

to the sea, which here forms an inlet, and is nearly surrounded by the walls. The audience chamber had two large windows opposite to each other, about twelve feet long by four wide, and raised a foot from the ground : in both of these were seats covered with carpets, and rich cushions. On the southern were seated three Arabs, who rose up on my entrance, and made their salaams, which I returned. An old fashioned large elbow chair was placed for me opposite to the centre of the window : it was covered with very rich cushions. Plain English chairs were placed for the other gentlemen. Soon afterwards the Vizier, who was a stupid-looking eunuch, entered, with his train borne, and seated himself in one corner of the window. The usual compliments having passed, he lamented our misfortunes, and assured us of every possible assistance from him in retrieving them ; but regretted he could do but little, from the scarcity which prevailed. I requested his permission to employ Ibrahim Jelani, and consult with him on the subject. He said he would immediately send to him, and I might go there on my departure from him. Coffee was presented to us, but none of the Mussulmauns took any, as it was Ramadan. He asked respecting the business at Mas-sowah, which he had heard of from the Samaulies of Abdulcauder's boat. I found great difficulty in explaining this, and indeed every thing else, as Andrew's Arabic was of a low cast, and the Vizier spoke the best. He, however, at length understood it, and expressed great resentment at the Nayib's conduct to a friend of the Sheriffe, and the Sultaun of Roum. He said he should write very severely to him, and would make him give a strict account. Rose-water sherbet was presented, which was excellent, with embroidered napkins to wipe our mouths. He expressed a wish that I would write to

the Sheriffe now that I was here. I said I had no secretary for Arabic, nor did I understand it. He replied that his secretary should write any thing I pleased. I said, I would wait on him whenever he pleased, in a more private way, and would talk the subject over with him; at length it was settled I should return from Jelani's. Rose water was now given, and our faces perfumed; after which we took our leave. He did not quit his seat. We were preceded by the same people in scarlet cloaks, who kept off the crowd. As I quitted the palace three more guns were fired, and the soldiers fired their matchlocks. The common people were very civil; and as we passed through the bazar, the elder tradesmen made their salaams. Ibrahim Jelani met me at the door, and conducted me to the place of honour at the corner of the court, seating himself next me. The gentlemen were on chairs facing us. I began by telling him, that I understood he had ever been the friend of the English, and that therefore I should open all our wants to him, and consult with him without reserve. He assured me of his extreme anxiety to render us every service in his power. He promised some rice, hoped he could procure two anchors, and as for water, he said there was plenty that was tolerable, and he would let us have ten casks of good. Sheep were not to be bought, goats were eight and nine dollars, a piece and a bullock thirty or forty. Fish, however, he said, might be had in sufficient quantity, through the medium of the Emir Bahar, to supply our ship's crew. This was a great object to us. He offered us the use of his house during our stay; we therefore settled to remain a few hours with him on the morrow, and arrange every thing. I now asked him whether any presents would expedite our supplies. He said, yes; one hundred dollars to the

slaves of the Vizier. This could only be an excuse for the master ; we therefore agreed to give it, and requested him to advance the money, which he instantly did. I then enquired what I ought to give to the different people. He directed thirty dollars to the Ascari, ten to the gunner, five to the Derwan, and five to the chief man who walked before me. I now spoke of the attempt of the French to seize Camaran, and Seid Akil's assisting them. He said they only waited for his arrival here to seize his ship : that he had here twenty-five thousand dollars and a house. He said the Vizier knew of the business. As he understood Andrew's Arabic, I explained to him the whole Massowah transaction, and requested him to tell it fully to the Vizier. He said he would go with us and do so. We had coffee and sherbet, but he, also, took none. On receiving the rose water we departed. No one was at the Vizier's but his secretary. We had a long conversation on many subjects. He wished much for powder from us, but I positively assured him we had none to spare. The Massowah transaction roused his wrath, and he absolutely squeaked with indignation, declaring he would seize all the dows that arrived thence till they accounted for their misconduct ; and this I have no doubt he will do, happy in any pretence to plunder their property. My letter was written and signed : heaven knows the contents, nor did I much care what they were. I was told it contained an account of my arrival, compliments, the transactions at Massowah, and at Camaran, a wish to receive any commands of his for India or Egypt, and a request of assistance for the ship. I promised to stay eight days for an answer, if, in the mean time, they would regularly supply us with fresh provisions or fish, which they undertook to do. They wished to

know if I thought any arms or ammunition might be procured in India; I said I thought there might, and offered my best services in making the application, which were willingly accepted. The Vizier and Jelani both urged very strongly that we should leave them four of our men, who understood the use of great guns. He declared that they should not be tempted to change their religion, and that they should be allowed a house, and be made as comfortable as the place would admit. I assured him we had none to spare, and that even if we had, it was contrary to our laws to dispose of any Englishman who belonged to a ship of war, or to any other, without his own consent, and, that I was sure none of my men wished to leave me. I gave strict injunctions to my servant and Andrew, on my return, not to mention this to any one, as I was by no means so confident as I pretended to be. We had rose water again, when we took our leave. I promised to send an officer with my seal to put it to the Sheriffe's letter; which I did when we reached the ship at five o'clock, heartily tired with the day's work, though every thing had been most satisfactorily conducted, and we had reason to hope a relief from most of our distresses. I was saluted on my return with seventeen guns.

December 11.—I went on shore about ten, landed at the Vizier's quay, and proceeded directly to Jelani. He was waiting to receive me at the door. We more fully detailed our wants. He promised twenty-five bags of rice, which was half the quantity we wanted, and said he would try for the rest. He seemed to speak more hesitatingly on the subject of our supplies; complained of the great scarcity, and told us at once no fire wood was to be had. At length it turned out that we ought to make a present to the Vizier. I was

vexed, but Captain Court and I agreed there was no remedy. Our distresses were such, as to make our obtaining supplies not a matter of convenience, but of necessity. We therefore determined to comply with a good grace. Of my originally large stock of Asiatic articles, I had nothing left but a few shawls, which I knew I should want in Egypt; I therefore requested Jelani to procure the proper articles, which he said ought to be to the amount of three hundred dollars; he immediately produced from his stores some pieces of kincaub and muslin, which would not have cost one hundred and fifty rupees in Bombay, but which were here considered as worth the former sum. These were immediately sent to the Vizier, and every thing was again well. We had heard that there was camel's flesh in the bazar: but that the Vizier should be spoken to, that he might order us a regular supply of forty pounds a day. Though wood was not to be purchased, yet it might be fetched by water in two days: Unus should have a person to attend, and shew him the place. The fishermen should be ordered to stop at the ship as they returned, and offer us what they had. He however informed us, that, in consequence of the siege, a large fish, was, on shore, worth a dollar. He gave us two water melons and some radishes, declaring that there were no other people on earth to whom he would have parted with them. He showed us all his sabres, some of which were very fine: they were all Persian, but some had been lengthened in Egypt at both ends, so as to give the Mameluke point, which cuts both ways. One was watered in straight lines instead of curves: this he valued at one thousand dollars, and declared that the Capitan Pacha himself had not so fine a one. He had also a large stock of guns and pistols.

He sent for his little daughter to shew us; she was extremely fair; and he took off her cap, that we might see her hair was quite brown. He himself is tolerably fair, short, and fat, with a black beard. His grandfather was the first Mussulmaun of the family. He told us that his family were Mograbis, inhabitants of Barbary, opposite to Gibraltar, which they still call Jibbel Teir. Several of his relations were there, and one uncle who was as white as any of us. The room we were received in was flagged, and open at top.—The house was three stories high: at the first floor a curtain was placed, which could be drawn horizontally across. It was open, and permitted us to see the range of latticed windows handsomely carved, which we soon perceived belonged to his Zenana. Several ladies were looking through the holes, but at length they lifted up the window. I was playing at chess with Jelani, whose back was towards them, and only ventured to look up, when I perceived his eyes and those of his attendants were fixed on the board. When my eyes met their's they smiled, and turned their heads a little on one side, but did not attempt to move. They were as fair as Europeans, had black hair, eyes, and eyebrows. Their lips were of a most beautiful vermillion: some were so young, that I think they must have been his daughters. Fatima is by one of his wives, who is fair, and was probably one of those we saw. He has a son by a slave, who is very black, but none by his wives. At the opposite end of the room, from which we entered, was a raised room of smaller dimensions, separated partly by a rail; to this was an ascent of two steps. It was covered with a carpet, and had cushions on three sides: on the right, by the rail, was his seat, upon which his box and writing materials were placed: at the end of this room was

a store room, where he kept his money, swords, and other valuables. We were seated as on the first day, in the open room, which had a range of benches on the right and left, covered with green cloth and cushions. I was seated in the left corner from the entrance, on a cloth with a gold border, as a mark of distinction.

