

evening of this day we made land, and saw the eastern fort at the entrance of the *Damiata* branch of the *Nile*, bearing N. W. distant seven or eight miles. CHAP.  
I.

*July* the twenty-seventh, at ten A. M. we were employed in answering signals from the *Heroine*; and it was very interesting to us landsmen, to observe the facility with which the commanders of frigates, separated from each other by such an immense distance that their vessels were scarcely visible to the naked eye, held a conversation with each other. We had calm weather with light breezes during this and the following day: no land was visible. *July* the twenty-ninth, observed a strange cutter\* to leeward, and land bearing S. W. and by S. supposed to be Cape *Brule*, distant six or seven miles. *July* the thirtieth, about three P. M. we made land from the mast head, which proved to be Cape *Berehos*, bearing S. S. W. distant about ten or twelve miles, the town of *Rosetta* being at the same time W. and by S. half S. distant ten or eleven miles.

*July* the thirty-first, a calm and a strong current compelled us to anchor east of *Rosetta*, in five fathoms and a half water. On the

CHAP. following morning, being the first of *August*, at  
 I. seven A. M. weighed, and made sail. At four  
 Arrival at P. M. saw the fleet off *Aboukir*, and plainly  
*Aboukir.* observed the Admiral's ship. The same even-  
 ing, at eight o'clock, we came to anchor nearly  
 in the station held by the *Romulus* previous to  
 her sailing for the coast of SYRIA. Here we re-  
 ceived the joyful intelligence of the surrender of  
*Cairo*, reports of which had reached us in SYRIA.  
 Presently after, Captain *Clarke* came alongside,  
 in the *Braakel's* barge; when, taking leave of  
 our kind friends, we regained once more a com-  
 fortable birth within his cabin.

We had not been here many days, before  
 The *Braakel* received orders from the Admiral,  
 Lord *Keith*, to convoy the *French* prisoners  
 captured at *Rachmanie* and the different forts  
 upon the *Nile*, including the garrison of *Cairo*, to  
*Marseilles*; and, at the same time, to take in, with  
 as many of those prisoners as possible, their  
 artillery, arms, baggage, &c. and to sail with all  
 possible expedition. So rapid were the measures  
 adopted by Captain *Clarke* for this purpose, that  
 he was ready before any of the other vessels  
 appointed to convey the prisoners had obtained  
 their cargo; and, making the signal for sailing  
 to all the convoy, he was ordered to proceed on

The *Braakel* receives  
 orders to  
 convoy a  
 Squadron  
 to *Marseilles*.

his voyage, without waiting for the other ships. The scene which ensued on board the *Braakel*, upon the arrival of the *French* prisoners, baffles every effort of description. Strolling players, collected in a barn, never exhibited more ludicrous dresses, or a better burlesque of the military character. *Voltaire*, dressed in his pasteboard helmet, with his laced coat and long dirty ruffles, to represent, in one of his own plays, the person of *Alexander the Great*, was a hero, compared with some of the soldiers of the *French* army. There were many who made their appearance with the most ghastly visages, beneath helmets of all colours, covered with horses' tails pending over their wrinkled cheeks and shrugged-up shoulders. Every one imagined he should testify a proper degree of spirit, and perhaps ingratiate himself with a *British* crew, by the ejaculation of some *English* oath, as soon as he set his foot upon the quarter-deck. When they were all drawn up, in three lines, to be reviewed, and their respective births were assigned to them, some of the new comers were found to be abandoned women, wretchedly dressed in the tattered habits of *French* soldiers. Other females, more pitiable, came also in men's clothes; but these were *Georgian* and *Circassian* girls, once the secluded pride of *Turkish* Charems,

CHAP. I. but afterwards the more lamentable slaves of  
 the lowest rabble of the *French* army. They were desirous of going anywhere, rather than to remain in Egypt, where they were sure of being immolated by the first *Moslem* they might encounter.

As soon as matters were somewhat adjusted, and the wounded men taken care of (among whom there were a few in so terrible a condition that they died upon the following day), a deputation, from all the prisoners, waited upon the Captain, to offer him a band of music every day during dinner; and requesting his permission to exhibit a *club-d'armes*, for fencing, every morning; and a *comédie* every evening. ~~I~~ Never was there any thing to equal the gaiety and good-humour of these poor *Frenchmen*. All animosity was laid aside; singing, dancing, fencing, and acting, became the order of the day; even the wounded, when able to come upon deck, shewed signs of the joy which animated their comrades in the thoughts of returning to *France*. They would do any thing to gratify the *English* officers and men. Sometimes, when their band played "*God save the King*," the members of the theatrical party, in the fore-castle, sang out, in broken *English*, "*Send him victorious!*"



The moment came, however, which was to create a pause in all this mirth. The *Braakel* got under weigh; and a stiff gale causing more motion than suited either the *club-d'armes* or the *comédie*, every *Frenchman* was indisposed. Nothing was then heard but groans and curses. All the instruments were out of tune; and the deck was soon abandoned to the active sailors belonging to the ship's crew. It had been Captain *Clarke's* intention, in tacking out of *Aboukir Roads*, to put us on board the *Sultan Selim*, commanded by the *Capudan Pasha*, with whom we were acquainted; but this proved to be impracticable. To our very great consternation, we found ourselves, upon the morning of the seventh of *August*, so far advanced in the voyage to *France*, that we were already out of sight of the fleet. The Captain told us there was only this alternative; either to go with him to *Marseilles*, or to accept of a small boat, which he would willingly give us, and, in this, run before the wind to the Mouth of the *Nile*. The turbulent appearance of the sea did not at all tempt us to try so hazardous an experiment as the last; for if we had so done, and had escaped the consequences of our own ignorance among mountainous waves, we should inevitably have perished in the surf upon the coast. We therefore could only lament the loss of our intended

CHAP.  
I.

Author  
narrowly  
escapes  
being con-  
veyed to  
*France*.

CHAP. journey in *Egypt*, and retire into the cabin with

I. General *Lu Grange*, to whom we made known our very embarrassing situation. While we were thus ruminating upon 'the unexpected change in all our plans, a cry upon deck announced that a sail was in sight, standing towards *Aboukir*. This proved to be the *Diadem*, of 64-guns, Captain *Larmour*, from *Cyprus*, with wood and water, which presently drew near to us, and was hailed from the *Braakel*. We requested a passage to the fleet: this was granted, and with some difficulty we got on board. Here we found Colonel *Capper*, the bearer of overland despatches from *India* to the *British* army in *Egypt*. He gave us an account of his very arduous expedition; and communicated some interesting particulars, concerning the existence of antient Pagan superstitions in Mount *Libanus*, particularly those of *Venus* or *Astaroth*. These were alluded to in the preceding Volume<sup>1</sup>; and as a renewal of the subject here might be deemed irrelevant, the author has reserved his observations upon Colonel *Capper's* discovery for the *Appendix*<sup>2</sup>: it relates to a very interesting relique of the antient mythology of SYRIA.

Worship of  
*Astaroth*  
upon  
Mount  
*Libanus*.

(1) See Vol. IV. p. 204. Note 1.

(2) See the *Appendix* to this Volume, No. 1.

Upon our return to the fleet, Captain *Larmour* accompanied Colonel *Capper* to the Admiral's ship; and we revisited the *Ceres*, where we found our valuable friend Captain *Russel*, to the great grief of his officers and crew, and all who had the happiness of knowing him, in such a state of indisposition as put an end to every hope of his recovery. We had much difficulty in obtaining a passage to *Rosetta* on board one of the *djerms*, or boats belonging to the *Nile*; but, at length, permission was granted us to sail in one of these vessels, from the *Furus*, Captain *Guion*, who treated us with that politeness we had so often experienced from the officers of the *British Navy*. We left the Bay of *Aboukir*, August the eighth, about ten o'clock A. M. As we drew near to the *Rosetta* mouth of the *Nile*, we observed that the signal-boat was not out'. So many lives had been lost upon the *bar* by not attending to this circumstance'

Dangerous  
Passage of  
the *Bar* at  
the Mouth  
of the *Nile*.

