

left us well pleased. We tried the whole day, but without success, to procure fowls; they are chiefly at Arkeko, and as the Banian will not buy them, there is a difficulty in finding others to do it. The Banian came again in the evening, about eight, to say the Nayib was come, and wished me to go and see him: this I most peremptorily refused. He then requested that Abdallah might go, to which I consented, and sent by him to the Nayib eight china dishes, which I heard would be acceptable. After settling our accounts, he gave me another piece of Habesh cloth, and I gave him a shawl. I wrote a letter to Mr. Pringle, stating my ideas respecting the trade of Massowah, and requesting he would never employ Alli Nohri. Abdallah, on his return, brought a letter to me from the Nayib, and another for the Dola of Suakin. My servant and Pierce were out a great part of the day, so also were the dow-boys; they procured a few good *Cyprææ*, but no others.

January 21.—At four we began to unmoor: at half after six the Nayib's elder son, his brother the Sirdar, the Vizier, Abou Yusuff, and the Banian came on board, as they said, to express the Nayib's anxious desire that I should go away in friendship with him. A question was added, which betrayed their real motive, which was, whether I meant to give any thing else to the Nayib. At first I determined to do so, knowing that he really was tormented for money; but afterwards considered that it would be better, to express some feeling of disapprobation at the difference of treatment that I had received on this my second visit. I therefore called the son and Vizier into the cabin, and assured them that I parted a sincere friend, but that I must feel mortified at being obliged to leave the shore, and could not therefore send a present as a proof of satisfaction; that I

would only send an ivory box of castor, an article here of great value, as a mark of friendship. I gave one, also, to each person of the party. The land breeze and our boats soon cleared us of the harbour, and delivered us from our visitors. The young Hammed (the Nayib's son) seemed to part with regret. Captain Rudland gave him a pair of pistols. His brother got some powder by a private hand.

On maturely considering all that had passed, I was inclined to consider these circumstances as increasing, instead of lessening, the security of Massowah for British ships. They are convinced we will not be imposed on, and yet are willing to pay well for every thing. The Banian assured me the Dola is now of the Nayib's opinion, that it is better to secure a moderate profit, than to lose all by preventing ships from coming there. It is possible that the Nayib had in reality no objection to his brother's trying the experiment of bullying us out of the one thousand dollars, while he should still profess to be our friend, and become a mediator in case of hostility. I learned that the threat of going to Arkeko terrified them beyond measure; so that whatever they meant, the result has been equally good. I warned them that a King's ship came every year to Mocha, and that, if an unprotected vessel should be injured, she would make them repent it. The Ascaris of Arkeko were gaining nothing by us, and therefore cared nothing for us; but there was hardly a family at Massowah who did not derive advantage from our stay, either by collecting shells, bringing fish, &c. for the ship, by labour, or by the presents of the gentlemen. They therefore took our part; and I am convinced that they would never willingly permit an Englishman to be injured.

The two little Abyssinians whom Captain Keys had purchased

at Massowah, and taken to Bombay, had been repurchased by the Government, and sent back by the Panther, to be returned to their native country, if the Nayib should desire it, as a proof that the British would not violate the laws, while in his dominions. On communicating these circumstances to the Nayib, he replied, that this could be settled at our first interview. Affairs took another turn, and the boys were left in our hands; at their own wish they were now entered on the ship's books, and instead of the slavish names of Sidi and Pompey, assumed the more Christian designations of George Habesh, and Harry Gondar. Christians they were born, but of the doctrines of Christianity, or indeed those of any other religion, they had no idea; I therefore placed them under Pierce, to teach them to read and pray.



## CHAPTER VI.

---

Observations on the Periplús.—Massowah Bay the Bay of Aduli.—Valentia Island, Orine.—Monsieur Gosselin's Theory erroneous.—Asseez, Ptolemais Theron.—Berenice in Foul Bay.—Departure from Massowah.—Arrival at Port Mornington and Wellesley's Islands.—Ras Asseez.—Bother'em Bay.—Arrival at Suakin.—Transactions with the Natives.—Departure from Suakin.



## CHAPTER VI.

THE true position of Myos Hormus, at the upper end of the Red Sea, being very doubtful, it seems to me that it would be a more clear method of ascertaining the places mentioned by the author of the *Periplûs*, to measure his distances from Aduli, which, I think, has been fixed near Massowah by Dr. Vincent, in a most incontrovertible manner.

I most fully agree with this able and learned elucidator of the *Periplûs*, that the ancient positions are much more accurately to be ascertained by existing circumstances, than by the astronomical observations, which were originally made with very imperfect instruments, and have come down to us with numerous errors and imperfections; and it is for this reason, that I consider the position of Aduli as ascertained; for not a circumstance is mentioned in the *Periplûs*, as belonging to it, which cannot be discovered in the Bay of Massowah. The Island of Diodôrus, which was separated from the main-land by so narrow a channel as to be fordable at low water, is easily referred to Toualout; while the Orine, to which the merchants retired, on their being plundered in their former residence by the Barbarians, is now satisfactorily ascertained to be Valentia Island, whose numerous hills well intitle it to its ancient name, whose distance of seventeen miles from the coast of Aduli accords with the two hundred stadia mentioned in the *Periplûs*, and whose embosomed situation in Annesley Bay, explains the hitherto in-

comprehensible description of the *Periplûs*, that the continent was adjacent to it on both sides; and the assertion of Cosmas, that it was but two miles distant from the mainland; an assertion that Dr. Vincent could not reconcile with the two hundred stadia of the *Periplûs*. The islands called Alalaiou, many in number, small and sandy, still remain a memorial of the accuracy of the original describer, and may be found in Captain Court's chart, surrounding the island of Dhalac. Were any additional evidence necessary to prove that Aduli was situated in the Bay of Massowah, a very strong presumptive argument might be drawn from the fact, that the great export trade of Abyssinia in ivory and rhinoceros' horns, and the imports in European and Indian articles, still continue to find their way through the same passes of the mountains to Massowah, and that the elephants still are, occasionally, but rarely, seen in the neighbourhood of Ras Gedam.

Since my return to England, I have been very much astonished by the singular theory which Monsieur Gosselin has advanced, in his *Recherches sur la Géographie des Anciens*, and by which he has carried the Bay of Aduli to Assab, where the whole coast is covered with low, sandy islands, and reefs of coral, without a single point of resemblance to the description of the *Periplûs*. M. Gosselin might have been aware that, as it was a journey of only eight days from Aduli to Axum, the latter place could never have been at Assab, a distance of above three hundred miles; neither was it probable that the Romans would have passed so excellent an harbour as Massowah, where a ready communication existed with their chief mart at Axum, by a journey of little more than one hundred miles, and proceed three hundred miles farther, by sea,

to a bad harbour, whence their land journey would also be extended to treble the distance.

The strange assertion of Monsieur Gosselin, that the author of the *Periplûs* reckoned only eight hundred stadia, from Aduli to the straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, has been properly taken notice of by Dr. Vincent. It is indeed difficult to conjecture what could have given rise to the mistake; a mistake, however, which became necessary, when his argument had carried Aduli to Assab, which is within fifty miles of the Straits.

Dr. Vincent conceives that it was the difference of one hundred and twenty-one miles between the distances of seven thousand stadia or seven hundred miles, as given in the *Periplûs*, and the real distance of five hundred and seventy-nine miles from Berenice to Aduli, that induced Monsieur Gosselin to carry the latter to Assab; and he himself seems to feel a difficulty in reconciling them. It however appears to me, that this may be done by admitting that an Egyptian merchant used Egyptian stadia, and that he calculated the distances from the difference of latitude alone, without bringing to account the longitude, which was run down at the same time, as I think will appear by the following calculations.

From Aduli to Ptolemais Theron is 3000 stadia;

From Ptolemais Theron to Berenice 4000 stadia;

which, at the Egyptian stadium of fifteen to a mile, will make the distance from Aduli to Ptolemais Theron two hundred miles; from Ptolemais Theron to Berenice two hundred and sixty-six miles.

If therefore Aduli be in  $15^{\circ} 36'$ ,

Ptolemais Theron will be  $18^{\circ} 56'$ ,

And Berenice -  $23^{\circ} 22'$ .



The position of Berenice has been laid down from local circumstances with as much certainty as that of Aduli. It is described by Strabo as situated in the bottom of a bay, which, on account of its numerous shoals and rocks, had been designated ἀκάθαρτος, immundus, and, as being at the extremity of the Thebais or Upper Egypt. The latter observation limits our conjectures to within  $23^{\circ} 30'$  and  $24^{\circ}$ , and the former fixes us in the bottom of a bay which has preserved its name, and among modern navigators is called Foul Bay.

According to D'Anville this is in  $23^{\circ} 15'$ .

———— Gosselin - -  $23^{\circ} 28'$ .

———— an English chart  $23^{\circ} 19'$ .

Though the distances in the Periplus deserve a greater degree of credit than usual from their being given in words at full length, instead of figures, yet I cannot receive them without some degree of caution, from their being evidently given in round numbers, without any fractional parts, and from a knowledge of the difficulty of measuring distances at sea, without a nicer degree of observation than was probably employed by Egyptian merchants, or is now used by those of our own nation.