The houses in Jidda are far superior to those at Mocha. They are built of large blocks of very fine madrapore. The doorways are handsomely arched, and covered with fret work ornaments carved in the stone, not put on in plaister: the zig zag, so prevalent in the Saxon arch, was the most common. The windows are numerous and large. I could not but be struck with the resemblance which exists between these arches, and those in our cathedrals; some were pointed like the Gothic, including three semicircular windows; others, particularly those which were over the doors, were flat like the Saxon, and retired one within another, till the inner one was sufficiently small to receive the door, which is never large. Jidda is a new town; but these excellent houses are probably formed after the model of the more ancient habitations of Mecca. If so, the architecture we call Gothic existed in Arabia, long before it was known in Europe. The streets are very narrow, which is an advantage in a tropical country, as they are consequently shaded during most part of the day. The palace is very pleasantly situated on the water's edge. The upper story, which we did not enter, seems to contain some excellent rooms, particularly one which terminates a wing running to the west. It is open by balconies to that point, and to the north and south. The custom-house faces the sea, and is a handsome, lofty building. The ground rises from the sea, and gives the town a much better appearance

than Mocha, though it is not so long. The sea also washes its walls at both ends, and is close to the houses in the middle; this adds greatly to the effect. The bazar was well filled, though it was Ramadan; plenty of wheat, pulse, dates, figs, raisins, and bread. The latter was in small cakes, but very good. Jelani gave us some of a finer sort, but it was a little perfumed with carraway seed. Mr. Salt asked for a hookah, and got an excellent one. Captain Court went to see the anchors they proposed for us, but both turned out to be miserable drow grapnels. We had seen one in the water near shore, but could not learn to whom it belonged. They at one time said it was the Vizier's, but that he would not part with it, unless we gave him powder in exchange; this we positively refused. A cable they undertook to make for us. We staid till nearly four. He began then to despair, and gave us a hint to be gone, by producing rose water. We departed, but without our interpreter Andrew, who was gone with the washerman.

I again spoke to Jelani about Seid Akil's ships. He had changed his note. He said he did not believe they were French ships, or that the French had any thing to do with them. He told me the Pacha of Jidda was coming down in a drow, and was expected soon. We looked at the anchor as we came back to the ship, and found it was a tolerable stream anchor.

December 12.—Captain Court went on shore to see what was to be got: he secured one very good grapnel of three hundred weight. They asked why I did not come, and were told that I was unwell. We got our camel's flesh, which was good, and plenty of excellent fish, though dear. Yesterday evening two drows came in from Cosseir with sheep and grain. We bought fifteen of

the former for six dollars each, and were offered the same number at the same price in the morning; but on sending for them we learned they had been all sent on shore. The selling them to us was a trick of the naqueda's. Jelani was very urgent to buy some pistols. The Captain told him there were none on board except common ones—that I indeed had one pair, but those I wanted for for my own protection. He begged at least he might be permitted to see them. The Vizier sent to request the Doctor would visit some of his slaves, who had been wounded by the Wahabee.

December 13.—All the party, except I and Captain Rudland, went on shore. Mr. Macgie had a great many patients, but the slaves were not to be seen, though he went to the palace twice, because the Vizier was asleep. A great many questions were asked about me: why I had been to India, as I was neither an admiral, a general, nor a governor? and what was to be the consequence now I was on my return home? To all this they got very unsatisfactory replies; curiosity they knew nothing about; and it would have been very difficult to persuade them that pleasure brought me so far from home.

In the morning the Emir Bahar came off with an answer from the Sheriffe to my letter. Andrew being on shore, we had no one to translate it; he therefore left it, and said he would come again the next day.

December 15.—The Emir Bahar came off according to his promise, and read the Sheriffe's letter, which Andrew contrived to explain tolerably well. It contained the usual Asiatic compliments, and expressed his satisfaction, that his Vizier had received me in a manner becoming my rank, which he would have done himself had

he been at Jidda. He regretted that he had not the power to punish the Nayib, for Massowah was not his port, but belonged to the Sultaun of Roum. He assured me of his being "all as one with the English," and that he would write to Sheriffe Hamood of Abou Arish, not to permit the French to have a settlement on Camaran. I presented the Emir Bahar with a piece of embroidered muslin for a turban, and gave his servant five dollars.

I went afterwards on shore, with Mr. Salt and Captain Rudland, to Jelani's, where I again met the Emir Bahar. I complained that we had only received ten casks of water, but was informed that sixteen more were gone off. I next spoke about rice, but could only obtain an equivocal answer, that they did not know, that the Emir Bahar would try; and at length Jelani plainly confessed, that the present we had made to that officer, was not considered by him as sufficiently handsome. We were at his mercy, and I was therefore obliged to promise an addition of a piece of kincaub, if he continued his exertions in our favour. Every thing was now right; twenty-five more bags of rice, a quantity of dol, a boat load of fuel, without sending for it, and as much water as possible was now promised. I tried hard to obtain two large pigs, which I had seen at the Vizier's gate, as being very improper inhabitants of so holy a town, but in vain, for they said the smell of them did their horses good.

I now produced my pair of pistols, which Jelani had requested to see; they were plain, but double-barreled, with gold touch-holes and pans. He instantly besought me to let him have them, saying they were of no value to me; that there was no danger in passing the desert to Cairo; and that there I could get others. He finished

by saying, that, as he should probably never see another Lord here, I ought to give them to him. I was sorry to part with them, only because they were of service to defend myself, having before determined to give him a present of more value; but it was in vain I pleaded my journey, against so conclusive an argument as his last, and was obliged at length to submit. The present being ready for the Vizier, my servant staid to present it at four. The Vizier gave him forty dollars. Jelani asked much if there were no other pistols nor guns on board to be bought, but my servant assured him there were not.

December 17.—I went on shore with Mr. Macgie, who was going to see some of the Vizier's slaves, having received a very civil message from that minister, expressing his regret at his not having been awakened on the former occasion; that he had punished his people for their neglect, and ordered the Doctor's immediate admission if he would call again. I went to Jelani, who was not up, though it was past twelve. Mr. Macgie joined me in about an hour, and gave a melancholy account of his patients, who amounted to above one hundred. A few of these had been wounded by the Wahabee, but the greater number was suffering under dreadful ulcers, which they never wash, nor the rags that are over them, but leave them there for months: he urged the necessity of cleanliness, and a frequent change of plaisters, which he taught them how to make and spread. Jelani had formerly procured from us some flints and powder; he now begged some more of the former, which we promised. I spoke again about water, as they did not send off above fifteen casks a day, and yesterday none. He sent to the Emir Bahar, who came immediately, and explained, that he

could not let us have more than from fifteen to twenty casks of good water per day, as it came from the country; that yesterday the Vizier had taken the water, as he did not know we wanted so much. This is probably true, for when the British fleet was here the water they procured was very bad, and ours is excellent, which could only be owing to the quantity then required being greater than the actual supply; they therefore took it from the brackish wells. He informed me that a boat was come in with fire wood, and that he would order the whole along side for us to-morrow morning. The camel's flesh went down very well, and we had a plentiful supply of very fine fish. The market yielded dried figs and nuts, which the monkeys liked as well as we did. We also procured a supply of excellent Egyptian dol. Jelani gave us fine bread; and we bought enough for our men of a coarser sort.

December 19.—In the morning, to our great surprise, the Emir Bahar came on board: it turned out that his only business was to request some flints for the Vizier. I gave him fifty, which were two thirds of what I had left. We had got all our rice, and had we been worth another anchor, should have been once again in a very comfortable situation. The winds were steady to the north, but Ramadan moon ending the next night, a change seemed approaching. In the morning it blew fresh from the east. It changed at noon to N. E. We rode by an anchor made of two guns and our chain, perfectly safe.

December 23.—On the 22d in the evening the new moon was visible, and was saluted by all the guns of the town. We received an invitation from Jelani to feast with him at ten, on the 24th, which we accepted. The Wahabee had kept the town in an alarm

every night, and on the 22d sent in an old woman to give them notice they should be there at night. We were again applied to for assistance, and it was proposed, by Jelani, that Captain Court and his crew should head the garrison, march out at night with the guns, and beat up the Wahabee's quarters. This, however, did not meet with our approbation, and we only generally said, we should be happy to do any thing in our power. Neither side seemed fond of fighting. On my asking Jelani what were the numbers of the Wahabee; he replied, "what is the use of talking of numbers; the whole country is Wahabee to Suez." The Wahabee, on the 22d, got possession of the wells, but the next day they were free. The water came but slowly, and during these holidays the people will not work, so that we got none at all. Our cable was making, but not likely to be ready before the end of the month. The weather was very fine and the winds more moderate.