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(3) During the *Egyptian Expedition*, a boat with a signal-flag was always anchored on the outside of the mouth of the *Nile*, when the surf upon the *bar* was passable.

(4) Scarcely a day elapsed, during our first visit to *Rosetta*, in which some lives were not sacrificed, owing to the inattention paid to the signal. It was even asserted, that the loss of men at the mouth of the *Nile*, including those both of the army and navy, who were here sacrificed, was greater than the total of our loss in all the engagements that took place with the *French troops* in *Egypt*.

CHAP. I. and such positive injunctions issued by the  
Commander-in-chief against attempting to pass when the signal was removed, that we supposed the *Arabs* belonging to the *djerm* would take us back to the fleet. The wind was, however, against our return; and the crew of the boat persisted in saying that a passage was practicable. It was accordingly attempted; but the surf soon drove us back, and we narrowly escaped being overwhelmed by it. A second attempt was then made, nearer to the eastern side of the river's mouth. We prevailed upon some *English* sailors, who were on board, to let the *Arabs* have their own way, and not interfere with the management of the *djerm*, however contrary it might seem to their usual maxims. Never was there a more fearful sight, nor a scene of greater confusion, than ensued when we reached the middle of the tremendous surf a second time. The yells of the *Arabs*, the oaths of the sailors, the roaring of the waters, the yawning gulphs occasionally disclosing to us the bare sand upon the *bar*, while we were tossed upon the boiling surf, and, to complete the whole, the spectacle afforded by another *djerm* swamped and wrecked before our eyes, as we passed with the velocity of lightning, unable to render the least assistance, can never

be forgotten. We had often read accounts of dangerous surf, in books of voyages, but entertained no notion in any degree adequate to the horrors which mariners encounter in such a situation; nor is there any instance known of a more frightful surf than this river sometimes exhibits, by its junction with the *Mediterranean*. No sooner had we gained a certain point, or tongue of land, advancing from the eastern shore of the river towards the north-west, than a general shout from the *Arabs* announced that every danger was over:—presently we sailed as serenely along as upon the calmest surface of any lake. The distance of the mouth of the *Nile* from the station of the *British* armament is considerable; but while we remained at anchor in the Bay of *Aboukir*, we could perceive the ships stationed near to the *Boccaz*; and in like manner we here observed the masts of the fleet in the bay.

As we entered the *Nile*, we were amused by seeing an *Arab* fishing with the sort of net called in *England* a *casting-net*: this, without any difference either in shape, size, or materials, he was throwing exactly after our manner, which may be urged to prove the antiquity of this mode of fishing. *Pelicans* appeared in great

CHAP.  
I.

Fort St.  
Julian.

number at the mouth of the river; also that kind of *porpoise* which is called *dolphin* in the *Levant*; this may be seen sporting in the *Nile*, as high up as the town of *Rosetta*. The first object, after entering the *Rosetta* branch, is the Castle, or Fort *St. Julian*. In digging for the fortifications of this place, the *French* discovered the famous *Triple Inscription*, now in the *British Museum*<sup>(1)</sup>: this will be ever valuable, even if the only information obtained from it were confined to a solitary fact; namely, that the hieroglyphic characters do exhibit THE WRITING OF THE PRIESTS of *Egypt*<sup>(2)</sup>. This truth will now no longer be disputed; therefore the proper appellation for *inscriptions* in these characters, ought rather to be *Hierograms*, than *Hieroglyphs*. A surprising number of *Turkish* gun-boats were stationed opposite to Fort *St. Julian* at the time we passed; and when the beautiful prospect of *Rosetta* opened to our view, the whole surface of the river, in front of the town, appeared also covered with gun-boats and with *djerms*.

Upon our arrival, at five o'clock P. M. we

(1) See pp. 6, 7. Chap. I. of Volume IV. 8vo. edit.

(2) See the words of the *Greek* inscription upon that stone, ΤΟΙΣ  
ΤΕ ΤΕΡΟΙΣ ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΟΝ.

found an amusing proof of the effect of war annihilating all civil distinctions. The house we had formerly occupied was full of sailors, soldiers, and other tenants; our apartments had been converted into *Charems*, and were filled with *Georgian*, *Circassian*, and *Egyptian* girls; these we found sitting unveiled upon the floor; some working embroidery, others chattering and laughing. One of them, a beautiful female, taken from a tribe of *Bedouin Arabs*, exhibited a fine countenance disfigured with those blue scars which were described in the account of *Bethlehem*. They were marks, as she pretended, which entitled her to a very high consideration among the *Arabs* of the Desert. These women had been presented by the *French* prisoners to the officers and men of our army and navy. They appeared to be as much at home, and as tranquil, in the protection of their new masters, as if they had been thus settled for life. The most lamentable part of the story is, that when our people were compelled to abandon them, they were put to death by the *Moslems*. A woman who has admitted the embraces of a *Christian* is never afterwards pardoned. It is lawful, and deemed laudable, for the first *Turk* or *Arab* who meets with her, to deprive her instantly of life. In this scene of confusion we



CHAP. I. were constrained to take up our abode; there being no alternative; until we could complete our preparations for a voyage up the *Nile* to *Grand Caire*. Indeed, we had reason to be thankful for such accommodations; considering the disordered state of affairs at this time in *Rosetta*. We hired a *djerm* in the evening of our arrival; and made application the next day, *August* 9th, to the *Commissary* of the army, for his permission to purchase provisions, in the market. This we had great difficulty in obtaining. The *Commissary* seemed to consider, and perhaps with reason, at this critical juncture, every application which did not relate to the business of the army, as an unwarrantable intrusion. Some degree of rudeness, however, in the manner of his refusal, struck us the more forcibly; as we had experienced the greatest civilities from his worthy predecessor, who had recently fallen a victim to the effects of the climate. Having urgent letters of recommendation from the Commanders-in-chief, both of the army and of the navy, we made our situation known to Mr. *Wills*, purser of Captain *Russel*'s ship the *Ceres*, then acting as *Commissary* for the fleet, who interested himself warmly in our behalf. To his kindness we were indebted for being able to prosecute our intended voyage

with expedition as well as with comfort; and, indeed, without his aid we should not have been allowed the use even of the *djerm* which we had engaged for the undertaking.

CHAP.  
I.