I should therefore consider the relative distances between Aduli, Berenice, and Ptolemais Theron, as a more certain guide to the discovery of the latter. The whole distance is five hundred and seventy-nine miles, three sevenths of which, or two hundred forty-six miles, if measured from Aduli on the chart, will exactly reach a peninsula in latitude  $18^{\circ} 24'$ , of which I shall hereafter have occasion to speak, and where the more valuable data of local circumstances seem to point out the Ptolemais Theron of the Periplus.

I am well aware that it is impossible to reconcile this conclusion

with the positive assertion of the ancients, that Ptolemais Theron was in the same parallel as Meroe; but I have before observed, that little credit can be given to the accuracy of their admeasurements; and I feel less alarm in differing from them, and in my placing Ptolemais Theron where I have done, from having the sanction of D'Anville, who has, in defiance of all difficulties, conjectured that it lay between  $18^{\circ}$  and  $18^{\circ} 30' N$ .

---

We kept about ten miles distant from the shore, which, as we sailed along with a land breeze from the N. W. and afterwards with the sea breeze N. E. by E. appeared low, sandy, and without trees, but was backed by lofty mountains covered with clouds, the soundings gradually deepening from eleven to thirty-five fathom, the bottom mud the whole way. The course of the shore was nearly N. then N. by W. To the eastward was a chain of low islands, with doom-trees on them, distant about five or six miles, leaving a noble and clear channel of fifteen miles. On two of these the pilot informed us that water and goats could be procured. The sea was as smooth as glass. The pilot said we might go on all night, and run in as close as six fathom with safety; as, however, it was our wish to examine the whole coast, we determined to anchor, and about seven steered W. right in for the coast. We were astonished, when in twenty-two fathom, with the white appearance of breakers; when the Captain immediately let go the anchor. The pilots declared that it was only fish, and so it proved; for, soon afterwards, it approached and passed under the vessel. It is singular, that the same circumstance should have been observed by Don Juan de Castro, and should have had the same effect, of inducing him to let go his anchor. He does not account for it, because it happened in the

night, but he mentions, that it cast flames like fire ; which confirms the conjecture, that the brilliant appearance of the sea is owing to fish-spawn and animalcula. Don Juan passed this spot on the 20th of February, one month later than I did, but the spawning may probably continue for that period. It was nearly calm the whole night, so that we lost but little by anchoring.

January 22.—We were under sail as soon as Captain Court had taken a set of bearings. The breezes were light, and there was a tide against us. The coast was low, with the lofty mountains at a distance ; between them and the sea were occasionally hillocks, some of which might have been thought hills, had it not been for their more lofty neighbours. The coast still kept a northerly direction with very little westing ; in sixty miles N. only seventeen west. The soundings as usual, and the chain of islands to the eastward, low, with a few trees, that often had the appearance of ships under sail. We anchored in seven fathom, with a good bottom. About half a mile nearer was a chain of madrapore rocks, with four fathom and a half on them, as Mr. Hardy reported, who was sent with our boat to examine it. A little to the southward was a small port, called by the pilot Mirsa Mombarrick : two dows were in it ; a small island is at the entrance. Our pilots say there is no village, but that the natives come down from a little way inland, and that there are water and provisions. A calm, as usual, at night.

January 23.—In the morning I perceived that, immediately on the beach, the whole way we could see, was a strip of bright verdure, though beyond it, all was as barren as usual. The boat was out early to examine the reef. We weighed at seven, but it soon fell calm, and obliged us again to come to an anchor. The boat was sent again to survey the beach beyond the reef. The officers



reported it was hard sand, and it shoaled to two fathom water within half a mile of the shore, when the rocks again began. They were followed by a great number of sharks, some very large. They brought a branch of the tree, which proves to be Mr. Bruce's Rack; it had fruit on it, which Mr. Salt drew. The breeze sprang up about eleven; but our boat was not back till twelve, when we weighed. We again anchored at night, after having made twenty-seven miles, with a strong sea breeze. There was some swell from the N. E. probably owing to the sea being open to the main channel, where the monsoon prevails in all its force. At least there are now no islands in sight to the eastward from the mast head. The coast has changed its appearance; the smaller range of hills are near to the shore. The soundings were to-day irregular, but there was always plenty of water.

January 24.—The sea breeze sprang up earlier, and we were under sail by nine. Our friend Unus Barilla brought us some very fine fish. Inland we could distinguish large groves of trees, and others to the north, on the sea shore. These the pilot says are doom-trees, and that there are also great quantities of the common mimosa. He describes the country as inhabited by Bedowee, and as being a part of the sovereign of Sennaar's dominions. Lions, panthers, and elephants are in great numbers; this may therefore be considered as a part of the great forest, from which Ptolemy Philadelphus procured the latter mentioned animals, and for the convenience of hunting in which, he established the port of Ptolemais Theron. We were at twelve o'clock in latitude  $17^{\circ} 12'$ , where Mr. Bruce has placed a deep bay, near which, on the projecting point of a headland, Dr. Vincent conjectures Ptolemais Theron was built. I watched

the coast as we passed along, and can positively assert that it was, as usual, low, and free from headlands, without a single projection that could justify Mr. Bruce's chart, or give weight to the consequent conjecture of Dr. Vincent. Towards evening the coast began to run off more to the west, and the soundings were very irregular, from nineteen to thirty-six fathom in a cast, with a bottom, sometimes of mud, and sometimes of coral rock. The swell was greater, and from the S.E. in the same direction as the monsoon on the opposite shore. We anchored about eight in thirteen fathom, mud, but rocky near us. Lest we should drive, we let go our best bower anchor.

January 25.—It rained a short time in the morning, when we were within two miles of the shore, which began to have a bolder appearance. The hillocks were near the shore; beyond them a number of detached conical mountains; and in the back ground the same lofty range that had been constantly visible. On one of the hillocks was a small white Mussulmaun tomb; another was visible seven miles north, close to the sea. Our pilot said they were Turkish, but that at present no inhabitants were there. He called it Mundalow. I did not wish to examine it, as the buildings were evidently modern. On the tops of some of the other hillocks were protuberances, which were either watch-towers in ruins, or rocks; which at our distance it was impossible to distinguish. At ten a remarkable range of hills was in sight, making four pointed tops. At eleven it was clearly seen, N. 55° W. over a low point of land, covered with trees. At half after eleven another tomb was visible on the shore, the skirting of trees having ended. Near the land were several reefs. At twelve the wood again began. The hills abovementioned ended in a very conspicuous point, off which was

a detached sugar-loaf hill, and no high land visible to the northward. The northernmost extremity of the land, the pilots say, is a Ras; but as they have changed the name several times, I shall not record it. We had during the day a brisk monsoon at S. S. E. which carried us at the rate of seven knots an hour, with a heavy following swell. By five we came to an anchor in eight fathom, mud and sand, in a very fine bay, among a cluster of low islands. We had excellent soundings the whole way in, after we had passed the low point of land abovementioned, which is called Aveed, and off which ran a reef about three miles, in a N. E. direction. It forms the south-eastern point of a bay that seems full of shoals, the N. W. side of which is formed by the islands among which we anchored. Here the Assaye led the way; and as we approached the shore, Mr. Maxfield hailed, and told us that his pilots said there was no passage with safety. Our pilots denied this, and went on. There are several passages leading to land-locked bays, from the bay we are in. Many dows were on the outside, when we came in sight, which fled immediately into one of the inner bays, whither I believe our pilot meant to conduct us, had not the point been too far to windward.

January 26.—Very early in the morning many of the dows got out, and passed close by us, having, I suppose, recovered from their fright. Our cutter went off with Abdallah and the pilot to make our compliments to the Dola, and invite him on board; he had also directions to purchase for us fowls, eggs, and any other articles of provision, and to learn what he could respecting the place. He did not return till twelve, when the Dola came with him, a Bedowee; the Sub-dola, a decent well-dressed Arab; and the Sheik,



a respectable old Bedowee, with the curls of his hair incrustated with fat, who brought me a present of three fowls. Their coming at once on board, without any scruple or fear, gave me a favourable impression of their own upright intentions, and showed a strong degree of confidence in us, and a liberal judgment of our motives for visiting this unfrequented shore. No European ship has been here since the time of the Portuguese. We gave them coffee to drink, a present of tobacco, and a frassell of raw coffee. Captain Court obtained from them the names of the hills in sight, and of some of the islands. There are several of these, each under a separate Sheik, but all under a Dola, who is sent from Suakin, not from Massowah, as we were there given to understand. Badour is the name of the village where the Dola resides; it is a miserable little place, one small mosque being the only stone building; the rest are grass huts. It is on a small island, close to the water. There is no trade, except an export of ghee, and some tortoise shell. The dows now come this way from Suakin, Jidda, and Massowah, from fear of the Wahabee. We saw a large drove of cattle on the shore, and learned that there were plenty, as there must be when ghee becomes an article of exportation; but these unfortunately belonged to a Sheik who was absent, and were therefore not to be procured. Our civil Sheik, who visited us, had his cattle at some short distance; we were consequently obliged to wait till next day. Sheep are also in abundance, and poultry: the prices demanded were, however, high; for a bullock they asked seven dollars, but came down to five; fowls were only eight for a dollar; sheep were more reasonable, a fine fat one being procurable for a dollar. We got some eggs in return for a little tobacco. I should, however, observe, that the

Dola said money was little known here, and that Surat cloth would be much more valuable. Unfortunately they chose none but white, and we, on the credit of Mr. Bruce, had laid in blue. We asked what quantity of white cloth would procure a bullock. He said two pieces, which are each worth only a dollar. Had we therefore been in possession of this article, we should have purchased every thing reasonably. There is not a fisherman on the island, and they say, there are no fish near it; a singular fact, which seems corroborated by the bad success of our people, who have hitherto caught only one. Captain Court lost no time in sending Mr. Maxfield with the *Assaye* into the harbour, directing him to begin the survey of it, and, for the sake of expedition, allowed Mr. Crawford to accompany him.