December 24. — Three guns were fired about nine, which, we afterwards learned, were a salute to the Vizier on his leaving the palace to visit Jelani. We went on shore soon afterwards. We found Jelani seated in his inner square, which was much more richly furnished than during Ramadan, the cushions being of satin. When I entered, the commander of the forces was seated in my usual place in the corner; Jelani next to him: I sat on his right, and chairs were placed for the other gentlemen. As soon as the chief departed, Jelani made me take his place. A great number of people came in to congratulate him on the Ede, to each of whom on their entrance was presented sherbet, with an embroidered napkin to wipe their mouths. When he thought any person had staid long enough, the rose water and perfume gave the hint for his

departure, which he always took. The people of consequence had hookahs presented to them; Jelani, who was in high good humour, gave me a short account of each as he entered. I was very much amused by the difference of their dresses, which were all very rich in their kind. They varied most in their turbans, but no colour seemed particularly to point out the rank or descent: several were in green who could have no pretensions to a descent from Mohammed, and among them were Jelani's slaves. We saw many Bedowee, and a Moulah from Medina. The under dresses were rich satins or kincaubs; the kelauts, of English broad cloth, or a stuff like camelin: Jelani himself had an under one of silk lined with ermine, and over that, another of black fox skins. All the slaves had new dresses. Jelani told us we ought to pay our compliments to the Vizier, but as the crowd would be very great, we, by his advice, put it off till the morrow. He made an excuse on going out himself to pay some visits, and requested we would consider his house as our own. Tea was served to us in English tea things: it was execrable, and they had brought no milk; we did not drink any, at which they were greatly astonished, supposing it was our favourite beverage. Jelani returned by one o'clock, when an English table was brought, and chairs placed round it. Two Mussulmauns, besides himself, sat down to table with us. We had bread placed before us all; knives and forks only for our party. The first dish was a soup made of milk, meat, and some kind of acid, which was excellent. They took it out with small horn spoons, and handed it immediately to their mouths; we had ours in small basons. Next came very rich forced-meat balls; then water melons in slices; then meat again, stewed; then pastry, and so alternately

sweets and meat to the number of fifteen or sixteen dishes. Only one dish was put on the table at a time, which was so rapidly removed that we were not half an hour at table. We finished with pomegranates, bananas, and sherbet with raisins in it; after which each person turned round and washed his hands over a bason, into which water was poured by a slave who held a white napkin. The dishes were so excellent that I never made a better dinner. We had coffee and rose water when we took our leave. I learned from him that the Arab's first meal is soon after day break, and consists of milk, rice, fruit, sweatmeats, bread, and coffee. We partook of the second; and the third, consisting also of meat and pastry, is after sun set.

The people in general were in new and handsome clothes in the bazar and streets. The coffee houses were now opened and filled: all shops, except those that sold eatables, were shut; in short, every thing wore an air of festivity in despite of the Wahabee.

December 25.—As soon as we had breakfasted we went on shore to pay our compliments to the Vizier. We waited some little time at the door. The Emir Bahar came up, and after salaams, went in. He soon returned, and conducted us to a large open court, at one end of which was an apartment carpeted and elevated, like Jelani's: on each side were long benches covered with crimson satin and rich kincaub cushions. Close to the elevated apartment on the right entrance was the seat of honour, large enough to hold two. It had a covering of wood, and was ornamented with beautiful silk carpeting and cushions. I was seated here, and soon afterwards, the Vizier entered, followed only by his slaves, one of whom bore his train. The Emir Bahar stood the whole time, as

did a line of slaves opposite to us. The Vizier wore the dress in which I had before seen him, but all the rest had new and handsome clothes. After the usual compliments had past, he complained of cold, and asked if it was more severe in my country. He seemed in good humour. The conversation soon turned on the sick people, and Mr. Macgie was obliged again to direct what was to be done. He found they had left off his plaister, because the sore appeared to enlarge; and they had by no means obeyed him in the article of cleanliness. Through the medium of the Emir Bahar, who understood Andrew's Arabic better than the Vizier, we again explained every thing, and urged the necessity of cleanliness. He declared that we should be obeyed, but requested permission to send some one on board the ship to learn to make salve, which was willingly complied with. On our entry we had coffee, and afterwards sherbet. These we took without any fear; though our poor friend Unus had come off to request we would not, as we should certainly be poisoned. Unus never having been here before, had not till now heard of the Sheriffe's frequent crimes of this sort. We relied on the fear of our arms, not on his humanity, and therefore laughed at all our friend's warnings. The wind was light, and inclined to be southerly; and the heat, in the sun, so violent as to produce a head-ache. We however all enjoyed our Christmas dinner together, and drank to our friends in England.

December 28.—Yesterday morning a ship was in sight from the mast head. As she fired guns, and had a signal flying for a pilot, we sent one off towards evening, but it was too late for her to come in. This morning we had the pleasure to see her safely at anchor alongside of us. She proved my old friend the Olive, commanded

by Captain Loane, who was at Mocha with Captain Sparks, and was loaded with rice and sugar. We had the satisfaction of receiving by him English newspapers down to February, and Bengal news of only two months old: and first heard of Lord Wellesley's departure, and Lord Cornwallis's arrival, and death on the 5th of October last. He brought me a letter from Mr. Maxfield, informing me of his arrival at Bengal, of his having been favourably received by the Marquis, and his expectations that he should be employed to complete the survey of the Red Sea. I had also a short letter from Mr. Graham, who, however, thought there was little chance of its reaching me in Asia. We now learned that the government of Bombay had been most kindly attentive to all our wants, and had actually forwarded every kind of stores to Mocha by the Prince, Captain Young, which was taken up for this purpose only. Mr. Young arrived on the 15th of November at Mocha, and received my letter, and Mr. Pringle's, ordering him to follow us to Massowah, but with which he did not choose to comply. Had he done so, he would have met us there after our misfortune on the 18th, would have liberated us from our difficulties, and have enabled us to settle with the Nayib. Captain Loane informed me that Mr. Pringle was recalled, and meant to return in the Prince to Bombay. Unfortunately he had detained every article, and even our letters, under the idea that before this we had reached Suez. Captain Loane supplied our wants so far as lay in his power, by letting us have twelve dozen of wine, some butter, pickles, geese, and biscuit. He also parted with a small stream anchor, which he had over and above his complement. Jelani's uncle and some merchants came on board the Panther in the morning, to request

I would introduce them to the British Captain, which I promised to do. They took coffee and sweatmeats. The Emir Bahar was of the party, and a Mussulmaun priest from Constantinople, who laughed at Mr. Salt's drawings, and was persuaded by the rest to have his picture drawn. They were delighted, as the likeness appeared on the paper.

December 29.—By my recommendation, Captain Loane determined to employ Jelani as his broker. On going on shore to introduce him, we met the Emir Bahar and Emir Bazar, who told us that the first visit should be to the Vizier. We accordingly went there, and found him civil and conversable, and afterwards proceeded to Jelani, who promised to do his best to dispose of the cargo.

The Emir Bahar procured me some slaves, who could dive, and procure the Yusser, a species of kerotophyte, which abounds in the harbour of Jidda, and has a most singular effect under water, from its gently waving motion when agitated by the tide. It is of a deep black colour; and although the stem at the base, where it adheres to the madrapore, is not thicker than a quill, yet its slender branches extend to a length of above four feet. It is covered with a brown, glutinous substance, which is evidently composed of millions of animalculæ, proceeding from the small pores in the Yusser, which become visible when they are removed. On being taken up it is flexible, but when dry it becomes very brittle. The divers went down in fourteen fathom, and procured some beautiful specimens of madrapore, which form the shoals of the harbour. One species my divers were very anxious I should touch with my tongue; suspecting a trick, I made them do it, and soon found by their grimaces, that it stung severely. I was informed



PRIEST AT JIDDA.

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that Yusser is found at Yambo of a white colour. I have seen specimens of both kinds nearly an inch in diameter at the base. It is formed into beads by the Arabians, and takes a polish.

December 30.—Captain Court went on shore to settle the accounts. The prices charged were most enormous : for rice, ten dollars a bag ; for dol the same, though in the bazar it was only eight. The boat load of fire wood was eighty dollars ; and about seventy-five butts of water five hundred dollars. The grapnel and the cable supplied by Jelani himself were more reasonable ; and some excuse must be made for the distress of a siege, and the real scarcity which existed of some of the articles. The Emir Bahar got his additional present of seventy-five dollars, and we were obliged to give a similar one to the Emir Bazar, as he had sent us two goats and two sheep, which he yesterday took care to inform me were his private gift, and did not belong to the butcher. The camel's flesh was nearly a dollar a pound. The Emir Bahar asked me if I would give him a letter of recommendation to any English that came there : I said I would.

December 31.—By appointment under a salute of seventeen guns from the fort. He received me having been on a voyage to Loan. He said that the fort was again. formerly.

agreed to take Captain Court's bills on Mocha for the whole amount of our expenses, without charging any interest or exchange.

I gave him letters of recommendation to the Governor-General of India, and the Governor of Bombay, and also left with him a certificate of the liberal treatment we had received from him. I asked him if he wished them to be delivered in private, but he preferred receiving them in the presence of the crowd of merchants, who were assembled to consult about the purchase of Captain Loane's cargo. I parted from him with expressions of regard, and returned to the Panther under the usual salute.

A dow caught fire in the evening and was burnt to the water's edge, in defiance of the active exertions of the Emir Bahar and his people. One unfortunate man was blown in two, by the bursting of a powder tub, and a second had his legs and thighs dreadfully shattered; in this state he was sent off to Mr. Macgie by the Vizier, with a request that he would do any thing for him that he could, and even, if necessary, cut off his legs: a very extraordinary permission from a Mussulman, in general, the idea of amputation is abhorred, and by a Christian would be considered as a crime. The case was however hopeless,

CHAPTER IX.

Observations on Jidda.—Its ancient and present state.—Condition of the Slaves there.—Decline of the Family of Mohammed.—Account of the Harbour of Jidda, its Trade, and number of vessels employed between it and Egypt.—Departure from Jidda.—Voyage to Suez.—Transactions there.—Arrival of Schech Chedid and the Caravan from Cairo.—Anecdotes of him.—Present state of Suez and its Trade.—Observations on the Passage of the Children of Israel through the Red Sea.

CHAPTER IX.