We employed the remainder of this day in fitting up a kind of tent, or cabin, by means of mats and the branches of palm-trees, upon the stern of our vessel; lining it with our mosquito-nets, to protect us from the swarm of those insects upon the river. The *inundation* had begun, and the rapidity of the current was thereby exceedingly increased. The price of every article of provision, had become very high, since our last visit to *Rosetta*. For half a pound of *tea* we were obliged to pay near two pounds sterling. The difference between the markets of this place and *Damiata* was astonishing, considering the short distance that separated the two towns. This will appear in stating the value of a dollar; which, in *Rosetta*, was equivalent, either to half a *sheep*, or to three *geese*, or four *fowls*, or eight hundred *eggs*. In *Damiata*, for the same sum, might be purchased, either two *sheep*, six *geese*, twelve *fowls*, or eight hundred *eggs*. The *coffee* of *Mocha*, when *Rosetta* was first captured, might be obtained almost for nothing; but it had been all sold, and a great deal of it

was sent in presents to *England*. One of the most curious sights in *Rosetta* was the manufacture of this article. After roasting the *coffee*, it is pounded in immense iron mortars; three *Arabs* working at a time, with enormous pestles, each as large as a man can raise. The capacity of the bottom of the mortar being only equal to the reception of one of these at a time, the pestles are raised according to the measure of an air sung by an attendant *Arab*, who sits near to the mortar. The main purport of this curious accompaniment of their labour is, to prevent the hand and arm of a boy, kneeling by the mortar, from being crushed to atoms. The boy's arm is always within the mortar, which allows room for each pestle to pass in turn without bruising him, if he place it in time against the side of the vessel; but, as after every stroke he must stir up the powder at the bottom with his fingers, if the precise period of each blow were not marked by the measure of the song, his arm would be struck off. Intoxication, happily, is a vice with which *Arabs* are unacquainted; or else, the constant attention of a whole party, thus employed, being necessary for the safety of the poor child, it may be conceived what the consequences of drunkenness would be, in a manufactory where many of

these mortars are used. A sight of this process is sufficient to explain the cause of the very impalpable nature of the *coffee* powder used in *Turkey*; where the infusion more resembles the appearance of *chocolate*, than of *coffee*, as we prepare them for beverage in *England*.

CHAP.  
I.

After visiting this manufactory, we went to see a building of very great, although of unknown, antiquity, used as a warehouse for keeping stores. It has a vaulted stone roof, with the remarkable appearance of *pointed arches*, caused by imitating the intersection of palm-branches: the sculptured trunks of the trees, whence these ramifications proceed, are represented as being stationed in the four corners, and by the sides, of the vaulted chamber. This curious architectural relique has never been noticed nor described by any author; therefore it is impossible to learn either the age of the building, or its original use. *Quaresmius* is altogether silent upon the subject. He says only of antient *Rosetta*, that it was called *SCHEIDA*<sup>1</sup>. This place may soon become of more importance than it is at present; in consequence of the total cessation of pilgrimages

Curious  
Remains of  
*Pointed  
Arches.*

(1) "Ab antiquis, ut in mundi theatro legitur, *Seheida* fuit appellata." *Quaresmius Eth. ad. Terr. Sanct. tom. II. p. 1008. Antv. 1639.*

CHAP.  
I.  
Probable  
Conse-  
quence of  
the Inter-  
ruption of  
*Mecca* Pil-  
grimage.

to *Mecca*. The *Wahabee Arabs* have destroyed all the wells which formerly supplied the caravans with water; and nothing less than an army is necessary for their restoration'. *Quaresmius*, in mentioning the estimation in which *Rosetta*, as the birth-place of *Mohammed*, is held by the *Moslems*, long ago predicted, that whenever the journeys to *Mecca* were interrupted, it would become the resort of *Moslem* pilgrims<sup>2</sup>. For the reception of such a multitude, *Rosetta* is much better provided than *Mecca*; for it is attested by all travellers<sup>3</sup>, and among these by our countryman *Sandys*<sup>4</sup>, that "no place

(1) "It is now five years since the *Wahabees* have prevented the pilgrims from performing their journey to *Mecca*. They have destroyed the cisterns in the Desert; and it is impossible to have these repaired, without sending an army to protect the workmen. This condition will hardly ever be fulfilled, as there are not more than 10,000 soldiers in all *Syria*, and the *Wahabee* Chief has, at any time more than 100,000 men, mounted on camels, at his disposal. The interruption of this pilgrimage is considered by the *Turks* as a sign of the approaching desolation of the *Turkish* Empire." *MS. Letter from Burckhardt, the African Traveller, dated Aleppo, May 3, 1811.*

(2) "Fertur in partibus illis, ex ea civitate originem traxisse Mahometem, pseudo-prophetam Turcarum et aliorum Infidelium caput; ac ideo illam magni aestimant. Quare, si Mecha, ubi sepulchrum dicitur esse Mahometis, à Christianis caperetur, et ad illud interdicta esset ipsorum peregrinatio, Rosetum peregrinarentur." *Quaresm. Eluc. T. S. tom. II. p. 1008. Antv. 1639.*

(3) "In optima uberique regione sita, omni bonorum genere ad opulente vivendum affluente, carnibus, piscibus, fructibus, &c." *Ibid.*

(4) *Sandys' Travels, p. 166. Lond. 1637.*

under heaven is better furnished with graine, flesh, fish, sugar, fruits, roots," together with all other necessities and luxuries of life.

CHAP.  
I.

During our former visit to *Rosetta*, we neglected to notice the particular day of the year on which a most singular exhibition of the *Serpent-eaters*, or *Psylli*, as mentioned by *Herodotus*<sup>6</sup> and many antient authors<sup>7</sup>, took place. A tumultuous throng, passing beneath the windows of our house, attracted our attention towards the quay: here we saw a concourse of people following men apparently frantic, who, with every appearance of convulsive agony, were brandishing live serpents, and then tearing them with their teeth; snatching them from each other's mouths, with loud cries and distorted features, and afterwards falling into the arms of the spectators, as if swooning; the women all the while rending the air with their

Exhibition  
of the  
*Psylli*, or  
*Serpent-  
Eaters*.

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(5) *Denon* says, this exhibition takes place during the annual procession of the *Fest of Ibrahim*, at *Rosetta*. He regretted not having been there at the time. See *Denon's Travels*, Eng. Edit. Vol. I. p. 123. Lond, 1803.

(6) *Herodot.* lib. iv. cap. 173.

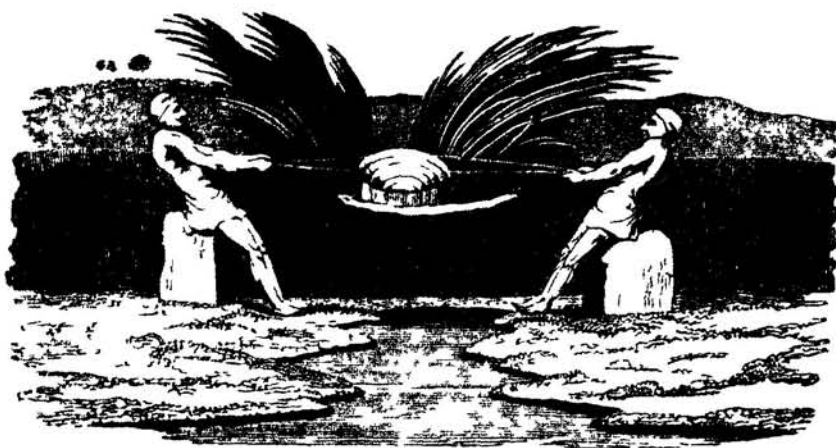
(7) *Strabon.* Geog. lib. xvii. *Lucan.* ix. vv. 294, 937. *Pausan.* lib. ix. c. 14. *Dio Cass.* lib. li. c. 14. *Aul. Gell.* lib. xvi. c. 11, &c. &c.

CHAP.  
I. lamentations. *Pliny* often mentions these jugglers'; and as their tricks have been noticed by other travellers, it is only now necessary to attest the existence of this extraordinary remnant of a very antient custom.

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(1) *Plin.* Hist. Nat. lib. vii. c. 2. lib. viii. c. 25. lib. xxv. c. 16.  
lib. xxviii. c. 3





Arabs raising Water from the Nile

## CHAP. II.

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### VOYAGE UP THE NILE, TO GRAND CAIRO.

