise so steep as completely to shut out all distant hills. The rising ground on which we are encamped, is at present only a heap of bare gravel and loose stones, covering a rocky base, out of the crevices of which shoot forth a few green bushes. Bruce passed a night on the same spot; and it was his fortune, as well as ours, to encounter here a terrible storm, which, as usual, he describes with some exaggeration; although he was here on the 17th of November, a very different season.

“ From this place there is a winding path of a mile or more leading up the mountain on the eastern bank of the torrent, to some springs and natural cisterns in the rock, from which the tribes on the hills supply themselves with excellent water of a crystalline clearness. While we were at breakfast, a few miserable naked wretches, who live somewhere in the neighbourhood, came to us begging; we willingly made them partakers of our meal.

“ Before we recommenced our journey, Guebra Michael, our Abyssinian guide, came to us, and recommended, as provisions were beginning to fall short, to dismiss the Nayib's Ascari. I was not sorry for the opportunity, and therefore ordered them immediately to depart, with which, as they now found all their consequence was gone, they reluctantly complied, on receiving two dollars each as a bribe.

“ We quitted Hamhamou about ten A. M. the water having nearly subsided, and occupying only a small part of the bed of the torrent along which, as before, we took our way. As we advanced, the gully gradually became narrower, and our guides urged us to make all possible expedition, fearing that more water might come

down from the mountains. This actually took place about noon, though there had been no appearance of rain; but fortunately it was not in such quantity as materially to impede our progress. Indeed our mules were so well trained, that it was no small obstacle which could disconcert them; and it was continual matter, both for surprise and satisfaction, to see with what care they passed over the rocks and loose stones that incumbered the road, as we repeatedly crossed and re-crossed the stream.

“ We passed by a cave inhabited by a family of the natives; in it was a woman grinding corn, and some children playing about her. The general face of the country began to improve, the vegetation was fresher, and we observed a considerable variety of plants; some of them seemed to belong to the liliaceous tribe, and made a very beautiful appearance. Captain Rudland killed a curious bird, of which I have a drawing.

“ At half past four we arrived at Sadoon, distant, from Hamhamou, according to our computation, about ten miles. This station is a small green plot, shaded by the same kind of trees as those which we saw at Weah; it is within a few yards of the stream, and is entirely surrounded by woody mountains. As there seemed to be a probability of rain, we pitched our tent, and stowed within it all our baggage for the night. From the time that the Ascari had left us, the nightly watch, which had been kept before by ourselves, was entrusted to Pearce, Hamed Chamie, and the Abyssinian Christian, and muskets fired at stated intervals. The thermometer at day break was 77°, and at noon 86°.

“ July 24.—Our expectations of rain were happily disappointed, for the night proved very fine, though cold. In the morning we



observed that the stream had deposited the mud by which it was discoloured the evening before, and was now running quite clear: we saw in it a number of small fish resembling gudgeons.

“ Between six and seven o'clock we recommenced our journey along the stony border of the stream, sometimes turning off into groves of trees, beneath the shade of which the ground was covered with green turf. Captain Rudland shot a small deer of the same kind as those we met with at Massowah, and a large bird of the grouse kind. After passing a small burying-ground, named Willo, we arrived at a thick grove, not unlike the mango topes of India: the trees of which it was composed also reminded us of the mango trees, from the form of their leaves and manner of bearing their fruit; this latter, however, was not a pulpy berry, but a hard nut inclosed within a thin husk. The natives all declared that it was poisonous; but Mr. Carter eat three or four of the kernels without experiencing any inconvenience.

“ Soon after, we arrived at Tubbo, a very picturesque station, abounding in groves of various shady trees, and surrounded by abrupt cliffs and precipices. Bruce has well described this place; but though there were a great variety of birds around, their notes did not appear to me to be different from what we had often before heard. The mountains hereabouts are inhabited by the Hazorta, Welleihah, and above fifty other tribes, according to the concurrent reports of the people of Dixan and Arkeko; whence it may be inferred that almost each hill has its distinct tribe. The Hazorta are at present, and have been for many years, on friendly terms with the Nayib of Massowah; but a tribe to the eastward, called Hartoo, is at open war with him. A man of the former came down to us

unarmed, accompanied by his little boy; they were both of them black, and very thinly clad, and were very grateful on being presented with a small piece of tobacco.

“ We saw here two large trees of the sycamore fig, being about nineteen feet in girth at their bases; out of the sides of the larger boughs were growing great bunches of figs, which, however, were for the most part devoured by the black ants before they were ripe: a species of *Asclepias* also grows here in great abundance, as indeed it does all the way from Arkeko; of its wood the inhabitants make handles for their knives and swords. We remained at Tubbo, enjoying the grateful coolness of its shade, till half-past five, and then it was not without difficulty that I prevailed on our people to go another stage. Our road still continued along the bed of the torrent; but besides the trees already mentioned, the tamarind now began to make its appearance: we also saw several monkeys on the hills; they were chiefly of three species; one was the kind common at Mocha; another was distinguished by its large size, and white hair on the head and beard; the third was much smaller than the others, and had a white beard, and white rings on the tail. We also saw the rock rabbit, which appeared to be like the *Ashkoko* of Bruce. In less than an hour we arrived at Illilah (*Lila* of Bruce), where we took up our quarters for the night under a tree, without taking the trouble to pitch the tent, there being no appearance of rain. We slept unmolested by wild beasts, and undisturbed by noise of any kind, but found the air very cold towards morning, especially during the strong gusts of wind which came down at intervals from the hills. Our computed distance from Sadoon was eight miles. The thermometer at 5 A.M. was 77°.

" July 25. — We resumed our journey at an early hour, notwithstanding the appearance of the sky foretold heavy rain. The road, which had been very perceptibly ascending all the way from Arkeko, now rose more rapidly; much elephants dung lay scattered about, and the branches of most of the fig-trees were lopped off nearly to the top, to give an opportunity to the cattle of browsing on the leaves and tender shoots, the grass being entirely burnt up: on the sides of the hills we perceived a few huts, and several of the inhabitants.

" After a march of nearly two hours we reached a place called Assubah, where there was a burying ground. We saw here a few men attending a large herd of cattle, of whom we purchased, for four dollars, a cow to serve as provision for our people during the ascent of Taranta. In about a quarter of an hour more we reached our station at the foot of that mountain. We had now proceeded with our camels as far as the unevenness of the ground would permit, it was therefore necessary to seek for some other method of getting our baggage conveyed to Dixan. For this purpose we opened a negociation for the use of some bullocks, with some of the Hazorta tribe, who inhabit the mountains; but not being able to agree on terms, we procured only one of these animals, and finally concluded a bargain with some men and boys, for the conveyance of our packages on their shoulders. During this transaction a man of some consequence among them, called Sheik Ummar, had been making a demand of tobacco, coffee, &c. for allowing us to pass the mountain; this claim not being mentioned to me immediately by those to whom the chief had stated it, he thought himself neglected, rose up in a violent passion, and seizing his spear and shield, rushed

down the hill with his attendants, muttering threats as he went. Being unwilling needlessly to hazard the serious consequences which this affair might produce, I sent after him, and in an amicable conference explained the mistake, and gratified him with the trifling presents required. In the evening the Hazorta chiefs all returned, accompanied by an old man of great authority among them. This venerable patriarch, who was said to have around him three hundred relations, placed himself on a rising ground, and having raised his garment on the end of a spear, and demanded silence, made a speech to the following effect.