JANUARY 1, 1806.—JIDDA owes its celebrity from being the nearest sea port to Mecca, whence it is distant about forty miles. This holy city, being surrounded by a country unproductive in every article necessary for the support of man, has invariably depended on Africa for the supplies that its numerous regular inhabitants, and its still more numerous religious visitants, required. Egypt, fertile in grain, being in the possession of the Turks, the Sultaun used the influence which, in consequence of this circumstance, he thus obtained, to secure to himself a share of the profits of the extensive trade of Jidda. He therefore, regularly appointed a Pacha, who lived in the citadel of Jidda with a Turkish guard, and divided the receipts of the custom-house with the Sheriffe.

While the power of the Sublime Porte continued undiminished, its minister was treated with great respect, for any insult would have been punished by the powerful force which annually accompanied the caravan of pilgrims from Syria; but when Egypt was torn by internal convulsions, when the Pachas of Asia threw off; in a great degree, the control of the Porte; and when the Wahabee power arose, and cut off the communication between Constantinople and Mecca, the Sheriffe became disinclined to give half his receipts to a person, whom he no longer feared, but considered as an useless incumbrance. Disputes naturally ensued, which at length ended in open hostilities; and Ghalib, the present sovereign,

actually attacked the Pacha in the citadel, and nearly destroyed it; and got rid of him by the more secret means of poison. At present no representative of the Protector of the Holy Places, (for so the Sultaun is considered throughout his dominions,) is to be found in Arabia.

Although Ghalib has thus succeeded in securing to himself the revenues of Jidda, he has in reality only contributed to his own more rapid destruction. The Wahabee have taken advantage of the absence of the Turkish troops, whom, from their superiority to their own undisciplined bands, they were unable to oppose, to conquer the holy city, and to besiege Jidda itself. Yambo being free, many supplies are procured from it, and from the islands which lie near it; but, unless supported by a Turkish power, Ghalib must at length resign Mecca, Medina, Yambo, and Jidda, to the Wahabee: and indeed it may be doubted, whether it be an object to him to retain them under their present circumstances, when the expense so greatly exceeds the revenue.

Without the walls of these towns, the Sheriffe cannot be considered as having a subject. Every Arab, who falls within the control of Suud, adopts his religion, and receives permission to plunder those who have not done the same; no victory, therefore, could restore the country to the Sheriffe, who could only retain that proportion which his troops might cover. From the lands, therefore, all revenue is at an end; and the profits of the great fair annually held at Mecca, by the pilgrims who assembled there, much more from mercantile than religious motives, no longer flow into his coffers. The trade of Jidda still yields a small income, not equal, probably, to the expense of defending the place.

Thus situated, Ghalib, when besieged by Suud in Jidda, had determined to fly with his ill gotten treasures to India, and had, for that purpose, deposited them all on board his ships in the harbour. On the retreat of Suud, he carried back a large proportion of them to Mecca, which probably he would now find it difficult to remove; and even his own escape to Jidda, where a considerable sum still remains, under the care of the Vizier, is an attempt of danger, now that the Wahabee cover the country between the two places. In this distress, it would seem that he looks anxiously for the arrival of a new Pacha from Egypt, as the only hope of safety; though he must naturally dread, that the murder of two Pachas may call down the vengeance of their successor. Jelani informed me, that the new Pacha was supposed to have with him two thousand men. A much smaller force would protect Jidda and Mecca, but a much larger would be insufficient to recover the country. I suspect, however, that the Wahabee are much less considered on this occasion than the Sheriffe, and that it is against him, in the first instance, that hostilities will be directed. If the holy places can only be preserved by the Turks, they will naturally be inclined to secure them for themselves, instead of participating in the power of a man, who has already proved himself a secret enemy; and whose repeated murders, and insatiable avarice, have done more to undermine the power of the followers of the Prophet, than all the external attacks of the Wahabee.

The Arab character seems to have declined rapidly in Hedjas; for in 1763, when Niebuhr was at Jidda, a Sheriffe was always Vizier there, because, as he says, no descendant of Mohammed could, in so holy a country, be judged by one of an inferior race.

At that time, also, the sovereign of the country, Moosnud, was active, able, victorious, and so rigid an administrator of justice, that it is said a camel might go safely from one end of Hédjas to the other. During the nineteen years that his son has ruled, how totally has every thing been changed? The proud Arabs of Beni Koreish, the descendants of the Prophet, to whom the earth was given, are shut up in four wretched towns, whence they behold their country devastated without the means of saving it; and instead of receiving that respect, which for twelve centuries they have claimed throughout Asia, they are obliged to submit to the mandates of an Abyssinian slave, who has no real merit except valour, but who is recommended to his master by a willingness to commit every crime.

The martial spirit of the Arabians seems to have subsided together with their religious zeal. The larger proportion of their soldiers, and many of their officers, are slaves, purchased from Africa, who fight bravely for their masters, though, from their number, they might at any time render themselves free, now that arms are put into their hands by their effeminate masters.

A slave in Arabia is by no means an object of compassion; and, were it not that the loss of liberty enbitters every enjoyment, he would be in a better situation than in his native country. He is considered as a part of the family of his master, he lives well, is comfortably lodged, and splendidly cloathed. The Mussulmaun law limits his punishment, and enables him to quit his master if he should dislike his situation; for, at the request of a slave, the Cadi will order him to be publicly sold. He may even look up to the highest offices in the state; and his slavery can hardly be felt as a severe degradation, in a country where the despotism of the

Sovereign reduces every person to the same level of insignificance and implicit obedience.

The soldiers of the Vizier are in number about one thousand, who are all richly cloathed, and their matchlocks and jambeas highly ornamented with silver. If this be so in the time of the present Sheriffe, is it possible to believe that it was otherwise in the time of his more splendid and more powerful father? Yet Mr. Bruce calls the Vizier's soldiers a parcel of naked blackguards, in his account of his proceedings at Jidda, to which I gave but little credit, knowing that a very different story is told by Captain Thornhill, who, with the other merchants, was obliged to purchase secretly a valuable present for the Vizier, to put an end to the disputes between him and Mr. Bruce respecting the duties on his baggage, which the latter refused to pay.

The Wahabee, who are chiefly cavalry, never wait for the Vizier's infantry, but retire on their approach, and after fatiguing them by a fruitless chase, follow them again to the walls, whence they are obliged to retrace their steps. They seem to choose the night for their attacks, and to place their hopes of success on either setting fire to the town, or starving it into a surrender. The horses feel the blockade most severely, and are the pictures of famine. The Vizer has procured a few from Cosseir, and says, that he expects shortly one hundred and fifty, which, if they arrive, will mount his most active slaves, and enable him to keep the enemy at a distance, till a want of fresh food renders them incapable of service.

The harbour of Jidda is formed by innumerable reefs of madrapore, which extend to about four miles from the shore, leaving many narrow channels between, in which there is a good bottom

at from six to twelve fathom, and where the sea is as smooth as glass, when it blows the heaviest gale. The entrance is of course difficult, but the rocks are visible when the sun is behind the vessel, and the native pilots unerringly steer in safety by the eye alone. Even large ships can enter; but for dows it is a most excellent harbour, and the number that even now comes here is very great. Sir Home Popham has given an excellent plan of the harbour, which differs but little from those of his predecessors.

An idea has been entertained in England by many able men, that Bonaparte, even with the possession of Egypt, would find it impracticable to reach India, from the want of vessels to convey his troops. My residence at Jidda has fully convinced me that this idea is erroneous; and Jelani gave me some information on the subject, which I think conclusive. He assured me, that the trade of Cossier, Suez, Jidda, and Yambo, would at any time supply a sufficiency of vessels to convey ten thousand men; and added, as a proof, that there were at that moment forty dows, either at Suez, or on their way thither, to bring down the Pacha and his followers, which would carry from fifty to one hundred and fifty men each. There would be no necessity for large supplies of water or provisions; for, the wind being favourable during nine months of the year, they might then run down with such rapidity to Loheia, as to find every night a place where these articles would be procurable. Thence to Mocha, if the wind should be adverse, they might go by land; and at the latter place vessels, under American colours, might be assembled, sufficient for their conveyance to India, without exciting a suspicion in the British, who would consider them as coming for the usual supplies of coffee and gums.

The danger will certainly lessen every year, with the decay of the Arabian trade; and will be nearly annihilated, if Abyssinia and Sennaar should be supplied directly from Europe and India, and the British obtain permission from the government in Egypt, to send their Indian manufactures to Suez. Hitherto this has not been permitted, in consequence of the influence of the Sheriffe of Mecca at Constantinople, who obtained an order, that all vessels bound for Egypt should stop at Jidda, and pay a duty there. To confirm this arrangement, the Sheriffe obliged the merchants to unship their goods, and remove them to other dows, so that the vessels, which navigated the lower part of the gulf, were different from those which navigated the upper; and the seamen were so ignorant of that part of the sea in which they were unaccustomed to sail, that they dared not venture into it, however willing they might be to escape the payment of duties at Jidda.

Many of the richest merchants have already retired from a place where trade is every day declining, and where their lives are perpetually in danger. Jelani would, I believe, be rejoiced to follow their example, but the Vizier has no intention of permitting so rich a prey to escape, and therefore watches him so closely, that a removal of his family is impracticable, and he would not wish to leave them behind. He may make terms with the Wahabee, and thereby secure his property, in case of their success; but this must be done secretly, or he would share the fate of his father, who perished by poison.