*Example afforded by a Naval Officer—Inaccuracy in the Maps of Egypt—Triple Harvest of the Delta—Mode of raising Water from the Nile—Summer Habits of the Egyptian Arabs—FICUS SYCAMORUS—Etesian Winds—MOTUBIS—Dancing Women—DEBE—SINDION and DERRÛL—Turkish Cavalry—Arab Customs—FOUA—RACHMANIE—Description of the Country—Diseases—Facility of visiting Upper Egypt—KOUM SCHERIFF—AMRUS—Birds—Singular Animal Appearance—Plants—EL BUREDGIAT—Remarkable Phænomenon—Tumblers—Abundance of Corn—Southern Point of the Delta—Arrival at BULAC—View of the Pyramids—Visit to the Reis*

*Reis Effendi—House of the French Institute—Jewel Market—Interior of Cairo—Jugglers—Trees—Incense—Gum Arabic—Plagues of Egypt—Statistics of Cairo—British Army from India—Dinner given by the Commander-in-chief—Discovery made by Brahmins in Upper Egypt—Examination of an Abyssinian concerning Bruce's Travels—Fidelity of that Traveller's Observations confirmed.*

CHAP.  
II

Example  
afforded by  
a Naval  
Officer

WE left *Rosetta* on Monday, August the tenth, at seven A. M. and called upon Captain *Hillyar*, who had the command of some gun-boats to the south of the town, and whom we found stationed upon the river, on board one of those vessels. His late arduous services, in several engagements with the enemy, were then the subject of very general conversation. The *Capudan Pasha*, in testimony of the gratitude of the *Turkish* Government, had conferred upon him some trifling presents. But that which particularly excited the wonder of all his contemporaries, and which will convey the name of *Hillyar* to posterity, with honours more lasting than even those obtained by his valour and his victories, was the example offered by this distinguished officer to the navies of the world, in proving the possibility of fighting the battles of his

country, and maintaining unrivalled discipline among his crew, without the utterance of an oath by any man on board the ship he commanded.

CHAP.  
II.

We had convincing evidence of inaccuracy in our best maps of the *Delta*, and of the course of the *Nile*, from the earliest comparisons we made in the country. That of *Kauffer*, published at *Constantinople* in 1799, is extremely incorrect; but it is less so than preceding documents. Soon after leaving *Rosetta*, we passed some extensive canals, conveying water to lands above the level of the river: these are supplied by wheels, sometimes turned by oxen, but more generally by buffaloes. They are banked by very lofty walls, constructed of mud, hardened by the sun. One of them, upon the western side of the river, extended to the *Lake Maadie*. The land, thus watered, produces three crops in each year; the first of clover, the second of corn, and the third of rice. The rice-grounds are inundated from the time of sowing nearly to harvest: the seed is commonly cast upon the water, a practice twice alluded to in Sacred Scripture. *Balaam* prophesied of *Israel*<sup>1</sup>, that "HIS SEED SHOULD

Inaccuracy  
in the Maps  
of *Egypt*.

Triple  
Harvest of  
the *Delta*.

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(1) *Numbers* xxiv. 7.

## CHAP.

## II.

BE IN MANY WATERS." In the directions given for charity by the son of *David*, it is written<sup>1</sup>, "CAST THY BREAD UPON THE WATERS: FOR THOU SHALT FIND IT AFTER MANY DAYS."

Method of  
raising Water  
from the  
Nile.

When the rice-plants are about two feet high. they are transplanted. Besides the method of raising water into the high grounds near the river, by means of buckets fastened to a wheel, where the land is not much elevated above the surface of the *Nile*, they use a simple, and probably a very antient contrivance<sup>2</sup>, of lifting it in a basket lined perhaps with close matting or with leather<sup>3</sup>. Two men, holding the basket between them, by a cord in each hand fastened to the edge of it, lower it into the *Nile*, and then swing it between them until it acquires a velocity sufficient to enable them to throw the

(1) *Ecclesiastes* xi. 1.

(2) See the *Vignette* to this Chapter. They who are interested in tracing resemblances between the customs of the *Chinese* and *Egyptians*, may be informed that this manner of irrigating land, which certainly possesses something of singularity, is practised upon the rivers in *China*, without the smallest difference. An engraved representation of it is given in the account of Lord *Macartney's* Embassy. See vol. II. p. 359. *Lond.* 1797.

(3) Those baskets are made capable of containing water without lining. "The *Mahrea Arabs* have the art of making wicker baskets of so close a texture, that they carry in them, milk, water, and bouza." See Note to p. 189 of *Browne's Travels*, *Lond.* 1799.

water, over a bank, into a canal near the river. The regular continuance of their motion gives them, at a distance, the appearance of automaton figures, rather than of living beings. They work stark naked, exposed to the sun's most powerful rays, during the whole day; repeating one of their *Arabian* songs: for they seem to have a peculiar air adapted to every labour. As to their summer clothing, when they wear any, it consists only of a blue cotton shirt, girded by a belt round the waist. The *Arabs* whom we saw occasionally near the river, whether alone or in company, made their appearance without any kind of covering. Sometimes they were seen in parties of ten or twelve at a time, walking together, young and old, as naked as they were born, without seeming sensible of any indecency in their appearance.

*Fahrenheit's* thermometer, observed in the shade, this day at noon, indicated a temperature of ninety degrees. Our course, by a very good boat-compass, given to us by Captain *Clarke* of the *Braakel*, was at this time south, half east. In half an hour, we found it to be east and by north. We observed several trees of a very singular form: they resembled, by the spreading of their boughs, the shape of a fan, and looked, at a

CHAP.  
II.*Ficus Sy-*  
*camor.**Et. 1771*  
Winds.

distance, like enormous peacocks with their tails expanded. As we drew near and examined them, they proved to be, every one of them, the *Ficus Sycamorus*, or *Sycamore Fig*; and of this species, although so common in *Egypt*, there was scarcely a single specimen in any *British* herbarium, until our return to *England*. It attains an enormous size near *Cairo*; particularly in the Isle of *Rhoda*, where some of them appear larger than the stateliest oaks of our forests. The fruit resembles the common fig in shape; but it is smaller, very dry, insipid, and rarely eaten. The peculiar form of the trees in this part of *Egypt* is owing entirely to the north and north-west, or *Etesian* winds, which prevail with much violence, and for a considerable length of time, during the months of *July* and *August*. As this monsoon happens annually, at the period of the *Nile's* inundation, the wonderful advantages it offers for the commerce of the country exceed any thing, perhaps, known upon earth. A vessel, leaving *Rosetta*, is driven by it with extraordinary velocity against the whole force of the torrent to *Cairo*, or into any part of *Upper Egypt*. For the purpose of her return, with even greater rapidity, it is only necessary to take down mast and sails, and leave her to be carried against the wind by the powerful current

of the river. It is thus possible to perform the whole voyage, from *Rosetta*, to *Bulac* the quay of *Cairo*, and back again, with certainty, in about seventy hours; a distance equal to four hundred miles<sup>1</sup>.

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II.

At half-past one P.M. we came in view of *Motubis*, sometimes written *Metubis*, or *Metabis*<sup>2</sup>, famous or infamous for those dancing-women called *Almehs*, which, however, are common in most parts of *Egypt*. When the *French* army marched to *Cairo*, General *Menou* halted here, and, in the true spirit of *French* licentiousness, pretending business with the *Sheiks*, but in reality to gratify himself and his soldiers, demanded an exhibition of these prostitutes. The *Sheiks* of the place wished to be spared, even in *Motubis*, the degradation attending a public display of such dances, and raised difficulties against their attendance; but, says *Denon*<sup>3</sup>, "the presence of the generals, and especially of two hundred soldiers, removed the obstacles." In order to heighten the profligate sensuality of

*Motubis.*

Dancing  
Women

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(1) *Shaw* makes the distance from *Rosetta* to *Cairo* equal to 200 miles. See *Shaw's Travels*, p. 294. *Lond.* 1757.

(2) See *Denon's Travels*, vol. I. p. 77. *Lond.* 1803.