“Be it known to all, that these people who are passing are great men, friends of the Nayib of Massowah, friends of the Sultaun of Habesh, friends of the Ras Wellela Selassé, and friends of the Baharnegash Yasous; we have received and eaten of their meat, drank of their coffee, and partaken of their tobacco, and are therefore their friends; let no man dare to molest them.” On this there was a general buzz of approbation, and all was quiet and settled. We were however again disturbed by the Nayib's people in the evening, who made fresh demands upon us, backed with threats; to these, however, we paid no farther regard than arming ourselves as usual for the night, which we passed without molestation. The thermometer in the evening was 76°.

“July 26.—The Hazorta chief being this morning in a very friendly humour, I availed myself of the circumstance to make some enquiries concerning the tribe to which he belonged. He told me that they married four wives; that he himself had that number, and nine children, five girls, and four boys; that the population of the tribe amounted to about five thousand; that they



possessed many cattle, but seldom killed them, unless they were likely to die from disease or accidents, these animals forming the chief medium of barter for grain with the Abyssinians. On enquiring why they did not raise corn themselves, he replied, that they were ignorant of the art of doing so, otherwise they would willingly supply their own wants, without having recourse to others. He further informed me, that they never stripped the branches from the trees, except for the purpose of feeding their cattle, when the grass was burnt up or consumed. Hence it appears not improbable that these people might, by gentle means, be brought to a much higher state of civilization than that in which they are at present ; with regard to their population, if their number be only half so many as the chief represented them, they must be considered as a very powerful tribe ; and being a brave, though rude people, and in possession of a very strong country, through which lies the only practicable passage into Abyssinia from this quarter, they might assume and maintain an importance much superior to what they actually possess.

“ At half past eleven, after about five hours continued wrangling with our people, during which we were several times on the point of proceeding to blows, we at length prevailed on them to fetch the mules, and we began to ascend the mountain ; Sheik Umma, from whom I had obtained the preceding information, taking his leave with many expressions of friendship and humility. The first part of the road was smooth and easy ; but, as we advanced, it became steeper and more incommoded with loose stones and masses of rock, over which however our excellent mules carried us with great facility, and in perfect safety. Such of the Nayib's people as

we had still retained with us to serve as guides, knowing that when we should have crossed the mountain, they could no longer with safety continue their insolence and rapacity, resolved to throw every obstruction in the way of our further progress; accordingly they began by deserting us: we fortunately however met with a young Sheik descending the mountain, who, for a small recompense, agreed to be our guide, upon which we continued our journey. In about a quarter of an hour afterwards we were overtaken by the Nayib's guide, who had already given us so much trouble: he now insisted on our halting, giving us to understand that there was neither water, provisions, nor resting-place to be found above, and therefore that we must take up our station where we were, and proceed over the mountain the next day. Having said this, he immediately seized Captain Rudland's mule very roughly, and on my passing him he came forwards to lay hold of mine; this however I prevented by drawing my hanger, and threatening him to cut him down if he offered the least molestation. On this he desisted, and seated himself on a stone by the road side in a violent rage. But we had not yet entirely got rid of him, for by the time that we had advanced half a mile farther, he again overtook us, having by some means or other got Captain Rudland's sword from the Sheik, who had been entrusted by that gentleman to carry it up the hill. He now began to abuse Mr. Carter, who had resisted the attempts made to stop the mule on which he rode, and was on the point of drawing the sword, when Mr. Carter took a pistol from his girdle and presented it at him; at the same moment Captain Rudland jumped from his mule and wrested the sword from him. Having thus failed in all his attempts to detain us another day, and

being probably intimidated by the result of the last, he gave up the point in despair, and we experienced no farther trouble.

“ The whole of this mountain was thickly set with kolquall, which grows nearly to the height of forty feet : towards the top the berry-bearing cedar of Bruce, (called by our guide Cereder) began to make its appearance, and became more abundant in proportion as we ascended ; the summit of the mountain being covered with a thick copse of this tree. In the most rugged path of the road we dismounted, to ease our mules, and walked for about half a mile ; we then remounted, and gained the top without any further difficulty. As soon as we arrived we found, on looking at our watches, that it was only half past two ; so that, notwithstanding all our delays, we had been occupied only three hours in overcoming the exaggerated perils and toils of the passage of Taranta. We now directed our course into a beautiful little green valley shaded by cedars, and adorned by a pool of water ; the sight of which was particularly grateful to us, as we had been repeatedly told that there was none on the top ; near it was grazing a large herd of cattle. Wandering about the valley we discovered a great profusion of mushrooms, of which, notwithstanding they were considered by the natives as poisonous, we collected a large quantity : part we stewed for immediate use, and the remainder we bottled, and found them both wholesome and highly grateful, in the total want of vegetables which we afterwards experienced. Soon afterwards, Captain Rudland shot an owl of a very large species, and Mr. Carter and myself collected a number of flowers, several of which had bulbous roots ; among the shrubs were the sweet briar, and several others highly aromatic. We were soon overtaken by the men and boys who had charge of





Chas. H. Smith del.

J. G. Smith sculp.

PASS OF TARANTA.



our baggage; one of our heaviest boxes, containing ammunition and dollars, of considerable weight, was, to our surprize, brought up by a boy about thirteen years of age; and one of the walls of our large tent, together with the two poles, were conveyed by one man from the bottom to the top of the pass in about four hours. It is not easy to reconcile these facts, with Bruce's representation of the extraordinary difficulties with which he had to contend during two days in going over the same distance, unless the re-establishment of peace between the Nayib, and the tribe of Hazorta, had been attended by a surprizing improvement of the road, which is not probable, as by Bruce's own account the trade, if we may judge by the number of slaves, was then fully equal to what it is at present. Besides, we did not meet with a single hyæna or troglodytical cave; and luckily "had not our hands and knees cut by frequent falls, or our faces torn by thorny bushes; which last, indeed, appears scarcely possible in so open and frequented a path. The only part of our baggage that did not reach us till late at night, was the fly of the tent, and my bed, which were carried on the back of an ox; in consequence of which, the evening being very cold, we arranged our baggage in a half circle, made a good fire in the centre, and slept on the walls of the tent, having previously regaled ourselves with salt-fish, rice, and stewed mushrooms. The thermometer in the evening was 64°.