The English formerly carried on a considerable trade with Jidda, but it gradually declined, in consequence of the extortions of the Sheriffe and his servants, under the name of presents, and, for

many years before the expedition into the Red Sea, not a vessel had arrived, except the *Surprise*, Captain Gilmore, which the Vizier immediately plundered, but which Admiral Blanket as quickly obliged him to restore. From that time, till the arrival of the *Olive*, the English flag had not been seen in Jidda. The Sheriffe has had time to meditate on his folly, and Jelani assured me that he was at last inclined to be reasonable in his demands.

There was at Jidda only one renegado, a Frenchman of some abilities, whom we found of use in assisting Andrew to interpret for us. The Vizier treated him with great contempt, observing to us, that he was only a common seaman; but the lower orders had a respect for him as a physician, and he added a trifle to his allowance by his medical practice. I enquired of him after the English renegadoes who had quitted Mocha; he coolly replied, that they were gone to the devil different ways; that two had been killed in battle, one had been blown to pieces by the bursting of a gun, some had deserted to the Wahabee; and Thomas, whom I had known at Mocha, had gone up with the Sheriffe to Mecca, and had not since been heard of.

It would certainly be the interest of any merchant who may hereafter visit Jidda to employ Jelani, although Hammed Nasser is the British agent, on account of the great weight which his large property gives him among the other merchants, and the real respectability of his character. The duties proposed by the Vizier amount to about eight per cent. and the presents to himself, the Emir Bahar, and their servants, to about four more; but I am by no means sure that a merchant could depend upon having no other demands made on him, when he was once in the harbour, whence

it would be almost impossible for him to escape without a native pilot. The best pilots are Ali el Gaceni, Abou Mogannam, and Hassan Shaié.

January 2.—We this day took leave of Captain Loane, who went on shore to try once more to dispose of his cargo. They had hitherto offered him only three dollars per bag for his rice, though they charged us ten. He asked six and a half, and was determined, if they would not give that, to quit the harbour.*

With the morning breeze from the land, we quitted the harbour by the northern passage, when, dismissing our pilot, we proceeded on our way, till we saw the breakers off Charles's river. We were then much surprised and gratified at discovering a vessel to the westward, which, on approaching, we were convinced was not Said Doud's ship, nor his grab, we therefore hoped it might be the Prince, with our stores. We fired several guns, and made signals, but without obtaining any answer, or inducing her to alter her course, or wait for our coming up. We continued the chase all night.

January 3.—At five in the morning we came up with the strange vessel, and discovered, to our disappointment, that she was the Soolimaun, Captain Wilder, an Arab ship loaded with rice, but sailing under English colours. During the day we had light land and sea breezes from the southward.

January 5.—Yesterday evening the favourable wind, which had carried us into lat. 23° N. left us, and a stiff breeze set in from the northward, accompanied by a heavy swell, which greatly damped

* Captain Loane did not sell his rice, quarrelled with the Vizier, who would not give him a pilot, ran aground in attempting to leave the harbour, but got off, to be captured by a French privateer in the Indian seas.

our expectations of a favourable passage. We were obliged to double reef our topsails, and strike our topgallant yards. Unus did not like the appearance of the weather, and disappeared; probably he returned to Jidda.

January 6.—In defiance of the foul wind, a strong current to the N.W. enabled us to make some way. In the morning the Arabian shore was in sight, near Yambo. It forms that part of the great chain of Raduan, which is called Lamlam, and is the land mark to the dows which are bound to Yambo.

January 8.—We had a slight southerly wind, and a current to the N.W. which carried us seventeen miles in the twenty-four hours. At night the breeze gradually freshened till it blew a gale from the S.W. and obliged us to clew up, and furl our square sails. We afterwards lay to under the fore staysail and mizzen. The swell was great, and so short, that sleeping was impossible till after twelve, when it moderated sufficiently for us to set our double-reefed topsails and courses.

January 9.—We were on the look out for a reef laid down by Sir Home Popham, in lat. 26° N. but could not discover it, though we sailed over the very spot where it should be. The night was hazy, but in the morning the Arabian shore was in sight, distant four or five leagues. We stood towards a remarkable cape, that rose abruptly to a great height, and off which we discovered breakers, and a shoal. As this was laid down in no chart, and was an important headland, I named it Cape Barry, after my friend Colonel Maxwell Barry. It lies in $26^{\circ} 32'$ N. At twelve, on sounding, we found only twenty-six fathom, rock. We instantly tacked, and were shortly in good soundings, from twenty to twenty-four fathom, mud. Our friendly cur-

rent was succeeded by one to the S. E. We again looked out for the reef, near the northern extremity of which we were obliged to pass, but with the same want of success as before.

January 10.—On the 9th, at night we experienced as heavy a gale from the N. W. as on the 8th, which obliged us to take in every sail, and lie to for some hours. At sun rise Cape Barry was in sight, forming a conspicuous headland at the distance of eleven leagues. As the weather was cloudy, we were not able to take an observation.

January 11.—We had variable winds during the whole of the night, inclining to the northward, and on the 11th, in the morning, we had the heartfelt satisfaction of beholding the long sought for land of Egypt, at a distance of about eight leagues. We ran in for it, and at twelve were only four leagues off in lat. $25^{\circ} 40' N$.

January 13.—On the 12th, the northerly breeze continued, and obliged us to work along shore, and prevented us from making more than sixteen miles. During the last twenty-four hours we had a favourable wind from the S. and afterwards from the W. with which we reached latitude $26^{\circ} 36'$ having passed within the islands called the Brothers. At twelve we were close to the shore, off which is a shoal, that is well laid down in Sir Home Popham's chart. The mountains here are higher than to the southward. Mr. Bruce describes them as beautiful from the green and red marbles that compose them; but though I have seen them from latitude 25° , I have not been able to discover any other appearance than the dull tint which stone generally acquires when long exposed to the decomposing powers of the atmosphere. At any rate, I could not perceive the least grounds for the supposition that they were

sufficiently red to have originally given a name to the sea, from their colour. Calms continued to baffle us, and when a breeze sprang up it came from the northward.

January. 15.—On the 14th, we had only light airs or calms, which brought us by twelve to $26^{\circ} 45' N$. On the 14th, at night, we had no alteration for the better; but the scene was changed, by our being the next morning close over on the Arabian shore, within sight of the islands of Tiran and Shaduan, and nearly opposite to Ras Mohammed. Before night the wind freshened to a gale from the N. W. We stood in close to the Jaffateen islands.

January 21.—From the 15th, to the 21st, the gale continued from the N.W., blowing through the narrow straits between Shaduan and Ras Mohammed, with a violence equal to any thing I have experienced. We were generally obliged to lie to under our fore and mizen stay-sails; but whenever it moderated a little, we were glad to carry our courses, to avoid being driven to the southward. In this we succeeded, so that on the fifth day we were within a mile of the same position, in which we were on the first. The sea had been so rough as to deprive us of all rest at night, and all comfort in the day. The dead lights rendered our little cabin gloomy, and the water which washed in, in defiance of them, made it as damp as the deck. We stretched across from shore to shore, and had therefore several good opportunities of ascertaining the real position of Tiran: it is in latitude $27^{\circ} 43' N$. longitude $34^{\circ} 27' 50'' E$. It rises to a point in the centre, and has a small island at each end, which, at a little distance, appears as if attached to it. It is laid down by Sir Home Popham too far within the Gulf of Akaba.

The Jaffateen islands were an object which excited my interest, even in defiance of my annoyances, from their being considered, by some authors, as the three islands that lie off the Myos Hormos of the ancients. We ran as near them as we dared, and discovered that there were four of different sizes; the largest lies in latitude $27^{\circ} 11'$, longitude $33^{\circ} 46' E$. Their number precludes them from the honour of being Myos Hormos; and I think the claim of the Two Brothers must be considered as inadmissible for the same reason; otherwise there is evidently an opening in the mountains behind them, through which a communication might have taken place with Egypt. A little to the northward are the Sefadja Hills, a rugged and lofty pile visible from a great distance. Shaduan is well laid down by Sir Home Popham. It has a single, horizontal, white stripe, that runs along its western side. It is valuable as a bold and lofty mark of the entrance into the narrow straits of Jubal.

Mr. Niebuhr does not seem to have laid down Ras Mohammed with his usual accuracy; instead of $27^{\circ} 54' N$, the southern Cape, which is high land, and divides the sea of Suez from the sea of Akaba, is in $27^{\circ} 44' N$. I cannot account for this difference any other way, than by supposing that Mr. Niebuhr might consider the south-westernmost point of land, which is opposite to Jubal, and forms the straits, as Ras Mohammed.

Had we not considered ourselves as certain of a fair wind at this season of the year, we should have hired a pilot from Jidda, who would have taken us into some harbour during these heavy gales; but ignorant as we were of the coast, and badly furnished with anchors, it would have been madness to attempt to enter even the sea of Akaba, which looked free from all danger, and is perfectly

protected by the mountains of the peninsula from the north west wind which tormented us.

January 22.—The wind on the 22d in the morning was variable and moderate: about twelve it came round to the S.W., when we made directly for Shaduan, and by midnight were ten miles to the north of it, when Captain Court lay to, as he did not think it prudent to enter the narrow straits of Jubal in the night.