(3) *Ibid.* p. 78.



## CHAP.

## II.

this *Canopic* festival, brandy was administered to the women in large glasses, which, says the same writer, they drank like lemonade. If, therefore, in the scene that followed, something ensued which was deemed revolting, even to the feelings of *French* soldiers, it should be considered rather as characteristical of the *Parisian* rabblement who were present, than of the natural habits of the people of the country. As we approached *Motubis*, our course altered from south-east to south-west. According to *Kauffer's* map, the course is south-east towards this place from *Rosetta*. We arrived at two o'clock P.M. and observed here some troops of *English* cavalry; but continued our voyage without landing. Opposite to the town of *Motubis*, but farther towards the south, stands *Débé*. The generality of these towns upon the banks of the *Nile* are small, but there is a pleasing variety in their appearance; for they have no resemblance to each other, although all of them be shaded by groves of date and sycamore. We passed *Sindion* and *Derrúl*, two towns opposite to each other, on different sides of the river. At *Sindion* we had the pleasing sight of a party of *Turkish* cavalry upon their march; and were awhile amused by considering the gratification their appearance would afford, if we could have

removed them, in their full costume, to one of the *London* theatres. They had their colours flying; yellow and green. Passing through the villages, they continued to beat small kettle-drums; proceeding always in a sluggardly manner, with their knees quite up to their chins; being evidently annoyed by a situation so hostile to their natural indolence as that in which a certain degree of active exertion was unavoidable. Their ludicrous appearance was a source of mirth to the cavalry of the *French* army, even in the heat of battle; among whom the order for making a charge was frequently expressed, according to their natural levity, by the words “*Bas les Pastèques!*” *Down with the Water-melons!* alluding to the appearance presented by the bulky swathing of their large turbans, which give to their heads something of a similitude to those enormous melons: but of this order the *Moslems* rarely awaited the result; they fled as soon as they heard it, in the utmost dismay and confusion.

The *Arab* crew of our boat washed their hands, faces, and teeth, before and after eating; cleansing their teeth with wood ashes, which they collected for this purpose from the fire for boiling our kettle. The common fuel used by

*Arab Customs.*

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II.

the inhabitants of the country is prepared from a mixture of camels' dung, mud, and straw: these ingredients, being made into a paste, are collected in the form of balls, which are afterwards flattened upon the walls of their huts for drying in the sun, and thus formed into circular cakes. From the ashes, after burning these cakes, the *Ammonia* is obtained, which is afterwards sent to *Europe*. The process is briefly and perspicuously described by *Shaw*, in the *Appendix* to his *Travels*<sup>1</sup>. About four miles to the south of *Sindion*, the *Nile* had overflowed its banks, and was making rapid progress over the adjoining fields. It began to rise upon the *seventeenth* day of *June*. The canal of *Cairo* was cut upon the *eighth* of *August*, the day of our arrival in *Rosetta* from the *Holy Land*; with the usual observance of public festivity; the *Nile* having then attained its proper height. After this, all the banks were cut, and the dykes opened, to receive the inundation, from *Cairo* to the sea<sup>2</sup>. Our course here was *F. N. E.* towards

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(1) *Collectanea*, No. X. p. 480. *Shaw's Travels*, Lond 1757.

(2) The Reader may perhaps be curious to know what the symptoms are in the *Nile* (when at the lowest ebb) denoting the incipient flood. We were in *Rosetta* at the precise period for making the observation. This happened upon the *sixteenth* of *May*. For several days before, the water in the river was very shallow, and seemed to stagnate. The  
small

the village of *Foua*, falsely marked as a town in all the maps. Soon afterwards, we steered south-east, and passed that village. It is opposite to *Rachmanie*, now celebrated as the scene of action between our troops and those of the enemy under General *Le Grange*. This officer was raised by *Buonaparté* from the ranks: high respect is due to him for his conduct upon many occasions; but, in particular, for his subsequent humane and exemplary treatment of the wife of one of our commanders in the *West Indies*, who became his prisoner while her husband was engaged with him in the warmest hostilities. If it be a Christian duty to love our enemies, it is surely incumbent upon every Englishman to cherish the memory of actions which thus exalt the character of a soldier to that of a hero.—The *English* flag was flying upon the castle of the fortress of *Rachmanie*; and a party of our troops was stationed there, to guard the town. We spoke to some *Irish* soldiers, asking them the hour; and were much amused by the reply: “To be sure, at sun-set is it not half past four?”

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smell of it was like that of an unwholesome pool, and its surface became partly covered with a green slime. By attentively observing it about this time, a number of little whirlpools, not more than an inch in diameter, might be occasionally noticed, suddenly becoming visible, and as suddenly disappearing. The *Arabs* pointed to these, as the earliest indications of the coming torrent.

CHAP.  
II.Descrip-  
tion of the  
Country.

Opposite to *Rachmanie* there is a small island, in the middle of the river. A large vessel with three masts was stationed near the town. The *Nile* is here very broad, and the current was at this time prodigiously rapid; yet the strength of the *Etesian* wind enabled us to stem its force, and to proceed with very great velocity. Villages, in an almost uninterrupted succession, denoted a much greater population than we had imagined this country to contain. Upon each side of the river, as far as the eye could reach, we saw rich fields of corn and rice, with such beautiful groves, seeming to rise out of the watery plains, and to shade innumerable settlements in the *Delta*, amidst never-ending plantations of melons and all kinds of garden vegetables, that, from the abundance of its harvests, *Egypt* may be deemed the richest country in the world. Such is the picture exhibited to the native inhabitants, who are seasoned to withstand the disorders of the country, and can bear with indifference the attacks of myriads of all sorts of noxious animals; to whom mud and mosquitoes, or dust and vermin, are alike indifferent; who, having never experienced one comfortable feeling in the midst of their highest enjoyments, nor a single antidote to sorrow in the depths of their wretchedness, vegetate, like

the *bananas* and *sycamores* around them. But CHAP. II. strangers, and especially the inhabitants of *Northern* countries, where wholesome air and cleanliness are among the necessities of life, must consider *Egypt* as the most detestable region upon earth. Upon the retiring of the *Nile*, the country is one vast swamp. The atmosphere, impregnated with every putrid and offensive exhalation, then stagnates, like the filthy pools over which it broods. Then, too, Diseases. the plague regularly begins; nor ceases, until the waters return again<sup>1</sup>. Throughout the spring, intermitting fevers universally prevail. About the beginning of *May*, certain winds cover even the sands of the desert with the most disgusting vermin<sup>2</sup>. The latest descendants of *Pharaoh* are not yet delivered from the evils which fell upon the land, when it was smitten by the hands of *Moses* and *Aaron*: the “plague

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(1) General *Le Grange* assured us, when on board the *Braakel*, that the ravages in the *Ficah* army, caused by the plague, during the month of *April*, at one time amounted to an hundred men in a single day.

(2) Sir *Sidney Smith* informed the author, that one night, preferring a bed upon the sand of the desert to a night's lodging in the village of *Etho*, as thinking he should be more secure from vermin, he found himself, in the morning, entirely covered by them. *Lice* and *scorpions* abound in all the sandy desert near *Alexandria*.