January 27.—Mr. Salt went on board the *Assaye* to take views, Captain Court went on the shore nearest to us to measure a base. I was unfortunately confined to the ship by a return of fever, though the fit was not very severe.

January 29.—On the 28th and 29th Captain Court and Mr. Maxfield were actively employed in completing the survey of the harbour, and surrounding land, while Mr. Salt made an accurate drawing of the hills; which, after having from Massowah kept at a distance from the coast, here approach the sea, and rising one above the other, as they retire inland, form a mass of a most irregular outline. The islands which form the north-eastern side of the harbour, and the peninsula which protects it on the north-western side, are chiefly of madrapore rocks. The head land, formed by the peninsula and islands, is by the natives called Ras Akeek; but they use the word generally, without applying it to any particular spot.

It is the Ras Ahebaz of D'Anville. The only entrance for large vessels is at the northern extremity of the harbour, though dows enter at the southern. The passage is rather narrow, but the whole navy of Europe might lie within as in a bason, protected from every wind, in from five to seven fathom, with a bottom free from every danger. The town, which is situated on a larger island within the harbour than any of those that protect it from the sea, is a still more wretched place than Dhalac-el-Kibeer. Water is to be had, which, though not very good, is equal to that at Mocha; and our eyes convinced us that fresh provision might have been obtained, had we possessed the articles necessary for barter.

The harbour itself I immediately determined to name after the Governor-General of India, through whose assistance alone I had been able to pursue my plan of ascertaining the real situation of this unknown part of the coast; I therefore named it Port Mornington, and the islands, which form its barrier against the waves to the north-eastward, Wellesley's Islands. The bay in which we anchored we called Panther Bay.

When it is considered that Port Mornington lies on a most dangerous coast, off which are numerous shoals, low islands, and rocks that render the navigation dangerous, the discovery of it must be allowed to be of great importance. As high as  $17^{\circ}$  north it appears from the Portuguese, and Sir Home Popham's chart, that the range of coral rocks and sand banks, which run to the eastward of Dhalac, are not at an end; but beyond that degree the sea appears open till  $19^{\circ}$  north, where the shoals again commence. Port Mornington is therefore accessible without danger at any season of the year, and will afford to any ships not only a secure



asylum, but a supply of water and fresh provisions. I cannot help expressing my astonishment, that, during the continuance of our fleet in this sea, no attempt was made to examine a coast which offered no impediment, and where the Victor's track had plainly demonstrated that a safe passage existed among the islands.

The neglect with which all ancient authors have passed over this, though the best harbour in the Red Sea, is so extraordinary that I know not how to account for it. It is certainly very near the place where the Astaboras is said by Strabo, to mingle a small proportion of its waters with the sea, but from the most accurate inquiries we could trace no vestige of any such circumstance; nor is it probable, that a stream could make its way through the lofty chain of mountains which binds the western shore of the Red Sea. I think that Wellesley's Islands are the six Latomian islands of Strabo, and possibly the harbour itself may be the Sabaiticon Stoma of the same author, since in his description they immediately follow Ptolemais Theron.

On our first arrival we were assured, that no trade was carried on here; but this appeared to be so contradictory to the fact of a great number of dows resorting to it, that we determined to be more particular in our inquiries. We soon perceived that the boats belonging to the dows left their vessels early every morning, went to the main land, and returned at night; but we could discover nothing large that they either took with them, or brought back. At length an old Naqueda paid Mr. Maxfield a visit, and produced a certificate from Admiral Blanket, that he had been employed by him. This led to a more intimate acquaintance, and a more free conversation, but on the subject of trade it was difficult to

get any answer from him. On being asked what so many dows did there, he said they were all Wahabee. On Captain Court's objecting to this, and saying, that they would then have molested him; he only replied, "God is great!" On being pressed, he owned that there was a trade carried on with the Bedowee, and that it was intirely by barter. I know tortoise-shell is obtained here, and I should suspect that gold is the chief article received in return for India goods. Mr. Maxfield wished to go to the main land, but the Naqueda advised him on no account to do so without a guard, as there were several wandering tribes of Arabs in the vicinity. I wished to stay long enough to conciliate them, and open a communication; but this was impossible; and I therefore did not permit Mr. Maxfield to hazard the inconveniences that might attend such an expedition.

January 29.—Our people yesterday liberated Port Mornington from the opprobrium of having no fish in it, for, with a net, they caught an abundance. I have been less fortunate in my conchological pursuits, not having procured a single shell during my stay. The Assaye came out of the harbour early in the morning, and soon after twelve we were under weigh, with a moderate breeze. Immediately on clearing the peninsula we saw three small islands, but the main land retired and formed a deep bay. Our course lay W.N.W. the coast here running off much more westward than usual.

About four o'clock we came up with a headland, which ran a long way into the sea, and which the pilot called Ras Asseez. It at first appeared as an island, from the lowness of the spit of sand which united it to the continent. As I had been induced by

D'Anville's arguments to suppose that Ptolemais Theron lay somewhere near the latitude we now were in, I inquired of the pilot whether he had ever been on shore there, and he assured me he had, but that there were no inhabitants, though the Parsees once possessed the place, and that there was one large tank still remaining. He also said, that though it was not an island, yet that it was cut off from the main land by a ditch, which, at high water, was sometimes nearly full. These circumstances so strongly convinced me that this was Ptolemais Theron, that I should have stopped and landed, had not the vessel, during the time we were conversing, past it for some way. Captain Court was however particularly careful in taking its bearings, that its shape might be correctly laid down.

Asseez is in  $18^{\circ} 24'$  N. lat. and in  $38^{\circ} 18'$ , long. east of Greenwich, and therefore its position agrees with that I have attributed to Ptolemais Theron, in the beginning of this Chapter. I consider, however, the circumstances I have mentioned as forming a much stronger proof of its actually being that place; and I can venture to assert, that no other place exists on the whole coast that will answer the description given us by the ancients, which in many respects is more minute than usual. The peninsula of Port Mornington could alone create a doubt, as it is in nearly the same latitude, and at a distance of only seventeen miles; but this peninsula is much more uniformly elevated above the sea, and has even rocks, which would have been a work of infinite labour to cut through, and could not have been done privately, as we are informed by Strabo the works of Eumedes were executed at Ptolemais Theron. It is also ascertained from the *Periplus*, that the settlement of Ptolemy was not a port, and was only approachable by boats, a circumstance that is still the



case at Asseez, but which is contrary to fact at Port Mornington. It seems probable to me that Ptolemy would fix his station for hunting elephants, not at the farthest extremity of the Shumeta or Nubian forest, where elephants were procurable, but at the place nearest to his own dominions, within the limits of the forest; and this would certainly be at Asseez, which gave him an opportunity of hastily, and privately, securing his settlement from any hostile assaults of the people, among whom he was settling himself without their consent. This might indeed induce him to prefer Asseez to Port Mornington; but that he should pass so fine a harbour to go down still further on the coast to a more inconvenient position, seems to be improbable. Port Mornington may have afforded protection to his vessels, though the military station was at Asseez: and it is not impossible, that the latter place may have afforded facilities of embarking the elephants, which the former did not.

Our pilots mentioned as a fact that Cushtan, the district most abounding in elephants, was directly behind Asseez, which, if true, (and as they could not possibly conjecture what answers I wished them to make to my questions, I think there is no reason to doubt it) affords a very sufficient argument why Ptolemy fixed his hunting station there in preference to any other place. I have only to add, that he could not do it much higher up, as they are never seen at Suakin. Asseez is, undoubtedly, the long point of sand which is mentioned by Don Juan de Castro, and is laid down by him in  $18^{\circ} 30'$ , a trifling error in latitude. It is a singular circumstance, that Pliny states Ptolemais Theron as being five days sail from Aduli, and we were exactly that period in reaching Port Mornington, and

might have easily gone on to Asseez. The ancients probably anchored every night as we did. We anchored as soon as it was dark in ten fathom, mud.