"July 27.—A shower fell in the course of the night, and when we awoke, the sky was so lowering, that, though our guide declared it was only the common morning mist, we thought it prudent to pitch our tent, under which we obtained shelter from a smart shower of rain which fell soon after. The tops of Taranta, surrounding the

little valley in which we slept, had hitherto been obscured by fleeting clouds; at seven they began to clear away, upon which we dispatched the baggage forward, and about eight o'clock set out ourselves. We had not however ascended the first rising ground before heavy rain came on, and continued, with very short intermission, during the whole of the day. Thence the descent became very rapid, and the road lay through gullies, down which the waters were beginning to run with great force; but none of these obstacles seemed to delay our mules: they descended almost like goats from rock to rock, and not one of the whole number made a single false step in the course of the day. Notwithstanding our cloth-coats and camolines, we were all wet to the skin, and, on account of the difficulties of the road, were not able long to keep together; so that, while Captain Rudland and myself were proceeding on the direct road, Mr. Carter and Pearce were wandering wherever the mules chose to carry them, and, as it afterwards appeared, they had actually arrived within half a mile of Dixan, when they turned; and made a circuit of about five miles.

“ Captain Rudland and myself took shelter in a village about three miles from Dixan, under a hut divided into many compartments, and inhabited by several families. They paid us every attention that their miserable means would allow; and an old woman, who spoke a little Arabic, brought us some water which was much discoloured; among the group we observed two handsome young women, who had fine teeth, and silver rings in their ears. House-sparrows were seen to fly from under the roofs of the huts; and the cattle were lodged in the same apartment as the women and children. The mode of building here is by raising

walls of the required height, adjoining, and at right angles, to a steep slope on the side of a hill, and then laying on a roof of sods, pitched so as to correspond with the general descent of the hill, which gives the appearance of caves to these habitations. We much regretted having nothing with us to give these poor people but an empty wine bottle; with this, however, they were well satisfied.

"Our companions soon after joined us, and about two in the afternoon, after the most unpleasant day we had yet experienced, we reached Dixan, completely wet, and without any of our baggage, which was all scattered upon the road in proportion to the strength or willingness of those who carried it. We were received by the Baharnegash Yasous, and the head men of the town, who were waiting at a house prepared for us.

"Soon after our arrival, the Baharnegash sent us some large flat barley cakes, some honey, and hydromel; and upon this, with a little of our Dhalac cheese, we were glad to make our dinner.

"July 28.—The thermometer in the morning at day break on Taranta was  $59^{\circ}$ ; in the course of the day it varied from  $61^{\circ}$  to  $66^{\circ}$ . We passed a most miserable night, the air being extremely cold, (thermometer  $59^{\circ}$ ) and the few cloaths we had with us completely wet; for my own part, I sat till nearly morning with my feet in the embers of a small fire which occupied the centre of our cave. I call it so, because being constructed on the same plan as the habitation before described, it is evidently copied from natural or artificial excavations. It may be said, in favor of this mode of building, that there is hardly any other better suited to the hilly nature of the country, or which, with so little labour, will afford an equally secure protection to the inhabitants and their cattle from the inconveni-



ences of the weather, and the wild beasts that are continually prowling about during the night. We all found ourselves unwell in the morning, in consequence of the fatigue of yesterday; nor did the gloominess of the weather, for the rain still continued, contribute to raise our spirits. At about ten o'clock, Hamed Chamie, and the rest of our servants, arrived in as wretched a condition as ourselves; they had however been better accommodated during the night, at a village where they had procured a sheep, and were well treated by the inhabitants. Our boxes were brought in one by one, most of them drenched with water; but, fortunately, the cloth and presents designed for the Ras, and my smaller box of valuables, escaped undamaged. Towards evening the greater part of our baggage arrived, and an additional demand of five dollars was made by Guebra Michael: this Hamed Chamie resisted. The Baharnegash at first expressed his displeasure at this new charge; however, he afterwards came to me and stated, that his nephew had promised the money as a gratuity to the bearers, some of whom he had pressed into the service on the road. To this Guebra Michael gave his hand as a pledge; on which I ordered the money to be paid to him. It rained the whole day; the thermometer varied from 61° to 63°.

" July 29.—We were kept awake during the greater part of the last night by the barking of dogs, which were alarmed at the near approach of hyænas and other wild beasts.

" I had a conversation this morning with the Baharnegash respecting our conveyance hence to Adowa. He said that his orders were to pay us every possible attention; and added, that my letters had been forwarded to the Ras; but as he was unacquainted with



their contents, he should be glad of some information respecting the object of my coming. I replied, that the English was a very powerful nation, which had complete command of the sea; and that an English nobleman, then at Mocha, had sent me for the purpose of promoting an intercourse of friendship with Abyssinia; which, if properly encouraged, could not fail of proving most beneficial to the whole country. I was induced thus far to explain myself, not only from the generally friendly manner in which he had behaved towards us, but also to secure his good offices in furtherance of our views. He expressed his entire satisfaction with my communication, and proceeded to inform me, that it was necessary to write immediately to Basha Abdallah, Secretary to Nebred Araur, Governor of Adowa, stating what animals we should want for our own riding, and for carrying our baggage, which, on my requisition, would be immediately sent down; that he himself had only three mules, but that they were all at our service. I told him, whatever had been arranged by the Ras, would meet with my hearty concurrence and begged that he would hasten the messenger; and also urge to Basha Abdallah the necessity of sending the mules as speedily as possible, since I was obliged soon to return to Massowah. Accordingly I wrote a letter, which he promised to dispatch immediately, requesting to be furnished with twenty-five mules; to which I was led to expect an answer in six days. For the carriage of the letter I paid two dollars. I found the Baharnegash himself was under orders to attend me up to the Ras, which he professed he should do with pleasure. I was informed that, after we had ascended the mountain of Taranta, the natives, headed by that rascal the Nayib's guide, had assembled for the purpose of detaining

our baggage, but our friend Guebra Michael, by his very strenuous exertions, succeeded in getting it up in safety. This, joined to the very insolent manner in which our guide had endeavoured to stop us on the ascent, as already mentioned, gave us good reason to suppose that some serious mischief was meditated, which our promptitude in crossing the mountain enabled us to avoid.

"The day being tolerably clear, we collected some plants, dried all our things, and made ourselves in other respects as comfortable as our situation would admit.

"July 30.—I was engaged all the morning in writing letters, copying my journal, and preparing a packet for Lord Valentia, containing an account of occurrences up to our arrival at Dixan, which was dispatched in the afternoon, and, as I afterwards learned, arrived safely. Towards evening Captain Rudland walked out with his gun, in hopes of meeting with game or hyænas; he however met with no success, having seen only two large spotted deer, which were exceedingly shy: during his absence I employed myself in taking a sketch of the mountains of Tigré. The day was clear and fine, though with much thunder and lightning in the evening. The thermometer was 66°. We were none of us well, which I attributed to change of food and climate.

"July 31.—A letter, of which the following is a translation, was received by the Baharnegash from the Ras's Secretary at Adowa, whom the natives style Bashaw Abdallah. After the usual compliments, "Expecting that by this time the English are arrived at Dixan, I shall send my man Negada Moosa for them with horses and mules. I desire that you will pay them all the attention in your power, and will dispatch a messenger as soon as possible to acquaint

Ras Welleta Selassé, with their safe arrival. The Ras commands that all care may be taken of them; that you will provide them with houses, with meat, and with drink of the very best, as your head must answer for it. In short, take as much care of them as you would of Ras Welleta Selassé, and so soon as they arrive, send me instant intelligence thereof.'