CHAP.  
II of frogs," the "plague of lice," the "plague of flies," the "murrain, boils, and blains," prevail, so that the whole country is "corrupted," and "THE DUST OF THE EARTH BECOMES LICE, UPON MAN AND UPON BEAST, THROUGHOUT THE LAND OF EGYPT." This application of the words of Sacred Scripture affords a literal statement of existing evils; such an one as the statistics of the country do now warrant. In its justification, an appeal may be made to the testimony of all those who have resided in the country during the very opposite seasons of its prosperity and privation; during the inundation, and when the flood has retired; or before it takes place, in the beginning of the year. At the period of the overflow, persons who drink the water become subject to a disorder called "*prickly heat*:" this often terminates in those dreadful wounds alluded to in the Sacred Writings, by the words "BOILS AND BLAINS." During the months of *June, July, and August*, many individuals are deprived of sight, owing to a disorder of the eyes peculiar to this country. *Europeans*, having no other name for it, have called it *Ophthalmia*, from the organs it afflicts. There was hardly an individual who did not suffer, more or less, the consequences of this painful malady. It commences with a



sensation as if grains of sand had been cast into the eyes'. At this season, also, the dysentery begins to number its victims; and although some be fortunate enough to escape the worst effects of this disorder, it proves fatal in many instances\*. A traveller may escape most of these evils by proper attention: and if he visit the country so as to profit by the *Etesian* winds at the time of the inundation, and hire a *djerm* for his constant residence upon the river, he may venture into *Upper Egypt*, and visit its stupendous remains of antiquity with greater ease and comfort than he ever performed any other expedition. The never-failing monsoon will carry him along, sitting in a cool and comfortable cabin, with every convenience for reading or writing, for food, or rest; and the current of the river alone will operate as favourably for his return. We considered the time we spent

Facility of  
visiting  
*Upper  
Egypt*.

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(1) It is said even yet to exist in this country, as a contagious disorder brought by our army from *Egypt*.

(2) The best remedies for this terrible complaint are, first a swathing of flannel, in many folds, about the abdomen; and, secondly, a drink of water, in which rice has been boiled, carefully strained from the grains of rice, which should not be eaten. The very worst effects may be apprehended from brandy, or any of those heating cordials usually administered, by ignorant people, upon these occasions. Rice-water and abstemious diet are the remedies resorted to by the *Arabs* themselves.

CHAP.  
II. upon the *Nile* as the most pleasing part of all our travels; but that which was passed during our residence on shore, as the most disagreeable; notwithstanding the commodious accommodations we met with, in the cities of *Rosetta*, *Cairo*, and *Alexandria*.

After passing *Rachmanie*, darkness deprived us of the very interesting landscape with which we had been continually gratified during the day. We continued sailing almost the whole night, under the care and guidance of our steady pilot at the helm, who, as master of the *djerm*, remained at his post until morning dawned. Four men, besides himself, constituted the whole of the crew; all of whom were *Arabs*. During the time they remained in our service, they were diligent, industrious, faithful, always sober, obliging, and very skilful in managing their vessel. When day-light appeared, upon Saturday, *August the eleventh*, they told us they had anchored for some time at a village, fearful of being boarded by pirates during the extreme darkness that prevailed, especially as the light in our cabin rendered the *djerm* visible from the sides of the river. About eight o'clock A. M. we reached a miserable town, called *Koum* or *Komme Scheriff*, built entirely with mud. Soon

afterwards we passed the town of *Amrus*, also constructed of mud, and containing a number of lofty conical *pigeon-houses*, similarly built; exhibiting a novel and remarkable appearance in the approach to this place. *Pigeons' dung*, everywhere valuable as manure, is here an important acquisition; for by mixing it with the sand upon the little islands left by the torrent in the midst of the river, a soil is formed, capable of producing water-melons<sup>1</sup>.

The birds which frequent the *Nile*, if we except the account given by *Hasselquist*<sup>2</sup>, are but little known; and our observations will not supply what is here wanted for the natural history of the country. A most superb collection was, however, forwarded to *England*, under the patronage and by the immediate orders of Lord *Hutchinson*. It had been formed, with consummate skill and labour, by a person of the name of *Savigny*. We principally noticed *pelicans*, from the mouth of the *Nile*, as far as *Rachmanie*. The *Sterna Nilotica*, or *Egyptian sea-swallow*, appeared, in immense flocks, near the sides of the

(1) See also Baron *De Tott's* Memoirs vol. II. p. 248. Lond. 1785.

(2) See *Travels*, p. 193. Lond. 1765.

CHAP. II. river. Afterwards we saw many beautiful birds, of whose names we are entirely ignorant; particularly one of the plover kind, whose plumage displayed the most lively and variegated colours'. The pigeon-cones increased very much after passing Amrus; almost every village being furnished with them. Buffaloes, swimming about in the Nile, afford a singular sight, with their black noses sticking out of the water, snorting as they cross from side to side; all the rest of their bodies being concealed. But the most remarkable appearance of living beings, may be noticed by dipping a ladle or bucket into the midst of the river, which is everywhere dark with mud, and observing the swarms of animals contained in the torrent. Among these, tadpoles and young frogs are so numerous, that, rapid as the current flows, there is no part of the Nile where the water is destitute of them. The additions to our herbarry were not of any importance; for the season was too far advanced<sup>2</sup>.

Singular  
Animal  
Appear-  
ance.

Plants.

(1) Probably the "*Tringa Ægyptiaca*" of Linnæus, "*longirostris, fusco albidoque variegata*." See Hasselq. Trav. p. 199.

(2) In the account of our journey from Aboukir to Rosetta, (See Chap. IX. Vol. III. p. 367. 8vo. edit.) five new species were omitted, which may be noticed here, although perhaps not found so high up the Nile. The first genus is not mentioned in Professor Martyn's edition of Miller's Dictionary.

The *rice-plants*, however, may be excepted; they had not attained maturity, being now about two feet in height, and resembling a species of *Typha*, common in large ponds in the south of *England*, vulgarly called *flags*; as these appear, when young, rising from the water. We made the usual observation upon *Fahrenheit's* ther-

- I. A non-descript grass, being a new species of *POLYPOGON*; growing in little tufts, about two inches high. We have called it *POLYPOGON RUMICUM*. (See the character of this genus in the *Flora Atlantica* of M. Desfontaines, Professor of Botany in the Museum of Natural History at Paris.) This was found near *ROSETTA*. *Polypogon pumilum, panicula ovata coarctata, aristis calyce hirsuto ferè duplò longioribus. Radix annua fibrosa. Culmi numerosi geniculati, ferè ad apices foliosi. Folia glabriuscula striata, longè vaginantia, supra plana, patentia. Stipulae laceratae, nidae. Paniculae inaequales, superiores lineas sex ad novem longae; inferiores dimidio minores.*
- II. A non-descript species of *LOTUS*, with shining silky leaves, very closely crowded together towards the tops of the branches. We have called it *LOTUS POLYPHYLLUS*. This was found between *Aboukir* and *Rosetta*, in the month of *APRIL*. *Lotus caule suffrutescente ramoso, foliis lineari-parabolicis obliquis, imbricatis, sericeis, nitidis internodiis longioribus; floribus subternis; leguminibus glabris calyce hirsutissimo paulo longioribus. Rami adscendentes flexuosi, deorsum e casu foliorum cicatricibus notati nudi; supradense foliosi, hirsuti. Foliola lineas tres longa, utrinque sericea. Stipulae foliolis simillimae. Flores foliis parum longiores, interdum solitarii. Legumina turgida stylo persistente coronata.*
- III. A magnificent non-descript species of *OROBANCHE*, with a furrowed scaly stem, and a close spike of flowers about three inches broad, and above a foot in height. We have called it *OROBANCHE IN-IGNIS*. This was also found between *Aboukir* and *Rosetta*, at the same time. *Orobanche caule sumptici, corollis inflatis, recurvis, quinquefidis, laciniis integerrimis. calycibus quinquepartitis, bracteis ternis quaternisve, spicâ imbricata, oblongâ, crassissima; antheris hirsutis.*

IV. A NON-

CHAP.  
II.