January 30.—As soon as Captain Court had taken his observations we set sail. By ten Ras Howie was in sight. Here a very fine bay opened between it and the main. The Ras is a low spit of sand, partly above water; beyond was a chain of islands. The wind was from the north of east, and without tacking we could not weather it. Our pilots much wished us to anchor, and wait for a fair wind, as, they said, there was no anchoring ground after we left this, till we reached Suakin, which we could not do in one day, unless we sailed early in the morning. We, however, remonstrated, and asked if we could not go within the chain of sands and islands. They both said they could not venture to take the ship, as, in one part, there was not above two fathom and a half of water. We then persuaded them to let us tack, and weather the point. This was agreed to; and by twelve we tacked back, being sufficiently to windward. Here we crossed the Assaye. Mr. Maxfield hailed us to say, that his pilot assured him the passage was very safe, having fine anchorage the whole way, and three fathom and a half in the deepest part; that on the outside of the island there was no anchorage, but deep water; that it was impossible to reach Suakin by night; and that even a whole day would hardly be sufficient. On this Captain Court replied, that in consideration of the anchorage he would try the passage; and directed Mr. Maxfield to go ahead, and sound.

Mr. Maxfield had received signals for the purpose of communicating to us every occurrence, such as what water he found, any approaching, or any actual danger: we sailed accordingly for

nearly two hours in a most noble passage, which gradually narrowed and shoaled. Mr. Maxfield made no signal, and we went on till we were in four fathom, when we made a signal to him to inform us in what water he was; but before he could answer we were in three fathom, with islands close to us on each side. No signal appeared from the Assaye, but we perceived that, on a sudden, all her sails were lowered in evident confusion. We were ourselves in but two and a half fathom, and therefore, as soon as we had cleared one of the islands, let go our anchor. The ship instantly swung round against a rock, with only one and a half fathom, and there struck. At this moment our dow, which had been crowding all sail behind us, came up, and Unus leaped overboard and came to us. He then dived, and ascertained the situation of the vessel's bottom, and of the anchor. Our boats sounded around, and we found that we were in a cul-de-sac, with rocks in every direction, even that in which we entered. To add to our alarm, it was apparently high water, and how much the tide might fall we knew not. The only thing in our favour was the perfect smoothness of this salt water lake, which no wind could possibly ruffle. The Captai<sup>n</sup> was active and collected. He instantly began to lighten the vessel by pumping out the salt water which was in the casks; Unus brought his dow along side to take in our guns; our yards and top masts were lowered, and an anchor was carried astern to warp us out. At the earnest request of Captain Court, I and the other gentlemen removed to the Assaye, that he might be more at liberty. My European and other servants staid on board, and assisted the ship's company.

To our good fortune, the tide did not fall quite a foot; the wind



was light ; the ship was therefore perfectly manageable, and wore round as she was towed. She with great difficulty cleared another rock ; but by four, I had the satisfaction to be hailed, and told that she was safe in a quarter less two fathom, being more than she now drew. By night she was warped further out, and safely anchored in two and a half fathom. I returned at seven to the Panther. Mr. Maxfield had our boats to bring him close to us. Our crew, the Captain assured me, had acted wonderfully well, much better than he could have expected ; but of *Unus Barilla* he spoke in the highest terms of praise. He had rendered every personal service, with a cordiality and friendship that surprised him. He had, without scruple, received the loaded cannon on board his dory, and had come to cook his provisions in ours. He had headed the workmen, had cheered them with singing, and had put up a prayer of thanksgiving when we were in safety. He, in consequence, obtained handsome presents from me, Captain Court, and Captain Rudland. To him in a great measure the safety of the vessel was owing, although probably she might have been saved by sending the guns to the island. This, however, would have been a work of time as well as difficulty, for the water round the island was shallow.

January 31.—Very early in the morning we began our warping, and brought the vessel free of all danger. We then sent off Mr. Maxfield to examine a passage, which all the pilots declared to be the true one, but which Mr. Maxfield's pilot had quitted for the cul-de-sac, where we had so nearly been lost. Mr. Salt visited the island near which we grounded : he procured a species of *Orobancha*, with a very large yellow bloom, a *Stapelia*, a *Commelina*, and a syngenesious plant that eat well as a salad. Several grasses

also grew there. It was singular to find such a variety of plants on a little spot of arid sand. A curious nest, three or four feet in diameter, composed of sticks and madrapore, was found on the ground; it belongs to a very large species of bird that was seen by my servant on another island. Four large eggs were brought me of a fine blue colour.

February 1.—Mr. Maxfield on his return informed us, that the passage for a very considerable distance was good, with from seven to ten fathom; we therefore determined to try it. The wind continued to the N. of E. which made tacking necessary; we, however, got into the true channel before night, and anchored in good ground. The mountains were visible in the evening, which here again come near to the shore. The hills above Suakin were pointed out to us by the pilots.

February 2.—We were under weigh about seven; the wind was fresh from the N. E. so that we could only just lie our course; the sea was perfectly smooth, and it rained a little. The channel was extremely narrow, in some parts not more than a cable's length from shoal to shoal. Mr. Maxfield kept ahead, making signals of eight and ten fathom. About five miles from our anchoring ground we bore up round a point of sand. Unus Barilla had gone on, and sagaciously anchored his dow at the entrance of the narrows, where there is said to be only three fathom: we could not however reach him for the wind; and the pilots determined to keep on for another passage ahead, Mr. Maxfield still leading. He soon came to an anchor, as we did instantly, and when he bore up for us, we learned, that though he was in ten fathom, he found the passage so narrow that he did not like to enter it. It was fortunate he came up to us, for though

his anchor had been down not more than a quarter of an hour, yet it was nearly worn through by the rocks, while we were in strong clay. We now determined to send the boats to examine the passage to windward: Mr. Hardy went in the cutter, Mr. Maxfield in the dow. When they returned, their reports were rather favourable; but as they penetrated only about five miles to windward, and the pilots were positive they could not take the vessel through, with the wind that now blew, and as they said it might continue these twenty days, we were for some time uncertain how to act. We were unwilling to return to Ras Howie, and beat round the outside of the shoals, as we should leave it undecided whether a passage existed within them or not; yet to stay here was impracticable, as we were pressed for time, and had only twenty days water on board. At length Mr. Hardy proposed that he should go off with the dow and cutter, and ascertain the passage the whole way to Suakin. This was approved, and we beat up to the windward extremity of the land-locked harbour, in which we were lying, and which, had it proper and safe entrances, would be one of the finest in the world, being in size about six miles every way, with generally ten fathom, and a good bottom. The passage is, however, unfortunately so complicated, and the sand islands are so alike, that no ship could venture through it without a pilot. We passed right over one shoal not many yards wide, on which there was only three fathom, and another of the same size, which had five. The sea was as smooth as glass, and the weather fine with us; but it rained hard over the lofty mountains of Africa, which, according to Mr. Bruce and D'Anville are of porphyry. I do not know what authority either had for the assertion.



February 3.—Mr. Hardy was gone by four: we saw him quit the large passage, and enter the smaller, which had a bad appearance. The wind has got round to the southward, so it is to be hoped he will find a passage somewhere, as we should have considerable difficulty in beating back to Howie. Mr. Maxfield came on board to breakfast, and informed us that the Assaye had sprung a leak, and made six inches of water in an hour.

February 5.—Mr. Hardy returned in the evening, and reported that he had found no passage through which the Panther could possibly be taken. He had been at Suakin, and had seen the Turkish Dola, from whom he brought as presents to me two bullocks, ten sheep, ten fowls, and a basket of vegetables, which were most acceptable, as our live stock was reduced to a few fowls. A Dola of the Bedowee also resides there, who was considerably alarmed at the report of an English ship's coming, under an idea that she meant to attack the island. He therefore proposed to seize the boat and crew. This indeed would have been a more difficult matter than he supposed, as the seven sailors with Mr. Hardy had musquets and plenty of ball cartridge. The Turkish Dola, however, prevented any thing unpleasant. He assured the Bedowee that he knew the English well, that he had frequently seen their ships at Jidda, and that they never did any harm to any one. They, however, were still uneasy, and said, the English never came before, why should they do so now? At length they swore Unus on the Koran, that all the people in the Panther were good people, and meant no harm to Suakin. This he did willingly, and instantly all was friendship. Mr. Hardy stated our situation, and the Dola sent us two pilots to bring us clear of the dangers. He sent a very

civil message to me, that he would prepare a house for me on shore, and would fire every gun he had in compliment to me, as he knew that the English and the Sultaun of Rome were always friends. They confirm the circumstance of Jidda being besieged, which accounts for their civility. I think, however, that a little caution is necessary. My servant went to look for shells; he procured a few, and one most beautiful fish.