January 23.—At day light we found we had drifted close to Ras Mohammed, when we bore away for Jubal with a fine breeze from the southward, which continued to freshen. We passed the high land of Zeyte, which can only be called so comparatively, from the low land near it. It is bluff to the sea, and is of a red colour, beautifully veined with purple. At one we were opposite to a mountain, called Agrib in our charts, though its real name is Ghareb. It forms a remarkable point on the African shore, from its being the last high land with a pointed and ragged summit: to the northward all the hills had either round or flat tops. At two we were off Tor, but felt too anxious to profit by our southerly wind to think of entering it. The celebrated mountains of Sinai and Horeb reared their pointed tops over a range of hills, which extend from Ras Mohammed to Ras Jehan. They were lofty, but their effect was diminished by those in front. It blew very fresh towards night, and we passed Ras Jehan on the Arabian shore in a gale of wind, accompanied by rain, and then considered ourselves as almost in safety, for here the sea narrows considerably, and the vessels during the expedition had frequently a great difficulty in weathering this cape, which is lofty and bold.

January 24.—We had reason to rejoice at our good fortune on

the 23d, for in the night the wind came round to the northward, and blew so fresh, that had we been on the other side of Ras Jehan, it would have been impossible to weather it. The swell was but trifling from the narrowness of the sea, and the little depth of water. After we had entered the sea of Suez we constantly had soundings. The change in the climate was very sudden; and the cold rendered the cabin quite uncomfortable. At day light we were close in with Hummaum Faroun, or Pharaoh's Bath, so called on account of some warm springs which break out there. It is a very high, bluff point, in latitude $29^{\circ} 7' N.$; but the point is in $29^{\circ} 10'$, off which Captain Court anchored in 1795. During the day it was hazy, but cleared up towards the evening, and for the first time we were enabled to discover land all around us. To the north of Hummaum Faroun the hills were low and flat; on the opposite shore was a high and long bluff land, called Abou Daraja. It was red, veined with purple, as were the others, which we had seen since passing Shaduan. The wind moderated at sunset, when we had the pleasure of seeing Attaké, the last mountain on the Egyptian shore, and close to Suez.

January 25.—The light airs from the north still prevailed, but the smoothness of the sea, in a bason not twelve miles wide, permitted us to make but little way. The day was beautiful, and a clear sky enabled us to see the African mountains to great advantage; yet our impatience to reach Suez, which seemed at length almost within our grasp, precluded the possibility of our enjoying the scene. At twelve we were in latitude $29^{\circ} 29'$, and an opposing tide left us no hope of reaching the shore before the following morning.

January 26.—With the assistance of the tide we reached the anchoring ground of Suez by four o'clock; but not being aware of a spit of sand, which separates the narrow gut, that runs up to the town, from the sea, we went too far to the north, so that when we sent the boat on shore, she had half a mile to pull to the southward, before she could keep a direct course. A boat soon came off from the Dola, who commanded in the absence of the Aga, with a present of eggs, loaves, and a live sheep. We heard that Captain Bartou was at Suez, and therefore wrote to request he would immediately come off to us; with which he complied. We learned from him, that there was no Pacha there for Jidda, but that four hundred of his troops had sailed for the latter place, in five dows, a few days ago. The Capitan Pacha was said to be still at Alexandria, whither Major Missett had been obliged to retire from the disturbances at Cairo. Mohammed Ali, the celebrated Albanian chief, was then Pacha, but was pressed by the Beys, who were said to be near to the Pyramids. Money was so difficult to procure, that he had seized the whole caravan of coffee, which had last left Suez, and confiscated it for his own use: an act of violence, which will prevent any more from being sent from this place for some time to come. Captain Bartou arrived on the 27th of December, and instantly forwarded all the letters with which I had intrusted him, but as yet, no answers had been received to them, or to the letters he wrote to his owners.

Captain Bartou had stopped at Jidda, where he was promised freight, but was disappointed by the Vizier, who had sent for the merchants, and told them that, as there were many dows in the harbour unemployed belonging to true believers, he could not approve of their giving a preference to a Feringi; and, in short, declared

that he would put the first in prison who did so. Captain Bartou had no communication with Jelani, but received great assistance from the renegado. Having a native pilot on board, he put into the creek called Charles's River, which he describes as an excellent harbour, capable of containing many vessels. The outer part is sheltered from every wind except the west; the inner is perfectly land-locked. He then went to Yambo, in hopes of procuring fresh provisions and water. He found there a most respectable man in the office of Vazier, who afforded him every assistance at a reasonable price. Sheep were only two dollars each, and every thing else in proportion. The harbour he describes as good, and the people, as civil. There can be little doubt that it is a place preferable to Jidda. He procured during his stay some very fine shells, and other marine productions. On arriving at Shaduan, he experienced the same unfavourable weather that we did, and it continued for fifteen days. His pilot took him to a good anchorage among the Tiran Islands. There is clear ground all round them. The islands Sanafir, Barkara, Abou Schuscha, and Joboa, which are laid down by Niebuhr, were visited by him, and are, he says, small, low, and sandy.

January 27.—The Dola sent off, early in the morning, the chief officer of the Ascari to invite me on shore, and to say that, if I pleased, a house should be prepared for my residence. Soon after breakfast I quitted the ship, under the usual salute, and proceeded to visit the Dola. His house was not very good, but he gave me a very cordial reception. He is a venerable old man, with a large, white beard. He laughed, and talked freely, without any of the dignity of a Turk. He was seated in the window on a carpet, with several other respectable men near him. I had a chair placed for

me; and cushions were provided for the other gentlemen. After coffee, pipes were offered, and accepted by every one except myself. I then entered on business by stating, through Captain Bartou, that it was my wish to depart for Cairo as soon as possible, and that therefore I begged his permission to hire camels for the journey, and make an arrangement with the Arabs for my protection. He replied, that I might command every assistance in his power, but that he considered himself as responsible for my safety, and consequently, could not venture to let me go without receiving the Pacha's instruction as to a guard; he therefore requested that I would write to the British Agent, to make every arrangement at Cairo, and that he would send the letter by a messenger, which he should, according to his orders, immediately dispatch to the Pacha on the subject of my journey, having already sent to notify my arrival; that the caravan from Tor was expected in four days, by which time I should receive an answer from Cairo, and be at liberty to act as I might think advisable. This was so reasonable, that I immediately complied.

I next stated to him, that I was no merchant, and had nothing with me that was merchandise, except one bale of coffee, for which I was willing to pay duty; but that I hoped he would permit my trunks, and boxes of shells, to pass unopened. He appealed to Captain Bartou if they had even opened his trunks; how much less, then, would they do so by me; and as for the coffee, if I had ten bales, they should not think of charging any duty on them. I expressed myself very much pleased and obliged, and it was determined that I should hire a warehouse, and send my boxes on shore, as I packed them.

I was now presented to the custom master, who was a fat laughing Christian named Michael, who offered me his services, but turned me over, for a supply of provisions, to a namesake of inferior rank, who was agent for the vessels consigned to Signor Carlo Rosetti. He informed me that supplies were very uncertain; that even the water was brought in by the Arabs daily, and that we should not be able to procure any of that for the ship, without giving these plunderers a present of ninety-two dollars, an extortion to which we were obliged to submit. He said, that when our arrival should be known, some sheep would probably be brought down, and that he would try and procure us a few bullocks; but that they were worth fifteen dollars per hundred weight. Eggs and fish alone were in abundance, and cheap. My servant had forgotten to bring the present intended for the Dola, I was therefore obliged to apologise to him on my taking leave, but he with his usual good humour assured me it was of no consequence. I took Michael with me on board Captain Bartou's vessel, where I wrote to Mr. Aziz, the British Resident at Cairo; and inclosed him letters for Major Missett, and my friends in England. We were an hour and a half in reaching the vessel, in consequence of being obliged to go round the shoal. The weather was very cool, the thermometer being at 54° in the morning.

February 1. — I sent several of my trunks to Michael's, and my servant with a piece of muslin richly worked with gold for the Dola, which the old man was pleased to say, was not of sufficient value for him to accept, though it cost at Mocha fifteen dollars. Nothing can be a greater insult among the Musulmauns than to return a present: I however said nothing, and

determined to take no notice of his conduct till I should have heard from Cairo.

February 2.—Early in the morning Captain Bartou came off to the ship, with answers to my letters. Mr. Aziz had made the necessary arrangement for my passing the Desert, and had procured a supply of stores for the Panther, which would be sent off by the first caravan. He informed me that Mohammed Ali Pacha had issued his orders for my being treated with every mark of respect at Suez, and that my baggage should be passed free; I was therefore under no obligation to the Dola for his civility. Major Missett very kindly congratulated me on my arrival, and forwarded the agreeable news of Lord Nelson's victory at Trafalgar.

February 4.—I yesterday sent off another express to Mr. Aziz, to represent the distress of the Panther for spirits and wine, and to desire him to procure either one or the other. The wind had blown from the north-west or east, ever since our arrival, and, occasionally, in strong puffs: to-day it came round to the southward. Captain Bartou informed me, that it had continued in that point for twenty days successively since his arrival.

