

some days, and the people were in the utmost distress. The American Captain, Elkins, who was in Mocha last year, arrived on the 10th. He found the markets strangely altered for the worse, and knew not what to do. He brought some pumps for Mr. Pringle, which the Dola refused to let pass; a black renegado having informed him, that they were instruments used by the English for drowning a country. He said such things were never seen there before, and he must write to the Imaum on the subject.

July 26. — The weather for the last three weeks had been very pleasant, the nights being perfectly cool. The wind had been chiefly west, which comes from Habesh, where the tropical rains are in all their force, and had then to pass over the sea. If it change to the east for half an hour, the heat becomes very great. It is nearly as bad from the south, there not being a sufficiency of sea to cool it after passing the burning deserts of Africa. On the 24th we had a heavy squall in the night, when our friends the Portuguese lost an anchor.

The Dola sent above half the garrison a few days before to Moosa, to bring in juwarry. They brought thirty camels' load, which vanished in a moment. He charged three dollars and a half escort money for each camel. This is one way of living on the distress of the country. The poor people have nothing but dates and fish, and not plenty of these.

Yesterday the Portuguese ship Rosalia sailed. Captain da Costa supplied us with five quarter-casks of Port, and took an order on Bombay for the same quantity. He also gave me some oil and some sweetmeats from Rio de Janeiro. I wrote by him to my friends in Europe, to the Governor General, and to Mr. Duncan, to whom

I particularly recommended all the officers. We sent by her eight hundred bales of coffee for Mr. Forbes, and took dollars to the amount of fifty thousand on an advantageous exchange to them; so that they would be no losers by their touching here.

The Americans buy their coffee without cleaning, and some of the worst quality; what we take is good. Six ships were there at that time, and Captain Elkins assured me six more were on their passage. He made last year two hundred per cent.

The Naqueda of a dow from Massowah said that seventeen days ago the Panther was there; that at first the Dola made objections to the gentlemen going into Habesh, but that every thing was settled. They had agreed to pay what was customary, and he had made himself responsible for their safety. The soldiers, he added, were all ready to escort them. From this account I hoped they were on their way. It accorded too well with what we knew to be fact, to be all an invention.

July 31.—The Dola sent to prison every dealer in grain, till they should pay him two dollars each for the active exertions of himself and soldiers, in keeping off the Wahabee!!!

On the 28th it rained so heavily as to penetrate the upper apartments, and drive us below. The Dola's stables, which were thatched, sunk under it. The lightning was vivid, and the thunder loud; a dow was struck, and some damage done near the town. It had, for these three last days, being extremely close in the morning, till about eleven, when the sea breeze set in. After the rain the thermometer was at 80°. I was unwell with a cold, a complaint which every one of us had experienced from the sudden changes in the temperature of the air.

On the 30th, another American, Captain Lee, arrived. He sailed before Captain Elkins, and therefore brought no news, but was so kind as to share with us his Madeira. He thought there were fourteen more ships coming here!

The Emir Bahar, who had offended every one as well as me, had been turned out of office. The soldiers were again gone to Moosa to bring in a cargo of provisions.

The Dola had notified to Captain Lee that the Imaum had appointed a brother of Seid Mahommed Akil, agent to the Americans, and a Banian, to transact their business, having prohibited the others from selling to them under a penalty of five thousand dollars. This was partly done to annoy Mr. Pringle, but still more to benefit himself, by the large presents he exacts from the Seids. Captain Elkins had brought this on the Americans, by his requesting that some one, besides Devagé, might be permitted to buy for them. He thought they should, by having an option of brokers, get it cheaper than from Mr. Pringle, who let them have it at thirty-five dollars, instead of which it was now up at fifty-two; and they were more likely to suffer from a monopoly than ever. The price was not likely to fall, and the trade was exposed to ruin. The Dola sent to tell me what had been done: I answered, that I was very happy to hear it, as I disliked the Imaum, for his conduct to the English, and, that this act would punish him, by ruining his trade. He replied, that he hoped I was mistaken; but if not, it was no fault of his, as he had positive orders from Sana on the subject. I desired Captain Benzoni to ask him, in confidence, respecting Mr. Pringle's pumps. He declared, he thought them very dangerous things; that all the brass on the inside could be meant for no good. Captain Benzoni explained to

him their real use; but he said he had written to Sana, and hoped, if the Imaum bought them, that Captain Benzoni would go and put them up.

August 2.—Another dow arrived from Massowah in fifteen days. The Naqueda said, that the English gentlemen had not set off for Habesh, but that the mules were come down for them, and that they had paid the Nayib four hundred dollars.

An escort returned on the 2d of August with juwarry and coffee. Mr. Pringle supplied our servants with the first at prime cost; as it was almost impossible for them to purchase it in the bazar.

August 5.—Our Suakin friend, Emir Mohammed, arrived on the 5th with letters from Captain Court and Mr. Salt, which were on the whole satisfactory. He also brought a letter from the Nayib. Captain Court had been extremely civil to him, and had saluted him on his coming on board; with which he was highly pleased. They were in great distress at Massowah for provisions. The Emir dined with us on the 5th, and brought eight of his friends, who were very little at their ease. He said he had dined with us before, and was quite comfortable; so it seemed, for he devoured a prodigious quantity. He had brought slaves and gold. Since we saw him he had been at Sanaar. He told me that country was in great confusion; that there had been four different sovereigns within three years: when deposed they are put to death, as Bruce describes, by one of their relations. He said, he could not be responsible for the safety of an European, who should go with him, as none have ever travelled that way, and the people are wild. I determined to pay him every attention, to conciliate the friendship of his powerful tribe. We had several showers in the course of the day.

August 15.—The Panther was in sight on the 15th to the southward, but the wind being fresh from the north, and the current very strong in the same direction, she made but little way on that day, she was obliged to come to an anchor, just as she reached the sand heads. Captain Court sent on shore letters from Mr. Salt, dated from Dixan, which gave me the pleasing intelligence of his having reached in safety that frontier of Habesh. Captain Benzoni has gone down for Aden to try to purchase coffee.

August 24.—Captain Court landed on the 16th.* On the 17th another American ship arrived, commanded by Captain Rowe, whom I had seen before. He fortunately brought some flour for Mr. Pringle, which he turned over to the Panther. Knowing how very anxious Mr. Salt must be to hear of us, and wishing to write to the Ras respecting his safe return, I spoke to Unus Barilla on the subject, who offered to convey a letter from a town by Amphila, where he had a wife, without its going through any part of the Nayib's territories. It was an important object to find another way to Habesh; I therefore agreed with him, and he was to set off that evening.

August 26.—Seid Mahommed Akil arrived, with two very fine vessels, from the Isle of France on the 24th: one is the Pigeon, an English prize; the other a country ship, the Peggy, which he purchased on the Malabar coast. The Seid is a descendant of Hossein-ebn-Ali, by Fatima, the daughter of Mohammed, and carries on trade. He hoists a green flag with a red border. I could not comprehend him. He had a quantity of arms and ammunition on board. His captains were French, and it was said, that he had brought assurances from the Isle, that a French resident would

* For an account of his voyage, vide Appendix.

arrive in October. Last year he was a violent Wahabee, but this year he declared himself merely a merchant, and of no party whatsoever. He has either sold, or given to the Dola twelve short six pounders, and some shot, for a new fort which he has erected to the north of the town, and to which he means to retire in case of a siege. I suspected the ship and all that it contained to be French property, and that the Arab flag was only a cover.

I was excessively hurt by the intelligence that an American boy, who had entered in the Panther from another ship, and of whom Captain Court had a very high opinion, had run to the Dola's house. He had by an accident broken his arm, in consequence of which he had remained on shore during the last trip, and been treated with the greatest kindness. His conduct therefore was unaccountable. Captain Court applied immediately to have permission to see him, which was granted, but in the Dola's presence. On first addressing the boy, the Dola interrupted Captain Court, by observing, that he had no business to say any thing, but to put the simple question, whether or no the boy were inclined to turn Mussulmaun. This Captain Court resented in high terms, and persevered in pointing out to him the madness of which he was guilty. The old Italian renegade attempted to answer his arguments; but was instantly silenced by Captain Court in the most peremptory terms. The lad, without hesitation, consented to return to us, on which they tried to hustle him out of the room; but the Captain declared he should go with him, and immediately quitted the house.

August 28.—We had another dispute with the Dola. A Lascar had left the ship, but was met by the Serang, who, with an officer, Mr. Denton, was conveying him to the boat, when at the gate he

claimed protection from the guard, which was immediately granted, and he was rescued from the officer. I immediately sent to the Dola, representing that this Indian subject of ours was already a Mussulmaun, and that consequently the usual plea of conversion could not justify his keeping him from us. He sent in reply, "that he would protect every body, who wished for his protection, and that I might send word of it to the Government of India." I answered, "that I would do so ; for, that I considered his answer as insolent, and such as no servant of the Imaum ought to have dared to send to the Governor of India. I can only attribute the alteration in the Dola's language, to the confidence inspired by the information brought by the Seid from the Isle of France.

