

had no soundings. At twelve, we found no bottom with eighty fathom. The shore was as usual protected by a reef of rocks, and was composed of small islands, covered with the rack-tree. There was another reef to the eastward, leaving a channel about three miles wide. In the evening we had soundings of twenty-seven fathom, mud. We cast anchor, as we supposed, in a similar bottom, but, on sounding, found fourteen fathom, rocks. If a vessel carried very little sail, she might find out a good anchorage; but the ground is so unequal that, when moving fast, there is no certainty that the next throw of the lead may not differ several fathom in depth, and more essentially in the quality of the bottom. The night was moderate.

March 5.—Our stream anchor was entangled among the rocks, and we were obliged to leave it there, after having used every exertion, but in vain, to raise it. The breeze was fine, but hung too much to the northward; the channel was from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide. A whole fleet of dows was in sight, steering northward. We hailed one, and found it was from Mocha, laden with coffee. The pilot intended to have anchored between two of the shoals to the E. where he said there was good bottom, and moderate water, but the breeze came round to the eastward, and freshened; he therefore determined to run for a harbour he pointed out, sanctified by the tomb of Sheik Baroud, who has kindly chosen to be buried on a rising hillock, that marks the northern extremity of a narrow peninsula. Behind this lies a very excellent harbour, free from rocks, in which every danger is visible, and where a vessel may lie perfectly landlocked from every wind. We got in just as it was dark, to our very great satisfaction, as the wind freshened considerably. The

reefs on the outside are visible, and the space between perfectly sufficient for a vessel to pass with safety. The pilot says that five miles north of the harbour there is a communication with the open sea, which appears probable from the great increase of swell.

March 6.—In the morning it blew very fresh, so as to make us rejoice on being so snug. I felt too weak from illness to go on shore, but the Captain and Mr. Salt went to the tomb. It is composed of mats only. Should the British ever form any arrangements for the Red Sea, a tomb might be built of white stone, which would conciliate the natives, and answer as an excellent sea mark. A few plants grow on the peninsula, among these was an *Asclepias* without any leaves. I procured several very fine shells of the genus *Conus*, and a *Murex*, which I have since found to be a new species.

A dow was in the harbour, the master of which our pilot wished to visit, as he said he was a friend, and would procure us provisions from the natives, to whom he was well known. He accordingly went, but brought back word, that the Bedowee were gone up the mountains, and he was therefore unable to procure what he wanted for his own dow, which was filled with Abyssinian slaves for the Jidda market. Suspecting a little the truth of this story, and thinking it possible that he might wish to prevent our having any communication with the natives, lest we should interfere with his market, or raise the price of the necessary supplies, we watched him with a telescope, and at length saw several loaded camels coming to the beach. As the pilot concurred with us in opinion, and thought this friend might get us fresh provision if he pleased, we determined to try what a little threatening would do. Abdallah was therefore dispatched to him, with the pilot to say, if that he did not procure

us some fresh meat, we would take all the provisions he had in his vessel, and leave him to get a supply with the money we would pay him. Abdallah returned with an answer that the camels were going from Suakin to Macowar, and had brought nothing for him; that there really were no animals to be purchased near; but that he had sent off a person to a village at a small distance, to try and purchase sheep there. If he was successful, he would bring them to the point opposite the ship in the morning. He said if we wanted water there was plenty to be had, but that we must send our own vessels to fetch it, for the inhabitants had no skins.

Mirza Sheik Baroud appears to be a modern appellation of this harbour, for it is undoubtedly the Tradate of Don Juan de Castro, though he has laid it down in $19^{\circ} 50'$, instead of $19^{\circ} 35' 42''$, which is its true position. I have before observed that there was a mistake in the latitude of Suakin as given by D'Anville of about ten miles; he has made an equal error here, by placing his Tradate in $19^{\circ} 45'$. Though he certainly took his information from De Castro, he corrected the latitude five miles, but he has not done it sufficiently. The narrow passage in which we were sailing, and which, the pilot said, reaches to Macowar, would be impassable for any vessels, if it were not for the numerous small harbours, into which a vessel can run in bad weather. As the sea is perfectly smooth, in consequence of the reef to the eastward keeping off the swell, vessels with oars could always make their way against the strongest monsoon, when the force of the wind in the open channel would be irresistible. If the ancient navigators kept along the shore, which seems probable from the list of promontories, and other land marks, given in Ptolemy's tables, it is singular that no notice has been

taken by Strabo, the author of the *Periplûs*, or Pliny, of the many harbours which are laid down by D'Anville between Myos Hormos and Ptolemais Theron. There is no ancient name which can with any degree of probability be affixed to Mirza Sheik Baroud.

March 7.—We set sail by day-light with the land breeze, which soon afterwards freshened considerably, and at length set in with a considerable swell from the N.N.E. As the land lay nearly in this direction, we made but little way, having to tack every twenty minutes, and generally missing stays. The pilot told us there was no anchoring, except in rocks, till we reached another harbour, distant twenty miles. At twelve the wind continued steady, and convinced us we could not reach it; we therefore turned about, and got safely into our old birth at Sheik Baroud. We instantly sent Abdallah to the dow to learn if any Bedowee were in the vicinity, and to offer the Naqueda ten dollars as a present, if he would procure us a sufficient supply of sheep or goats, over and above any profit he might make in the purchase; he brought us word that none were to be had here, but if we would send a person with money to Torateit, where our dow, and several others, were at anchor, we might the next day have goats and sheep in return. He undertook to go with our messenger, but we preferred trusting him with the money, having his dow as a security; and accordingly sent him forty dollars. Two men who had seen us at Suakin brought off some rock cod as a present, for which we gave them two dollars, to their great satisfaction. They promised to procure us a supply of fish.

Mr. Maxfield's vessel has made much more water by the exertion of beating to windward. I got some fine shells, and our men caught some rock cod and several sharks.

March 8.—We did not attempt to move. The Captain and the other gentlemen went in the cutter up the bay, which extends considerably inwards, with deep water. The dow man brought us two bullocks, for which he declared he had paid twenty dollars, and seven sheep for eight dollars; the other twelve he wished to keep, as a security for the present; but said, that if we would send him more money, he would procure more provisions. This we did, but desired him not to send it away, as we must have it back if we sailed in the morning.

March 9.—It blew from the west of north early in the morning, and we got under weigh by day-light, as did the dow. We sent the cutter on board, and got back our dollars. The wind gradually came round to the N. E. so that we lay well up shore, and by four o'clock anchored in an open bay, behind which was a harbour called Darroor. We were in ten fathom, mud and clay, but had the reefs very close to us on both sides. The Assaye was at our stern.

March 10.—It blew fresh in the night, but moderating towards morning, we attempted to get under weigh. After getting up one anchor, the other dragged, and obliged us to let go the first again. It came on to blow very fresh from the northward, veering in the middle of the day to the N. E. The swell was great, and we were as much exposed to it as if we had been in the open sea. Captain Court, the other gentlemen, Abdallah, my servant, and the pilot, went up the harbour, and landed on the shore: they spoke to several natives, who were very civil. They gave them tobacco, and, to oblige them, cut some buttons off their coats, which were greatly prized. The Bedowee wished them to go up to a village at some distance; but this was not thought prudent. The pilot asked them to get us some

sheep. One man said he would try, and bring them to the beach if he succeeded. They saw some bullocks, and a great number of camels. My servant killed three flamingoes. We roasted one, and found the breast very good. The harbour is of considerable extent, when the narrow entrance is once passed. This is very short, and lies nearly E. and W., so that the land breeze in the morning will always carry a ship out. It is perfectly land-locked, and has from two to four fathom water, with a mud bottom. Had we been aware of its excellence, we should have run in at first, and not lain tumbling on the outside; but unfortunately the sun was right in our faces, and made it difficult, when we arrived, to distinguish the reefs. This, by its relative latitude with Suakin, should be the Dorho of D'Anville; but the latitude is, as usual, erroneous, being $19^{\circ} 50'$; only five miles more than the latitude he gives to Dradate. Its longitude is $37^{\circ} 33'$. The hills are still extremely high, and line the coast regularly at the distance of a few miles; the intermediate space is flat sand, with a few trees. The beach itself is frequently a sunderbund of rack trees. Some islands in the harbour are completely covered with it. Plenty of dry wood might be picked up along the beach.

March 11.—The night was nearly calm; and in the morning a light breeze from the land made us hasten to get under weigh. It however took from four to six to raise one anchor. On trying to get up the other, the wind headed us, and the anchor dragged. We again let it go, but the weather being extremely fine, we soon after again set to work. Unfortunately one anchor caught hold of the other, and we got close to the southern reef; so close that we could distinguish the beautiful coral of the rocks that threatened us with destruction. The anchors prevented the ship from wearing round

into a channel which opened to the southward, and exposed us to the most imminent danger, as there was not a foot between the vessel's bottom and the rocks, which were there so steep, that had she struck, she would probably have gone over. Captain Court instantly cut both cables, and by the blessing of God the ship wore clear of danger, though without an inch to spare. Had a squall then come off, such as we had experienced just before, the ship and every thing in her must have been lost; and though our lives might have been saved, we should have been left on an inhospitable shore, with no assistance but from the *Assaye*, who had not three days provisions for us on board. When recovered from our alarm, we found reason sufficient to make us uneasy, as we had only our sheet anchor left. We therefore determined to return into Daroor, and endeavour with the *Assaye* to recover our two bower anchors: fortunately a buoy was left to one, and a considerable quantity of cable to the other. The wind freshened very considerably, and the *Panther* was as crank as ever; we therefore determined not to trust to our sheet anchor in a heavy swell, but to run into the harbour. This we did, and found it as smooth as glass. We let go in two fathom, mud, but dropped into three. It blew a gale from the E. of north, so that the mountains were, as usual on such occasions, concealed from our view by clouds of sand. Mr. Maxfield had cast anchor on the outside to be ready to assist in getting up the anchors. Mr. Hardy went off to him with cables, &c. but after ascertaining their position, found it blew too fresh to do any thing, and returned.