"In consequence of the receipt of this letter, I thought proper to make remonstrances about the high price that we were charged for provisions. The Baharnegash told me that he would very willingly give whatever he had of his own, but that the articles which we wanted, were such as they themselves did not consume; and, owing to a late scarcity, which had been felt very severely so far as this place, they were extremely difficult to procure; it was not therefore in his power to afford us any relief in this particular; a representation which, from the poverty of the place, I had afterwards reason to consider true.

"The day was tolerably fine: about eleven in the forenoon, however, there fell a smart shower, during which an alarm was given of an hyæna being seen near our cave, by Mr. Carter and Pearce. Captain Rudland went out with his gun in pursuit of it, but was unsuccessful. I was myself too unwell to stir out, and was therefore engaged in drawing. More rain fell in the evening.

"August 1.—This morning the messenger who was dispatched with my letter to the Ras from Massowah, arrived hither on his way back from Antalow. He reported, that on the receipt of the letter the Ras issued immediate orders to a chief at Adowa, to have in readiness the same number of animals as we had engaged from the Nayib; and to send them to meet us at this place as soon as he



received intelligence of our arrival. The Nayib's charge to me for the conveyance of this letter, was, as I before mentioned, thirty dollars, of which the bearer declared that he was paid only two. Frequent showers fell during the day. The thermometer in our cave was 70°.

August 2.—I walked out in the morning with Captain Rudland; collected a few plants, and killed a bird called by the natives Warré, of which I took a sketch. Our people were engaged in repacking the baggage preparatory to our departure. The day was fine without rain. The thermometer in our cave was 75°.

The Baharnegash, attended by his brother and Guebra Michael, paid us a visit at a late hour in the evening, and, after some conversation on common occurrences, began mentioning the names of several, supposed English, gentlemen, who had formerly passed this place; these we imagined to have been Bruce and his attendants: they soon concluded their discourse by saying, that our countrymen had made the inhabitants of the place a present of one hundred dollars, and therefore they hoped that I would do the same. Upon my evading this, and referring the Baharnegash to the Ras, he went so far as to assert that he had a rightful claim to the money, and being an independent chief, would demand it in the Ras's presence. I replied, that to my certain knowledge no English gentlemen had ever given any such sum; that one only had ever passed through this town before, and that he had given only forty dollars to the late Baharnegash, for which sum he had received in return a fine black horse: that we had already been at a very considerable expense, and as we were going up by desire of the Ras, and looked for no advantage ourselves from the journey, I should certainly not give

him any thing at present, but should on my arrival at Antalow report the affair to the Ras, and guide myself entirely by his determination.

" After this had been explained, the brother began to raise his voice and interfere; but I stopped him at once, by telling him that I would not suffer him to meddle with the affair; on which he rose from his seat in a violent passion and left the house, followed, to our great satisfaction, by the Baharnegash and his nephew, who seemed happy thus to get rid of a demand which they found themselves too weak to support.

" In a few minutes Hamed Chamie returned with a message from the Baharnegash, saying, that his people were very hungry, and that it was on this account only that he had asked for money; he hoped, notwithstanding, that we should continue good friends, and that he was ready to accompany us as soon as the mules arrived; he also begged that what had passed might not be mentioned to the Ras.

" August 3.—I took a walk, as usual, after breakfast, and collected a few specimens of plants. The day was fine, and without rain. In the course of our walk we saw a large bird much resembling the Abba Gumba of Bruce; but a shower coming on at the moment, prevented our sportsmen from pursuing it. When the rain was over, Captain Rudland went out again, and killed a large bird called by the natives Derhomai (or water fowl, from Derho, a bird, and mai, water), of which I made a drawing. This bird inhabits low marshy grounds, and feeds on worms. We had it cooked, and found the flesh tender and well flavoured.

" At a late hour in the evening the brother of the Baharnegash

waited upon Hamed Chamie, repeating his demands for money in the name of the town's people, declaring that it was their right, and that they were determined to be paid. Hamed Chamie said, that an answer had already been given by me to the Baharnegash; and he very properly got up, called for him, and brought him to me, complaining of the behaviour of the people. The Baharnegash, after desiring Hamed Chamie to pay no attention to them, said, that as our food and lodging had been provided by himself, no other person could possibly have any demand upon us.

" August 5.—Nothing particular occurred this day. The weather was bright and mild, like a May day in England.

" August 6.—So much rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning, fell this day, that we were scarcely able to stir out of doors. I amused myself with drawing, and Captain Rudland in collecting information from the inhabitants.

" The Baharnegash was very urgent to have a picture for the church; accordingly I set Pearce to work, who painted one of the Virgin Mary and the infant Christ, in most flaming colours, which gave great satisfaction. The thermometer in our hut at noon was 64°

" August 7.—A letter was received from Basha Abdallah at Adowa, stating, that the mules were not to leave that place till to-morrow, and would therefore probably not arrive here before Sunday. This delay was attributed to the necessity of sending to the Ras at Antalow, for an order to have more mules purchased, as the people at Adowa refused to send their mules for our accommodation.

" A kafila came in from Massowah, by which the Baharnegash



received a letter from Currum Chund; but no answer arrived to either of our letters sent to Massowah. Reports were in circulation that Captain Court had been firing on Massowah, as the natives described an iron kettle which burst over the town.

"We heard that the dead bodies of three men had been found, washed down by the torrent, on this side of Taranta.

"Our sportsmen, having seen a dead horse and an ass lying in the skirts of the town, were out for two hours in the evening in pursuit of the hyænas, which they supposed would be attracted by the carcasses. They discovered a great number of these animals growling and fighting over their food, and making at times a hideous roaring: they must be possessed of great strength, as a single one was observed dragging along the entire carcass of the horse: in size they varied considerably, but Captain Rudland and Pearce both agreed that one of them, which they wounded, was quite as large as a small ass. Some dogs of the village were gnawing the carcass, but they retired, snarling, to a small distance, on the approach of the hyænas, who in their turn did not seem to have any inclination to attack the dogs. Intermixed with the hyænas, and feeding on the carcass very amicably at the same time with them, were smaller animals, supposed to be jackalls. The morning was cold and foggy, but the weather cleared up about breakfast time, and continued tolerably fine for the remainder of the day.

"Intelligence arrived that a kafila, on its way hither from Massowah, had suffered severely by the sudden rise of the torrent at Elleilah, one man, ten camels, and a great part of the baggage were washed away.

"August 8.—I walked out in the morning, and collected some

plants. In the evening we all sallied forth on an alarm of an hyæna. We saw two, one of which Captain Rudland was lucky enough to shoot; the ball passed through the right shoulder and lodged in the neck, on which the animal immediately fell. Pearce ran up to it, and threw large stones upon its head, and Mr. Carter thrust his sword down its throat, which soon dispatched it.