September 1.—Devagé's dow sailed for India : by her I wrote an account of the Dola's conduct. In a conversation with the Bas Kateb, he justified the measure of taking our men, and said, that if the Governor of India wrote to them about it, they should only answer, "it was thfeir custom, and they would do it."

From the multitude of ships of the Americans, I really believe they think them a greater nation than the English.

Unus's dow returned ; he wrote by his son a joint letter to me, Captain Court, and Mr. Pringle, representing that he had sent off my dispatches, and that the man had promised to be back by the 5th of the next moon. He, however, added, that he had promised to pay him fifty dollars, and could not return till we sent it him. This was certainly an impudent attempt of our friend Unus, as I had before paid him for the whole. I therefore told his son I would not give a penny more, with which he appeared perfectly satisfied, and no more claims were urged.

We were again alarmed by the incursions of the Wahabee, who were certainly in great force. The road to Moosa was unsafe; and why this place was not attacked, I could not conceive.

We had so many delays in passing provisions at the gate for the use of the ship, that Captain Court applied to the Bas Kateb. He declared he knew nothing of it; assured us he would speak to the Dola and Emir Bahar, admitting it was positively contrary to the Imaum's engagement, by which all provisions and stores were to pass free to the Factory and British ships. He hoped it would not happen again. The Dola was angry about the boy's leaving him, and took this method of showing his resentment.

September 6.—Gardner, whom I have before mentioned, and another white man, nearly fifty years of age, ran away to the Dola's. Captain Court sent to the Dola, but he was invisible, and could receive no message. On the 6th the Hadje obtained an audience, and was told by the Dola, that he had found these men so determined to become Mussulmauns, that he made them so yesterday. This is with them illegal, as three days are allowed; and it is necessary that a proper examination should take place, to prove their firm determination, and, that they should be instructed in the principles of the religion they wish to embrace. Here, however, the fear of Captain Court's inducing them to return, outweighed the Dola's sense of duty, and he violated his own laws to secure two proselytes.

September 11.—Captain Court sailed on the 10th to survey a part of the opposite coast. Captain Lee and another American also sailed for Bengal, since the price of coffee here rendered any hope of profit out of the question; the cessation of the English

purchases having lowered the markets only to ninety-eight Mocha dollars. The Americans get between two and three hundred bales per week. The whole quantity sold at Mocha between August twelvemonth and last August, was twelve thousand bales. I wrote to Lord Wellesley by Captain Lee, stating all that had passed with the Dola.

On the 10th all the guns were fired to celebrate the raising of the siege of Sana. We never heard here that it had been attacked. It was not the Wahabee that were beaten, but some Bedowee tribes, who inhabit the hills, and are a brave and hardy race, that have had claims on the Imaum since the time, they assisted in liberating the country from the Turkish yoke. Their loss, by the Dola's account, amounted to twenty killed; the Imaum's loss was not mentioned. Most people believed it all a fiction to raise money; as the Dola generally, on those occasions, levies contributions for the expense the Imaum has been at in protecting his subjects.

September 13.—The weather for some days had considerably changed. It was frequently calm, and easterly winds have blown; we had in the morning a southerly light air, which gradually moved to the west by the middle of the day, to the north in the evening, and round by the E. to S. in the course of the night. These light airs and calms on the 12th, saved the town of Mocha. As I was in bed that night, I was alarmed by a fire which consumed thirty or forty thatched houses, close to the American Factory. If the wind had blown from the south or west, the whole town would have been consumed; but as it was a perfect calm, our fears were over in a few hours. Some Samaulies exerted themselves in extinguishing the fire, in order to save their vessels, which were lying

dry on the other side of the wall. The flames were stopped by the stone houses, as these people drove out the window frames, and kept pouring water on the walls. The Arabs did nothing but look on, with the Dola at their head.

September 17.—On the 16th another American sailed with half a cargo, having no more money. Burns, a seaman, who had run away from an American, and turned Mussulmaun, applied to my servant to get him off. I consented, and Captain Barton was so good as to send his boat, and take him at night on board the brig. Thus the Dola loses his converts as fast as he gets them; for, of nearly one hundred that have turned within these five years, there are now only five remaining. Early in the morning we had a slight shock of an earthquake; it was single, and seemed to proceed from the east to the west.

September 20.—On the 18th Seid Akil sailed to the northward; for what purpose I could not conjecture. I heard he had been proposing to some of the Samaulies to assist him in getting possession of some place opposite to build a town; but this was probably only a pretext to conceal his real intentions. He must have had some secret plans, for it could never answer to keep a vessel of eight hundred tons, like the Peggy, in the Red Sea, a whole season, for the purposes of trade; particularly as she had nothing on board but ammunition and arms. The Wahabee dows infest Camaran, and are continually cruizing off Jidda. Some dows that sailed from this place returned.

On the evening of the 19th, I was taxed by an Arab, who spoke English, with an intention of taking Mocha: it was ~~done~~ in a laughing way, and I replied in the same manner, that it was not worth having; and that I would not have it if they would give it

to me. This, however, confirmed what I had before heard, that the people in general attributed to me intentions hostile to the place.

Another fire broke out about eleven in a stone house, and partly consumed it. The wind was fresh, and had the flames caught one house of thatch, the whole bazar must have been destroyed, as it was close to it, and built of the most combustible materials. Immediately after dinner we were nearly smothered by a sand storm from the east. It was not so terrible as the great north-wester at Lucknow, but no object could be distinguished at a distance of twenty yards. It blew very fresh; a few drops of rain fell towards the end; which sensibly cooled the air. Devagé said it was the most violent he had experienced in eleven years, during which he had resided here.

Captain Court arrived this day, having finished his intended survey. He found Antelope shoal very different from what it was laid down. Assab is no cape, but a very lofty mountain, nearly forty miles inland. A very strong southerly current ran through the larger Straits of Bab-el-mandeb.

Captain Barton sailed for Jidda with a cargo. I wrote to my friends in England, and inclosed my letters to Major Missett, to whom I also sent copies of Lord Wellesley's dispatches to Mr. Jones at Bagdad, and of the Governor of Bombay's letter to Mr. Lock, who was appointed to succeed Major Missett, but died before his arrival. I requested his assistance to reach Cairo from Suez, and recommunicated the wants of the Panther. The wind was from the south, so that the monsoon might be considered as set in. The heat was greatly diminished.

September 25.—The Dola sent me a present of two baskets of

grapes. This attention, after the late disputes, I attributed to a report in circulation, that the Capitan Pacha had arrived with a strong force in Egypt, and he possibly suspected that my return and stay here, had some connection with this event. There was another fire in the middle of this day. Captain Court with his boat's crew, and the Americans with theirs, saved the town by their exertions. A large number of thatched huts were consumed, and the tower by the wicket gate was once on fire, but was extinguished: a considerable quantity of gunpowder was said to be in the building. The Dola was not there, and seems to care little about an evil, by which he does not suffer, but on the contrary rather gains, for he has a quantity of poles belonging to him, which he in consequence sells at an advanced price.

September 29. — From the 24th, to the 28th, the winds were again northerly, but on the 28th they returned to the south. The nights had been calm and sultry; on the same day we had another fire, which only consumed three houses, and at night a man was sent to prison, said to have been caught in the attempt to set fire to the Samaulie town. The steward of the Panther, who had been degraded on account of the deficiency of rice, ran away to the Dola's, as did the black cook of the officers, and two American seamen.

Mr. Denton, in looking for some of the boat's crew in the Jews' town, met with Gardner and some others of the renegadoes drinking. Gardner abused him very much, and threatened others of the officers. We immediately sent to the Dola, who, in the presence of the Hadje, told the Captain of the fort, commanding the renegadoes, that if the smallest complaint were again made, he would

not only put the offender in prison, but flog him severely. The American captains were refused all access to the Dola respecting their deserters, and were absolutely thrust down the stairs by his attendants. I learned from Hodeida, that the American ship was still there, that she had been in danger from the piratical dows, and that the Dola sent troops on board to protect her.

October 3.—I had notice from a renegado that one of the boys ashore, to assist in packing shells, meant to run away. We sent him on board with some boxes, where we designed that he should be kept. He had no idea that we were acquainted with his intentions. During my tedious confinement, I had amused myself in employing a great number of Arabs in collecting shells for me on the beach. I paid them generally a few komassis for their trouble, and a day rarely passed without their bringing me a new species. Mr. Macgie and I had packed them with infinite labour, and I now began to send them on board.

The custom-house officers wished to unpack all the boxes, to which I positively objected: they could hardly be persuaded that six large boxes were filled with articles they thought of no value. They at length took a few shells out of some of the boxes to show the Dola.

We had a slight shock of an earthquake on the 2d, in the morning; it lasted about a minute, with a tremulous motion.

Mr. Macgie heard to day from Captain Barton; he had been driven back to Hodeida when beyond Jibbel Teir, by strong north-westers. The American ship was still there, but had only procured fifty bales of three hundred and seventy pounds in the last two months, and for those she paid sixty-four German crowns. She

had but three hundred and fifty bales, and lost her season. The place has suffered severely from the Wahabee, but still belongs to the Imaum. Nothing but brackish water was to be had there. An old Portuguese fled to the Dola.