We perceived a native on the shore, and sent off for him. He proved to be one of our dow's crew, who informed us, that Emir Mohammed had been up to Torateit, and conceiving that the

monsoon (Shamaul) had set in, and would prevent the dow's coming on, had sent him by land to procure here what provisions we might want. This conduct of Emir Mohammed gave me great pleasure; it was attentive and friendly, and argued well for a future connexion between the natives of the African coast, and the English, if cultivated by those who follow us, and not violated by caprice or tyranny, as has too often been the case. We have done the best we could to leave behind us a good impression of the British character, and, so far as we can judge, have succeeded. I sent the Suakin man on shore, with instructions to persuade, if possible, one of the chief natives to pay us a visit: a few presents may induce him to come off again, in case a vessel should arrive in want of provisions. Mr. Hurst, in the boat of the Assaye, was driven on the reef as he was returning to the vessel, from having fastened a warp to the buoy of our anchor. Fortunately he landed safe with his men. We sent a boat with people to their assistance, who brought them clear of the surf. Mr. Hardy, with the cutter and crew, went to pass the night with the Assaye, to assist her in case of accident, as Mr. Maxfield had imprudently anchored her close to the reef. They got down an anchor for her farther to windward. It blew a perfect gale from the W. of N. in the night. Mr. Hurst and his men slept on board the Panther.

March 12.—It blew too fresh for Mr. Hardy to do any thing with the anchors; he therefore returned on board. We got the Assaye's boat on board, and repaired her. Two natives appeared on the beach; we sent a boat, and one came off. He brought a basket of broiled fish to sell. We requested him to procure some raw, which he said he would do. He was the same man that our

gentlemen had seen when they went on shore. He said he had brought down two sheep yesterday, but as nobody came from the ship, he had taken them back. He expressed no fear or surprise; he told us there was water, but that they had no vessels to bring it in. We gave him a dollar for his fish, and he went off to get more. Captain Rudland and my servant went on the northern shoal in pursuit of a large flight of birds, which were gone before they could land. They walked a considerable way, and saw several natives spearing fish, who retired as they approached. Captain Court went on shore to take the meridian altitude. He made the latitude $19^{\circ} 48' 30''$. N. The refraction was so great, that it was almost impossible to take a true observation.

The Emir Mohammed's man came on board in the afternoon, with the Sheik of the village, who rode to the water's edge on a very fine camel. A man came down with four sheep to sell, but it was impossible to purchase them, as he even refused two dollars each. The Sheik brought me one as a present. He was a decent looking man, and was armed with a sword. I gave him two dollars and some tobacco, with which he was well satisfied, though they seem to have little knowledge of the value of money. It is extremely vexatious that Mr. Bruce's assertion of blue cloth being preferred by the Bedowee, should have prevented our bringing any white, which would have insured us a ready supply of all we wished. The fisherman came with some very fine mullet. We gave him a dollar, which he asked; he then wanted more: we offered half a dollar, which he objected to, and at length would not have the dollar. The Sheik scolded, but he took it patiently, and insisted on more, saying, what would you do I if did not bring you

fish? you would starve!" We assured him he was under a mistake, though a very natural one for a native of a country, where fish constitutes their chief food, and where it is caught in profusion, and with facility. They have no grain of any kind: milk, and goats, and sheep, are their other provisions. The Sheik promised to assist our native in procuring sheep: the fellow wanted more money, but we objected to giving it till he had procured us something in return. It was rather calmer in the evening, and Mr. Hardy went again on board the *Assaye* with the boat's crew.

March 13.—Early in the morning the cutter and *Assaye* set to work with one of the anchors, it being very moderate. One of the Europeans dived in five fathom, and fastened a hawser to the junk of the cable. It was got up with great ease, and the *Assaye* brought it into the bay, when we had again the pleasure of fastening it to our bows. We saw the fisherman on shore. Pierce went off, and found him at breakfast on broiled fish, with his wife and family. He said he would go and catch us some, as soon as that was over. He sent a sting ray, another species, and four of the ray saw fish. Abdallah caught three new species of fish, the day being very calm. In the evening the *Assaye* went out again, and returned with our other anchor, which had fallen from among the rocks into the sand, and was got up with the same ease as the first; and before night we had the satisfaction to be in a safe station, with our lost anchors at our bows, and in every respect ready for sea. The man brought us some fish, for which we gave him two dollars. He begged to choose two shining ones, an evident proof of his ignorance of their value as money. Our man came from the village with two sheep, for which he had given four dollars. He restored the rest, saying that he could

procure no more for money, as the natives did not want it; but that with white cloth, we might have procured plenty. I made him take a piece of Lucknow chintz as a present to the Sheik, and desired him to request he would assist us in the purchase of some cattle. The weather was much warmer.

March 14.—It was so fine a morning that we began at four to weigh our sheet anchor, but it stuck so fast that we were not off till seven, leaving our man and money behind. The weather was pleasant all morning, but we were still confined by reefs to the E. and obliged to make short tacks. We were alarmed near one of them by finding ourselves within twenty yards of a sunken rock, with which our pilot was unacquainted. We hove to, and sent an officer in the cutter to sound, who reported that there was only three and four feet water on it. It was not above twice the size of the boat, and no bottom close to it. We accurately ascertained its position, as it is the most dangerous spot we have discovered in the Red Sea. The shore runs N. and even a little easterly. As the wind was from N. by W. to N.E: we did not make much way. We passed a small anchorage among the reefs close to the shore, which the pilot called Aroos, and another which he called Fadja. This is a good harbour, by his account, and lies in $20^{\circ} 3' N$. It is evidently the Fusha of D'Anville, though with the usual error of latitude, as he has placed it in $20^{\circ} 15'$. The wind towards evening was more favourable, and we ran on in hopes to reach a good harbour called Howie-terie. This is not mentioned by D'Anville, nor by the Portuguese, from whom he copies; which is owing to their having gone on to Arekea, a mile further north, which Don Juan de Castro describes as the most defensible harbour he had entered, and as being above two miles long

and one wide. Nothing can be more accurate than their description of the coast, as rising into hills and tumuli, with the mountains behind. These elevations are of most singular forms, and rise out of the level Tehama in an abrupt manner. During the former part of the day the country was a little wooded, but afterwards it had a most barren appearance. At sun-set the pilot could distinguish none of his marks by which to enter the harbour; we were therefore obliged to make the best choice among evils, and work all night, as there was no possibility of anchoring. By his watch Captain Court regulated the tacks, and we were assisted by a fine moon, and rendered more safe by the calmness of the night. We stood off and on, till twelve, when we lay to, lest we should reach a part of the channel where the pilot said there were sunken rocks. Providentially it was moderate all night, and we met with no accident. In a channel unknown to us, only three miles wide, of which by night the pilot was equally ignorant, with rocks and shoals around us, as far as we could see, our situation was certainly alarming. We all felt it so, and Captain Court never quitted the deck till we lay to, and then only for short intervals. All the crew were kept on deck the whole night

March 15.—We had, as usual, the morning breeze from the land, but towards nine it fell calm. We were among the shoals and rocks, of which the pilot was last night afraid. We passed by a sunken one as bad as that of yesterday: on others, there was sufficient water, and close to them sixteen fathom, hard sand; the next cast, no bottom, seventy fathom. At twelve we were in lat. $20^{\circ} 11' 23''$; we could see Howie-terie, and by our bearings ascertained that it was in $20^{\circ} 10' 38'$. Arekea was also in sight, which is erroneously

stated by D'Anville to be in $20^{\circ} 32'$, though its real latitude is $20^{\circ} 11'$; a greater mistake than he has yet made, and for which he cannot blame the original Portuguese authors, who have not given its latitude, but only mentioned its distance from Suakin. Beyond was a lofty mountain which we named Tridactylos, from having at first mistaken it for the Pentadactylos of Pliny: hitherto, however, only three peaks had appeared. It continued calm till two, when a light breeze sprung up from the southward of east. We experienced, during the calm, a current against us, of about a mile an hour; the breeze gradually freshened, and came round to the southward. The passage continued narrow, and very dangerous, from the numerous shoals. We had once soundings in ten fathom mud, with the shoals so narrow and close, that we clewed up to let go our anchor; but the pilot persuaded us to go on for the anchorage of Salaka, which we reached by five, after passing a bar of rocks in $2\frac{1}{2}$ fathom, with less on either side. When in, we had ten fathom mud, but not sufficient room to swing with safety. The anchorage was open to the southward, but protected by a spit of low sand on the other sides. It was far more dangerous than Lent Bay; but we had no remedy. It blew fresh, with a little rain in the evening from the south.

March 16.—In the night it blew a gale from the south for a short time, and obliged us to let go our sheet anchor. Towards morning the wind came round to the west of south, and we hove up two anchors; but before we could get out, the wind came round to the S. E. and prevented our moving. It was so truly vexatious to see four dows sail by us about eleven, with a fair wind, while we were fast in a pound, that in a splenetic fit I gave it the name of Mouse-trap Bay. Salaka lies in lat. $20^{\circ} 28'$, which differs from D'Anville

about the same number of miles as usual. In the evening the wind came round off shore. I got some dead specimens of very fine shells.

March 17.—It was moderate all night. We swung round with our stern over the rocks in three fathom, and not a hundred yards from us had a quarter less one. It was cloudy and hazy. The old pilot, as well as ourselves, expected from the appearance that we should have a fresh wind; but our situation was so dangerous, from not being able to give the ship a sufficient scope of cable, that Captain Court determined to try to beat to Macowar, which appeared from the mast head to be a fine harbour, distant about ten miles. We had not cleared the rocks half an hour before the gale began to freshen, and by eight blew so hard, as to put an end to all hopes of our reaching Macowar. The shoals were so numerous all around us, that we were in danger every tack, and once were obliged to wear ship to save us from a reef that was but a few yards ahead. To return to Salaka was impossible, and would have been madness had it not been so, as we could expect nothing there but to be driven on the rocks. Captain Court was therefore under the necessity of trying to make Howie-terie, which the pilot said was an excellent port. We had double-reefed topsails close to the cap, yet went six knots, with a very heavy swell. Our old pilot very ably conducted us through a labyrinth of shoals, and by nine we were in a safe channel.