February 6.—During the night two of the Lascars ran away with the jolly boat; they took with them the sails and rudder of the cutter, which, to prevent pursuit, they also cut adrift. Most fortunately it was not far off, and was soon secured by Mr. Maxfield's small boat. The fellows were out of sight from the mast head. We sent Unus direct to Suakin to represent the circumstance, and offer a reward for the boat, which is a serious loss. Our new pilots are most respectable men, and as Mr. Hardy declared that they were perfectly acquainted with every shoal they passed, we had sufficient confidence in them to return by a new route. An island and a shoal formed in one place a very narrow passage, which we had to work through right in the wind's eye, but fortunately we cleared it. The rest of the passage was broad enough for the ship to work tolerably well. It was far preferable to the one we entered by. The pilots expressed their astonishment at any body's having been able to bring a vessel like the Panther into such a place, where a large dow could hardly enter with safety. In the time of the Egyptian trade, this port seems to have been as little known as Port Mornington: it may, however, be the Euangelion Limen of Ptolemy; but without some better authority than his tables, it would be absurd to speak positively on the subject. Don Juan de Castro passed through

the bay, and by the narrow passage, which Mr. Hardy examined in going in the cutter to Suakin. His Marate and Shaback may be sought for in vain, among the windings and mazes of this singular harbour, which presents on the chart such a mass of confusion, that at my particular request Captain Court called it Bother'em Bay. The weather was fine, the wind light, and the sea as smooth as glass: we had eight, nine, and ten fathom till we got into the channel by which we had entered, at about three o'clock, and soon afterwards we came to an anchor.

February 7.—We weighed anchor about six, with a favourable wind to quit the straits, but directly contrary when we had to bear up for Suakin. We continued to tack till three o'clock, when we came to an anchor about four miles E. by N. of Ras Howie, in eleven fathoms, mud and sand: we did this from the goodness of the bottom, lest we should be obliged to let go in a worse, for the wind was fresh, with a considerable degree of swell. We had overfalls during the day, but never less than five fathom. It rained in the evening.

February 8.—It blew so fresh, with rain, that we could not attempt to stir, the wind being right in our teeth. Mr. Maxfield's cable parted; we sent our cutter to heave the anchor by the buoy, but the rope was so rotten that it immediately broke. He let go two small anchors, but they would not hold; we were therefore obliged to give him a hawser, and let him hang to our stern. It moderated in the afternoon, after several heavy showers, when the swell went gradually down, till at night it was perfectly calm.

February 9.—It was nearly calm, but we weighed at daylight in hopes of a fair wind. It freshened gradually till one, when we



were nearly opposite two islands, which the pilot named something so like Hurroo Riot, that I could not help being amused with the resemblance. These islands, they said, were half way from our anchoring ground, yet we had not made above nine miles, and we understood Suakin was a good day's run. There is here good anchorage, and they wanted us to stop; but as there was a favourable breeze, we represented to them the probability of our reaching Suakin, to which they acceded. The clouds hung over the high hills, and perfectly concealed them from our view during the greater part of the day; the pilots therefore were very anxious to come to an anchor about four o'clock, with which we complied, as the water was gradually deepening. We had a good bottom in twenty-four fathom; the Assaye was fastened to us.

February 10.—At seven we weighed anchor, and made sail with a light air from the southward. We passed between some islands, and found good soundings, but with overfalls at very short distances; the water as smooth as glass. We were, in fact, sailing in a channel, formed by a reef and a chain of sand banks; there were also shoals between us and the shore. We were not a little surprised to find excellent anchoring ground within six miles of Suakin, when the water became too deep. We went too quick to get soundings till off the entrance of the passage, which is not sixty fathom wide, but leads to a wider reach, where the pilots insisted on our casting anchor, though at above a mile distance from the town. As they confessed that they had received orders to do it from the Dola, we submitted, and let go an anchor in sixteen fathom, the deepest part of the land-locked bason being nineteen fathom, perfectly free from rock. A small fort was building on a little island to the northward.

We sent Abdallah in the evening with compliments to the two Dolas.

February 11.—In the night a strong gale came on from the north-westward, and overset our anchor into the deepest water. It however struck there, and held us at a few yards distance from the S. easternmost shoal, in not a very pleasant situation. Captain Court and I were both on deck, and I was just returning to my cot when we saw a boat coming down the harbour. It nearly ran foul of us; on being hailed, Abdallah answered, and we found that he had brought us off a bullock as a present from the Dola, and numerous compliments. It blew very fresh all night, and the sea beat very heavy on the outside of the reef and shoal. In the morning the haze was so great, we could hardly distinguish the town; the mountains were perfectly covered.

Two boats came to us at breakfast; one with the pilots; the other contained the son of the Bedowee Dola, who brought a present of sheep and vegetables. This visit gave me great pleasure, as it proved a total change of opinion in our favour, and showed a great confidence in our hospitality, as his father had been the person who proposed detaining Mr. Hardy and the boat's crew. He was a good-looking young man, and handsomely dressed. He assured us of every assistance from his father, who was, he said, the chief of the most considerable tribe of Bedowee in the vicinity. He informed me, that the letter I brought from the Nayib of Massowah was for himself. It was immediately delivered. He read, or pretended to read it, and said it was very well. He sat down to breakfast, and used his spoon properly: he tasted the tea, and liked it very much. Abdallah returned with him to the shore, but

came back soon. He brought me word the Turkish Dola was very angry with the young Dola for having visited me first, who had pleaded, that he only came to get the Nayib's letter, which he had learned I had for him, from a Dow of the Nayib's, that had quitted Massowah since I did. The Turkish Dola sent me word not to receive presents from any body; that he was master here, and would supply the ship with every thing she wanted.

I had sent a message by the young Dola, that I intended to go on shore the next morning to visit the Chiefs, but the Turkish Dola now sent word by Abdallah, that he desired I would not; that the people would all be wanting to give me presents, and to obtain others in return; seeking under that pretence to sell their articles at a higher price than they would otherwise bring; but that he would himself pay me a visit in the evening. I suspected the fact was, that he wished to secure all the presents himself. At night another message came off, that the Bedowee Dola had insisted on coming with him, and that therefore he would not come; but if I chose to pay him a visit on shore, he should be happy to see me. I sent word I certainly would. We gave a salute to the town of three guns in the morning, which was returned. I, Mr. Salt, and Captain Rudland went on the little island. We found no shells. A *Salicornia*, a *Statice*, and a species of grass, were the only plants. A few fishermen were at the fort. We procured some fine mullets for a handful of tobacco. The wind was very unpleasant all day, but our anchor held fast. We got several boat-loads of stone from the vicinity of the fort, which we distributed in the hold as additional ballast.

February 12.—The Bedowee Dola's son, Emir Mohammed, came off early in the morning to attend me on shore, and brought us two



bullocks as a present from his uncle, who, (and not his father, as I before understood,) is Emir of the Chief Bedowee tribe in the neighbourhood. Captain Rudland, Mr. Salt, and myself, wore Asiatic dresses; Captain Court was in his uniform. We departed soon after breakfast, under a salute of seventeen guns. On landing, one gun was fired, which shook the mortar from the gateway under which we were passing. Two Janisaries in decent red dresses conducted us to a little plain room, at the upper end of which was placed a common couch of the country, covered with a carpet and two cushions; on the right of this were three chairs, a fourth was soon brought. Opposite was a low stone bench covered with carpet; behind us was the same, both extending the whole length of the building. A reverend Arab of sixty, tall, and thin, was presented to us by Emir Mohammed, as his father. The usual compliments passed. After being seated a little time, the Turkish Dola entered, and making a general salaam, seated himself. We paid our compliments through Abdallah, and returned thanks for the pilots he had sent us, and the provisions. He said he was happy to assist the English, who were ever friends of the Sultaun of Rome. Coffee was brought, and nothing interesting passed, till I asked if he had any late news from Misr. He said, yes, very late. That all was now quiet there; that the Turks had got possession of the whole country, having an army of 60,000 men. That the English had entered the Port of Iscandaria with sixty vessels of different descriptions, and had landed soldiers there. He added, that the Beys were quiet, and that there were five Turkish Paçhas there. On asking about Jidda, he assured me that 10,000 Turks had liberated Mecca from the Wahabee, and were on their march to Jidda. Yambo also

was under a Turkish Pacha. I made many inquiries, if possible, to detect him in an error, but he answered so correctly as to induce us to believe the account, so far as related to a British force being at Alexandria, and Egypt's being quiet; two most important objects to us, as securing our safe passage through Egypt, and a speedy departure from Alexandria for Europe. It much increased our impatience to reach Cosseir.

After sitting an hour, sherbet, made with honey, was handed about. Afterwards a khelaut was put over my shoulders, which, to my great surprise, was of the most holy colour, green. Such a gift would never have been permitted in Turkey a few years ago. Even the wearing a bit of that colour would have been dangerous to a Christian. It was handsomely lined with ermine. I asked Emir Mahommed where these skins were procured: he said they were not of this country, but that the dresses were sent from Constantinople to be given on public occasions, and that the Dola brought them from Jidda. Captain Court, who sat next me, had a yellow khelaut, lined also with ermine, but old and discoloured. I was surprised at their being so good. The Dola was a dignified man, with good manners. He wore a scarlet cloth dress, lined with blue silk; his attendant officers were in similar dresses; and this uniformity gave an appearance of respectability to the little divan we were seated in. Around the room were hung sabres, matchlocks, European guns, and blunderbusses. Before our departure, he promised to come on board the Panther the next day. His servants escorted us to the water side, and kept off the crowd.