October 5th.—In a conversation yesterday evening with Seid Akil's brother, he told me that the Dola was not very well pleased with his old Portuguese. He said he was of no use, and cost four dollars a month. The Seid declared that it was contrary to their books to make Mussulmauns in this way. They could never be so in reality. I replied, that the Dola was very good to pay them four dollars a month till they had learned the language, when the good ones came back to the Europeans, and the others ran away to the Wahabee or Turks, to fight against him. The conduct of the Arabs towards me was totally changed within this fortnight; not an Arab of any consequence met me without making his salaam, which I always returned, but never gave first. I sent on board yesterday, three six dozen chests of shells, and two larger boxes of beautiful madrapore. The winds were south, and the weather was cooler.

October 10.—The nights for some time have been extremely sultry, and the wind light and variable. Yesterday was the festival of Sheik Abdurrah, who, by his corpse, has sanctified the island on which the southern fort is built. At nine the colours were hoisted on all the forts, and soon afterwards, to the astonishment of all the inhabitants of the Factory, the Americans also hoisted their colours. This compliment to a Mussulmaun saint was novel in a Christian power; but it was carried still farther; for on the Dola's departing to offer up his prayers at the Sheik's tomb, every ship saluted;

some with two, some with three, and some with five guns: some twice, some three times. I was too much disgusted to speak to them myself on the occasion, but on their being laughed at by some of our officers, they replied, that they did not know what the colours were hoisted for; it was the Dola's doing; and was not he master of the roads? I should not have cared for their degradation, had I not been afraid that the natives might have taken these Americans for Europeans and Christians, in consequence of which we might have shared in the contempt they appeared so anxious to acquire.

October 12.—On the 11th, at night, Fowler, whom I have before mentioned as having run away from Captain Keys, went on board the Panther, as my servant. He was anxious to escape from the wretched life of a renegado, and applied to me to take him. As he understood Arabic, he might be as useful as Abdallah was the last voyage. They were equally deserters from the Company's service, and, if it do not choose to reclaim them, I could have no scruple in employing them in my service. There were many circumstances in his case which rendered him an object of compassion, and his conduct in Arabia was good. He was to have gone up to Sana in a few days to be presented to the Imaum. More pains had been taken with his education than were ever before bestowed upon any one. The Dola had declared that he would not lose him for a thousand dollars; it was therefore, I must confess, a particular gratification to me, to find that he was punished for his inhospitality.

Unus Barilla returned on the 11th, without the letters from Mr. Salt. This was owing to a mistake in writing to him to be here the 15th of the moon, instead of the 15th of the month. He brought

an unpleasant report of the Ras's being engaged in repelling an attack of the Galla, and Mr. Salt's being still at Adowah. His account was so confused, that I did not give it much credit.

October 16.—On the 15th, we agreed with Unus to accompany us up the Red Sea for one hundred and fifty dollars per month. He begged us not to apply to the Cadi for a regular agreement, as the Dola made him pay one dollar for every ten he received from us. We hired six Samaulies to act as Lascars on board the Panther, in preference to Arabs. The wind was to-day south the first time for many days. So late a northerly monsoon has not been known in the memory of man; generally in the middle of September it changes decidedly to the south.

October 22.—On the 21st we had another fire close to the Factory, which alarmed us so much that the next day we were pulling down all our mat buildings on the roof. They were become the less necessary, as the southerly wind had continued since the 16th, and made a difference of seven degrees in the thermometer; in the morning it was at 84°. The nights were very cold. The change had been so sudden as to make us all unwell.

October 28.—We were preparing for our departure on the 1st of November. We had grown wise by our late trip, and Captain Court had at my request laid in white Surat cloth to barter for live stock, and some better articles to give to the Sheiks or other chiefs, who might oblige us. We had also taken in snuff, which was before much enquired after.

The officers of the Sheriffe's ship paid us a visit. The Naqueda is a Seid, and offered us every assistance on our arrival at Jidda. They said, they would come on board the moment we arrived

there. As they might have it in their power to serve us greatly, I gave the Seid a telescope. I was happy to learn by them that the Capitan Pacha was at Alexandria, where he would stay some time. He recalled the old Pacha of Cairo, and gave that office to the chief of the Arnauts, who cut off three Beys and two hundred and fifty Mamelukes. He told us the roads between Cairo and Suez were perfectly safe. I heard all the renegadoes here meant to go with him.

November 1.—We received positive information from the Banians, that Seid Mahommed Akil and his Frenchmen had paid a visit to the Sheriffe at Loheia, and presented him with four thousand dollars worth of presents, in the name of the French nation; at the same time requesting permission to establish a Factory on the Island of Camaran. This island produces wood, water, and salt. Its situation is good for watching all vessels that go up or down the Red Sea, but would be of no use in a commercial view. The French seemed to intend attacking Egypt by the assistance of the Wahabee. Mr. Pringle proposed going up there when we sailed and joining us at Massowah, to communicate the result of his inquiries. At my request he also intended sending an express to India with the news. There can be no doubt that the guns left here by the Seid were a present from the French to the Imaum.

The Dola hearing that I wanted to buy a spear and shield of the cavalry, sent me his as a present; together with one of their battle-axes. They were all handsomely ornamented with silver. I sent to say, I would either pay him a formal visit the evening of my departure, if he would keep the gates open for me to go out afterwards, or I would pay him a visit *sans cérémonie* this evening. He preferred the latter; and we all went accordingly. The people

at his doors said, he expected only me and Mr. Pringle; but we all got up at last. He was, I believe, disappointed in not being able to talk on business. He enquired respecting the distance of England, how far I went by land, and how we travelled in Europe. The conversation then turned on Yemen. He informed me, that beyond Sana iron ore was found in sufficient abundance to supply all the upper country. It is smelted with wood, and is very soft, white, and tenacious. It is used for the rings of hookah snakes; and has the quality of not being corroded by smoke. There is also lead ore, but it is brittle, and of no use. He wished to present me with a piece of silver cloth manufactured at Sana, which I accepted.

He was chewing the buds of a plant which the Arabs call Kaad. It is not unpleasant, rather bitter, and aromatic. He informed me that it is brought in weekly, from the hills, to the amount of two hundred dollars. The Imaum has a large duty on it. On parting, he expressed the usual anxiety for my welfare.

November 3.—We had been delayed, that Mr. Pringle might accompany us to Ait, the place where Unus's tribe live, and where we expected Mr. Salt's letters. Mr. Pringle was to go thence to Loheia, and join us again at Massowah. Mr. Pringle being ready, I went on board on the 3d. It blew fresh, though we waited till dark, as it usually lulled in the evening. We were attended to the pier by an innumerable crowd of beggars. Captain Court and I gave a scramble of komassis, and to our friends a few half and quarter dollars. Seid Daud, the Sheriffe's captain, came to wish us a good voyage, but could not reach us for the crowd. At midnight the breeze freshened to a gale, but Unus and Mr. Pringle came astern in their dows.

November 4.—At four we weighed anchor in a stiff gale and heavy sea. At eight we were up with Jibbel Anish, when the weather and sea both moderated. We sailed along very pleasantly till dark, when we anchored. Mr. Pringle came in at the same time, but went on shore, close to Ait.

November 5.—The night was very pleasant and moderate. Mr. Pringle and Unus came on board in the morning. No letters from Mr. Salt, nor any intelligence; we therefore determined to make the best of our way to Massowah. Mr. Pringle had a very rough passage; he came between the Abail Islands, and the main, in a passage not wide enough for any thing except dows. His Naqueda told him, that on the northern Abail was found a stone, which he described as being like green glass. He promised me to visit it, and procure some, as the description suits the Opsian stone, which is probably found in many of the sandy islands of this part of the coast. Mr. Salt found some on Dhalac. At any rate I cannot suppose this the bay named by the ancients after that stone, for it is a fine one, with good anchorage, and by no means filled with sand, as the other is represented to be, neither will it agree with the distances in the *Periplûs*. Ait is a wretched village of huts. The high hills behind it were once, we were told, part of Habesh. We weighed at one, and with a strong breeze rounded the northern Codalie rock, which forms the boundary of the bay on that side, as the southern does on the other. We then had a free wind and an excellent coast, along which we sailed all night in perfect security.

November 6.—At day light we were in sight of Saboo and Moora, which Unus, who kept well up with us, called Habou-beer;

at twelve we were opposite Howakil, with a pleasant breeze; we passed Antelope point at sun-set, and immediately bore up for Massowah, in a direction that would clear the shoals at the extremity of Valentia. At nine we were alarmed by getting into a quarter less three, when nearly four miles N. of it; we immediately stood to the eastward, and cleared the shoal, which seems to be detached. We anchored close to Massowah harbour.