El Bured-  
giat.

mometer, at noon, just before arriving at *El Buredgiat*, and found the temperature equal to that of the former day; ninety degrees. This village is placed accurately in *Kauffer's* map. We steered south-east and by south. Proceeding towards *Nadir*, the course altered, and we steered due east. The river here appeared like

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- IV. A non-descript shrubby species of *SALSOLA*, belonging to that division of the genus called *Sueda* by *Forskahl* and *Pallas*, and distinguished principally by the want of the membranaceous wing to the calyx. The species is very much branched, with the bark of an ash colour; the smaller branches very leafy; the leaves two to three lines long, a little convex below; the flowers are attended by three small bracts, and generally ternate, but are found also solitary; the seeds black and shining, very small. We have called it *SALSOLA NITIDA*. This was found in the neighbourhood of *Rosetta*. *Salsola fruticosa, foliis ovatis supra planiusculis, glabris, obtusis-floribus axillaribus subternis; calycibus fructiferis inappendiculatis, conniventibus; seminibus reniformibus turgidis.*
- V. A non-descript species of *Wall-flower*, (*CHEIRANTHUS Linn.*) the short stems of which spread upon the ground, and seldom extend beyond the radical leaves; these measure two and a half or three inches in length; the flowers in loose racemes, with purple petals, broad and notched at the end, and interwoven with dark veins; the pods compressed, an inch to an inch and a half in length, with a large three-cornered head, and thinly covered (like every part of the plant, the petals, stamens, and roots excepted) with white forky hairs. We have called it *CHEIRANTHUS HUMILIS*. This grew in the neighbourhood of *Rosetta*. *Cheiranthus pubescens, humilis; pilis dichotomis; foliis angustis elongatis omnibus pinnatifidis; siliquis compressis, linearibus, tricuspidatis calycibusque pubescentibus.*

an immense lake. A singular phænomenon engrossed all our attention. One of those immense columns of sand, mentioned by *Bruce*, came rapidly towards us, turning upon its base as upon a pivot: it crossed the *Nile* so near to us, that the whirlwind by which it was carried placed our vessel upon its beam-ends, bearing its large sail quite into the water, and nearly upsetting the boat. As we were engaged in righting the vessel, the column disappeared. It is not probable that those columns fall suddenly upon any particular spot, so as to be capable of overwhelming an army or a caravan; but that, as the sand, thus driven, is gradually accumulated, it becomes gradually dispersed, and, the column diminishing in its progress, at length disappears. A great quantity of sand is no doubt precipitated as the effect, which gathers it, becomes weaker; but, from witnessing such phænomena upon a smaller scale, it does not seem likely that the whole body of the sand is at once abandoned.

Parties of young *Arabs* continually accompanied our *djerm*, this day, running along the banks of the river, and tumbling, to obtain a few *parás*, as we see children in many parts of *England*; sometimes walking upon their hands, with their

Tumblers.



CHAP.  
II.Abun-  
dant of  
Corn.Southern  
Point of the  
Delta.

heels in the air; at others, whirling upon their hands and feet, to imitate the motion of a wheel. Judging from the appearance these presented, the *Arab* complexion, at a very early age, is tawny, and almost black. They swim and dive remarkably well; but these are arts in which all *Eastern* nations excel those of the *Western* world. About three leagues before our arrival at *Kafrakadia*, there was such an amazing quantity of corn in heaps near the river, that it extended nearly to the length of a mile. At this last-mentioned place there was a manufactory for extracting a dark *blue dye* from the *indigo* plant. Here girls of fourteen or fifteen years of age walked the streets, with jars of water upon their heads, perfectly naked. Our course latterly had varied occasionally from S.E. to S.W. At half-past six P.M. we reached that part of the *Nile* where the river divides, so as to inclose the *Delta* by the *Rosetta* and *Damiata* branches. Its appearance above the point of separation was truly noble, being at this time three miles wide. The village or town of *Beersamps* stands upon the southern point of the *DELTA*. *Koutomey* is upon the western side of the main river, and *Kafranamook* upon the eastern. After we had passed the point of *Beersamps*, our course along the undivided bed of the *Nile* was S. E.



We arrived at *Bulâc* at midnight; having thus performed a voyage from ROSETTA to the quay of CAIRO in thirty-six hours, against the utmost force and rapidity of the torrent.

CHAP.  
II.

Arrival at  
*Bulâc*.

On *Wednesday*, the *twelfth* of *August*, we were roused, as soon as the sun dawned, by *Antonio*, our faithful *Greek* servant and interpreter, with the intelligence that “the PYRAMIDS were in view!” We hastened from the cabin;—and never will the impression, made by their appearance, be obliterated. By reflecting the sun’s rays, they appeared white as snow; and of such surprising magnitude, that nothing we had previously conceived in our imagination had prepared us for the sight of these monuments. We were instantly convinced, that no force of description, no accuracy of delineation, can convey ideas adequate to the effect which is produced in beholding them. The formality of their structure is lost in their prodigious grandeur. The mind, elevated by wonder, feels at once the force of an axiom, which, however disputed, experience confirms,—that in vastness, whatsoever be its nature, there dwells sublimity<sup>1</sup>.

View of  
the PYRA-  
MIDS.

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(1) “Sublime objects are vast in their dimensions.” *Burke on the Sublime, &c. Sect. 27. Part 3. p. 237. Lond. 1782.*

CHAP.  
II.

Another proof of their indescribable power is, that no one ever approached them under other emotions than those of terror; which is another source of the sublime'. In certain instances of irritable feeling, this impression of awe and fear has been deep enough to cause pain, rather than pleasure<sup>1</sup>; of which we shall notice a remarkable instance in the sequel. Hence, perhaps, have originated descriptions of the *Pyramids* which represent them as deformed and gloomy masses, constructed without either taste or beauty. They, who derive no satisfaction from the sight of them, may not be conscious, that the uneasiness they experience is a result of their own sensibility. Other individuals have felt impressions widely different, made, by a very wonderful circumstance of character and

(1) *Burke on the Sublime*, *ibid.*

(2) Confirming, in a striking manner, these words of BURKE, concerning the distinctions of greatness and beauty. "*They are indeed ideas of a very different nature; one being founded on pain, the other on pleasure.*" (*ibid.*) Having referred to the opinions of this truly great man, upon a subject so interesting to every reflecting mind, it may not be unseasonable to insert here a brief comparison between the theories of LONGINUS and BURKE. There appears to be as much difference between them, as between mechanism and intellect; between the operations of a piece of clock-work, and those of human reason. LONGINUS directs us to the *effects* of the sublime; BURKE points out its *causes*. LONGINUS teaches us to seek for the sublime *without us*, BURKE, to create it *within ourselves*. LONGINUS views it in its broad and well-known channel; BURKE conducts us to its *source*.

of situation. There have been persons, in CHAP.  
II.  
almost all the ages which have elapsed since }  
the PYRAMIDS were erected, who have retired  
from a view of them under very opposite sensa-  
tions: the ideas excited in their minds, have  
been those of the most dignified simplicity; of  
miraculous power; and of duration, so perpe-  
tual, that, if it were permitted to compare a  
result of human labour with the immortality  
which is of Almighty origin, we should say of  
them, that they belong to an Eternity, "WHICH  
WAS, AND IS, AND IS TO COME."

As soon as we landed, we met several officers  
from *India*, belonging to the sixty-first regiment,  
then stationed in the Isle of *Rhouda*, in the *Nile*;  
where the *Indian* army was encamped. They  
had been riding upon assés, to CAIRO. We  
profited by their return, to hire the same ani-  
mals, with their drivers, in order to be con-  
ducted to the house of the *Reis Effendi*. The Visit to the  
Reis Ef-  
fendi.  
*Reis* understood something of the *English* lan-  
guage, and spoke *French* remarkably well. He  
had been in *England*; and had written a work  
upon the manufactures, manners, customs, and  
laws of *Great Britain*. Of this curious manu-  
script we could never obtain a sight; although  
it had been often sold, among the other manu-

CHAP.  
II.