The town is nearly in ruins: two minars give it a handsome appearance at a distance, and the buildings, being white-washed, and

on an elevation, look much better than they really are. It covers the whole of a small island, as it did in the days of De Castro, but the extensive trade, which, according to his account, had rendered it superior to every city he had seen, except Lisbon, has nearly vanished, and instead of numerous ships, unloading their cargoes on every side of the island, into the houses of merchants, I could only perceive a few miserable dows anchored along side of a few wretched houses. The port however still retains all its advantages, and vessels larger than the Panther might anchor close to the island, where there is seven fathom. D'Anville's chart is accurate as to the outline, but he has erred greatly with respect to the depth of water, which is from fifteen to nineteen fathoms the whole way to the town. He has likewise been mistaken in the relative size of the two islands, which is nearly equal, and in its latitude, which, after the Portuguese, he has stated as  $19^{\circ} 20' N.$  instead of  $19^{\circ} 4' 8''$ .

I believe D'Anville is correct in his supposition, that this was the Soter Limen of Diodorus, the Theon Soter of Ptolemy, but I think it ill deserves the description he has given of it, as the safest *asylum* for navigators on this coast. The reefs and shoals that lie off it, in every direction, render an approach to it extremely dangerous, and the narrowness of the mouth makes it almost impracticable to enter it with any, but a leading wind. It is difficult to account for a narrow passage between two lines of coral rock having continued for so long a period free for vessels, without having been filled up, either by a sea constantly breaking on its mouth, after having passed over sand banks, or by the clouds of sand which at one season of the year are borne towards it from the desert. Since the Turks have ceased to have a fleet in the Red Sea, and have



sunk into political insignificance in Arabia, Suakin has been kept from total ruin only by the caravans, which still come annually from the interior of Africa, by Sennaar, to that place, in their way to Mecca. The town itself is all that belongs to the Sublime Porte, and their Dola, or Aga, dares not put his foot on the main land, which belongs to a powerful tribe of Bedowee, who take their name from the town, and call themselves Suakini. To them, as I have before observed, belongs the country around Port Mornington, and their influence must extend to Macowar, as Emir Mohammed has offered to send a man with us to that place, who, he says, will procure us provisions the whole way, but he at the same time warns us on no account to land ourselves. As we returned to the ship it blew fresh, but as the passage was marked out by buoys, fixed on the sand heads, we met with no accident; what a convenience it would be at Mocha, if the same precaution had been taken by the Government!

February 13.—The weather was much more moderate and cool. The Dola paid us an early visit, and was in high good humour, talking much of his friendship for the English, and claiming an acquaintance with Captain Court, whom, he said, he had seen at Jidda. This, though a mistake, was acquiesced in from prudential motives. I enquired how long he had been at Suakin. He replied, two years; that the appointment was annual, but that frequently the same person was allowed to stay ten years in office—I presume, if he contrives to bribe the Pacha at Jidda, in whose hands is the appointment. I learned from him, that the caravan will set off tomorrow for Sennaar, and will be about twenty-five days on the journey. He said all was quiet there, that the King was dead, and

no one had succeeded, but that the Vizier managed every thing. As he had several people with him, I again asked, if there was any river on any part of this coast. They all positively assured me that there was not, though there was plenty of fresh water at several places. I also enquired respecting ruins on the coast; particularly if any pillars existed: they equally denied knowledge of either; and the Bedowee declared, that if there were any they could not be ignorant of them. The Turkish Dola drank coffee; the old Bedowee eat some sweetmeats, but only just tasted the coffee.

Some of the followers had sat down on one of the couches. The Turk asked why I permitted it; I replied that I could not presume to give any orders to his people when he was by. He however did not order them to remove, nor do I think they would have obeyed; but he said laughing, "they are like the animals I send you on board, goats and sheep, ignorant and stupid, they know no better." He requested permission to have his hookah, which was granted. He declined sherbet, and after a visit of several hours said he wished to have his present, and take his leave. Abdallah put on him a shawl of gold tissue, which is worn as a scarf over the right shoulder, and under the left arm. I also presented him with a turban of the same materials. The Bedowee Dola had a scarf of an inferior quality. He took his leave in much good humour, and was saluted with three guns, as he was on his arrival. We had brought off several loads of stone from the island to use as ballast, but the Dola objected to this, saying he wanted it to finish the fort, as he wished to make the place strong against the Wahabee; the fact was, he wanted to be paid for them. We applied to the young Dola, Emir Mohammed, who said he would send us one thousand stones.





My servant killed a beautiful flamingo: the under feathers of the wing, black; the rest gradually shading from a fine scarlet to a pure white. It was four feet from the tip of the beak to the extremity of the toe, and about the same from wing's end to wing's end. Abdallah procured us from the town a good vegetable, a *Che-nopodium*, that tasted exactly like spinach. This, the *Hibiscus esculentus*, and green pumpkins, were all that were procurable.

The people themselves seem civil and good natured; none of them are armed: they wear a piece of white cloth wrapped round their middle, and thrown over the shoulder. In general their figures are very fine, and the expression of their countenances good. They are of a dark copper colour, their hair is somewhat woolly drawn out into points, and dressed with fat, occasionally powdered with red; a piece of wood is stuck through it, nearly horizontally, which they frequently use to disturb any animalcula that bite too hard. It is in shape like a porcupine's quill, and of course polished by the grease. They also use it to separate the hair into ringlets and turn it round the finger. Many had the long hair behind separated by a narrow shaved passage, from the front curly division, which was formed into an oval. They certainly are on the whole a well looking race of people. Their skins are perfectly clear from eruptions of any sort, but are much marked where actual cautery has been applied as a remedy for local disease. We saw great numbers during our stay, as every day strangers came off in the water-boat to view the ship. I have given an etching of a man, who was above six feet high, and had a most singular expression of countenance. The likeness is admirably preserved. It is impossible not to be struck by the resemblance between them and the South

Sea islanders, as drawn in Captain Cook's voyages. Their teeth, which are beautifully white and regular, they constantly clean with a piece of the rack-wood. They wear nothing on the head, which is sufficiently protected from the sun by the mass of wool and grease that covers it.

We get fifteen barrels of water a day, so that we shall be six days in completing our stock: it is good, and tolerably clear. They have both wells and tanks. Fish we buy in abundance and cheap; the mullets are particularly fine: our people are busy, or we might easily catch enough ourselves. Mr. Maxfield's pilot made his escape on shore. We had detained him lest he should breed any more mischief. I recollected that I had two letters given me by Devagé when I was coming hither in the *Antelope*. I looked them out, and sent them to the people, who immediately came off, and proved to be very respectable men; merchants of course. I learned from them that nothing was brought from the interior of Africa to this place, except slaves, horses, gold, and ivory: in which articles, however, a very considerable trade is carried on.

February 14.—Abdallah, who had been sent on shore for provisions, returned with the water-boat, which arrives regularly about eight. He brought me word, that there had been vehement disputes on shore; that Emir Mohammed told him, he had learned we gave five hundred dollars to the Nayib of Massowah, and that the Bedowee Emirs wanted to come off, with presents, and ask for the same sum. That both Unus and he had inquired whether this was in his letter, and defied him to produce it. He said, no, it was not, but he had been told so; no doubt by Mr. Maxfield's rascally pilot. They declared it was an absolute falshood; that the English

never gave presents of that sort, that they only came here for provisions, and would pay for what they got, but would receive no presents or make returns. The two Dolas and the Emir took our part, and the whole business was amicably adjusted. Three sheep were sent off, but Abdallah told me the Emir said they would be one dollar and a half each. This was evidently an imposition, though they were worth double the price of those we obtained at Massowah. One of the merchants to whom I had letters, was on board; I spoke to him, and he admitted the price was too high, for that a dollar was sufficient for the best, three-fourths for a middling one, and half a dollar for a small one. I said that, at that rate, I would buy for the crew; but if the other price was charged, I should not want half the quantity, as I should only buy for myself. He said, he was a friend of Emir Mohammed, and would speak to him. A brother of Emir Mohammed was on board, to consult Mr. Macgie, who also promised to do the same. Abdallah brought a message from the Emir, that his brother was that day to be married, and requested that when the town guns were fired, we would fire three, which was promised. He also requested a few pounds of sugar-candy, and two candles: the former we sent, the latter we could not spare. Abdallah went on shore. The boys went a shell-hunting on the reefs, and procured some very good ones. The wind varied much in the course of the day. It was once E. The weather was moderate and pleasant.

February 15.—The water-boat and Abdallah came off as usual. He brought two large sheep for a dollar each, and some vegetables, but not sufficient for the ship's company. On enquiring respecting grain, we learned that none was to be had here, except juwarry, and for a hundred weight of that they asked three dollars, no very



pleasant intelligence, as we were short of rice, and other articles; the cock-roaches having eaten much and wasted more. The weather, as usual; wind from the N. E. and N. W. We took on board more stones, having received the requisite permission, on paying seven dollars. I had a letter from the Dola, saying that the pilots who brought us in had in the first instance been promised thirty-five dollars. We had paid them twenty, with which they departed extremely well satisfied; this therefore was too barefaced an imposition to succeed. We laughed at the demand, and refused to pay it.