November 7. — At day-light we tried to make the harbour, but the land wind did not permit us to enter till twelve. Unus had been on shore, and immediately came off to us with the unexpected, but highly pleasing intelligence, that Mr. Salt, and our other friends, were on the road near Arkeko, and would be with us this day. As he accompanied the intelligence with a demand of buxys, we suspected his veracity, and desired him to tell Currum Chund we wanted him on board. A man of the Nayib's came off to deliver his master's compliments, from whom we learned that the Nayib did not wish Currum Chund to come to us. I sent Unus again to insist on it, and Fowler went with him. The Nayib now said he might come, but Currum Chund himself refused, saying that he had made nothing by the English; that he was out of pocket by Mr. Salt, and by the horse and mule he had given Mr. Pringle; and, in short, that he did not choose to come. I immediately suspected that he was afraid of our resentment, now that Mr. Salt was so near, and would explain his real conduct, which I always suspected to be bad, in the Habesh business. The Nayib sent many professions of regard, but begged we would not land, as the Ascari were very angry with us. Soon afterwards Mr. Salt arrived, attended by Captain Rudland, Mr. Carter, and the Baharnegash of Dixan. He had also with him a

servant of the Ras. They all came on board, when we saluted Mr. Salt with eleven guns; this the Baharnegash mistook for our firing on the town, and conjured us to stop. It was with some difficulty we explained to him, through the double interpretation of Andrew, and a Massowah boy, who spoke Tigré, what the cause really was. I received him as he deserved, for his attentions to our friends, with every mark of respect. He drank wine and ate sweetmeats. We sent Hamed Chamie on shore to provide every thing for him, and pay his expenses while he staid. We ourselves examined with the greatest eagerness the drawings Mr. Salt had made in the country, and were never tired of asking him questions.

November 14. — Till this morning we were engaged in preparing dispatches for India, and in arranging for Mr. Carter's and our Arab servants return to Mocha. For this purpose we hired a dow to Hodeida, whence they will proceed by land. They sailed this morning. I wrote to his Excellency the Marquis Wellesley, and Mr. Duncan, giving a short account of Mr. Salt's expedition. The Ras Welleta Selassé had sent a letter for his Excellency, which I also forwarded.

The Sabbath of Habesh commences at sun-set. On the Saturday evening the Baharnegash was on board, and as soon as the sun went down, asked leave to say his prayers. He turned to the east, and in a kind of chant addressed himself to the Deity, and a very long list of saints. His people occasionally joined him. He then prostrated himself three times, calling on God. He performed the whole in a very decorous manner.

The Nayib's conduct was such as greatly to displease me. He pleaded that he himself wished to do every thing that was kind

and proper, but that his Ascari were very angry with us; and he begged I would not then land; but that when the ship returned, every thing should be settled to our satisfaction. A fellow struck two of the boys who rowed the boat ashore with Hamed Chamie. The Nayib sent for them, and begged they would not tell me, in consequence of which, I did not hear of it till some days afterwards, when I was assured the man was in prison; I could therefore take no notice of it. Our old friend the Dola of Dhalac paid us a visit on board. We made him several presents. He was ever steady to us; nor could the Nayib dissuade him from supplying the Panther with every thing she wanted during her last voyage. When on board during the gale of wind off Daguera, he owned to Captain Court, that he had received instructions not to do so. The Nayib thought he could drive away the Panther by depriving her of water and fresh provisions. This is the only act of the Nayib that proved any disinclination in himself towards us, for at Dhalac he is absolute master. Some excuse may be made for him, vexed and tormented as he always was by his brothers and Ascari, whenever the vessel appeared. The Baharnegash used all his influence to induce me, not to quarrel with the Nayib. He went on his knees to me, and embraced my feet, nor would he rise till I had promised I would not fire on the town. I told him I felt it was a gross insult to refuse me permission to land; that the conduct of the Ascari was so reprehensible to Mr. Salt, whom they had attempted to rob, that they ought at least to be punished; and the more so, as we had ever acted towards the whole tribe in the most friendly manner. He said it was very true; that the Nayib himself was a very good man, but the people about him were great rascals,

and ruled him in every thing. As I cared but little about the landing, compassion induced me not to drive things to an extremity, which might have ended in bloodshed ; but I am convinced that no friendship can exist between them and us, till they are taught by dear bought experience, that it is humanity, and not fear, which prevents our resenting their insults.

Currum Chund's conduct has been such as to preclude the possibility of employing him; I therefore had recourse to a Mussulmaun merchant, Hadje Hassan Ben Mohammed Anja. This man was recommended to Mr. Salt by Pacha Abdallah, who is frequently mentioned by him in his tour to Antalou, as an active friend, and greatly in the Ras's confidence. From him I learned, that, independently of their anger, at Mr. Salt's having escaped so well from them, the Ascari were really alarmed by an idea that I was going on to Jidda to procure for myself the sovereignty of Massowah, from the expected Turkish Pacha, and that the English would garrison the island. He said that the Nayib had never received his investiture as Aga of the Ascari, which rendered these people more insolent, as he had no legal authority over them. I pity the poor man ; but he is still to blame individually in the transactions respecting Mr. Salt.

The Baharnegash visited us every day. We worked the guns for him, and made the Sepoys go through their exercise. He was much astonished, and delighted, and said that twelve such men would enable the Ras to beat the Galla. I represented to him that the arms were procurable from the English in abundance, if the trade could be opened. He would not eat with us, but drank spirits or wine, and was much pleased with sweatmeats. He was astonished

at the number of pieces of china on the table at breakfast and dinner, and always counted them. He was in high spirits, and seemed greatly pleased with the presents we made him, which consisted of a fine piece of kincaub, one hundred dollars in money, a razor, some china, sweatmeats, coffee, snuff, and a number of other little articles. He told us that he had always supposed all the articles brought to Massowah were made in Arabia, but he now found they came first from us. The Ras had sent me his own knife, spear, and shield, and a very fine piece of Habesh cloth; in return I presented him with my silver chourie, an article of great use in Habesh, a bottle of lavender water, of which I heard he was very fond, and a pair of razors.

Nathaniel Pierce, who had accompanied Mr. Salt, was induced by the Ras to stay in the country. Should any connexion take place between Habesh and India, his being there, and understanding the language, will be advantageous. Mr. Salt had left him every thing he could spare, and we sent him several other articles which he had mentioned in his letters. I also procured from Captain Court two of the ship's muskets, some powder, flints, and ball. He had a gun, so that he was the best armed man in Habesh. I wrote to Mr. Pringle to procure me six more, in consequence of the Ras's promise to give him a district when he had six matchlocks. He is a clever fellow, and will, I have no doubt, do well. He had several female protectors, and they have as much power in Habesh as elsewhere. He draws a little, which pleased the priests, for whom he manufactured saints in abundance. I sent him some money, and secured him more, should he wish to leave the country. I intrusted every thing to Hadje Hassan to be sent to Pacha Abdallah,

as the safest conveyance. The Baharnegash declared to, me in the most solemn manner, that he would protect Pierce with his life. I also sent Pacha Abdallah a handsome present of kincaub, requesting his friendship for this poor fellow : from the same motive I gave another to Hadje Hassan himself, who, in an equally solemn manner, promised to be his friend. I have great hopes of this man's ultimately increasing our knowledge of the interior of Africa. He meant to return by Senaar ; he might then be induced to join the kafla to Tombucto, for which he is well qualified by his knowledge of Arabic, and by his having conformed to the religion of Mohammed, and knowing their prayers perfectly.

The Ras had given Mr. Salt three mules, and he had purchased five more ; so that I had now eight to dispose of. Formerly the Baharnegash had given Mr. Salt three ; I now therefore gave him his choice of the same number. I sent two to Pierce ; one I gave to Guebra Selassé, the Ras's man, another to Hamed Chamie, and the eighth I sent to the Dola of Mocha, to put him in good humour with my people.

On the landing-place opposite to Massowah we discovered a rude fluted column of black granite, with a capital, of which I have given an etching. It was unlike any other I had ever seen, and gave me hopes that, by it, we might discover the ruins of Aduli, from which it was probably brought. We were informed by some of the Shiho Bedowee, who bring milk every morning to the town, that there were quarries of a similar stone in the lower hills, lying due west from Massowah, but we could obtain no positive intelligence of any other columns. They spoke, indeed, of some ruins between us and the hills ; but situated as we then were with the Nayib,

it was impossible to make any researches at a distance from the vessel.

We were not able to procure a sufficiency of sheep, or water, from the Nayib, which he excused by the want of rain: we were consequently obliged to go to Dohoole; however I sent the Nayib a frassel of coffee, merely as a proof that we parted friends.

The Baharnegash went yesterday. I sent letters by him to the Ras and Pacha Abdallah, and to Pierce.

I have given in the following chapters Mr. Salt's narrative of his expedition, which he delivered to me on his return.

CHAPTER X.

Arrival at Massowah from Mocha.—Negotiations with the Nayib.—Difficulties experienced in procuring Mules, Camels, &c. for our Journey.—Preparations for the Journey.—Passage from Massowah to Arkeko.—Transactions there.

CHAPTER X.