It was a most mortifying circumstance to be driven back, so near the completion of our labours; for at Macowar the open sea commences, and we should have had only the usual difficulties of navigation to contend with. Providence had singularly interfered in

confining us at Salaka while the wind was fair. Had we been less impatient, and rested at Arekea, we should the preceding day have run the whole way with ease. However, I was resigned and satisfied. We had been deterred by no dangers, or inconveniencies, from prosecuting the voyage; we had been for some time without bread; we had not two days flour or rice, and could procure no live stock except sheep, which will not live long on ship board with the provisions we could give them. Our seamen had nothing but juwarry and salt meat, and of the former scarcely sufficient for sixteen days; the spirits were very likely to be out before a fresh supply could be obtained; and, owing to the leaking of our casks, there was not more than three weeks' water on board. The delay of being driven back eighteen miles, with almost a certainty of the Shemaul's continuing to blow against us for some days, made it necessary to consider what place we should look to for supplies. Captain Court suggested that the water and juwarry could be replaced at Suakin, and that we could then go out into the main channel at Howie; but, on considering the deficit of other articles for the crew; that no rice, flour, poultry, or vegetables, could be procured for ourselves; articles, which the shattered state of my own health rendered not luxuries, but necessities; considering also that the ship was deficient in ballast; and though better from having put her guns in the hold, yet still crank; I determined to return to Mocha, where every thing could be had that she required, and then try to beat up to Cosseir. I was also inclined to this decision, by the dangers we had experienced in Suakin harbour, and the probability, that now the northerly winds were certainly set in, we might be detained there on wretched food, as long as we should be by the additional voyage

to Mocha. I therefore gave the necessary directions to Captain Court. Our dōw had come into Salaka the night before : by her we learned that the boy we left at Sheik Baroud had gone on to Macowar. We knew that he would be disappointed, but he had ten dollars to console himself. Our dōw did not attempt to move. It blew a very fresh gale, and we reached Sheik Baroud before dark.

It was a very great mortification to me to be thus obliged to abandon my voyage of discovery, at the moment when our difficulties were so nearly ended; for had we once got out into the open sea, we should have been able to run over to Jidda, where supplies could be procured; for this, the Shemaul would have been a fair wind. Every important object has, however, been attained respecting the passage within the shoals, from Suakin to Macowar, a passage which no vessel will probably again attempt, till an extensive trade shall have taken place in the Red Sea, when, probably, the advantages it holds forth of smooth water and occasional land and sea breezes, may cause it to be navigated by small vessels in the adverse monsoon. I think that a vessel with oars would, at such seasons, find it infinitely preferable to the open sea, as was the case with the fleet of Don Stephano de Gama, to the account of whose voyage by Don Juan de Castro I have so frequently had occasion to refer. Had there been any doubt of there being a free communication from this passage to the open sea near to Salaka, after the account of the Portuguese navigators, it would be removed by the track of Captain Court in the Panther cruizer in the year 1795, who approached sufficiently near to the island of Macowar to ascertain its position, and to perceive that the sea was free in its vicinity; thus confirming the assertions

which had been made to us by our friends at Massowah and Suakin. During our unfortunate confinement in Mouse-trap Bay, frequent visits were paid to the mast head, and numerous bearings were taken of the rocky Island of Macowar, and its adjacent harbour. All these so perfectly agreed with the observations made by Captain Court on his former voyage, that I cannot but consider their identity, and consequently their actual position, as sufficiently established. If, hereafter, navigators should use this passage, which among the moderns was first navigated by the Portuguese, and next by myself, they will receive important assistance from the chart of my amiable and able friend Captain Charles Court, to whose indefatigable exertions during a voyage of considerable danger, and perpetual anxiety, in taking bearings, and making every useful nautical observation, the public is indebted for the accurate Chart of the Western Coast of the Red Sea, which I have the pleasure of laying before them. As a tribute of that esteem which I entertained for his private character, and professional abilities, I have called the narrow passage between the shoals from Suakin to Macowar, Court's Passage.

It would have given me particular satisfaction to have examined the port of Macowar, on account of the advantages, which it has over any of those in Court's Passage, from its being accessible to vessels without their entering the shoals. It was invariably represented by the pilots as being an excellent harbour; and that it is one, is confirmed by Don Juan de Castro, who speaks of it under the name of Salaka, for Mouse-trap Bay could never be meant by a port which received the Portuguese fleet. Water is undoubtedly to be procured there, though, in very dry seasons, it is not very good,

and fresh provisions are in abundance. An amicable intercourse with the Bedowee might be established through Emir Mohammed, and the Suakini tribe, by which means, not only supplies might be obtained for any ship, without the risk of entering the dangerous harbour of Jidda, but probably a very considerable trade might be carried on direct with the neighbouring Arab tribes, who are at present supplied with the coarse Indian cloths, which compose their dress, at a very high price, through Suakin, or Jidda.

Macowar becomes a place of much more importance, if Monsieur D'Anville is right in his conjecture of its being near the Alaki of Abulfeda, and the Ollaki of Edresi, described by these authors as a mountain rich in mines of gold and silver.* The conjecture seems more than probable from the evidence adduced by D'Anville of the concurrence of the bearings and distance between Assuan and Salaka, and Assuan and Ollaki, and of the agreement between the position of Salaka, and the mountains which, in the time of the Ptolemies, yielded such great abundance of the precious metals. The similarity of the name must also be considered as no trifling support to his conjecture, since the modern Arabian names are so frequently only corruptions of the classical names given by their authors. If D'Anville is right in his conjecture, and even an unsupported conjecture ought to be received with the greatest deference from such authority, he has also satisfactorily ascertained the position of the Berenice Pancrysos of the Egyptians as being the present Macowar or Salaka of the Arabs. I can in some degree confirm the conjecture of D'Anville by the evidence of the pilots, at a time when they fully expected we should reach Macowar, and

* In my edition of Edresi, by Hartman, I find the name written Alalaki.

should therefore be able to detect any falsity they might advance, that at a little distance from the village in the harbour, were some ruins, and large tanks, that bespoke ancient magnificence. I can also assert that the mountains which, from Port Mornington, have kept at a considerable distance from the shore, here again approach it, a circumstance which confirms the description of the Arabian authors, and the statement of Diodôrus, that the mines were situated on the confines of Egypt, and near to Arabia and Ethiopia, consequently on the shore of the Arabian Gulf.

To the question, why are these valuable mines no longer worked? it would be difficult to give any positive answer. We find by the account of Diodôrus, that it was only by the most violent exertions that the Ptolemies were able to work them; and that so dreadful was the slavery of those, whom force alone had driven to the employment, that death was considered as preferable to such a life. He also represents the veins of gold as running in an irregular manner between the strata of rock. It is probable, therefore, that the difficulty of procuring it increased; and that the heavy hand of power being removed, no people were found who would voluntarily undertake so dreadfully laborious an employment. These mines may however be again worked in some future period, since the science of modern times has so much improved and facilitated the operations of mining; but whether this is a "consummation devoutly to be wished," for the sake of the inhabitants, is, I think, a matter of considerable uncertainty.

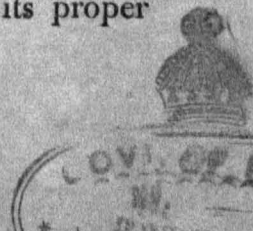
Although I was not so fortunate as to reach Macowar, yet I was sufficiently near to it to convince myself, that the accounts I had received at Massowah and Suakin of its actual position, were

perfectly true, and that Mr. Bruce's adventures at, and near it, were complete romances. I confess that I always had some doubts in my mind respecting this voyage from Cosseir, from the absurdity of the account he gives of his taking a prodigious mat sail, distended by the wind, then blowing a gale, in his arms, and yet having one hand at liberty to cut it in pieces with a knife. Nor could I more easily credit his finding at Jibbel Zumrud or Sibergeit, the pits still remaining, "five in number, none of them four feet in diameter, from which the ancients were said to have drawn the emeralds." That five wells should now exist, which have not been worked since the days of the Romans' holding Egypt, a period of thirteen centuries, in a country where the sand is driven about by incessant gales; that he should find a man who had twice before visited these unworked mines situated in a desert country; and, above all, that he should there have found, "nozzles, and some fragments of lamps," still lying on the brink of these wells, which would have been covered with sand by one single Shamaul, or north wester, are circumstances of such extreme improbability, that nothing but the highest character for veracity could induce me to believe the person who narrated them.

Had these been all the objections, Mr. Bruce's friends might have pleaded that there was no positive proof against him. He has however convicted himself, by pretending to give us latitudes. He declares that, by his own observations, Jibbel Zumrud is in lat. $25^{\circ} 3' N.$ when, in fact, it is a place as well known as any part of the Red Sea, and is in $23^{\circ} 48'$. It might be supposed that this is an error of the press, were it not that he has placed the island in the same latitude in his extraordinary chart, of which I shall have to

speak hereafter; and also that the account of his voyage renders a lower latitude impossible. He says, that he sailed from Cosseir with a light air on the 14th of March, and, about twelve on the 15th, was three miles from Jibbel Zumrud. For these twenty-seven hours it is impossible, with a light air, to allow him more than a degree of latitude, which, with the addition of the longitude, would amount to seventy miles. Besides, on his return, with a strong gale, Jibbel Zumrud was on his lee bow at day light, and he arrived before sun-set at Cosseir, having run the same distance in eleven hours, which occupied twenty-seven hours with a light air; consequently the distance could not be more than seventy miles. D'Anville seems to have led him into the mistake, who places, not the Island of Emeralds, but Maaden-el-Zumrud, or the emerald mines, in $24^{\circ} 45'$.