February 16. — The water came off at eight, and Abdallah brought two large sheep, and a request from the Dola, that we would give him some tobacco. We sent him ten pounds. Unus came off for his letter, and to take his leave, his bargain extending only to this place. We gave him from the Company thirty dollars for his exertions in saving the Panther when aground, with which he was the more delighted, as he had no expectations beyond the presents we had given him that night. We asked if he would hire himself to accompany us as far as Jibbel Macowar, to which place we meant to have pilots; their knowledge of the coast extending no further, as they there strike off for Jidda. He said he had no objection, but that he must consult his crew, who were only hired to Suakin. Many of the men of the water-boat had been very pressing every day for drams. This morning they again made their representations to me, through Abdallah. I told them, that I had been informed Mussulmauns did not drink any thing of that sort, and consequently had not provided myself with a sufficient stock; but that in future, now I had found out my mistake, I

would take care to have plenty. This excited a laugh against the petitioners, and their friends continued to ridicule them till they left the vessel. I should recommend to every person, who means to touch on this coast, to have spirits to spare: all soldiers drink publicly, and many others in private. I need not observe, that, to those who like it, no present is so acceptable. Common white cloth is another useful article for barter. Our tobacco has been of the greatest service, our sweetmeats have also been acceptable to all visitors. We sent Abdallah on shore to procure fowls, even at only four for a dollar, our stock of them being completely exhausted. It is a bad precedent, but they really seem to be scarce. At each place we were told there were plenty at the next, but, on our arrival, we only experienced disappointment. The air was pleasant and cool.

February 17.—The water came off, but Abdallah staid on shore. Mr. Maxfield sent and procured some ghee, and five hundred weight of juwarry, for thirteen dollars. The weather was cloudy, but moderate.

February 18.—It rained hard till ten, when the young Dola came off with several of his friends, and his sick brother, who was rather better. We had a long conversation about Jibbel Macowar, which by Bruce is placed in  $24^{\circ}$  N. and by others in  $21^{\circ}$  and a half. They talk of its being as far from hence as Massowah. We cannot ascertain precisely where it is, which we are anxious to do, that we may know what price to pay the pilot. The Emirs offered to hire us one on shore, but we thought it more advisable to have him sent to us, that we might make the bargain ourselves. Unus says, that his seven men ask eight dollars each to go, that he should want

something for himself, and to procure provisions. He will be satisfied with one hundred dollars, which, if Macowar is in  $24^{\circ}$ , is moderate, in comparison of the price from Mocha hither.

The young Dola is impatient that we should depart, as he will then go with the caravan to Sennaar, which only waits for his being at leisure. He informed me, that he had frequently been this journey, since his father had thought him old enough to have the care of the caravan. I asked him, if the Vizier continued to collect the revenue from the inhabitants of the southern country, as they passed up into the sands; he said he knew of no such thing. I made every possible inquiry, but in vain, he still persevering in his assertion, that no such thing ever took place. I made Abdallah translate to him Bruce's history of the Zimb or Tsaltsalya, but he positively asserted that he had never heard of the animal. As he was extremely free in his communications on every other subject, and had no motive for concealment on this, I cannot attribute to him a wanton and deliberate falsehood, merely because Mr. Bruce has asserted the contrary, on whose veracity, I confess, I have lost all dependence. These declarations of Emir Mohammed are confirmed by the testimony of Mr. Brown, who assures me, that, when travelling in Africa, he made the same inquiries of people who had visited Sennaar, and with the same success. I can declare from my own knowledge, that there is no foundation for his assertion that the same migration takes place from Cape Gardafui to the Straits, any more than there is for the idea, that the chain of mountains, which runs parallel to the Red Sea, divides the seasons equally, and that it is fair on one side, while the torrents of rain pour down on the other. This is certainly the case in the peninsula of India, from



which, probably, Mr. Bruce caught the idea. His own travels gave him no opportunity of ascertaining the fact.

The young Dola requested a letter from me to show at Mocha, which he frequently visits in the way of trade. He also hoped we would give him a present, when we settled accounts, for the trouble he had taken. He again drank tea, and praised it.

After his departure the Steward informed the first Lieutenant that there was not a single day's rice on board, although, when we sailed from Bombay on the 1st of December, it was understood that we had a sufficiency for five months. Upon examining the accounts, we found there ought to be one hundred and thirty-three maund, supposing every man had had his full allowance since our departure, which has not been the case. It is too large a quantity to have been consumed or wasted; we therefore must owe the inconvenience to a fraud. The hurry in which the Panther was sent to sea rendered it impossible for Captain Court to look to the stores. We immediately sent to the town to buy all the jûwarry that could be got. Our poor Lascars will regret the exchange, but there is no remedy.

We now thought it advisable to examine our other stores, and the result was a discovery that we had only a sufficient quantity of flour left for one week, the cock-roaches having devoured the rest. Fortunately our crew had been served with biscuit for a period ending the 1st of March. This deficiency fell on the white men, and was really alarming. The Captain called them all aft, and stated the discovery: he told them that any grain that could be purchased here, should be bought at any price; that at Cosseir they should have wheat; but that they must make their present

allowance of biscuit last till the 15th of March, by which time he had every reason to hope he should reach that place. To the Lascars he promised juwarry, and fresh meat. The whole were in perfect good humour, and assured him they were satisfied.

February 19.—It blew fresher than usual, with showers. The boat came off with our sheep, water, and vegetables.

We have every reason to rejoice that we made Suakin the day we did: ever since, the wind has been so steady to the northward, that we could not have quitted Bother'em Bay, and our distress there for water and provisions would have been great indeed. It was also fortunate that the northerly winds had blown only at a period when, by our having a complete stock of water to take in, they caused no delay. Their continuance however excited an unpleasant suspicion in my mind, that the monsoon had changed; which Mr. Macgie increased by the information, that he once sailed on the 1st of March from Jidda, and was six weeks in reaching Suez. The delay, however, was in getting through the Straits of Jubal. The natives console me by saying, that this is always a rainy month with them, and that it will probably clear up in a day or two, and a southerly wind set in.

Abdallah came off in the evening, and brought some juwarry. Unus was willing to go, but his men objected. We sent Abdallah back with a message to the Emir, that we should be glad to hire a pilot and a dow; but that if they could not be procured before the 22d, we should on that day sail without them.

February 20.—A much finer day, and moderate. The cutter's crew, with my servant and Pierce, went to collect shells, and brought a good many, some new, but chiefly *Cypræa*; handsome,

but common. In the evening the Emir, the old pilot, and Unus, came off. Unus still pleaded that his crew would not go. The Emir agreed to let us have a boat of his; and the old pilot said, if we would pay him the fifteen dollars, he was ready to engage. Before we would promise this, we demanded what he asked for pilotage: he said, one hundred and sixty dollars; adding, that he received thirty or forty for a dow. We were amused by the argument, though provoked by the impudence of the demand. The Emir told him he was a fool, and I observed it was so totally out of the question, that I would say nothing more. At length he wished to know what I would give; observing that it was a very large vessel, and a very dangerous passage. I replied, that he seemed to have forgotten his telling me that the way was good to Macowar, and that the size of the vessel was nothing to him, as we did not want him to be answerable for it. That I considered it as worth one-third as much as the pilotage from Mocha; that I would therefore give fifty dollars, and no more; that on the same principle I would give one hundred for a dow. If they did not choose to take that, I would sail without either. The argument lasted a long time: the Emir wished me to give sixty, which I refused, and they went away without any thing being settled; but Unus said apart, that he would settle every thing.

The sheep and vegetables are ready. The Emir wished us to visit him, which I promised to do, if it should be fine weather, and I should be well. He agreed to come on board to-morrow, when every account should be settled. Our water is complete, and Mr. Maxfield has most of his. We have only to stow the gang casks. Unus's nephew, who was the best diver of his crew, came off with



him, and got some presents. Captain Court took bearings for a plan of Suakin harbour.

February 21.—As I had several letters to write, I requested the other gentlemen to pay their visit to the Dola without me. They set off soon after breakfast. On their return, I found that, after visiting Emir Mohammed, they had gone to pay their compliments to the Turkish Dola. He was at first in a very ill humour. The pilot had positively refused to go with us for less than sixty-five dollars: they therefore applied to the Dola to know if he could assist us. He now broke forth, and represented, that we could not expect to hire another pilot, when we had not paid the last all his wages. The Captain repeated to him our reasons; but he positively declared, he had himself hired them for thirty-five dollars. Captain Court assured him, that had the men claimed five hundred on his word, we would have paid them, and that the money should be sent to him on the morrow. He was now in a good humour, and asked for something to make his back strong. This was referred to the Doctor.

Emir Mohammed came on board in the evening with the merchants; all our accounts were settled, which were not very exorbitant. For his own boat he would charge nothing, only the men's hire who came in her. The water was twenty-five skins for a dollar; the bullocks six and seven dollars each; the sheep, a dollar each, and sometimes a little less. All the vegetables were only two dollars. Captain Court and I gave, each of us, letters of recommendation to him, and to Unus. I also wrote to Mr. Pringle in favour of the latter.

Captain Court and I, on mature consideration, determined to

submit to their demands, and pay the hundred dollars for the dow, and sixty-five for the pilot; since, if we did not, it would be out of our power to examine the coast as far as Macowar, which I was extremely anxious to do, both from personal inclination, and a sense of duty. The dangerous state of the Assaye also made a boat desirable; besides that we were unacquainted with the passage among the shoals into the open sea. We therefore notified our change of sentiment to the Dola, who promised that every thing should be ready by to-morrow evening. We were impatient to be gone, as the weather was very fine, and the wind in the middle of the day came round to the east.