"JUNE 28.—We arrived in the harbour of Massowah this day at noon, having been exactly a week in sailing up the coast from Mocha. During our passage we experienced a regular succession of land and sea breezes. As soon as we had dropped anchor, Captain Court sent his boat on shore for Currum Chund, the Banian. He declined coming, and returned for answer, that the Nayib, without whose permission it was impossible for him to communicate with us, was at Arkeko; that he was much alarmed at our coming in the 'great ship;' especially as he had written to delay our expedition, in consequence of the country being in a state of confusion; but that he would acquaint the Nayib with our arrival, and would himself come on board as soon as he had received permission.

"June 29.—Captain Court again sent his boat early in the morning for the Banian, who still excused himself on the plea of the Nayib's absence; it was therefore determined to send on shore Hamed Chamie, our Arab interpreter, who also spoke the language of Hindostan. He soon came back, bringing us an account that the Banian was greatly alarmed at our speedy return in the Panther, a ship of force. All would have been well, he added, if we had come over quietly in a dow; but that now the Sirdar of the troops was again bringing in his claim of five hundred dollars for the anchorage of the vessel. He moreover assured Hamed Chamie

that he had forwarded Lord Valentia's letter to Ras Welleta Selassé. This latter assertion, however, was not quite correct, as we knew, from private information, that it was still remaining at Arkeko in the hands of the Ascari. In the afternoon the Banian himself came on board; but was able to communicate to us little more than a confirmation of what we had heard before. All our present difficulties have arisen from the Sirdar of the Ascari, now in Massowah; we however declined having any communication with him, being determined to transact business only with the Nayib in person.

“ June 30.—The Nayib came over in the morning from Arkeko to Massowah, and immediately sent Hamed Chamie to us, with his salaams, and an excuse for not having come sooner; fixing twelve o'clock for our public visit. Accordingly, I and Captain Rudland went on shore with Captain Court, under a salute of eleven guns, with which the latter was kind enough to honour us for the purpose of giving importance to our mission. On landing, we were saluted with all the guns, both great and small, that they could muster on the island; and then proceeded to the divan, or hall of audience, attended by a havildar's guard of the Bombay marines. The ceremonies were precisely as heretofore, except that our sepoy were marched up and ranged along the lower end of the hall. The divan was crowded; the Nayib, the Sirdar, and the Dola of Arkeko being present. After the usual compliments, coffee was handed to all, not omitting even the sepoy. I and Captain Court then received caftans of blue cloth lined with satin, after which we departed, in the same order as we came, to the house of Abou Yusuff, Secretary to the Nayib, which had been prepared for us by Currum Ghund.

" On going off to the ship the former compliment of eleven guns was repeated. After dinner we returned, and took up our abode on shore. The Nayib declared to Hamed Chamie that he had sent Lord Valentia's letter to the Ras.

" July 1.—The Nayib sent us a message in the morning, desiring that the boat, which they observed conveying our baggage on shore, should land it at the wharf, in order that it might be examined at the Custom-house, instead of bringing it round immediately to our own house. Captain Court remonstrated with them on the inconvenience of this plan, as the packages contained merely articles that were necessary to us on shore, and which would not be carried out of the house; if, therefore, they meant us to stay on friendly terms, he should persist in bringing the baggage by the most convenient way; but, that if they wished it, it should be opened at our own house for the inspection of any person whom the Nayib should think proper to depute for that purpose. This proposal gave satisfaction, and accordingly two men were sent down, but they appeared to be soon tired of their office, and went away again in the course of an hour.

" The Nayib's brother and the Vizier came to us before breakfast, demanding, and that in no very delicate terms, the extravagant sum of one thousand dollars, half for the ship's anchorage, and half for permitting us to pass through the country on our intended visit to Ras Wellela Selassé; and this, I believe, exclusively of the expenses of our three or four days journey through the country. We stopped the conversation abruptly, by saying that we never discussed matters of business before a multitude of people, (for the room was full of strangers) and desired them to choose some more

convenient opportunity, as we were then going to breakfast. They promised to do so, and departed. At eleven o'clock, instead of the return of the above chiefs, as had been agreed upon, the Banian came, accompanied by one of the Nayib's secretaries. They informed us that Hamed Chamie had already stated our willingness to pay what was proper; and in consequence, the Nayib had resolved to reduce his demand to three hundred dollars, to be paid down to the Ascari, and that the expenses of our journey should be a subsequent consideration; that he hoped every thing would be speedily adjusted to our mutual satisfaction; but if not, as we had come friends into the country, so he hoped we should depart. As they added that the Nayib wished to talk over the business personally, we declined returning an answer until we should see him; at the same time giving them fully to understand, that no such demand would be complied with, and that, as the indispensable condition of our paying any thing, was the being supplied with convenient means for passing through the Nayib's territory, we should make but one agreement, which must comprehend a supply of mules, asses, a guard, and provisions for the journey. The evening was accordingly appointed for our private visit to the Nayib. After waiting till past seven o'clock. Currum Chund at last came, and endeavoured to put off our visit, stating, that nothing could be done without first settling with the Ascari. We paid little attention to him, and sent Hamed Chamie to the Nayib to enquire, whether he meant to see us according to his appointment, as we should enter into no farther negotiation until he should grant us a personal interview.

“ From the situation of affairs, I perceived it was impossible to

avoid paying exorbitantly for permission to pass through the country; we therefore came to a determination not to exceed five hundred dollars; and we were induced to comply so far, merely from our extreme reluctance to return without having made every possible effort towards the accomplishment of our mission.

Hamed Chamie returned with a message, that the Nayib was ready to see us. We found him in his cadjân-house, where Lord Valentia had had his first private audience. He was in a loose undress, sitting at the further end of the room, surrounded by all his principal people, in a similar dishabille: one small lamp hung from the centre of the room, shedding around so faint a light, that we were at a loss to recognize even the Nayib, till he was pointed out by one of the attendants.

Having made our usual salaams, we were seated immediately opposite to him, and then (Hamed Chamie, standing between us as interpreter, and Andrew, a servant, whom we had hired at Mocha, and who spoke Arabic, Hindostanee, and English, on my right hand) the following dialogue took place.

“Salt.—We have now arrived in your territory for the third time; you have received us with the greatest honours; such, indeed, as we have always experienced from your friendship. For these we return you our thanks.

“Nayib.—It has always been my wish to treat you well. You came here as friends; we have always continued as such; and I hope that we shall settle every thing amicably.

“Salt.—It is for that purpose we have waited on you, and I will now explain the reason of our coming. Your friend, Lord Valentia, has received letters from Ras Wellela Selassé, desiring that some

persons should be sent to him, in order to open an intercourse of friendship with Abyssinia. We are, in consequence, proceeding to the Ras, having been selected by Lord Valentia for that purpose: we therefore request permission to pass through your country, and such assistance as may be necessary for the prosecution of our journey.

“Nayib.—I have no objection to your passing through my country, but you must satisfy my Ascari. Give them five hundred dollars, and I will supply you with every thing requisite, for which we will settle afterwards.

“Salt.—Why do you demand five hundred dollars for your Ascari? You well know that the vessel in which we have arrived is not a trader, but a ship of war, that never pays one single komeassm* to the greatest Sultaun on earth. Even in this sea they go to Suez, to Jidda, and to Mocha, and nothing is ever demanded. It must be fully understood that not a komeassm will ever be paid on this account. •

“Nayib.—I know the ship is no trader, and when you were here before this was understood; nothing more shall be said on this head.

“Salt.—What, then, are these five hundred dollars for? We do not know your Ascari, and can have nothing to say to them: you are surely the Prince of this country, and it is with you only that we can treat. We are willing to give, for your assistance, even more than would be given in any other country, only let us know your demand.

“Nayib.—What assistance do you require?

* The smallest money of Yemen.

"Hamed Chamie then entered into an explanation of the number of mules, asses, camels, and attendants of which we should stand in need. Notice being now given that the hour of prayer was at hand, the Nayib and all his people went out, and prostrated themselves on a carpet in front of the house; after which the priest recited passages from the Koran. The moral effects, however, of this religious service were not very apparent: though the highest sum hitherto demanded had never exceeded eight hundred dollars, a message was now brought from the Nayib that he expected a thousand.

"I answered, that the idea of a thousand dollars was ridiculous, and that we would give no such sum, demanding where the Nayib was, and whether he did not intend to return! On this Hamed Chamie called out, not very delicately, I thought, "Nayib Edris, Nayib Edris!" on which the Nayib came in, and resumed his seat, when I thus addressed him.

"You have now made a demand of a thousand dollars; for what? for permitting us to march only three or four day's journey through your country. If you were in our country, you would be received with honour, without having any thing to pay for such permission; even in Arabia no such tribute is ever imposed.

"Nayib.—Three or four day's journey! why it is twelve. Moreover, I intend sending my people to insure your safety to the presence of the Ras.