“On hearing the shot, the people of the village all came out, many of them armed with spears; but we could not prevail on any of them to assist in carrying our game home, as all the Abyssinians hold the hyæna in utter abhorrence. Our servants, however, brought him in great triumph, and hung him up to one of the posts before our door, that I might take a drawing of him in the morning.

“August 9.—My first care in the morning was to examine the hyæna that we had shot the preceding night: it was a male, of the spotted species (*canis crocuta*), and is called by the natives Zubbee; its prevailing colour is a dirty light brown inclining to yellow, with black spots: the extremity of the tail is covered with long and coarse black hair, like that of a horse's tail; on the back is a ridge of long hair, of which that part between the loins and head inclines forwards, while the rest points towards the tail, ~~sh~~ <sup>thick</sup>ening by degrees, so that it lies quite smooth on the rump. The length of this animal from the nose to the insertion of the tail was four feet three inches; its height, from the top of the shoulder to the sole of the fore foot, was two feet four inches and a half; and from the crown of the rump to the sole of the hind foot was two feet one inch and a half. We afterwards saw several considerably larger, and of a darker colour.

“ When the inhabitants came out to us last night, on hearing the report of Captain Rudland's gun, they were accompanied by several of their dogs, which, as soon as they perceived the hyæna stretched out and roaring on the ground, fell upon him, and seized him with great fury; but, as I have already mentioned, these two animals, in ordinary circumstances, though mutually inimical, seldom venture on a contest. We have more than once observed their passing and repassing, each snarling, but neither venturing to begin an attack; and, one evening, both were seen feeding on the same carcase. The hyæna, however, always retires from the presence of man; and the dogs, by barking, give notice to their master of its approach.

“ While we were touching and skinning the hyæna, the inhabitants looked on with evident signs of horror and disgust; the Baharnegash, however, begged the liver of the animal, which, forms one of the ingredients of an ink in which charms are written, that are worn round the arms as amulets from all evil. The man who was sent for the liver seemed as much afraid of it as of a snake, and carried it away with great caution on the end of a long stick.

“ After we had skinned the hyæna, we left him on the grass about one hundred yards from our hut, where he remained untouched by the dogs or vultures during the whole day; but as soon as it became dusk, the carcase was dragged off and devoured by other hyænas.

“ Having finished these observations, we took a walk of about three or four miles, but met with little worthy of observation. We killed a lizard of a light blue colour, of which I made a drawing,



and took a camelion alive. On our return we were overtaken with very heavy rain, hail, thunder, and lightning.

" I was engaged during the afternoon in making drawings of some plants that we had collected in our walk.

" News arrived that Captain Court had been under the necessity of landing fifteen men from the Panther at Massowah, and of threatening the Nayib, before he could get possession of the packet which we dispatched hence: to this no answer has as yet been received.

" August 10.—I wrote a letter this morning to the Ras, informing him of our delay at Dixan, and that, as we had received no intelligence with respect to the time when the mules from Adowa would probably arrive, we should in three days proceed with such conveyances as we might be able to procure at this place.

" Five dollars were required by the Baharnegash for the carriage of this letter to Antalow; with which demand, having no alternative, I was obliged to comply.

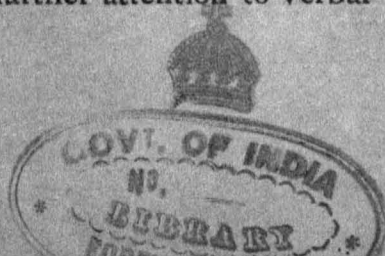
" We rode a short distance out of town, but the weather compelled us very soon to return; on our way back we passed over the highest part of the irregular hill on which Dixan is built; and which Bruce has not very accurately described, when he compares it to a sugar loaf, as may be seen in one of my larger views.

" On our return, we found that a fresh demand had been made on Hamed Chamie for some pepper for the messenger about to depart with our letter to Antalow; but this, being too valuable an article to part with, we absolutely refused. The letter, in consequence, was returned by the Baharnegash with the five dollars to

Hamed Chamie; I immediately sent for the Baharnegash, and represented to him my surprise at what had passed: assuring him that I should leave Dixan in three days, and, if the letter should not arrive at Antalow before me, the blame would fall upon him. I afterwards thought it expedient to inclose the letter to Bashaw Abdallah, as the communication from Adowa to Antalow appeared more open than from this place. The Baharnegash attempted, but in vain, to prevent the letter being sent, by telling us he had information that the mules would be here to-morrow.

“ In the evening there arrived a man from the village of Dagozie, two days journey hence, with intelligence that the mules from Adowa were near at hand. He brought also a lean cow from his uncle, who is Kantiba, or chief of the village above mentioned, as a present; in return for which I gave him two pieces of cloth. This, however, did not satisfy him; for, when we had retired to rest, he came to inform me, that, as he was about to set off for Hamazen, if I had any thing to give him, he begged to receive it immediately. After enquiring what were his demands, I learned that he had the modesty to expect a gift of an equal value with the mule he rode upon, which he estimated at the trifling sum of forty dollars; upon this I referred him to Hamed Chamie, as was invariably my custom on such occasions, and he soon got rid of him, by recommending him to take his cow back again, for which he thought he had already been most amply paid.

“ August 11.—In the course of this morning two men arrived, bringing intelligence from Negada Moosa, that the mules would be here on the morrow; but we had so many similar accounts, that I told the Baharnegash I should pay no farther attention to verbal



messengers, and, as these people might have come merely for the purpose of getting the usual recompense of a piece of cloth, I did not choose to comply with the custom any longer.

"Heavy rain attended by thunder came on at noon, and the remainder of the day was so dark and dismal, that in our hut we could not see to do any thing without a candle. Our whole party was unwell with violent colds. We killed a vulture, which upon examination, we pronounced "to be a bird of passage," since we could not discover any of that powder which, Bruce says, the hill birds of this country are provided with, and which, it is to be observed, all the birds that we have hitherto killed have been without.

"August 12.—We passed the morning in anxious expectation of the arrival of the mules, and in preparing our fire-arms, &c. for the journey. About twelve o'clock intelligence was brought us of their approach, and soon after, the Baharnegash introduced Hadjee Hamed, and Negada Moosa; they brought each of them a letter from the Ras, in Arabic, mentioning the former as a man in his confidence, to whom we were to make known all our wishes, and the latter as appointed to take charge of our persons and baggage. They seemed to be men of more respectability than any we had hitherto met with since we left Mocha, and their retinue and attendants were numerous, and decently clad. They brought us information that the Ras and his family were well; that he was himself exceedingly anxious to see us, and had given orders to bring us up, without delay, by the nearest road, to his presence; that all things were prepared for us by his special orders in the villages through which we had to pass; and that if any man should dare to molest



us, his head must answer for it. They likewise mentioned, that when we arrived within two days march of Antalow, an additional retinue would meet us. Hadjee Hamed, immediately on his coming into our hut, recognized me, and I soon recollected that we had met at the village of Badoor, on one of the islands of Port Mornington, and that he then informed me he was on his way from the Sheriffe of Mecca to Ras Wellela Selassé. After having taken coffee, they retired with Hamed Chamie, and I gave an order for the purchase of five sheep for the better accommodation of the party.