Mr. Bruce departed from Jibbel Zumrud on the 16th at three in the afternoon, and on the 17th at twelve he was, as he says, four miles north of an island called Macowar, which he found to be in lat. $24^{\circ} 2' N$. The asserted position of this island cannot be owing to any error of the press, not only for the same reason, of his having given the run of a degree in the twenty-one hours, but also from his stating that it lies off the celebrated Ras-el-Anf, or Cape of the Nose, where, he rightly observes, that "the land, after running in a direction nearly N. W. and S. E. turns round in the shape of a large promontory, and changes its direction to N. E. and S. W". It is evident that there is an island in the position he has given to Macowar, which is by mistake called Emerald Island in Sir Home Popham's chart, but is in fact the Kornaka of Don Juan de Castro, while the real Jibbel Zumrud is placed in its proper



position, but is called St. John's island. Mr. Bruce says, that Macowar is the place, "to which the coasting vessels from Massowah and Suakin, which are bound to Jidda during the strength of the summer monsoon, stand close in shore down the coast of Abyssinia." He adds, "that arrived at this island, they set their prow towards the opposite shore, and cross the channel in one night to the coast of Arabia, being nearly before the wind;" and he finishes the paragraph by the modest assertion, that "the track of this extraordinary navigation is marked on the map, and is so well verified, that no ship-master need doubt it." Not one word of this narrative can be made to agree with the islands actually in the vicinity of Ras-el-Anf; nor could any thing be more absurd than to suppose, that the dows would beat against a contrary monsoon as high as $24^{\circ} 2' N.$; when they would have a fair wind for the port they were bound to, Jidda, when in lat. $20^{\circ} 38' N.$ That the entire description of the island, and the plan of starting from it for Jidda, is perfectly true, when referred to the real Macowar, I can, from my own information, and the evidence of the pilots, most positively assert; and the declarations of the natives are strongly corroborated by their total ignorance of the western coast above Macowar. No pilot could be found at Massowah, or Suakin, who would undertake to carry the Panther into Foul Bay, where I was particularly anxious to go, and look for Berenice, though they all knew the way as far as lat. $20^{\circ} 38'.$

I think it clear from the above observations, that Mr. Bruce has represented himself, in the first place, as visiting an island called Jibbel Zumrud, in lat. $25^{\circ} 3' N.$ though in fact, that island lies in $23^{\circ} 48'.$ and afterwards as reaching another island, Macowar, in $24^{\circ} 2' N.$ which, in fact, lies in $20^{\circ} 38'.$

I think it appears equally clear that it was impossible for him to have made a voyage from Cosseir to the real Macowar, a distance of nearly four hundred miles, in the period he allows himself, from the 14th of March to the 17th, and consequently that he never did see that place, although his description of it, and also his assertion that the Arabs there quit the coast of Africa to strike off for Jidda, are both accurate.

I think it impossible to account for these errors in any other way than by considering the whole voyage as an episodical fiction compiled from the accounts of other navigators, and the information he might pick up at Jidda respecting the course of the Arab navigation; an idea which I strongly entertained on the spot, and which has been confirmed, since my return, by the observation first made by an ingenious but anonymous writer in the *Monthly Magazine*, that of twenty charts or drawings taken by Mr. Bruce's assistant, Luigi Balugani, in the Red Sea, not one relates to the pretended voyage from Cosseir to Jibbel Zumrud. I am surprised that the same writer did not take notice of the equally remarkable circumstance, that not a single observation of latitude is to be found in Mr. Bruce's list, as taken either at Jibbel Zumrud, or Macowar, or even the island which he named after himself, though he has asserted in his voyage, that he ascertained the position of these places by the meridian altitude, and has actually given observations made at Cosseir, both before his departure, and immediately after his return to that place.

The only celebrated port of antiquity, that remains to be ascertained on the western shore of the Red Sea, is Myos Hormos, which is mentioned by the *Periplûs*, as being one thousand eight hundred

stadia, from Berenice. These, if considered as Egyptian stadia, will make one hundred and twenty miles.

Berenice is nearly in latitude $23^{\circ} 23' N$. If therefore we calculate, as in the former case, by latitude alone, Myos Hormos must be in $25^{\circ} 23' N$. which brings us to that part of the coast where Don Juan de Castro has laid down two ports, close to each other, which he calls Gualibo, and Tuna ; but if we measure off the distance on the chart, we shall find that, owing to the promontory of Ras-el-Anf extending so far to the east, the one hundred and twenty miles will only bring us to about latitude $25^{\circ} N$. I have before had occasion to observe that less dependance can be placed on the distances, as given in round numbers in the *Periplûs*, than on local circumstances mentioned in that work, or in the works of others, on the same subject. De Castro is the only modern, who has visited and described the coast from Foul Bay to Cosseir, and we must therefore refer to him, to see if there is any place, within a few miles of the latitude, that probably belongs to Myos Hormos, which will answer to the description given by the ancients of that place. It is stated by the author of the *Periplûs*, as being λιμὴν, a port, and not an open road, and as being on the extreme border of Egypt. Strabo calls it "λιμένα μέγαν," a large port, with a winding entrance, and having three islands lying off it. Diodôrus speaks of a port, which he calls Aphrodites, but which seems to be the same as Myos Hormos, from the description of its being a port with a winding entrance, and as being placed at the foot of a mountain of red rock, which shone so as to hurt the eyes ; a circumstance which, by Agatharchides, is attributed to Myos Hormos, who positively declares, that they are the same port, though differently called at different times.

Such are the accounts we have received of the ancient port of Myos Hormos; and it is a coincidence of circumstances that could hardly have been expected to be noted by a traveller who did not direct his attention particularly to a comparison of what was before his eyes, with the description of former navigators, that Don Juan de Castro describes a port called Shakara as encompassed by a very red hill, and near to it another "very capacious and noted harbour, called Shawna, where, according to the report of the Moors and inhabitants, there stood formerly a famous city of the gentiles." The latter place is laid down by De la Rochette in $24^{\circ} 53'$, and the former in $25^{\circ} 8'$, either of which would sufficiently agree with the distance from Berenice as given in the *Periplus*. As the red hill is represented as being a very large one, it might be supposed to reach sufficiently near to Shawna to have been described by the ancients, as a mark of that port, where are probably existing the remains of ancient magnificence which have given rise to the Moorish account. But if this difficulty were removed, the circumstance of the three islands is still remaining to cause a doubt of Shawna being Myos Hormos. I can only observe, that at present there is no proof that three small islands do not exist, opposite to their harbours, and that we know of no other that will answer the description given. Strabo and Diodorus both observe, that two of these islands were covered with olive trees, and the third was frequented by sea birds. This description is so positive that I cannot admit the supposition, that there might be other islands which were overlooked; yet this would be the case were Myos Hormos placed opposite to the Jaffateen Islands. A still stronger objection to this conjecture is, that the coast there is perfectly open, and cannot

therefore be considered as a port with a winding entrance. There is indeed a harbour formed by the cluster of the Jaffateen Islands, but the word *ὑπέγκεινται* of Diodôrus, and *πρόκεισθαι* of Strabo, evidently prove, that these islands lay off the harbour, and were not a component part of it.

As the coast from Ras-el-Anf to Cosseir is perfectly free from hidden dangers, it is to be hoped that some future navigator will find leisure to examine the numerous harbours which, according to Don Juan de Castro, lie within that space. If an ancient town actually exist, water must no doubt be found near it; and it is probable that there is a passage through the mountains, from the name of one of the ports, Sharm-el-Kiman, which is translated "the opening of the mountain." If so, how valuable would a port be, to which vessels could resort, for such supplies as the Bedowee can afford, instead of being obliged to lie in a miserable roadstead at Cosseir, unprotected from the S. E. monsoon, and even where water itself is unattainable, except of a brackish quality!

I submit the preceding observations, on the ancient geography of the Red Sea, to the public, with some diffidence, because the view I have been induced to take of the subject, chiefly from observations made on the spot, differs, on some points, from the judgment formed by Dr. Vincent, after a mature consideration of the information handed down to us by ancient authors; but as in the position of the Opsian Bay, I have been already flattered by the sanction of this candid and learned annotator on the *Periplus*, I feel perfectly convinced that I am affording the highest gratification to his mind, in endeavouring, by local observations, to elucidate the work he has investigated with so much acuteness, although my conclusions may, on some points, differ from his.

March 18.—We were clear of Mirza Sheik Baroud early in the morning. The wind was more moderate, but a great swell followed us. At twelve we were off Suakin, and sent our old pilot on shore in the cutter. We gave him ten dollars, and three pieces of Surat cloth, being satisfied of his merit, and of his having served us faithfully. Now that we know the dangers of the navigation, his demand of sixty-five dollars does not appear so unreasonable. Before dark we got a sight of Hurroo Riot Island, which ends the narrow passage between the shoals. We took a new departure from it, and sailed on all night.

March 19.—At daylight we were off Akeek. The wind was more moderate, with a land breeze in the morning, and a sea breeze after twelve o'clock.

March 20.—A continuation of moderate breezes and pleasant weather during the whole day.

March 21.—We lay to after nine o'clock last night, as we were by our reckoning ten miles from Massowah; but a current carried us beyond it. The morning was fine, but at eight it began to rain, with a strong gale from the N. W. It cleared up about ten, and we got into Massowah harbour. I sent Abdallah on shore to make my salaams to the Nayib, and to bring off the Banian. The Nayib returned civil messages, and the Banian came on board. In the course of the day we procured some fowls, but no goats, sheep, or bullocks were to be had without delay, as, the rains having failed, the scarcity was great, and the remaining stock had been sent up the country; the tanks were completely exhausted, and the inhabitants were obliged to drink the Arkeko water, which is brackish.