February 7.—Seeing a caravan approach on the Cairo road, I thought it might be the one we expected, and therefore set off to meet it. It consisted, however, only of pilgrims, in number about six hundred, who were on their way from the coast of Barbary to Mecca. A little white man addressed Captain Bartou in *Lingua Franca*, and offered him one thousand dollars for the freight of his vessel to Jidda; an offer which he could not accept, as he had neither provisions nor men, and both must have been procured from Cairo. Had he been ready for sea, he might have made a good speculation,

not by accepting his little friend's bargain, but by taking each pilgrim at from five to ten dollars per head ; for so short a passage he could have stowed from four to five hundred.

On the beach between Attaké and the town, we procured some very fine specimens of bivalve shells, and on the spit of sand, a variety of marine productions. I also greatly increased my collection of sea weed, with which the Red Sea abounds more than any other. Yet Mr. Bruce asserts, in his Dissertation on the origin of the Hebrew name Yam Suph, that he never saw a weed of any sort in it ; and adds, " indeed, upon the slightest consideration, it will occur to any one, that a narrow gulf, under the immediate influence of monsoons, blowing from contrary points six months each year, would have too much agitation to produce such vegetables, seldom found but in stagnant waters, and seldomer, if ever, found in salt ones."!!! The ignorance displayed in the comment, is equal to the falsity of the original assertion. My friend, Mr. Dawson Turner, in his beautiful work on the Fuci, has given drawings of many of the specimens which I brought home, and Forskal confirms the fact of their being the production of the Red Sea.

February 9.—Early in the morning I received a letter from Mr. Aziz, informing me that brandy was to be procured, but that he feared wine was not. He notified to me that the caravan had actually set off, under the escort of an Arab chief, Nasr Chedid, who, by the orders of Mohammed Ali Pacha, had undertaken to conduct me in safety to Cairo. I determined to go immediately on shore, and superintend the necessary arrangements for my journey, in which Captain Court was so obliging as to permit Mr. Macgie to accompany me, to bring back my dispatches, and those of Major Missett,

which would not be ready for some little time. It was four o'clock in the evening when I and my party quitted the vessel, attended by Captain Court. It was really not without some regret that I did so. She had proved a safe conveyance to me in many perilous moments, and the recollection of these, and the idea of the different scenes I was going to enter on, excited strong emotions in my mind. I should very soon have to bid adieu to Captain Court, whom I could not but love and esteem, and to the other officers, whose conduct had been certainly meritorious, and, towards me, uniformly kind and attentive. It was a painful moment to us all; and I believe no one was rejoiced when my flag was hawled down, after flying for thirteen months, the moment the last gun was fired. The lads cheered me as we quitted the vessel.

We found that the caravan was arrived, consisting of fifteen hundred camels, three hundred armed Arabs, and about thirty Turks, with two officers, who came to guard the mahmal, or sacred covering for the Kaaba of Mecca. Mr. Thomaso, a native of Surat, who had been a Christian, and was employed in the house of Mr. Rosetti, arrived to act as interpreter or dragoman. He brought a letter from Mr. Rosetti, congratulating me on my arrival, saying, that he had received letters from his friend Mr. Tiretta, of Bengal, requesting him to pay me every attention; that he had, therefore, sent "his Thomaso," and should feel highly flattered if I would accept the hospitality of his house at Cairo. I also received a packet of the *Courier de L'Europe* down to August, which afforded many details of which we were before ignorant. In the evening the Schech visited me. He was a handsome looking man, of about thirty, fat, with very black hair and beard. He seemed good-

humoured, and was, I understood, a great lover of brandy. Captain Court staid with us till bed time, and then went on board. Michael's house was a wretched residence: the walls were broken in many parts; and as the numerous windows had only wooden fretwork in them, we found it very cold at night. My couch and curtains sheltered me, but the other gentlemen suffered severely. Schech Chedid was on ill terms with the Tor Arabs, and till their disputes were settled, it would by no means have been wise to attempt to leave the town. All was, for the present, adjusted on the 11th, and were to depart on the morrow, with a kafila chiefly of coffee, worth at least one hundred thousand pounds. It was owing to this dispute that the Schech brought so many of his people. One of his men shot a pilgrim through the head. The Schech immediately arrested him, and declared if the man died he should be punished; but as they sailed in the dow yesterday, the fellow is to-day at liberty. Schech Chedid dined with us every day, and drank abundance of brandy, but not satisfied with that, after our dinner, generally retired to Mr. Thomaso's room, and added to it a few glasses of gin. I one day sent a dram to the door for his chief follower: he saw it, and said, laughing, "Aye, I know he drinks, but he must not do it before me." This was a mark of respect due from an inferior to a superior, not to violate the law in his presence. Chedid would not scruple to drink in the presence of his servants, nor the followers in the presence of their inferiors.

Chedid is very pleasant and gay in his conversation; talks of their being all robbers, and says these are good times for him—that he stays close to Cairo, and seizes many things—if they are

enquired after, he pleads ignorance, and lays the offence on Elfi Bey, who is in great force in the Ac Faiume. At the same time he has the highest principle of Arab honour, and told me an anecdote of his family, which was confirmed by Thomaso. Osman Bey, greatly alarmed at the arrival from England of Elfi Bey, who, since the death of Murad Bey, had been his rival, determined to cut him off, and for that purpose sent down two boats with troops to intercept him as he was coming up the Nile. A violent gale of wind, accompanied by a cloud of sand, came on; Elfi sheltered himself behind a point of land, on which was a village. The boats with the troops of Osman Bey passed without seeing him; but he perceived them, and having some suspicion, immediately landed, and quitting his baggage, with five or six followers escaped into the Desert. These soon left him, as the way was long and difficult. At length, after a tedious march of ten hours on foot, he arrived at the tent of Nasr Chedid in the Desert, with whom he was on ill terms, and claimed protection. Nasr was himself absent with Osman Bey, whom he had joined with all his people at his camp before Cairo, where he waited the event of the attack on Elfi. Chedid's wife received and concealed him. Some of Osman's people came there, and asked if she had seen Elfi. She said, yes; and that he had passed by a way she pointed out to them. As soon as they were gone, she told Elfi, and bringing him one of her husband's favourite horses, and a dromedary, she desired him to esape to Upper Egypt, but to avoid the road which she had directed the troops of Osman to take. Elfi hesitated, and told her he was unwilling to endanger her husband's safety, who was in the power of Osman. She replied, it was no matter; her husband's honour required that she should

assist him in escaping; and that were he there, he would do the same himself, and that he would make her suffer if any thing happened to him. Soon afterwards, on being told the way that Elfi had escaped, Osman sent for Chedid, and accused him of having assisted his enemy. He replied, "You know, Osman Bey, I have been three days here with you, how then is it possible that I could do so?" "Well then," said Osman, "It was your wife that did so." "It was," replied Chedid. "Elfi demanded protection from her, and she only did her duty—had she done otherwise, I would have cut her head off with this sabre, though you know Elfi was never a friend of mine. He declared to me that he certainly would have done so, as she would have dishonoured his name. He frequently spoke of his family; told us, laughing, he had four wives who beat him, and that he wished we would give him something to make him strong. He had one son and two daughters. I told him I would visit him. He said nothing would make him so happy; that he would give me plenty to eat, a horse to ride, and a tent to sleep in; but that he had nothing to drink but water. He said he was called the English Schech—that he loved the English, and only wished that they had the country, instead of the Turks, who were all rascals. The Mamelukes were bad enough, but not so bad as they. He urged me frequently to tell him why we had not kept it, and when we meant to return. He assured me, that all the Arab tribes were most anxious for us, but that they would be glad even to have the French, in preference to their present masters. An assertion which I firmly believe, for the common people were certainly in a much better situation under the French government; for the impositions were then less, and

grain cheaper, as all export was stopped by the activity of the British cruizers.

He was extremely anxious that the King of England should hear of his name and of his attachment to the English, and urged me much to mention him, and let the world know that he was the most powerful Arab in the Desert, and had a greater number of horse and people on foot. His camels are his chief profit, but he also receives money from the caravans for permitting them to pass the Desert. The Maugrabin pilgrims paid him from one to two zequins each for protection, though they came alone, besides the hire of the camels which they had from him.

I met the Dola in the morning in the street, who was very happy to see me, and assured me that he did not know I was on shore, or he would have waited on me to pay his compliments. He also informed me, that the Turkish commander of the escort wished to wait on me. I replied civilly, and just as we sat down to dinner they came. The Turk was a respectable man, named Emin Effendi, belonging to the secretary's office of Mahommed Ali. He said he came to ask my permission to accompany my caravan; which, of course, I granted. The old Dola hoped I was perfectly satisfied, and regretted that his duty here prevented him from attending me to Cairo. I was amused with the change in his conduct, but answered civilly; however, in the evening, I sent Michael to insist on paying him for the sheep and eggs which he sent on board the Panther. He pleaded that they always sent a present to a vessel on her arrival, and that his only motive for refusing to accept mine in return was, that they would have believed at Cairo he had received one of great value, and that he did not like to accept one worth

only five dollars. As this contemptuous depreciation only aggravated the offence, I replied it was very well—I should take care to represent the whole business at Cairo. He instantly sent his chief officer to conjure me not to do so, as the consequence would be his total ruin, and to make every kind of apology. I had too much regard for the old man, who had, in every other respect, treated me with the greatest civility, to intend to put my threat into execution, and therefore assured him that every thing unpleasant should be forgotten.