"Salt.—This we do not want; when we arrive at Dixan we shall be met by the Ras's people; besides, what guard is necessary? We shall be safe even should we walk thither, as you well know

that both Massowah and Arkeko will be answerable for our return. In one word, if you will provide us with every convenience to pass through your country, we will agree to give you five hundred dollars, which sum nothing shall induce us to exceed. If this offer be not accepted, there are other places through which we can communicate with the Ras, and all the fault of our not reaching him must rest with you. We expected that you would have acted as our friend, instead of which you place every obstacle in our way. We have been here three times; have we not always shown ourselves your friends? This conduct of yours, however, if persisted in, may bring upon you a very different treatment from what you have hitherto experienced from the English.

“This address seemed not a little to alarm our interpreter, for while translating it, he turned round and called upon Andrew to say whether each word, as he again repeated it aloud in Arabic, were not precisely what we had ordered him to deliver; to which Andrew made his repeated affirmations, “just so.” The Nayib’s countenance shewed that he felt the force of our remonstrance; he was silent for a short time, then turning to his people, he spoke in the language of the country for upwards of five minutes: his manner was persuasive, his action apparently just, and upon the whole he seemed no inconsiderable orator. Afterwards, turning to us, he said, that upon consideration of his friendship for Lord Valentia, and on consultation with his people, he would reduce his demand to seven hundred dollars, which being paid, every thing should be arranged to our satisfaction. We again assured him that we should not in the least vary from our original proposal. After some words between Currum Chund, Hamed Chamie, and the

Nayib, he offered to accept of six hundred dollars, positively declaring that we should not pass through his country for less ; that the camels, mules, asses, &c. were to be fetched from a distance ; that his people were ravenous, and that he had a thousand mouths to fill. To this proposal Hamed Chamie and the Banian intreated us to accede, adding, that they themselves would rather pay the additional hundred dollars, than press the subject any farther. This, however, we declined, and again ordered them to repeat to the Nayib that we had but " one word ;" that we had offered as much, nay more than we were authorised to do by Lord Valentia, and perceiving that the matter was not likely to be adjusted, we would, for the present, take our leave, hoping that, by the morrow, he would be convinced, not only of the fairness, but even of the liberality of our offer. To this the Nayib replied, " These are not the words Lord Valentia would use, but your own." This insinuation brought on a warm remonstrance on my part, which happily produced an apology from the Nayib, and a declaration that he would accept our terms. " God be praised," cried Hamed Chamie, raising his voice, that every one present might hear, " it is settled ; five hundred dollars is the sum agreed upon."

After our public business was arranged, Captain Court mentioned, that, understanding rice was exceedingly scarce in the Nayib's dominions, he would on the morrow send him as much as he could spare out of what he had provided for his own people. This offer was received with much thankfulness by the Nayib and all his attendants, except the Banian, who would have prevented Hamed Chamie from mentioning it, doubtless from its not agreeing exactly with his immediate interest. The Nayib was displeased with the

Banian's interference, and rebuked him sharply. We now arose, and departed, rejoiced at having brought this troublesome business to a conclusion.

" July 2.—A messenger from the Nayib came early in the morning for the money ; we returned for answer, that it was usual with us to pay one half on making a bargain, and the other half on its being fulfilled ; that, however, we had no objection to send him three hundred dollars, and that the remainder should be paid on the day of our departure from Arkeko. This gave no great satisfaction ; the Nayib said that his soldiers would not leave Massowah till they saw the money : was I afraid of trusting him ? I asked the Banian, who brought the message, if he were willing to be security for the Nayib, which he refused. " What have I to do with it ? " said he, " I am your servant, and not the Nayib's."

" Previously to coming to a final determination on this matter, we sent to the Nayib to enquire how soon all things would be in readiness for our journey, and were told that it might be fifteen days, or more, as the mules were far up in the country. This assertion, so much at variance with our wish of losing as little time as possible, still further embroiled the discussion. At length, after spending the whole day in altercation, we submitted two propositions to the choice of the Nayib ; either, that we would pay three hundred dollars immediately, and the remaining two hundred when every thing was ready ; or, which was by far the most agreeable to us, that the whole five hundred dollars should be paid down, on condition of our receiving a written receipt for the money, and an agreement that all the preparations should be completed in ten days, at the end of which time, if there were any farther

delay, we should consider him as having forfeited his word, and should employ such means as he well knew were in our power, to enforce the fulfilment of the contract.

“The Nayib at length acceded to this latter proposal, after an ineffectual attempt to evade giving a written agreement.

“July 3.—The money was paid in the morning; and the written agreement made out by Hamed Chamie in Arabic, was signed and sealed by the Nayib; in return, on his requisition, I gave him a counter-receipt.

“July 4.—Some difficulty arose about the bags of rice which Captain Court offered to present to the Nayib. His people did not appear satisfied with the quantity, and therefore hesitated about accepting it; so insatiable are their desires, and so little delicacy have they in making them known. Captain Court repeated to them, that the rice now landed was all that he could at present spare, but that if, by the Nayib's expediting the party to Abyssinia, his stay here should be shortened, he would double the quantity. It will scarcely be believed that, notwithstanding this refusal to accept the generous offer of Captain Court, the people were at that time almost starving for want of grain. On account of a partial failure of the annual rains, not a drop of fresh water was left on the island, and that which came from Arkeko was every day becoming more and more brackish. The boys and girls gather the root of a kind of sea weed to eat; it is by no means unpleasant to the taste, and constitutes a great part of their food.

“About six o'clock this evening an unpleasant circumstance occurred to Captains Court and Rudland. As they were walking through the town, an insolent fellow, lately arrived from Jidda,

either from a religious frenzy, or some unknown cause, began to abuse them in a violent manner, as they passed the walled inclosure round his house; and taking up a large stone, was in the act of throwing it at them, when some of the inhabitants, who were near, laid hold of his arms, and prevented the assault, calling out, at the same time, that the Nayib was at hand. This proved to be actually the case; for the circumstance having happened close to his residence, he himself, on hearing the noise, immediately came out, and with great kindness took our friends by the hand, and led them into his house. They sent directly for our interpreter, and one of the Nayib's sons came in great haste for me. On my arrival, Captain Court represented to the Nayib, in very strong terms, what had happened, and desired the offender might be brought forward.

"The Nayib said, that what had passed, had passed; he hoped it would be overlooked, as he could not answer for our safety when we went out, unless we were accompanied by some of his own people.

"After assuring him that a repetition of the offence should be punished as it merited, Captain Court informed the Nayib, that, from personal regard to him, he would pass over what had happened, trusting that his present forbearance would not encourage a repetition of the insult.

"While we were at the Nayib's, Unus Barilla, hearing that there was some disturbance in which we were concerned, armed all his men, eleven in number, and drew them up in front of the Nayib's house, where he kept them on watch till the whole affair was settled: an instance of attachment to our interest, both in himself and his Samaulies, highly creditable to their fidelity.

" July 5.—Hamed Chamie waited on us at breakfast time, with the agreeable intelligence of the dispatch of a letter, which I had sent over to Arkeko to be forwarded to the Ras, requesting him to send people to meet us on our arrival at Dixan. For the conveyance of this letter Currum Chund demanded no less a sum than thirty dollars; but exorbitant as it was for the conveyance of a single letter, for so short a distance, I thought it best at the time to submit to the imposition, as it was a point of the greatest importance to acquaint the Ras with the success of our negotiation with the Nayib; particularly as, from several circumstances, we doubted whether Lord Valentia's letter to the Ras, announcing our intended visit, had been forwarded.

" July 6.—The weather since our arrival at Massowah has been intensely hot; the thermometer varying for the most part from 96° to 99° during the day; but we have been relieved by frequent breezes from the south. Nothing particular has occurred, and we have been reducing our baggage as much as possible preparatory to our journey. In other respects affairs are going on so well that we expect to set off by the thirteenth or fourteenth instant.

" July 7.—An attendant of the Nayib came to us in the afternoon, bringing with him a man just arrived from Dowarba. His mode of salutation differed from that made use of at Massowah. He first kissed the back of his hand, and then made a slight inclination of the head. We offered him coffee, which he refused: he called himself a Christian, and said that he was 'all one with us.' We were beginning to question him concerning the news in the upper country, when he was sent for in a great hurry by the Nayib.

" Abou Yusuff came to us in the evening: he told me that he

had written a second letter, by order of the Nayib, to hasten the mules; he had also sent for two men, of the tribe of the Shiho, to attend us. These people are very wild, and inhabit the mountains through which our road lies. He particularly mentioned the mountains of Gidam, Taranta, and Assooba, as frequented by them. He recommended us not to let the ship go away till our arrival at Dixan was announced; and to permit Hamed, the Nayib's son, to go over to Arkeko with us, as the people of this latter place are not to be depended upon; even the Nayib himself cannot trust them; but that if we had his son with us, they would not dare to molest the party. I told him that his thoughts were mine; that I would follow his advice, and that Captain Court had already determined to stay till our letters from Dixan should be received.