The Nayib sent at night a present of Habesh cotton cloth, and

honey, with a message that his daughter was going to be married, who was also my daughter, as he and I were one. This was a broad hint for a present, which I could not evade; I therefore sent the bride a piece of gold tissue, and some Lucknow chintz. The native pilots have so positively assured us that the N.W. monsoon has set in, and our own experience gives such weight to their report, that we have been induced to abandon our intention of trying to reach Suez during the present season, and have adopted in its stead a determination to open a communication with the Court of Abyssinia, and if possible, to send some of our party up into the country. The Banian had frequently mentioned to me that the Ras Welleta Selassé was anxious to hear from me; I therefore delivered him a message for that chief, expressive of my wishes, which I requested him to put on paper, and send up by a special messenger to Tigré, for which I agreed to pay him fourteen dollars, he covenanting that the man should be back at Massowah with the answer in fifteen days. He now spoke less cautiously of the political situation of Massowah, and acknowledged that it lies at the mercy of the King of Abyssinia, and could offer no resistance were he to choose to attack it, as his most forcible instrument would be starvation, by cutting off the supplies from the upper country. In fact, Massowah is only of importance from being the port of Abyssinia, and were the trade to be turned into any other channel, it would sink into insignificance. I found that my friend the Nayib had, after my departure, made Currumchund pay sixty dollars for the cattle and sheep, which he had sent me as presents during my stay: he, of course, was repaid the whole, as it was not dearer than they would have cost had they been supposed to be purchased

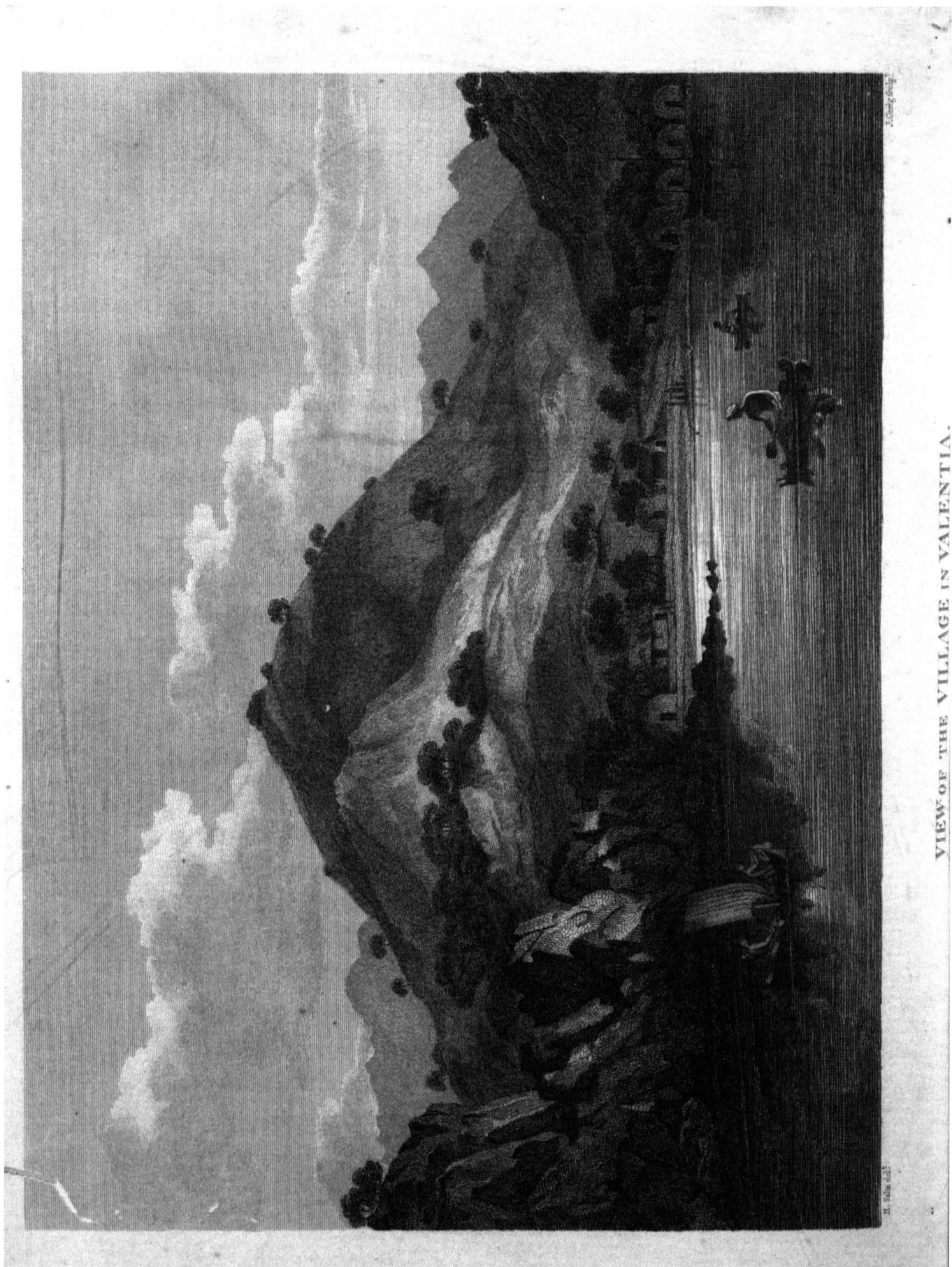
instead of given. We were told that there were accounts in the neighbourhood, of our boat having been broken on the shore, between this place and Akeek, but that the Lascars had escaped. We could not learn the truth of this. If they are caught by the Bedowee they will save nothing but their lives, if they are even so fortunate as to do that. The natives sold us fish for empty bottles. My servant went a shooting on the point which covers the north side of the harbour, and in a few hours killed six antelopes, and three hares. The night was sultry.

March 22.—The Banian came again in the morning to take his leave. We sailed for Mocha at seven, but the wind was so fresh from the E. that we could not weather the N. extreme of Valentia shoal; we therefore kept to the W. of it, in a very fine bay, about five miles wide from the Island to Ras Gedam. The soundings the whole way were from thirty to forty fathom, mud. Captain Court gave it the name of Annesley Bay. At half after eight we anchored close to the western side of the island in twelve fathom. An officer in the boat went out to sound, and discovered close to us a reef of rocks, which run off from the shore: fortunately the wind kept to the E. and we were safe till morning. The Assaye had gone up the bay, close to the main land, and was not in sight.

March 23.—At five we weighed to get into safer anchorage. We found soundings and good bottom as we went S. along shore. We tried to pass through the channel, made by the S. extremity of the island and the main land, intending to anchor off the village, as the Antelope had done. The passage is free from all hidden danger, and sufficiently wide: two rocks are in the centre, but rise considerably above water. The wind was so fresh from the N.E. that we

could make no way, and therefore came to an anchor under shelter of the S.W. point of the island. Soon afterwards Mr. Maxfield joined us. He reported that he had been nearly to the extremity of the western part of Annesley Bay; that the water gradually shoaled to four fathom, mud, when he had come to an anchor. It is certainly a noble bay from its size, from the goodness of its bottom, and from its being perfectly protected from every wind that blows in this sea. It is not surprising that the ancients preferred anchoring in it to the narrow harbour of Massowah, where the ground is hard. Though the channel between the island and the main land is sufficiently deep to prevent its being forded, yet it is so narrow, that a communication is kept up with the greatest ease. The trade that comes down from Abyssinia might be easily brought to the bottom of the bay at the southern extremity of Gedam, instead of passing along the side of that mountain. The distance would be less, as Dixan, the first town of Abyssinia, lies nearly due south of Massowah, and the facilities of embarkation would be equally good. I have no doubt that the trading inhabitants of Orine brought all their goods by this road after they had removed from Massowah or Toulout; and independently of the security from the attacks of the barbarians, they might be very probably induced to remove their station by the facilities which Annesley Bay afforded them, in embarking their elephants' and rhinoceros' teeth.

March 24.—At ten o'clock all the passengers, with Mr. Macgie and the shell-boys, landed on Valentia Island, to walk to the village, while the two vessels beat round to the anchorage. Captain Rudland, and my servant took their guns, and soon parted from the botanisers. We had tolerable success, as the herbaceous plants were



VIEW OF THE VILLAGE IN VALENTIA.

J. G. G. G. G.

W. G. G. G.

many of them, in seed. The only trees were of the genus *Mimosa*, except one which I had never before seen. The southern part of the island is a cluster of small hills sprinkled with trees and herbs. We were obliged frequently to ascend by narrow winding paths, made by the natives. The rock is visible in every part, and is dissimilar from that of the other islands near, not having any marine productions in its composition. Water seems plentiful, from the verdure of the little valleys stretching between the hills to the sea shore, forming a remarkable contrast to the burnt appearance of the neighbouring country. In one place the shooters actually found a spring. Two years have now passed without a fall of rain, consequently it may be safely asserted that water is always to be procured here. The goats were numerous on all the hills. The most lofty of these overhangs the village, and its base forms a rocky protuberance within high-water mark. We named it Mount Norris, out of respect to my father, as being the highest place in the island. It was fortunately low water, and we were able to pass round it. The village then came in view, consisting of about forty round and square basket-work huts. The hills here became less, and the plain much larger, being a mile in length, with a grove of *Mimosas* at the end: beyond this, my servant had shot several very fine wild geese. The Dola and inhabitants of the village gave us a very civil reception, the former appropriating a great part of his house to our use, having couches in it covered with mats, as at Dhalac. The day had fortunately been overcast, and there was a pleasant breeze; yet a walk of four miles, continually ascending and descending, had completely fatigued me, and worn out the shoes of the whole party. We had seen a large heap of the saw-fish's saws in one of the vales;

these we sent for, and purchased for a dollar. They kill the fish for the fins, which is a large article of export to India: it finds a market in China with those of the shark, where they are used, like the birds nests, to give a glutinous richness to the soups.

I now applied for sheep and bullocks for the Panther, but was extremely disconcerted by the discovery that German crowns alone were current here, as we had only Spanish dollars. However, the Dola very kindly took my word, that I would pay for them as soon as the ship anchored. There were no sheep, but the goats were excellent, though dear; one large, or two small, for a dollar. A drove of cattle was brought for me to choose out of: they were by far the finest and fattest I had seen in the Red Sea; for one I paid ten, for the other six dollars. As it would not have been safe to send the largest on board alive, I wished to have him killed. The owner hesitated a little, and desired to be first paid; but the Dola passed his word for me, and he was led to the slaughter. This was performed in a most unbutcherlike manner, with an old sword. They were several minutes in cutting through his neck till they reached the arteries.