"Dixan was now extremely full of strangers, for besides our attendants from the Ras, there were kafilas hourly coming in both from Massowah and Adowa. The day was cloudy with a little thunder.

"August 13.—Hadjee Hamed and Negada Moosa sent Hamed Chamie early in the morning to deliver me the mules sent by the Ras; I therefore went to the door of our hut, and all the mules, in number twenty-one, were brought before me; sixteen of them were of a large and coarse breed, for the conveyance of baggage, and five of a lighter, for our riding. This ceremony being over, the Baharnegash informed me, that he would provide me with three more, a sufficient number to accommodate all our people. I gave orders to have every thing prepared for setting out by day-light on the morrow, having consented to remain here this day at the request of our new attendants, who were anxious for a little rest, and with whom I felt desirous to commence our journey on as good terms as possible. They afterwards brought me flour and other necessaries, and informed us that every thing in future, would be provided, for us, free of expense, by the Ras's commands.

" In the evening the Baharnegash visited us with his brother who had been a very troublesome fellow; and as we knew that he could not come for any good purpose, we evaded all communication, on the plea of our interpreter being out of the way. The cause of their visit, as we afterwards learned, was this: the Baharnegash had promised us three mules, but being himself in possession of only two, he expected to obtain the third from his brother. This man, however, positively refused to accommodate him, saying, that as we had made him no present we should have nothing belonging to him. The Baharnegash used the most urgent entreaties; but all in vain. The only terms on which he would agree were, that his brother should give him an equal share of what he might receive from us. The Baharnegash told him that he was going on with us to Antalow, and that it might be very long before he should receive any thing; he was nevertheless willing, to give him half, so anxious was he to keep his word with us. His brother, however, demanding immediate payment, the Baharnegash was under the necessity of sending to a neighbouring village to purchase a mule, which was brought in the evening.

" The houses of Dixan are flat-roofed, and without windows, and, instead of chimneys, have two pots of earthenware rising out of the roof, but so narrow as to give vent only to a small portion of the smoke: the houses are built round a hill commanding an extensive prospect of the mountains of Tigré, and country around, which consists almost entirely of rocky mountains, on many of which are to be observed villages constructed much in the same style as at Dixan.

" The only public building in this place is the chapel, which





MOUNTAINS OF TIGRE FROM DIXAN



we visited. It is a place of a mean appearance, with a conical thatched roof, and mud walls. On entering the door of the inclosure (A) the boys who conducted us kissed the door posts: and we, in conformity to their customs, pulled off our shoes and hats, on entering the door of the building itself (B). The inner building was shut. The aisle that surrounded it (c c) was strewn with rushes; and on the walls were painted rude figures in glaring colours, of St. George and St. Haimonout on horseback, with spears, and various other strange figures in as many strange postures. The priests bear large keys in their hands, like that which the painters place in the hand of St. Peter. The natives all appear fond of crosses. The Baharnegash was highly pleased with one given to him by Captain Rudland. Most of the Christians here have a cross marked upon their breast, or their right arm, or forehead, which, with a blue silk string round their necks, they seem to think indispensable badges of their religion. They kiss every thing that has the least claim to sanctity or respect, a strong instance of which was the Baharnegash's kissing the letter which I delivered to him for the Ras's Secretary, Bashaw Abdalla

"The people whom I have hitherto seen, with few exceptions, are idle, ignorant, and dirty; they are of a very dark complexion, few having a claim to the appellation of copper-coloured, given them by Bruce. It is usual for them to say prayers over every thing they eat, drink, receive, or give away, concluding the ceremony with blowing upon it, in the same way as a conjuror does on his balls.

"In these prayers they always turn the face to the east, as they turn the heads of the animals which they kill to the west. They

refuse to taste of any thing killed by Mahomedans, whom they hold in great contempt.

“ Boys marry at fourteen years of age, girls at ten, eleven, and twelve; both are circumcised on the eighth day after their birth; this operation is performed by women.

“ The number of wives possessed by each man varies from one to ten, according to their property, or as they are able to support them, as each woman must be furnished with a separate place of residence.

“ Most of the laborious occupations, both abroad and at home, devolve upon the women; such as grinding the corn, bringing in wood and water, which is brought from a valley about a mile from the town, cultivating the ground, and picking herbs for the consumption of the day. They carry their children on their backs, and wear tanned hides round their waists; their necks and arms are ornamented with beads, and white shells; and the women of the higher class allow the nails on the left hand to grow to a great length, wearing cases of leather on their fingers, several inches long, to preserve them.

“ Slaves are very dear at this place, if we are to be guided by the report of the inhabitants; but the price of these animals, like that of every other put up to the highest bidder, is greatly regulated by their outward appearance. If nature has been favourable, and given them fine features, with a tolerably fair skin, they sell for a great deal more than those of a darker colour.

“ The proportion of land capable of cultivation, as far as we had an opportunity of observing, is scanty, consisting of a few spots on the sides of the hills, and the drier parts of the valleys.

“ The present seems to be the season of spring in this country; some of the inhabitants are now ploughing their fields with wooden ploughs. These are rudely shaped out of the root or branch of a tree, and sometimes the shares are formed of iron. After twice ploughing the land, the clods are broken with rude hooked instruments by the women, who at the same time pick out the weeds; the grain is then strewn upon the ground, and they seem to make choice of the worst samples for seed. There are a great number of goats belonging to this place, but they are now mostly dry, in consequence of which milk is not to be obtained without great difficulty; the whole that we have been able to procure has not exceeded a pint per day. A small goat costs half a dollar. The sheep are most of them black, but some of them have white faces: the skins of all are valuable commodities, as they make excellent coverings; and no man moves a hundred yards from his house without having one hung over his shoulders.

“ We have as yet observed but few cows, and those miserably poor. There is plenty of barley and juwarry, but we have not hitherto seen any wheat.

“ White cloths are preferred at Dixan before any other colour. Tobacco, black pepper, looking-glasses, snuff, spirits, and large beads, are good articles for barter: green beads are at present in fashion, and therefore fetch a better price than any others.

“ The musical instrument that we heard at Massowah, and which I imagine to be Bruce's lyre, is in use here; it was played upon by one of the young priests. Their singing is, if possible, ruder than their music, and both together are intolerable.

“ Bruce says that they allow no figures in relief; the few that



we have yet seen are two faces at the head of the couch on which I sleep.

“ The duties arising from the merchandize that passes through Dixan are collected by the person, at whose house the travelling merchant chooses to put up. Travellers are housed and fed during their stay, for which the landlord is recompensed either in goods or money. The rate at which they pay on these occasions is said to be so very exorbitant, that I could give no credit to the report.

“ The Baharnegash seems to preside over Dixan and six or seven adjoining villages; these appear to have agreed among themselves to continue in peace with, and faithful to, each other. If at any time an offence be committed, the whole body assembles, and the affair is discussed; but punishment is seldom inflicted, because the offender has an easy mode of evading it, by joining another hill tribe. It has been repeated to us by many of them, that they pay no tribute to the Ras; and they asserted more than once that they were entirely independent of the Tigré government. This, however, from several circumstances that occurred, we did not believe to be strictly the case; they may not pay him any revenue, but it is evident that they stand in awe of his authority.