February 22.—The pilot and Emir Mohammed came off in the morning with two nephews of the Turkish Dola. They would not drink coffee, which is not permitted till they are fifteen, but they took sweetmeats. I gave the Emir fifty dollars, a turban, and cummurbund, for his exertions. We sent the old Dola a little oil of cinnamon, and fifty pounds of powder. The old pilot agreed to go, and received his money. Unus took his leave with sorrow. He begged a flag, and wanted other articles, which, being unreasonable, were refused. The Emir obtained from us a half-hour sand-glass. On his departure we saluted him with two guns. A dow arrived yesterday from Jidda. I was happy to hear from the Turkish Dola, that she brought a confirmation of the Egyptian news, and that there was a Pacha waiting to pass from Suez to Jidda with a large army. The weather was very mild, and at twelve the wind came round to the eastward, and gave us hopes of a favourable change.

February 23.—The dow came off early in the morning. From the narrowness of the harbour we were obliged to warp, and made

but little way; our crew not being sufficient, and our boats scarcely strong enough to sustain the weight of a large cable. It blew fresher than yesterday, from the N. and N. E.

February 24.—In the night the wind gradually increased to a gale, and we were nearly driven on the southern shoal, by our anchor's falling into the deepest part of the channel: there, however, it held fast. When more moderate, we warped farther, but dragged back, the wind being fresh, and right into the mouth of the harbour. We kept quiet the whole of the afternoon.

February 25.—It blew fresh and adverse in the night, and till the sun rose, when the swell and wind went down. We again began to warp out, but our anchor fell into deep water, and we were within ten feet of the southern shoal. We found, to our cost, that in northerly winds this harbour is a prison. It is too narrow to work in, and too deep to warp out of, with facility. When the winds are from the south, there is a regular land breeze every morning, which obviates all difficulties. The old pilot says, the southerly winds blow here eight months out of the twelve, but never for any length of time without intermission. From all I can learn from different people, who have been in the Red Sea, I believe that there is no season in which the winds blow from one point without changing for a few days; and, in the middle part of the gulf, they may almost be called variable, at least as much so as in the British Channel, where, for nine months in the year, the wind blows from the westward. We have for five weeks had N. E. winds, yet the monsoons of this sea are said to be N. W. and S. E. After a hard day's labour we regained the spot from which we were driven yesterday. It is fortunate for us that we procured at Mocha some native hawsers made of a grass,



with which we cleared the harbour, by fastening them to the beacons raised at the points of the shoals by the pilots of the place. These hawsers are much lighter than the European, and a less boat will consequently carry them out. If Suakin was in the hands of an European power, rings might easily be fixed in these rocks, and the warping out would be no longer difficult. As it is in the hands of the Turks, more has been done than could be expected. On getting out we found anchorage at twenty-five fathom, when in entering we could find no bottom, from the rapidity with which we moved. This is of great importance, as the passage into the harbour is so extremely narrow.

## CHAPTER VII.

---

Departure from Suakin.—Lent Bay.—Sheik Baroud.—Daroor.—Danger of the Panther among the rocks.—Loss of anchors—Recovery of them.—Salaka.—Mouse-trap Bay.—Gale of wind.—Obliged to return to Mocha.—Observations on Macowar, probably the Berenice Pancrysos of the Ancients.—Observations on Mr. Bruce's supposed Voyage from Cosseir to Macowar.—Conjectures respecting Myos Hormos.—Arrival at Massowah.—Visit to the Island of Valentia.—Return to Mocha.

## CHAPTER VII.

FEBRUARY 26.—It was moderate in the morning, with a fine land breeze, when all the dows left the harbour. Unus passed us, making his salaams, with his English colours flying. By nine we were under weigh, accompanied by Mr. Maxfield, the dow, and a smaller boat. The sea breeze did not set in favourably, but held to the N. of N.E; we, of course, made but little way. The channel was very narrow, and our tacks short. About twelve it freshened considerably, and continued to do so till four, when it was due north. The pilot pointed out an anchoring ground, for which we stood; but he changed his mind, and pushed on for another, which we soon found it impossible to reach; and indeed his account of it was not very pleasant: he said it was near the shore, and in forty fathom. It blew very fresh, and the sky promised a gale. Captain Court therefore returned to the first. We had only our stay-sail and mizen set, yet were going five knots an hour. As we neared the shore there were no soundings, till the man in the chains called out four fathom rocks. Exceedingly alarmed, we instantly tried to let go the stream anchor with the chain, but it would not run; we then let go the bower, which went. The next heave was ten fathom, mud, and then fourteen, in which we let go the stream anchor. We now found ourselves in a perfect bason formed by a circle of rocks, over a part of which we had passed. The pilot knew what he was about;



but being rather alarmed, and anxious, he had omitted giving us notice that we should pass such a shallow spot. The entrance is narrow, as not half a cable's length to larboard we found a quarter less one. Mr. Maxfield kept to starboard under bare poles, but came in very fast. He had nothing to fear where we had passed. It blew a gale all night, and we had reason to be thankful that we had safely entered this bason. We were sufficiently protected from the swell, and had excellent holding ground, a fine blue clay; yet never did we run a greater risk than in entering. Not knowing the place, we were obliged to trust to a pilot with whom we could have no communication, except through an interpreter. He was alarmed; the ship was going at the rate of five knots an hour, and the evening was dark; yet, with all this, we were to pass a strait where a mistake of half a cable would have carried us to destruction.

February 27.—It blew too fresh in the morning to heave our anchors. Perceiving that the shore next to us was formed of a parcel of islands covered with trees, a party was sent off to cut some wood. Mr. Salt and my servant went in the boat; they returned at nine. Mr. Salt could find no plants; and he reported that these islands, at low water, are connected with the main land, and that they are only a kind of sunderbunds, composed of the rack tree, with a reef of rocks towards the sea protecting the whole line. My servant shot one of the very large grey birds, that we have often mistaken for natives; it stands nearly six feet upright. By the meridian altitude we made yesterday but seven miles. Though the Panther sails better for the ballast we took in, yet, from her great height above the water, she makes hardly any way against a foul wind,

Had the monsoon set in from the northward, I know not what we should have done. On the next day was to be a new moon, from which we had considerable hopes, as the day had been moderate, and the sky clear.

February 28.—It blew too fresh to stir with safety, as we found by experience; for in trying to get under weigh, our anchor dragged, and we were obliged to let go another. We therefore continued in statu quo, hoping that the change of the moon would yet bring a change of weather.

March 1.—It blew a gale in the night from the N. N. W, so as to oblige us to let go a third anchor, by which we rode safely. It lulled towards morning, and we attempted to get under weigh, though there was a considerable swell. In doing this we drifted to within a quarter of a cable's length of the rock, that has but a quarter less one on it. In the course of the morning we contrived to get an anchor down farther from it. It blew very fresh; but the sky was clear. A fishing boat from Suakin brought us fish yesterday and to day. The fishermen say they will follow us as far as they can; our custom is too valuable to be given up easily.

March 2.—It blew very fresh in the night: the Assaye dragged, and then parted her anchor. Mr. Maxfield let go his last when only in three fathom, rock, at which time there was a very heavy swell from the northward. His situation being dangerous, he fired signal guns of distress. We immediately sent off our cutter with a hawser, and fortunately his vessel rode safe till it was fastened; we then warped her astern of us. It was extremely alarming for us also, since, if the wind had come round two points to the westward, we should in all probability have been driven on the dangerous rock that was so

near us. We had three anchors down, and a fourth ready to let go : fortunately the wind continued in the same point. It was cold all day, and the motion was considerable. Mr. Maxfield came on board to report, that his ship made much more water, and that the whole of her was, he believed, rotten. The pilot also added his share of comfort, by positively asserting that the N. W. monsoon had set in, and that we should have no change of wind. This would have been bad news, as we should have been obliged to go to Jidda to obtain a supply of provisions, and abandon the survey of the coast to Macowar, which I find Bruce positively asserts is in  $24^{\circ}$  N. and that he was there.

March 3.—It was more moderate during the night, and towards morning quite calm. We took advantage of it to get up two of our anchors, putting down one at a sufficient distance to secure us from the rock, before mentioned. At twelve the wind was from the eastward, but too light for us to venture out at so late an hour. The spring tides are over, and we hope the fine weather will continue till the next, before which time we ought to be safe at Cosseir. The Captain and Mr. Hardy went to examine the Assaye, and found her quite as bad as reported, her timbers being perfectly rotten. They thought that she might be trusted in fine weather, but were satisfied that whenever we met with a change of the monsoon, she must be abandoned. Yet it is but four months since she was purchased by the East India Company's marine officers at Bombay, after having been, as they said, regularly inspected, and reported fit for service.

March 4.—The breeze came off from the land, and we got safe out by seven from our unpleasant station, which we called Lent Bay, having passed the reef in two fathom and a half ; soon afterwards we