As the Panther was at two o'clock too far off to give us any hopes of dining on board, we applied to our friendly Dola, who readily undertook to give us the best the island would afford. A fine young kid was killed, and delivered to his wife, who performed the office of cook, in an inner room, where we were not permitted to enter: a goose was also delivered over to her. In about two hours the whole was served up in very clean bowls of wood, and instead of a table-cloth we had new mats. The good lady had also made us some excellent cakes with juwarry and ghee; pepper and salt were

laid beside them. The only desiderata were knives and forks: of the former they had but one, which had killed the kid, and now was employed to cut it in pieces. It was excellently roasted; and I do not know that I ever enjoyed a dinner more. It was nearly dark before the Panther anchored. I procured the German crowns, paid all my debts, gave my good landlady, and every one who had assisted us, presents, and returned on board after it was dark. We procured here some ghee, which the officers assured me was better than any to be had at Massowah or Mocha. It gives me great pleasure to be able to speak so favourably of a little island, to which I must now naturally be attached. If ever a trade is carried on with Habesh, it will again rise into importance. Supplies could constantly be procured from the main land, where we saw with our glasses numerous droves of cattle, and flocks of sheep. The abundance of water renders it preferable to Massowah, and its vicinity to that place makes it better than Dhalac, while the bays are superior in anchorage to either.

March 25.—We weighed anchor at six with a freshening breeze, which rendered the rounding of Antelope Point an unpleasant and difficult business; we however succeeded, by making several tacks in the bay, and afterwards got on briskly, as the same wind was then fair.

March 26.—It was nearly dark when we got sight of the Aroes, or Anish Islands. The rocks, between which and the high land is the channel, were not visible, yet, as it blew fresh, Captain Court took the bearings, and determined to stand on. We went under our topsails, Captain Court himself keeping a look out. The risk was considerable from the sunken rock, and breakers off Anish; how-

ever, we providentially passed safe between them at eleven o'clock, when Captain Court declared he would not again venture it on any consideration. We lay to part of the night, that we might not pass Mocha, the wind being still fresh from the north.

March 27.—At daylight we stood on, having had a current against us in the night. The airs were become light, and there was every symptom of a change of wind. At two we were nearly in the Roads, when it began to blow very fresh from the south. The guns had been got up, and loaded, to salute me, when the first squall took us; one gun got loose and ran out, so that the port could not be shut. The ship was so crank that we were obliged instantly to take in most of our sails; we, however, fortunately reached a tolerable birth. We set off in the cutter as soon as possible, and got safe ashore at some distance above the north fort. We were met by Mr. Pringle, Mr. Bancroft, and a new party of Americans, arrived since our departure, who all resided at the British factory, where I once again took up my residence. It blew very fresh all night, and made us rejoice that we had ventured through the Aroes, as otherwise we should have been driven back to Rackmah.

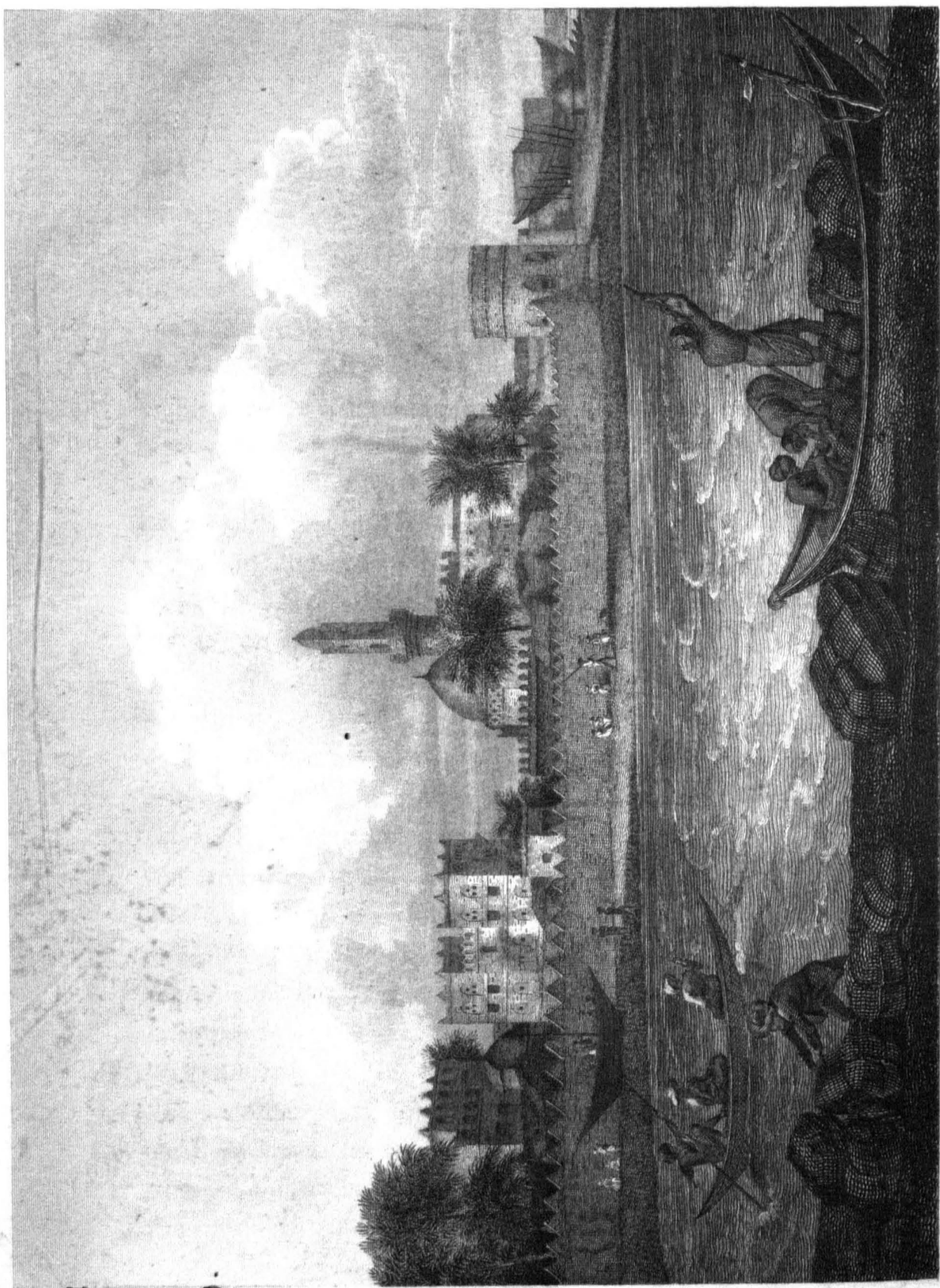
CHAPTER VIII.

Description of Mocha.—Construction of the houses.—Fortifications.—Garrison.—Parade on Friday.—Cavalry and Infantry exercise.—Jews town.—Arabian women.—Use of spirits.—Appearance of the Arabs and their food.—Government of Mocha.—Police.—Character of the Arabs resident in towns and Bedowee Arabs.—Their conduct to Christians altered lately.—Arabian horses.—Climate of Mocha.—Mr. Salt's Tour to Moosa.—Observations on the formation of the Tehama.—Measures pursued in sinking a well at Mocha.—Foundation of Mocha.—Establishment of European Factories.—Account of the trade in Coffee, Gum Arabic, Myrrh, Frankincense, Gold, Ivory, and India Goods.—The Fair of Berbera.—Possibility of penetrating into Africa.—Government of Yemen.—Account of the Imaum and Family.—Account of Sana.—Polygamy.—Rise and present state of the Wahabee power.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE appearance of Mocha from the sea is tolerably handsome, as all the buildings are white-washed, and the three minarets of the mosques rise to a considerable height. The uniform line of the flat-roofed houses is also broken by several tombs, which are called Kobas, after the celebrated mosque at that place, which was consecrated by Mahommed himself, and was similar to them in its construction, being a square edifice covered with a circular dome. On landing at a pier, which has been constructed for the convenience of trade, the effect is improved, by the battlements of the walls, and a lofty tower on which cannon are mounted, which advances before the town, and is meant to protect the sea gate. The moment however that the traveller passes the gates, these pleasing ideas are put to flight by the filth that abounds in every street, and more particularly in the open spaces, which are left within the walls, by the gradual decay of the deserted habitations which once filled them. The principal building in the town is the residence of the Dola, which is large and lofty, having one front to the sea, and another to a square, where, on a Friday, he and his chief officers amuse themselves in throwing the jerid in the manner described by Niebuhr. Another side of the square, which is the only regular place in the town, is filled up by the official residence of the Bas Kateb, or Secretary of State; and an extensive serai built

by the Turkish Pacha during the time Mocha was tributary to the Grand Seignior. These buildings externally have no pretensions to architectural elegance, yet are by no means ugly objects, from their turretted tops, and fantastic ornaments in white stucco. The windows are in general small, stuck into the wall in an irregular manner, closed with lattices, and sometimes opening into a wooden, carved-work balcony. In the upper apartments there is generally a range of circular windows above the others, filled by thin strata of a transparent stone, which is found in veins in a mountain near Sana. None of these can be opened, and only a few of the lower ones, in consequence of which a thorough air is rare in their houses; yet the people of rank do not seem oppressed by the heat, which is frequently almost insupportable to an European. The floors, as well as the roofs of the larger houses, are made of chunam, which is sustained by beams, with pieces of plank, or thin sticks of wood, laid across, and close to each other. As they never use a level, the floors are extremely uneven; but this is a trifling inconvenience to people who never use chairs or tables, but are always reclining on couches, supported on every side by cushions. The internal construction of their houses is uniformly bad. The passages are long and narrow, and the staircases so steep that it is frequently difficult to mount them. At the Dola's, numerous doors are well secured on the landing places, to prevent any sudden hostile attack. Little lime is used in any of their buildings; a constant care is therefore necessary to prevent the introduction of moisture; but with caution they last for many years. If however a house is neglected, it speedily becomes a heap of rubbish; the walls returning to their original state of mud, from which they had been formed



VIEW OF THE SOUTH QUARTER OF MOCTEA

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into bricks by the heat of the sun alone. The wooden materials very soon vanish in a country, where firing is extremely scarce, so that even the ruins of cities, which were celebrated for their magnificence in former times, may now be sought for in vain.