“ The Baharnegash carries on the affairs of his government entirely by verbal messages. Judging from the little attention that the Geesh characters in Bruce's book excited when we shewed them to him, I do not believe that he is himself capable either of writing or reading.

“ There are no schools for the education of youth, in any language, that I could find out, at Dixan: we met with only a few persons who could read the church Bible, which I apprehend is the

sole book in their possession; and those who have obtained even this degree of knowledge are considered as priests; at least in their own opinion. Of this order, upon trial, not one in twenty could write the characters which they read; indeed we found but one man in Dixan who attempted to write the native tongue: from this person we begged the different characters of the Geesh alphabet; but his obvious ignorance in this respect, gave us evident proof of his inability. Upon enquiry, we found that this person was not a resident at Dixan, but travelled about the country in the character of a physician as well as priest, and had for some time past been exercising his skill in the former profession.

“ The present Baharnegash is a tall elderly man, with a mild countenance; the top of his head bald, and his hair bushy round his ears. His dress, like the rest of his people, consisted of a single garment wrapped round his body, and his only ensign of office was a peeled staff about six feet long, which was also borne by his relations, and those in authority under him. He performs the duties both of chief priest and governor, and recites prayers to his people both morning and evening, on which account he incurs some ridicule at court. The form of prayer commences with chanting three times over Jehu Arozoo (praise be to Jesus), in which he is joined by the whole assembly. This is followed by Binta Mariam Arozoo; then Haimanot Johannim, Georgis, Welleta Selassé, &c. which are all in like manner three times chanted by the congregation. To this succeeds the invocation, with which it began, Jehu Arozoo; the chief then recites several prayers, to which the congregation answer, Amen. The service ends with the whole congregation prostrating themselves three times, with their faces to

the ground, calling out on the name of God—Tabbait—Tabbait—Tabbait. After this prostration the Baharnegash generally continues praying by himself for a short time, and immediately after issues orders for the day, which chiefly relate to the care of the cattle, and similar employments.



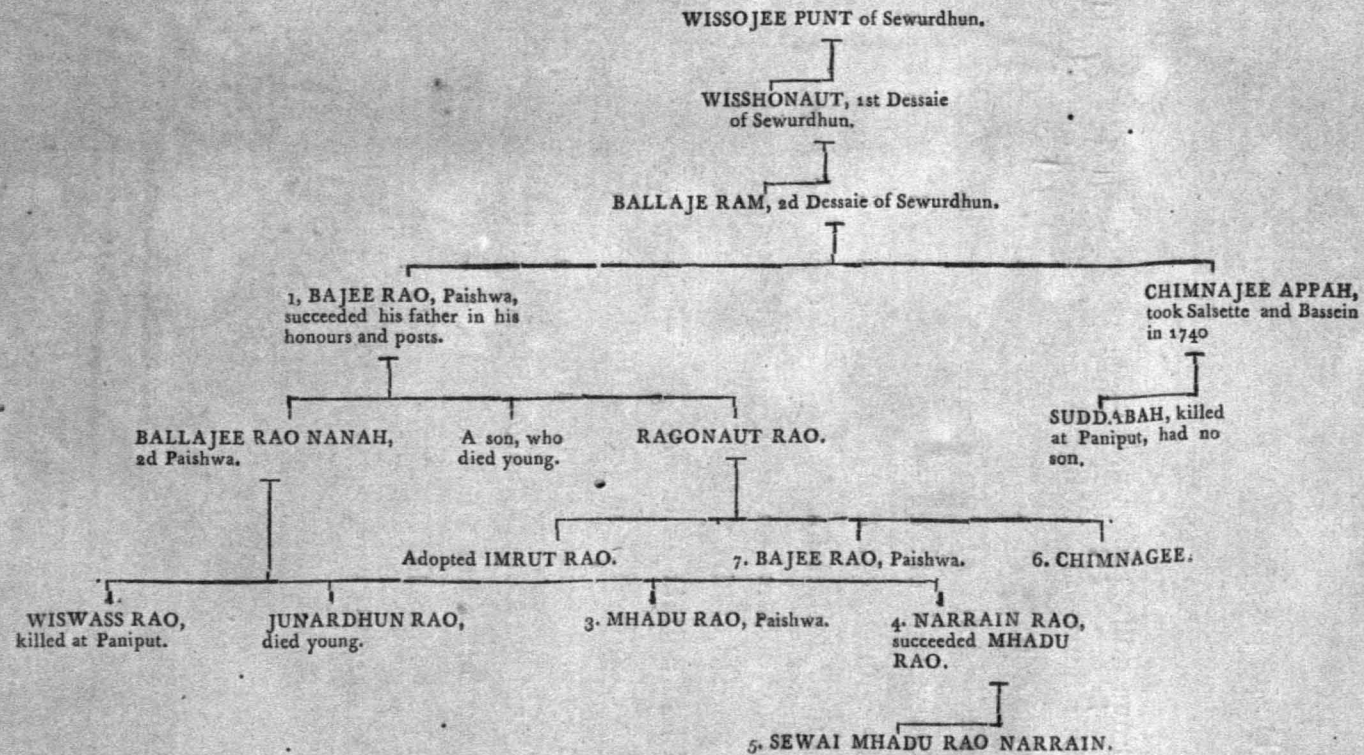
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## APPENDIX.

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# I.

## PEDIGREE OF THE PAISHWA, referred to in p. 140.



## II.

Duties proposed to be levied by the Nayib of Massowah ; referred to in p. 245.

Four dollars for a bale of tobacco of fifteen maunds.

One-fourth of a dollar for one Bengal bag of 166 lb. of rice.

One dollar and twenty-two komassie for nine frassel of pepper.

Three dollars for twelve Bombay maunds, (28 lb.) of cotton.

One-fourth of a dollar for one frassel of kalai (block tin).

One-fourth of a dollar for one frassel of gessel (tutenac).

Three dollars for twenty frassel of red copper.

Two dollars for four guz (twenty-eight inches) of red or blue broad-cloth.

Eight dollars for one corge (twenty pieces) of fine piece goods.

Five dollars for one corge of blue cosses.

Two dollars and a half for one corge of coarse cloth. Baftas.

One dollar and a quarter for one corge of chintz, coarse or fine.

One dollar and a half for eight guz of kincaub or silk.

Two dollars for eight guz of velvet.

No duty on iron or gunpowder.



### III.

Extracts from Captain Court's Report on his return from Massowah;  
referred to in p. 470.