“ July 8.—The Christian from Dowarba came to us again in the evening, accompanied by an attendant of the Nayib. He appeared to be a simple uneducated creature, from whom we could not expect to obtain any important information; and it was not improbable that he had been selected on this very account, out of four who had arrived, as the Nayib's people were evidently shy of letting us know the object of their mission. From repeated questions, however, we learned, that they had brought from Welleta Sulimaun, Governor of Dowarba,* an answer to a demand which the Nayib had made of some long forgotten tribute. The purport of the answer was, that the Governor was the Nayib's friend, and would prevent, so far as lay in his power, any of the neighbouring tribes from making plundering incursions into the territory of his

* The Banian and Amed Yusuff informed us that the mission to the Nayib was from Ras Aylo, the Chief of Serawé, eight days journey beyond Dowarba. Ras Aylo, we understand, is a dependent upon Ras Welleta Selassé.

ally, and that he would continue in all amity ; but not a word was said about the money. The Abyssinian Christian took coffee in the evening, on its being handed to him by ourselves, to the surprise, as it seemed, of the Mussulmauns. On his leaving us, I made him a present of a piece of Surat cloth, with which he was much pleased.

“ July 9.—We were under the necessity of troubling the Nayib at an early hour in the morning, in consequence of a melancholy occurrence, which took place yesterday evening ; namely, the death of Woodward, one of the marine boys belonging to the Panther. He neglected to take off his wet clothes, after having been in the water on the evening of the second instant, and was attacked the following morning with a locked jaw, and other violent symptoms, which baffled the effects of opium, and of every other medicine that it was in our power to administer. At Captain Court’s desire his death was reported to the Nayib, accompanied by a request, that a spot might be pointed out for his interment ; which, with great civility, was immediately granted. Another boy was seized in a similar way, whom we were fortunate enough to recover by large doses of opium.

“ July 10.—The Nayib left Massowah in the morning for Arkeko, where he meant to continue for some days. Before his departure he introduced an officer of the Ascari, with whom we might communicate, should occasion require ; he also promised to dispatch a messenger on the arrival of the mules from Hamâzin.

“ July 11.—About 2. P. M. a dow belonging to Emir Mohammed arrived in the harbour of Massowah, from Suakin, having on board three Arabian horses, intended, we understood, as a present for the

Imaum of Sana, or the Dola of Mocha. Emir Mohammed himself was expected in the course of a day or two.

" July 12.—The Nayib came over in the morning from Arkeko, to settle the duties of the kafila* and dows lately arrived. I sent to remind him of the near approach of the time which had been fixed for having the mules ready; stating, that from a reliance on his word, I had hitherto avoided troubling him on the subject, and hoped that all would be prepared by the morrow. He returned in answer, that he had already sent twice for the mules, that they were nearly at hand, and, by the blessing of God, all would be ready in three or four days. This manifest evasion and violation of his written engagement brought on much altercation, which was carried on during the whole day by messengers charged alternately with our complaints, and the Nayib's excuses. The particulars it is needless to detail; the result of the whole was, that the Nayib promised to give me a personal interview the next day.

" July 13.—At the appointed hour of our visit, twelve o'clock, we were informed that the Nayib was asleep; the interview was therefore postponed till the evening. At six o'clock we waited on the Nayib, and found him in the mosque, whence he proceeded with us to the Cadjân house, accompanied by two or three attendants. I opened the conference by saying, that, as I was about to dispatch a letter to Lord Valentia, it would be necessary to state to his Lordship the reason of our still continuing at Massowah, after the day had elapsed on which, by agreement, we were to have proceeded on our journey to Abyssinia. The Nayib replied, that it would be most agreeable to him to send us off the next morning,

* Or caravan.

but that the mules and asses were not come down so soon as he had expected; he trusted, however, that they would arrive in three or four days; after which there would be no further delay. I answered, that I well knew that the mules might, without difficulty, have been brought to Arkeko from the most distant part of his territory, by the time appointed; I was both surprised and hurt at the delay; that every day was now of importance to us; and that the non-fulfilment of his deliberate and written engagement had placed me in a very disagreeable situation; more especially as I had received private information that the mules were actually at this very time at Arkeko. To these remonstrances he answered as before, that he was as anxious for our departure as ourselves; and that there was no foundation for the report which we had heard.

“ I again urged the impossibility of delaying, day after day, without any thing being settled; that the vessel in which I came could not stay much longer, and that as I had determined to proceed, if all things were not ready in three days, I should set out on foot, with such assistance of asses and camels for our baggage, as he might choose to supply; if, however, we were constrained to begin our journey thus unprovided with the stipulated conveniences, I should consider him as no longer acting the part of a friend. The Nayib said that if such were our determination, we certainly might have all his asses and camels, and one mule which he kept for his own riding; and that he would send us on the road where we should meet the other mules coming down. We then ended the conference, by repeating our fixed determination to act as we had informed him.

" July 14.—I went on board the Panther in the morning to make preparations for our departure. The day was extremely hot, the thermometer being at 96° a few minutes after sun-rise, in the shade of a house with stone walls. In the course of the day, three of the Christians, who came down with the kafila, paid their respects to us. They seemed much pleased at the idea of our visiting their country, and answered with great willingness all our inquiries in spite of Abou Yusuff, who was greatly displeased at their coming, and spoke to them with much harshness. They told us that all was well on the road, and that the Tacazza was passable at all times and seasons, on rafts kept for that purpose. Each of the men had a blue fillet of silk round his neck, a badge of Christianity mentioned by Bruce; they were stout, robust people, with short and almost woolly hair.

" July 15.—We were engaged all the morning in packing and securing our baggage. In the evening some Mussulmauns from Gondar paid us a visit, one of whom spoke Arabic, and appeared to be a man of much information. Among other particulars we learned from him, that the present Ras of Abyssinia is a son of Keffa Yasous, that Axum is one day's journey from Adowa, and has many curious ruins, some of which are in good preservation. The lake Dembea, he told us, is about the same distance from Gondar, as Arkeko is from Massowah. The head of the Nile gushes out generally from one spring, but when there is much rain it forces its way through many. It is only five days journey from Gondar, and is perfectly easy of access, as all the country belongs to the king.

" July 16.—We went on board the Panther in the morning, and brought on shore such fire arms, ammunition, &c. as Captain Court

could spare: on leaving the ship we were highly gratified at being cheered by the ship's company, a pleasing testimony of its good wishes. In the mean time I sent Hamed Chamie to the Nayib, to inform him that the day fixed upon for our departure having arrived, we were all in readiness, that we wished to know if the mules were at Arkeko, otherwise the ship would proceed thither tomorrow, and that we should go on to Dixan, with the asses and camels only, as before stated: to this he answered that there would be no necessity for the ship's going, that he himself would conduct us in the course of the day, and begged that we would get all things ready for our departure: he added, that it would be necessary to prepare provisions for our guard; beside which, if we gave them five dollars each, they would, he thought, be satisfied.

"To this I replied, he might rest assured, that I would never give his Ascari a single dollar more, nor would I provide them with provisions on the road.

"Captain Court at the same time told the Nayib, that he had but one word to say on the occasion; if we were not at Arkeko by the day after he had once taken us in charge, he should go down thither with his ship. The Nayib now took up another ground; he said the road was extremely bad, that the Simooms were raging; and that a great many people were dying daily from these causes; if we therefore persisted, he must detain Emir Hamed as a witness to Lord Valentia, if any accident occurred: that the mules would be ready in three or four days, and that if that were not the case, he would then collect his Ascari, and conduct us himself. We replied, that he knew our minds, and we had no more to say. In the evening we again demanded at what time he proposed to be ready, and after

much difficulty extorted an answer from him, that he would go with us the next morning.

" July 17.— I sent a message this morning to know the hour he meant to accompany us to Arkeko: after waiting about three hours Hamed Chamie, Emir Hamed, and Currum Chund came to bring us the Nayib's answer, which was, that he was busy at the custom-house, and could not fix upon any hour; he also added, that if we chose to go without waiting for the mules, we must pay extra for all the asses and camels he might procure for us, as they belonged to other people at Arkeko. Provoked at these repeated attempts at extortion, I informed them that, having been already acquainted with Captain Court's determination and my own, they might now do as they pleased; they had experienced the good effects of the friendship of the English, and if they were wise, would not brave their enmity. They returned almost immediately with a message from the Nayib, that he would be ready to accompany us at day-break the next morning; in consequence of which Captain Court at my request deferred sailing. In the evening Captain Court went on board; the Banian's boat was loaded with our baggage, and the guard stationed over it for the night.

" July 18.—At day-break the Nayib's boat passed us, under weigh for Arkeko, upon which we immediately put the few remaining packages into our own boat, and then finding it so full that we were unable to accommodate ourselves, we sent Pearce and two seapoys on with it, and waited till Captain Court came on shore, we then returned with him to the ship, breakfasted, and set off immediately afterwards in Unus's dow, attended by a naig and seven sepoy under charge of Lieutenant Crawford, whom Captain Court had been

kind enough to send with us, for the protection of our baggage and persons, which, from all that we knew of the character of the inhabitants of Arkeko, appeared to be by no means a superfluous precaution.

“The sea breeze sprung up and carried us over very pleasantly to the landing-place at Arkeko; on our way we passed over a shoal not known before, Ras Gidam and Valentia being both in one, and Sheik Seid and Massowah open. There is plenty of water for ships of any size till within a quarter of a mile of the shore.