The best houses are all facing the sea, and chiefly to the north of the sea gate. The British factory is a large and lofty building, but has most of the inconveniences of an Arab house. It is however far superior to the French or Danish factories, which are rapidly falling to decay. The lower order of Arabs live in huts, composed of wicker-work, covered on the inside with mats, and sometimes on the outside with a little clay. The roofs are uniformly thatched. A small yard is fenced off in front of each house; but this is too small to admit a circulation of air. It is singular that these habitations should be crowded close together, while a large part of the space within the walls is left unoccupied.

The town of Mocha is surrounded by a wall, which towards the sea is not above sixteen feet high, though on the land side it may, in some places, be thirty. In every part it is too thin to resist a cannon ball, and the batteries along shore are unable to bear the shock of firing the cannon that are upon them. Two forts are erected, for the protection of the harbour, on two points of land which project considerably into the sea, at about a mile and a half from each other. An English man of war would level either to the ground with a single broadside. There are two other batteries within the town, but they are in a still more defenceless state. The guns on all these places are useless, except to return a salute. The Arabs, when they purchased them from infidels, considered them as Sbeitan, or belonging to the devil, and therefore immediately

set to work to make them holy, for which to accomplish their ignorance has led them to an extraordinary idea. They enlarge the touch-hole, till nearly the whole of the gunpowder explodes by it, which is also the way by which it very frequently enters. As, however, they have never had occasion to use these guns hostilely, they are not aware of the mischief they have done. The walls on the land side are a sufficient defence against the Wahabee, who always storm a town by means of their cavalry, and the numerous round towers have a very imposing effect on people who are totally ignorant of the use of artillery. Although under constant alarm from the Wahabee, they have neglected to repair the fortifications, and seem to consider the many small doors, nearly on the level of the ground, as affording no facility of entrance to an enemy. Near the sea gate a part of the wall has actually fallen down, and has been repaired with a few boards and matting. The town runs, for about half a mile, in nearly a straight line facing the sea, but afterwards the walls take a circular direction inland. The space thus included is in part not built upon, and, I should suppose, does not contain a population of above five thousand souls.

The garrison, in general, consists of about eighty horse, and two hundred matchlock-men, who receive a regular pay of two dollars and a half per month, for which they provide their own arms, and powder and ball for exercise; but when they quit Mocha, they are supplied with every thing, and have four dollars in advance. There is not a vestige of discipline among them, but they are by no means bad marks-men, though they are a long time in taking aim. When on guard at the different gates, they recline on couches, with their matchlocks lying neglected by their sides; while the right hand is occu-

pieced, either in sustaining the pipe, or a cup of coffee. Their match-locks are good, and richly ornamented with silver. This, and their crooked dagger or jambea, are their chief pride; and it requires the most rigid economy for several years, to enable a young Arab to provide himself with them. The troops attend the Dola every Friday to the great mosque, and afterwards exercise in the front of his house. I was present several times to see the infantry fire three vollies, which they do with ball cartridge, or at least ought to do, though I suspect economy induces them frequently to leave out the ball. Before they fire, they throw themselves into loose disorder; a plan which the Dola strongly justified to Mr. Pringle, when he waited on him to announce the late glorious victories of the British in the east. On that occasion he fairly told him, that he was very much surprised our soldiers ever gained a victory, disciplined as they were. "Why," said he, "your men are all drawn up in a row, so that any man may be distinguished by a person who has an enmity to him, and be shot immediately; whereas my men, by standing in disorder, and continually changing place, cannot be known." The ball that they use is small, and ill formed, so that, at the respectful distance they keep from each other, a wound is seldom received. As the chief Mussulmaun inhabitants attend the Dola on the Friday, as well as the soldiers, the procession is handsome, several gay streamers being carried by the horsemen, and before the Dola the green and red flags of the Imaum; on the former of which is figured, in white, the double-bladed sword of Mahommed, which has a much greater resemblance to the figure of an European, with his head, feet, and hands cut off. The Arab dress looks well on horseback, and is composed of the richest satins and kincaubs of India. The

flowing scarf, and the turban with the ends hanging low on the back, adds greatly to the elegance of the dress.

Without the walls of the town are two extensive villages embosomed in groves of date trees; the one is occupied by the Samaulies, the other by the Jews, who here carry on an extensive, but disgraceful trade, in a spirit which is extracted from the date tree; although fiery and unwholesome, it is drunk by the Mussulmauns in private. A more profitable trade is carried on by their females with the seamen; a certain degree of mystery is pretended to, but in reality the fact is known and connived at by the Dola, not only for the sake of the profits which he receives, but as being an additional inducement to the Europeans to desert and become Mussulmauns. Ostensibly any connection between a Christian and an Arab woman is severely reprobated, and, if detected, the female suffers a ludicrous punishment; her head is shaved and blackened, she is led round the town on a jack-ass, exposed to the insults of the populace, and at length, is driven from the place. At night, however, a dollar or two will induce one of the Dola's soldiers to conduct a Christian to those females, who exist in abundance at Mocha for the use of the Mussulmauns, and he will stay quiet at the door to protect them from intrusion. These villages are not more cleanly than the town; and the gully, in which the river of Moosa has occasionally reached the sea, is filled with an accumulation of filth that, in a more moist country, would certainly breed a pestilence, though here it has no ill effect.

The Arabs are in general a healthy race of people, fevers being very unusual, though severe colds are common during the cooler months. Ulcers are so prevalent, that it is rare to see a person with-

out a mark from them on the legs : this is chiefly owing to their bad treatment ; they only apply a piece of wax to the wound, which is never changed till it falls off ; cleanliness is indeed no quality of an Arab, either in his person or habitation. The part of his dress, which is concealed, is rarely changed till it is worn out ; and it was a work of the greatest difficulty to force the servants to keep even the British factory free from accumulations of nuisances in every part. The form is gone through, every morning, of sweeping a path across the square from the Dola's house to his stables ; yet, at the same time, a dunghill is formed under his windows by the filth thrown out from his Zenana, so extremely offensive, as often to induce the Europeans to take a circuit to avoid it.

The Arabs, when very young, have an expressive, but mild countenance, and a pleasing eye. As they become men, the change is very disadvantageous ; their figures are not good, and the beard is generally scanty ; but, in advanced age, their appearance is truly venerable. The fine dark eye is then admirably contrasted by the long white beard, and the loose drapery prevents the meagre figure from being observed. The few women, who were visible, had rather pretty countenances, but in contrast to the males, their legs were of an astonishing thickness. An exchange, in this respect, would be greatly to the advantage of both parties.

The food of the Arabians of inferior rank is a coarse grain raised in the country, juwarry, ghee, dates, and, on the sea coast, fish, which is procurable, in any quantity, with very little trouble. The higher orders occasionally add some mutton or beef, boiled to rags, and on festivals, a little pilau. The cawa, made from the husk of the coffee berry, is drank by most of them several times a

day, and the pipe is rarely out of the hands of the men. At the factory a very excellent table was kept by Mr. Pringle. The beef and mutton, which are procured from the coast of Berbera, and particularly from Zeila, where the Imaum has a garrison, are excellent. Poultry is in great abundance, and cheap. Sweet potatoes, chillies, onions, and water melons, are cultivated in the small gardens without the town, wherever water is procurable from wells.

Mocha, as well as the other towns belonging to the Imaum, is governed by a Dola. Formerly an Arab of high rank was appointed to this office, but now that the authority of the sovereign is greatly weakened, it has been considered as more prudent to give the situation to a slave, who can always be removed, and from whom it is more safe to take the profits of his government. The Sheriffe of Abou Arish is an instance of the danger of appointing an Arab of the Prophet's family, who are, in fact, an hereditary nobility, that still consider themselves as intitled to all power among the Mussulmauns. He was appointed to Loheia by the present Imaum, and no sooner reached his government than he prepared to rebel, and with very little difficulty resisted all attempts to drive him out. He has now become a Wahabee, and perfectly secured his independence. The second officer in the town is the Bas Kateb, or Secretary of State. This office is always held by an Arab, who is considered as a licensed spy over the Dola. The third is the Cadi, or Judge; and these three compose the Divan, where all public business is conducted, and where the Dola has only a vote.

The Government of Mocha is the best in the gift of the Imaum; not from the salary, which is trifling, but from the large sums which

he is able to squeeze from the Banians, and foreign merchants. The present Dola was a slave of the Vizier, but in consideration of his good conduct, he has received a title from the Imaum, and, with it, his freedom. He is avaricious and tyrannical; but he has realised a considerable revenue for the Imaum, as well as secured a great treasure for himself. He invented a new method of extorting money from the Banians, by confining them in a room, and fumigating them with sulphur, till they complied with his demands. Mr. Pringle has frequently been obliged to complain at Sana of the obstructions he has put in the way of commerce, and probably he will soon be recalled, and obliged to disgorge his plunder. The Arabs have a whimsical apologue on the subject. They say, that when a Dola is appointed, he weighs nothing; that on going out of the gates of Sana he weighs a frasel; that on arriving at his government, he weighs two; and goes on growing heavier and heavier, during his stay; but that he dwindles and dwindles as he returns, till the gates of Sana reduce him to his primitive leanness.