ON the 20th of July, having left Mr. Salt, with a guard of sepoy's under Mr. Crawford, at Arkeko, I reached the vessel about eleven o'clock; and as the land wind almost ceased to blow before we left Arkeko in the cutter, I suffered much from the intense heat which prevails during the interval of calm between the land and sea breeze. I had hardly been on board one hour, when a hard squall of hot wind off the land suddenly arose, in which we parted our cable. Enveloped in a cloud of dust, and suspecting from the appearance of the sky that we were about to encounter very severe weather, I thought it unsafe to let go another anchor, and at once determined to avail myself of the opportunity then afforded me, by the wind blowing from the north-westward, to run the vessel out of the harbour, and endeavour to get sea-room, before the gale should become too violent; and, in the event of the weather clearing up, it was my intention, as well with a view to intimidate the Nayib from raising any more obstacles to Mr. Salt's immediate departure, as to facilitate Mr. Crawford's return to the vessel with the guard of sepoy's, to have tried to effect a passage into Arkeko Bay, and bring the Panther to an anchor abreast that town. The squall continued with great violence till half past four P. M.; and it was not till half past seven o'clock that we had accomplished the purpose abovementioned.

As soon as the vessel was anchored, I sent the cutter on shore well manned and armed, under charge of Mr. Denton, and was much pleased, about nine o'clock, to see her returning with Lieutenant Crawford and the sepoy, all safe. I had also the great additional gratification to learn from Lieutenant Crawford, that the appearance of the Panther standing into Arkeko Bay had produced, in the minds of the Nayib and his faithless and rapacious Ascari, the exact sensation and effect that I had hoped, and expected it would; and that it was not until she hove in sight, that they ceased to importune Mr. Salt for more money upon new pretences, to which every fresh instant gave birth.

On the 21st, I quitted Arkeko Bay to proceed to the Island of Dohul, where we had been informed that provisions and fresh water might be obtained. As we passed Massowah, I hove the vessel to, and sent an officer on shore in the cutter with a message to Currum Chund, respecting the anchor we had left in the harbour, and at the same time desired him to inform the Nayib that I should be back in six days, when I hoped to receive, without delay, Mr. Salt's dispatches for Lord Valéntia from his hands, as I had not the least doubt of their arriving from Dixan by that time. Having received a satisfactory answer from Currum Chund, I proceeded on to Dohul, and anchored the Panther in safety off the N. W. side of it at sunset. Being informed by the islanders that the proper anchorage was on the east side of the island, and the account I had received at Massowah, "that plenty of horned cattle, sheep, and goats, with abundance of good water, might be procured at this place" being confirmed, we weighed anchor, and worked round the south side to the proper anchorage, where we came to in three fathom at

the distance of one and a quarter from the island. A spit of sand which runs off the south end of Dohul breaks the sea, and shelters the roads in some measure, in that direction, and a similar one to the northward protects it from the violence of the N. W. winds; but it would be dangerous riding here when the wind blows hard from any point on the eastern-board.

On our first coming among them, we found the inhabitants of this island, who in number did not exceed thirty grown persons, inoffensive, mild, and hospitable; and I was in hopes that my presents of rice, tobacco, and blue cloth, might have made them so much our friends, that they would have cheerfully supplied us with water, and such live stock as we wanted, at a reasonable price; that is to say, at the rates we had been accustomed to procure them, at Massowah. I was led however, very soon, to entertain a different opinion: for the islanders, in consequence of injunctions, no doubt brought from the Nayib by a boat which arrived here shortly after the Panther, entirely changed their conduct towards us; and from being very forward and willing to render us every service in their power, became quite the reverse, and seemed extremely desirous to get rid of us as soon as possible. In addition to this vexatious circumstance, I had the mortification to find that, in consequence of the long drought universally complained of in the Red Sea, the Dohul wells, which are, I believe, in number about twenty, several of which however were dry, could not supply us nearly so expeditiously as I wished and expected, with the large quantity of water we required to replenish our stock; I therefore determined upon going to Dhalac, where I was certain that we could, in two or three days, procure as much as we wanted.



After purchasing a few young goats, which are here, as well as at Valentia Island, excellent, I left Dohul on the 26th of July P. M. ; but owing to contrary winds and threatening weather did not reach Nockara Roads, until the next day about noon, at which time it blew a hard gale from the westward. At five P. M. the wind began to veer round to the southward, and the weather to wear altogether so threatening an aspect, that I was induced to strike the lower yards and topmasts. This and every other possible precaution being taken, and all our anchors down, saved us, under God's providence, from shipwreck. Since I have been at sea, I never have in any vessel rode out a harder gale of wind at anchor ; nor was I ever in my life at anchor on a lee-shore with so awful a prospect of inevitable destruction, had an accident happened to one of our cables. The gale continued with unabated violence from four P. M. of the 27th until ten A. M. of the 28th. During the whole of the night loud peals of thunder, vivid lightning, and a sea of fire, increased the terrific horrors of our situation. Thanks be to God ! we rode the storm out, which began to abate considerably about noon on the 28th ; and in the evening Unus brought us off sixteen casks of water.

At five P. M. on the 30th, having replenished our stock of this article, we weighed and made sail for Massowah harbour, in which we anchored in safety a quarter before ten, A. M. on the 29th, and were fortunate enough, with the assistance of a diver, procured us by Unus, to recover the bow anchor we had parted from, and left behind us on the 20th.

Having learned that a kafilah was arrived from Dixan, I applied to the Nayib to know whether letters had not come by it for

Lord Valentia; but received an answer that none had arrived. On the 31st, having gained intelligence from Unus that dispatches from Mr. Salt were certainly in the possession of the Nayib, I wrote to him by Unus to demand them, and to say that I would not wait any longer, but should proceed to Mocha, with or without them, and would there receive Lord Valentia's instructions how to act, in consequence of such wanton and unmerited perversity, but that I would leave Unus for forty-eight hours, in hopes that the Nayib would perceive the injustice of his conduct, and the unpleasant circumstances to which it must lead; and in consequence, be induced to send the letters by him.

By the assistance of a fair spirt of wind we got out of the harbour at eleven o'clock P. M.

On the 1st of August we found in the morning that we had been driven by the strong northerly currents in sight of Dohul. We beat against these currents and a strong S. E. wind for another twenty-four hours, and found ourselves in precisely the same situation on the following morning.

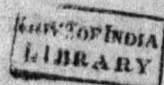
On the 2d, I had the pleasure of seeing Unus's dōw leave the harbour of Massowah, and make directly for us. In a few hours he came on board, and delivered me letters from Mr. Salt, announcing his safe arrival at Dixan. For the six following days we beat against adverse winds and currents without being able to get round Hurroo point. At length we rounded it in the burst of a land gale from W. N. W. under a fore stay-sail, at midnight. We had afterwards a fair wind, and passed the Aroes at sun-set on the 10th.

At three o'clock on the 11th we were abreast of the town of

Mocha in nineteen fathom. At five it became so black and threatening over the land, that although in six fathom, we could see neither shipping nor town. Having no land mark to guide us, we erroneously supposed ourselves to be to the north of the town; but on the weather clearing, discovered that we were ten miles to the south of it. Trifling as was the distance, it was six days before we were able to beat up against the strong north-wester, which generally kept us under our close-reefed top sails. On the 16th we anchored in Mocha roads.

(Signed)

CHARLES COURT.



END OF VOL. II.