“It was eleven o'clock when we landed, and the intense heat of the sun reflected by the burning sand made our walk up to the house prepared for us, which was half a mile distant, the most oppressive that I ever experienced; we were all much exhausted by it on our arrival, but were soon refreshed by the attention of the Nayib, who was waiting to receive us. Our people were engaged till two o'clock, in getting up the baggage, which was effected without any loss or accident.

“As soon as the boat was ready to return, I sent Hamed Chamie to the Nayib, wishing to know when we were to leave Arkeko, as I was desirous of conveying the intelligence to Captain Court; he replied, that nothing could be done on the morrow, it being their Sabbath; that it would take up the whole of the next day to arrange the baggage, and that on the following morning we should commence our journey. By remonstrating with him, however, on this unnecessary delay, I prevailed so far that the day after the Sabbath was fixed on for our departure. We procured for our day's supply a quantity of water and a sheep: the water was well tasted, but of a whitish colour, and deposited much sediment. In the evening we received

two sheep from the Nayib, and in return presented the servant who brought them with a dollar.

“ Some of our party wishing to walk at sunset, I requested the Nayib would send one of his people to attend them. He said the women and children would be alarmed, and that the boys would be very troublesome: he therefore begged that we would not go beyond the walls of the enclosure. As we were retiring to rest, the Nayib placed an Ascari as a guard at the door of our house, and desired us on no account to go out during the night, as wild beasts were abroad, and evil minded persons, who would molest us. We slept within our enclosure in the open air, only using the precaution of having our fire arms near at hand. Pearce and one of the sepoy's sleeping on the outside of the gate, but with their heads on the threshold, were awakened about eleven o'clock by the Nayib himself, who insisted on their coming in and bolting the door. As a proof that this was not an unnecessary precaution, it may be mentioned, that the Nayib's sentinel, who was stationed at the door, sent in his cap and shoes, lest they should be taken from him in the night. We heard the cries of hyænas, and other wild beasts, prowling about, which, from the noise they made, must have been very numerous; nevertheless, we passed the night without molestation.

“ July 19.—Early this morning the Nayib came with some of his people to look at our baggage; and in the afternoon the packages were sorted by the camel drivers, and an account taken. There seemed to be much dispute among the parties as to the number of animals required. Much difficulty was made about the tent, and I was at length obliged to determine on leaving the fly behind. At mid-day the thermometer was at 110°.

" We were, as usual, pestered in the evening with a number of messages concerning provisions for the Ascari and camel drivers. I told them we had very little for ourselves, and that I should therefore not take upon myself the care of providing for them. As we were retiring to rest, the same disturbance again occurred about the door of our house being closed and bolted; but the night being intensely hot (and our party much increased by the arrival of Captain Court with his boat's crew, making altogether twenty-six in number, and crowded into a space of not more than forty feet square) we determined to protest against it, and at length prevailed on the Nayib to give up the point; but, as what had passed in our conference with him was not particularly pleasant, we thought it prudent to be on the alert during the remainder of the night.

" July 20.—The circumstances already mentioned caused us to pass a most unpleasant night: we could neither sleep nor rest, so closely were we pent up, and so oppressive was the state of the air.

" Early at day-break some of the camels arrived, and the Nayib came for the purpose of finally settling every thing. On a repetition of a demand for provisions for the people who were to accompany us, we gave him the same answer as before; but added, that wishing to make it easy to the camel drivers, we would give each of them a small sum of money, to furnish them with provisions as far as Dixan.

" At eight o'clock all the camels were loaded, and proceeded on their way, guarded by Pearce, and Mr. Carter, who volunteered upon the occasion. For myself, I thought it not prudent to brave

the mid-day sun at the commencement of a journey, which would doubtless prove sufficiently fatiguing. There were also a few matters yet remaining to be arranged; in consequence of which Captain Rudland and the rest of the party still continued with me at Arkeko.

“ Captain Court, completely weary of the place and of the Nayib, returned very early in the morning to the ship, leaving however with us Lieutenant Crawford and the guard. We felt great regret at parting from this valuable friend, whose kind assistance in farthering every object of our mission had been such as to claim our warmest gratitude. With respect to his private stock, there was nothing which he would not have given us; and so far as lay in his power he furnished us in his public capacity, with those articles which it was impossible for us to procure at Mocha or elsewhere in the Red Sea. Indeed from all our friends on board the Panther we received every kind attention and assistance.





CHAPTER XI.

MR. SALT'S NARRATIVE CONTINUED.

Departure from Arkeko to Dixan.—Numbers and description of our party.—Illerbehey.—Shillikee.—Wéah.—Hazorta Encampments.—Meet with mules sent down from Dixan.—Hamhammo.—Sadoon.—Tubbo.—Illilah.—Foot of Taranta.—Passage over that Mountain.—Arrival at Dixan.—Proceedings at Dixan.

CHAPTER XI.

“JULY 20.—Our party, on quitting Arkeko, consisted of the following persons. Myself; Captain Rudland; Mr. Carter; Hamed Chamie, an interpreter from Mocha and born at Mecca; Andrew, another interpreter, likewise from Mocha, who spoke English well; Pierce, an English servant, who spoke a little Arabic; two Arabian servants, Seid and Ageeb; a boy from Massowah, who spoke the language of the country and Arabic; and an old man who carried our pedometer: total in number ten. We were accompanied also by an old Mussulmaun Sheik, and his little boy, going up into the country on a trading expedition, both of whom continued with us the whole of our journey, and proved very attentive and useful. Our guard consisted of about twenty-five of the Nayib's Ascari; besides whom we had a guide belonging to the Shiho tribe, and about ten camel-drivers, natives of the country.

“The baggage with its escort had already left Arkeko (as mentioned in the preceding Chapter), and the rest of the party were preparing to follow, when I found that no animals had been provided, except a mule for myself. This was not the time to enter into a long discussion with the Nayib on the subject, I therefore hired an ass for Captain Rudland, four camels for our servants, and four more to carry the tent poles, for which I agreed to pay eight dollars. At four P.M. one camel only arrived, and many excuses were made

to detain us. After enquiring into the full extent of the Nayib's demands, the charge of twelve dollars was made out by the Dola and the Nayib's son, for which I gave a draft on Currum Chund. The Nayib now, without assigning any reason whatever, declared he would have twenty-two dollars; provoked at this new and unexpected instance of knavery, I replied in Arabic, before his son and the Dola, that if he said so he told an untruth, for that I would not, on any account, pay a single dollar more. In the midst of the wrangling which this occasioned, the ship most fortunately moved towards Arkeko.* Upon the Nayib's demanding the reason of this, I replied, "Captain Court is coming to see that I am safe, and though, if he finds that all is well, he will immediately go away, yet, he will return in ten days for intelligence which I have agreed to send him from Dixan." The Nayib's son replied in a haughty tone, "Let him come;" but his coming was not equally pleasing to the Dola and the inhabitants of the place; for the former immediately went out in great alarm, taking the Nayib's son with him, and made so forcible a representation of his fears, that in a few minutes, without more words, every thing was prepared, and we set off.

"After I had mounted the mule, and had proceeded a few yards, Captain Rudland and his ass were completely hustled by the members of the divan, one of whom had actually employed a boy to steal his fowling piece; he only escaped by urging forward his beast, and pouring forth in Arabic all the abuse that he could muster on the occasion. Of Arkeko I have little to say; it is an

* This, as we found on our return, was merely accidental, the ship having been driven from her anchor by a partial Simoom. It was one of the many lucky coincidences, that occurred in the course of our expedition.

assemblage of miserable huts, among which are two stone houses with walled yards, belonging to the Nayib : before that in which we resided was a verandah covered with mats.

“ We passed out to the southward through gardens, which are cultivated with a degree of care unusual in this country. Immediately beyond lies a burying-ground, and to the right a village, where most of the Ascari reside. In passing along the plain, which is upwards of a mile in breadth, reckoning from the sea to the nearest rising ground, I had an opportunity of observing that the bottom of the bay forms a considerable bight. About a mile and a half from Arkeko are six wells, near twenty feet deep, and above fifteen in diameter. It is from these that the town receives its scanty supply of fresh water. By the evening the wells are so nearly drained, that the water, as it rises in the middle of each, is taken up with a flat vessel like a skimming-dish ; it is then put into skins, and brought up a broken ascent by men, women, and children in a state of perfect nudity. The name of these wells is Illerbehey, Bruce's first stage. Having watered the mules and camels, we proceeded on our way, in the course of which, we saw several red deer exceedingly tame, and some small wolves, that bore a near resemblance to the large paria dog of India. We passed another village, beyond which two large flocks of goats were feeding ; and observed that all the villages, and gardens, were carefully fenced round with large branches of the thorny *Acacia*. By the time that we had quitted the plain, it became too dark to make any observations, except such as were forced upon us by the ruggedness of the road. We arrived at length at the rising ground, called by Bruce, Shillokeeb, but pronounced by the natives Shillikee, where we slept