The present Cadi is a most respectable character, and I am assured that he would consider it as an insult were a fee to be offered him. The consequence is, that Mocha is in general a peaceable town, and, during my whole residence there, no act of violence took place. The police is strict at night; and if any person should be found out of his house after the Dola has retired to rest, a period that is marked by the drums beating before his door, he would be conducted to prison. Opposite to the British factory is a collection of thatched huts, which answer this purpose, where a prisoner lives as comfortably as he can do in any part of the town. At present a large number of people are confined there, who quarrelled with

the Vizier at Sana about religion, broke his windows, and committed several other outrages. They were originally confined in the island of Zeila, but the Dola there, finding that the violent heat of the climate injured their health, humanely sent them back to Mocha, where they still remain, without a hope of release. They are fanatics, and regularly chant their evening prayers in a plaintive, and by no means displeasing manner.

The Arabs, in general, seem to care very little about their religion. Friday is no otherwise distinguished, than by the flag of the Imam being hoisted on the forts, and the troops being paraded in the square, whilst the lower orders carry on their usual occupations. Money will, at any time, induce an Arab to wave his prejudices, of which a curious instance occurred during my first residence at the British factory. Captain Keys had given a pig to Mr. Pringle, which the Lascars of the *Antelope* refused to bring on shore. Some fishermen were however easily procured, who, for the usual fee of a dollar, brought it safe to the factory. Admiral Blanket, the chief of the fishermen, attended it himself, in a state of perfect intoxication; but this was probably done to diminish his scruples in touching so unclean an animal.

A longer residence among the Arabs settled in towns, has only increased the detestation and contempt, with which I behold them. They have all the vices of civilised society, without having quitted those of a savage state. Scarcely possessed of a single good quality, they believe themselves superior to every other nation; and, though inveterate cowards, they are cruel and revengeful. Superstitious followers of Mahommed, they do not obey one moral precept of the Koran; and though they perform the prescribed ablutions with

strict regularity, yet I never heard of a vice, natural or unnatural, which they do not practise and avow; and, though they pray at regulated times to the Deity, yet they also address their prayers to more saints than are to be found in the Romish calendar. Hypocrisy and deceit are so natural to them, that they prefer telling a lie, to speaking the truth, even when not urged to do so by any motive of interest. To this they are trained from their youth, and it forms a principal part of their education. As a government, they are extortioners and tyrants; as traders, they are fraudulent and corrupt; as individuals, they are sunk into the lowest state of ignorance and debauchery; and, in short, require to be civilised more than the inhabitants of the South Seas.

The difference between this character of the Arabs, and that given by Mr. Niebuhr, may at first sight appear extraordinary; but the difference is more in appearance than reality, as it is evident that he takes his opinion from the reception he had met with among the wandering tribes. He seems, however, to have imbibed a partiality for the nation in general, which the conduct of the Dola of Mocha, in particular, by no means justified; and he has attributed virtues to them, which I cannot admit them to possess. Whatever his reception might have been among the tented tribes; in Yemen, it was neither hospitable nor generous. Many, even in that country, are charitable, but it is an outward duty of religion; and never extends beyond their own sect. I am perfectly ready to concur with him in his character of the wandering tribes, who, I believe, are less civilised, and have fewer vices. The virtue of hospitality, so necessary in the barren deserts which they occupy, is completely theirs; and their bravery, and strict sense of honour,

elevate them far above their countrymen, who reside in cities. I should feel happy in supposing that this were owing to their blood being less contaminated by the mixture of slaves from every nation, a degradation from which they are preserved by their poverty; a poverty, however, that is invaluable, as it secures their freedom.

The Arab has essentially altered his conduct towards Christians, who may now walk about the streets of their towns without being liable to insult. The different events which have taken place in India, and have so conspicuously elevated the Cross above the Crescent, have struck a panic to the heart of the Mussulmaun throughout the east. It cannot be supposed that he has beheld the change without repining; but it has forced upon his mind a conviction of the superior power of the Christian, whom he hates as he ever did; but now fears, instead of despising. The English have been the chief instruments in producing this change, and are therefore less popular in Arabia than their rivals, the French. Arabia was for a long time too remote from the scene of action to form any idea of the British power; the veil was removed by the expedition to Egypt, when they were supported by the firmaun of the Grand Seignior, ordering them to destroy any of the ports in the Red Sea that did not afford them protection; and when it was evident that they had the power to put the order into execution. Still, the neglect, or timid caution of our officers, in submitting to the insult of having their seamen stolen from them, and circumcised, in defiance of their remonstrances, prevented the Arabs from feeling our real power; and this was heightened into contempt, by the not resenting of the affronts which were heaped on

Sir Home Popham, who endeavoured to make his way to Sana as an Ambassador, but was obliged to return, as I have been informed by Mr. Pringle, in no very pleasant manner; though attended, when he set out, by a guard of one hundred marines, which ought either not to have been taken, or to have been employed in protecting him from insult. The defeated soldiers of Scindiah at length returned in hundreds, and, after great difficulty, convinced the Dola, and the inhabitants of Mocha, that the English actually could, and would fight: a fact which Mr. Pringle had found it impossible to make them credit.

A calm and moderate firmness would, I have no doubt, easily procure, for Christians in Arabia, every immunity and privilege which, as strangers, they could require. A single ship of war could at any time stop, not only the whole trade of Mocha, but also the necessary supplies of provisions from Berbera. This would force a compliance with the reasonable demand, that the deserters should be given up; and this, once done, the idea of impunity would be done away, and not a seaman would ever afterwards place any confidence in their threats. A disgraceful prohibition also ought to be removed; a Christian is not permitted to go out at the Mecca gate, although the Jews and Banians are. This is the more singular, as the two latter are considered by Mussulmauns as inferior in character to the former, the Jews not believing in Christ, nor the Banians in Moses or Christ, who are both revered by the followers of Mahommed.

The British factory, though one of the best houses in the town, has many inconveniences, independently of its construction, the chief of which is its vicinity to the Dola's stables, where the asses

keep up an incessant braying, particularly if any noise in the night excite their attention. The horses are, in the day time, brought out into the streets, where they are fastened by their hind legs with chains to the ground, and by the head to the wall, so that it requires some precaution to pass between them, and still more to enter the gates of the factory, from the crowd of children belonging to the stable-keepers, who demand, rather than petition for, charity. The horses of Arabia are celebrated for their superior qualities, and certainly I saw some at Mocha of uncommon beauty, particularly about the head and neck. The Imaum is the only horse-dealer in his dominions, and these were his property, being sent down to Mocha for sale. The price rarely exceeds one thousand dollars. The Arab system of riding totally destroys a horse in a very short time. He is taught only to walk, canter, or gallop, as at the menage; and when at full speed is made to stop short by means of a strong bit, which ruins his mouth in a year or two, while the force employed throws him on his haunches, and very frequently founders him at an early age. The asses are of two species; the one has a stripe of black down the shoulders, and cross bands of black on the legs; the other is like the Spanish, and as fine a breed; the mules are consequently very handsome.

The climate of Mocha is more sultry than any I have yet experienced, in consequence of its vicinity to the arid sands of Africa; over which the S. E. wind blows for so long a continuance, as not to be cooled in its short passage over the sea below the straits of Bab-el-mandeb. This monsoon continues above eight months in the year with such force, as frequently to render all communication between the vessels in the road, and the shore, impossible. For

the three or four months that the opposite monsoon from the N. W. blows, the heat is much greater, and the airs are light. These winds extend only to Jibbel Teir; from which place to above Jidda they may be considered as variable for the whole year, though the prevailing one is generally from the same point in which the monsoon blows in the lower part of the Gulf. Above Cosseir an extraordinary change takes place, for, thence to Suez the wind blows for rather more than eight months from the N. W. At Mocha, during the prevalence of the S. E. wind, a thick haze covers the opposite coast, but the moment the north-wester commences, the opposite mountains and islands gradually appear. The high land of Assab is visible from Mocha, as given in the drawing, although its distance was ascertained to be seventy miles, by a set of cross bearings taken from the island of Perim. This proves that there is a great degree of refraction in the atmosphere, of which indeed we had still more positive proof, by the appearance of several other headlands at the same time, and which we knew were much too low to be seen directly at the distance they actually were: a very singular phenomenon also occurred, which has been taken notice of by the ancients—the sun set like a pillar of fire, having totally lost its usual round form.

The country, in the vicinity of Mocha, is more dreary than can well be conceived: to the foot of the mountains it is an arid sand, covered with a saline efflorescence, and producing in abundance the common Mimosa, and a species of Salicornia, whose embrowned leaves, and burnt appearance, gives little idea of vegetation. Near the town the date trees are in profusion; but their stunted growth shows the difference between the soil of Arabia, and the fertile

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plains of India : even where a brackish well has given an opportunity of raising a few vegetables, the scene is still cheerless, from the fence of dried reeds, which is alone visible. Mr. Salt, by the permission of the Dola, paid a visit to Moosa, and intended to have gone on to Beit-el-Fakih, but was recalled in consequence of the disputes running high respecting the renegadoes. He describes the country, even there, as uninteresting, though the mountains were fine, and there were fields of grain, and other appearances of cultivation. This is owing to the river, which rises in the hills, and at one season is full of water, though it, in general, loses itself in the Tehama, without reaching the sea. Once, indeed, it found its way to Mocha, where it carried away a considerable part of the Jews' town, which is built in its usually unfrequented bed. Had Mocha not existed, and had a vessel by accident approached the coast at that time, the mariners might justly have reported, that a river of fresh water there emptied itself into the sea. Future navigators would have positively contradicted them; and they would have been accused as liars, without having merited the title. I think it probable that the accounts of the river Charles above Jidda, and the river Frat opposite to it, have originated in a similar circumstance. By the influence of money Mr. Salt experienced a civil reception : he drew the town, of which I have given an engraving ; and also the Dola's son, who did the honours of the place, his father being absent.

The singular appearance of the flat Tehama of barren sand, extending from the mountains to the sea, has given rise to the supposition, that it has been formed by gradual incroachments on that element ; a supposition which is greatly confirmed by the strata that