Michael very wisely refused to make any charge for the use of his house and warehouse, or for his trouble, which he well knew would reduce me to the necessity of making him a present. As he had been very useful and attentive, I gave him a shawl for himself, and the piece of muslin for his wife, which the Dola had refused. I also gave twenty dollars to his servants. All the officers that could leave the ship, dined with me after I came on shore, to partake of the good things which the caravan brought from Cairo. The greatest luxuries were the oranges, vegetables, and fresh butter, which Mr. Aziz had sent over; but Mr. Pringle having left Mocha, we considered a cargo, which he had ordered by Captain Bartou, as fair plunder; and this consisted of figs, raisins, Sardinias, fish roes, and pickled mullets. The arrival of the caravan made it impossible to procure any thing in the market but fish and eggs.

Suez was formerly a place of considerable splendour, each Bey having a house there, in which his factor resided. The buildings are many of them large, but are, at present, little more than a heap of ruins, chiefly owing to the wanton injuries of the French, who

thus revenged themselves on the Beys for retiring into Upper Egypt, and not permitting themselves to be subdued. The fortifications never were of any strength, and were merely meant to keep off a sudden attack of the Arabs. It would be useless to fortify a place which has no water within its walls, and which must, consequently, be ever at the mercy of that power, which can keep possession of the country around, unless it should be thought of sufficient consequence to keep a large garrison, and to supply it regularly with provisions from Cairo, which the occupiers of Egypt must always be able to do. The French seem to have intended to remain; for they erected a battery of one gun on a hillock which commands the town. Suez has suffered as much by the stagnation of trade, which followed the occupation of Egypt by the French, as by their hostility, for no one will reside in so wretched a place, who is not tempted by his interest. An Arab house, which is flat roofed, soon falls into decay, if its preservation be not carefully attended to. At present the place seems rising again into consequence.

The chief trade of Suez has ever been in coffee, as the whole quantity which was consumed in the Turkish empire, came through that port and Cosseir. The tumults in Egypt, which ended by the Beys occupying the upper provinces, divided the country, and no communication is permitted between the different parts of it; consequently, no coffee is sent to Cosseir, except for the use of the Beys, and the residue finds its way to Suez, where, however, it is liable, not only to the exactions of the Pacha, but even to seizure. The owners of four cargoes, now in the harbour, are unwilling to land them, without having payment insured; and as the purchaser is equally unwilling to run any hazard, a stagnation of trade has

taken place; but I understand that the Pacha has most faithfully promised to receive the duty only, and that sooner than take back their coffee, they are determined to trust him; and, accordingly, the whole is to go with my caravan.

The disadvantages under which Suez has ever laboured, have been considerable from its situation; at the extremity of a narrow sea, down which the wind blows with irresistible force for at least nine months in the year. It was in early times some counterbalance to this, that a navigable canal extended from it to the most fertile province of Egypt, whence grain must always have been exported for the supply of Arabia. But even the advantages which water-carriage has over land, could not preserve to Suez the great trade of the Red Sea. The Ptolemies, many of whom seem to have been admirable judges of what was for the benefit of the country they ruled over, found it more advisable to establish a new emporium at Berenice, although it was necessary to convey the goods from that place upwards of two hundred miles over land, before they could be embarked on the Nile at Coptos, the modern Koust.

Were Egypt to be once again tranquil, and under the control of one master, and even were the ancient canal to be cleansed, I still doubt whether Suez would become a place of great trade, for the improvement of the science of navigation has not yet extended to the discovery of any means, by which a vessel could resist the force of the northerly winds, which blow in the upper part of the Gulf; but as it is only at the island of Shaduan that they become so violent, Cosseir is always attainable; and the diminution of the distance by land, from two hundred miles, to about one hundred and twenty, would fully repay the additional sea voyage of one

hundred and forty miles, and would probably lead to a transfer of the trade from Berenice to that place. The road is indeed not very good for ships, but it is protected from the N. W. which is the most prevailing wind, and, when it begins to blow from the east, a vessel might run to any of the numerous harbours which were entered by Don Juan de Castro. These have not since been examined; but if one of them should be the Myos Hormos of the *Periplûs*, it must have a means of communication with the plain of Egypt, and be by far preferable to Cosseir. Had I had the voyage of Don Juan de Castro with me, I would have visited Shakara and Shawna, in defiance of the deficiencies under which the Panther laboured.

Every traveller who has visited the upper part of the Red Sea, must naturally have turned his thoughts to the miraculous passage of the Children of Israel through it, and the destruction of the host of Pharaoh. Pococke, Niebuhr, Pere Sicard, and Bruce, have all given to the public their opinions as to the spot, where this event actually took place. I perfectly agree with the last named gentleman, that to seek for natural causes to explain a miracle, is perfectly absurd; and that it was as easy for the Almighty to carry his people through the widest and deepest part of the sea, as through the narrowest and most shoaly. But as the division of the water is the only thing that is represented by Moses as being miraculous, we must look to the position of the mountains on its western side, to discover in what spot it was possible for the children of Israel to approach the Red Sea.

A chain of hills extends from the high land of Zeyte nearly to Abou Daraja, between which and Attaké is the first valley, by

which six hundred thousand men, their children, and cattle, could reach the sea from Egypt. Sicard and others have believed this to be the line of their march, but I am inclined to the conjecture of Niebuhr, that Attaké was the southern boundary of their journey.

To place this in a clearer light, it will be necessary to ascertain, whence the Children of Israel began their journey, and to consider the account given of their movements by Moses. The ancient metropolis of Lower Egypt was On, or Heliopolis, and there it is probable the Pharaohs resided in the time of Joseph. Joseph placed his brethren in a part of the country named Goshen, but which is afterwards called Ramesses. In the 46th ch. of Genesis, it is said that Joseph went up to meet Israel his father to Goshen; which is translated in the Septuagint καθ' Ηρώων πολιν, εις γῆν 'Ραμεσσή. Monsieur Du Bois Aymé, in a paper read before the Institute of Egypt, very justly observes, that, as this translation was made by the Seventy only fifty years after the Macedonians had established themselves, the Egyptian names must have been still known, and consequently, that we are perfectly safe in believing Heroopolis to have been situated in the land of Ramesses, or Goshen.

To fix the position of Heroopolis is rather difficult, in consequence of the apparently contradictory assertions of ancient authors. Moses, in the text above referred to, clearly shews that it was on the direct road from Canaan to Heliopolis, while Strabo speaks of it as being near to Arsinoe, and at the top of the gulf called Heroopolitan. To reconcile these assertions in any degree, the Arabian Gulf must have formerly extended much farther north than it does now, or a considerable latitude must be allowed to the expression of Strabo.

The French engineers discovered, when in possession of Suez, that at a little distance to the north of that place are marshes which extend for above twenty-five miles, and are actually lower than the sea, though they are not overflowed, in consequence of a large bar of sand which has accumulated between them; nothing therefore can be more probable, than that, in times so far back as the departure of the Israelites, the sea itself extended to these marshes; and that since, the same gradual incroachments of sand from the Desert, which have formed the Tehama in Lower Arabia, have annihilated the sea in a place where it was so much narrower. The contradictions may be still farther removed by the supposition, that Strabo considered himself as justified in describing a place as being on the Gulf, which was actually situated on the canal that united it with the Nile, and which, from being of the greatest consequence in the province, gave its name to it.

Were we, however, inclined to give every weight to the description of Strabo, his evidence would be set aside by the higher authority of Moses, who proves that Goshen was in the way to Canaan; and by the short account of Ptolemy, who declares that Heroopolis was on the confines of Arabia, and that the canal of Trajan ran through it (p. 120). The course of this canal has been traced by the French engineers, from longitude $31^{\circ} 52'$ to $32^{\circ} 20'$ running in nearly an east and west direction, in about $30^{\circ} 32'$ north latitude.

It is therefore within this line only, that we can look for it; and I am inclined to admit the opinion of Monsieur Aymé as well founded, that the ruins he discovered at Aboukechied, indicate the spot where Heroopolis stood, and where, consequently, the

Children of Israel actually resided, extending themselves over a country that sustained their numerous flocks and herds, to the borders of that part of Egypt where grain was cultivated, but in which they would not be permitted to sojourn, in consequence of their destroying the sacred animals. I cannot, therefore, for a moment believe, that Heliopolis was within their bounds, or that they ever went either to the south or west of it; though it appears, indeed, from the account of the sacred historian, that they were near to this capital of Pharaoh; but Moses is spoken of as having gone out to his brethren, which would seem to imply that they were at some little distance.

Taking, therefore, any part of the country between Aboukechied and Heliopolis, as being the province of Ramesses, whence the Children of Israel departed, how improbable does it appear, that they should proceed into the low land of Egypt, to the very banks of the holy river, to round Mokattem, and enter the valley, which, beginning there, extends to the Red Sea; and this at a time when they were thrust out from the land of the Egyptians, who did not believe themselves safe, till they had got rid of them.

In the 13th chap. verse 17th of Exodus, it is declared, that "God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near" (verse 18th), "but about through the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea." Now, both these observations are perfectly true, if they set off from the vicinity of Heroopolis, which was actually on the way to Canaan, but would be false, if they began their journey from opposite Memphis, whence it would be much nearer to reach the Red Sea than the land of the Philistines.

By the supposition that the Children of Israel resided nearer to