House of  
the French  
Institute.

scripts, by the booksellers in *Cairo* and *Constantinople*. Perhaps the *Reis* did not choose, at this time, to make our countrymen acquainted with his sentiments upon such subjects. He told us, he found every thing very good in *London*, especially veal and cider; but that nothing was cheap. We delivered to him a letter from the *Capudan Pasha*; and he promised to render to us all the service in his power. His *janissaries* conducted us, at our request, to Colonel *Holloway*, who, with Major *Hope*, and other officers of the artillery, were quartered in a large building, where the *French* Members of the *Institute* held their sittings, during the time they were in possession of *Cairo*. Having presented our letters to the Colonel, we were received by him with great politeness, and were afterwards indebted to him for every civility it was in his power to shew to us. He introduced us to Dr. *Wittman*, who has since published an account of his travels; and undertook to forward our letters to *England*, and to present us to the *Grand Vizir*. In the court belonging to the house where these officers resided, were several interesting articles of antiquity, which had been abandoned by the *French*, upon the surrender of the city. Among them, was the *stèle* of *porphyry* which is now in the

Vestibule of the University Library at *Cambridge*. Colonel *Holloway* kindly permitted us to remove this to *England*. We placed it in the prow of our *djerm*; thereby giving to the vessel the appearance of a gun-boat, to awe the pirates upon the river, during our subsequent voyage, in returning to *Rosetta*. There were also in this court certain fragments of *Egyptian* sculpture, formed of the substance commonly called *Antient basalt*; which is a variety of *trap*, exceedingly compact, and susceptible of a very high polish. But the most remarkable relique of the whole collection, since unaccountably neglected, (for it is, in all probability, still lying where we left it,) was a very large slab, covered with an *inscription*, in the *Hieroglyphic*, the *Egyptian*, and the *Greek* characters; exactly similar to the famous *trilingual* stone now in the *British Museum*<sup>1</sup>.

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(1) Its being left in *Egypt* is a circumstance wholly unaccountable. It was once Colonel *Holloway*'s intention to have allowed us also the privilege of conveying this interesting piece of antiquity to our own country. We did not afterwards discover the reason which prevented the fulfilment of this liberal design; and we were too much indebted to his politeness and hospitality to attribute it to any other cause than a desire to ensure its safe transportation, by entrusting it to men better provided with means for its removal. But, as it still remains in *Cairo*, some notice should be taken of it, that measures may be adopted to prevent its being finally lost. It should also be added, that the *inscriptions* upon this stone are much effaced. The *Greek* characters

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II.Jewell  
Market

Upon the following day, *Thursday, August the thirteenth*, we again visited the *Reis Effendi*; who promised us an escort to the *Pyramids*, and said that a day should be appointed for our presentation to the *Izîr*, at this time in *Cairo*. Afterward, we visited the *bazars*, expecting to obtain from the *jewellers'* shops of this city some of the precious *minerals* of the *East*, at a reasonable rate. Not even a single specimen, worth notice, could be procured. The *French* had bought up almost every thing; and perhaps the frequent disturbances, in the city, had caused the concealment of every valuable commodity. Among the *goldsmiths* we found only two antique *intaglio gems*; and a few *medals* of very little value; such as large copper coins of the *Ptolemies*. The cotton shawls manufactured in *England* would find a ready sale in this place. They asked two hundred *piastres* even for old *turbans* which had been mended. In the fruit-market we saw fresh dates, some very fine grapes, and peaches. Sausages were dressed, and sold hot in the streets, as in *London*: but

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characters are so little legible, that the author could not succeed in copying them. But there is a manifest difference between an opportunity offered for this purpose, when exposed to the heat of an open court at *Cairo* in the middle of *August*, and such an examination of the surface of the stone as might take place in a milder climate, with leisure for the undertaking.

whether the ingredients were of pork, or of any other meat, we did ~~not~~ inquire. To describe the interior of the city would be only to repeat what has been often said of all *Turkish* towns; with this difference, that there is not perhaps upon earth a more dirty metropolis. Every place is covered with dust; and its particles are so minute, that it rises into all the courts and chambers of the city. The streets are destitute of any kind of pavement: they appear like a series of narrow dusty lanes, between gloomy walls. *Europeans* were formerly compelled to walk or to ride upon asses, through these streets; nor had the practice been wholly abandoned when we arrived: although some of our officers appeared occasionally on horseback, many of them ambled about, in their uniforms, upon the donkies let for hire by the *Arabs*. Horses were not easily procured. To ride these, it was first necessary to buy them. And even when riding upon asses, if a favourable opportunity offered, when our military were not in sight, the attendants of the rich *Turks*, running on foot before their horses to clear the way, made every *Christian* descend and walk, until the bearded grandee had passed. We noticed several jugglers, exhibiting their craft in the streets of *Cairo*; bearing in their hands a



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kind of toy, common in *England*, consisting of a number of pieces of wood, in the shape of playing-cards, strung together, and revolving from top to bottom; such as are called, by children, *trick-track*, and are often painted to display the *Cries of London*. These toys seemed to delight the *Arabs*; who considered them as put together by magic. For the rest of the exhibition, it much resembled the shows of our mountebanks; each party having its *Merry Andrew*, who endured hard kicks and cuffs for the amusement of the populace.

By means of the canal which intersects the city, and was now filled with its muddy water, we visited a great part of *Cairo* in a boat. The prodigious number of gardens give to it so pleasing an appearance, and the trees growing in those gardens are so new to the eyes of a *European*, that, for a moment, he forgets the innumerable abominations of the dirtiest city in the whole world. Many of the most conspicuous of these trees have been often described; but not all of them. The most beautiful among them, the *Mimosa Lebbeck*, has not even been mentioned in any account yet published of *Cairo*; which is the more extraordinary, as it grows upon the banks of the canal; and its

Trees.



long weeping branches, pendent to the surface of the water, could not escape notice. We brought the seeds of it to the Garden of Natural History at *Cambridge*, where it has since flourished. This plant has been hitherto so little known in *Europe*, that although cultivated in some botanic gardens for more than half a century, it has never been properly recognised. About thirty years ago, Professor *Jacquin*, who received some seeds of it from the *East Indies*, described it as a new species, under the name of *Mimosa speciosa*; and by this name it is still distinguished in the *English* catalogues. It grows promiscuously with the *Gum Arabic* *Acacia*, or *Mimosa Nilotica*: both of these, and also the *Mimosa Senegal*, are seen adorning the sides of the canal. *Hasselquist* says, that he saw the two last growing wild in the sandy desert, near the antient sepulchres of the *Egyptians*<sup>1</sup>. The *Mimosa Nilotica*, or *Acacia vera*, produces the frankincense. It is gathered in vast quantities, from trees growing near to the most northern bay of the *Red Sea*, at the foot of *Mount Sinai*; and it is called *Thus*, by the dealers in *EGYPT*, from *Thur* and *Thor*, which is the name of a harbour in that bay; thereby

Incense.

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(1) *Travels to the East*, p. 250. *Lond.* 1776.

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Gum  
Arabic.

being distinguished from the *Gum Arabic* which comes from *Suez*<sup>1</sup>. These gums, says *Hasselquist*, differ in other particulars besides their localities; the first being limpid and colourless; the latter less pellucid, and of a brown, or dirty yellow colour<sup>2</sup>. We purchased a considerable quantity of the white gum. The fragrant odour diffused in burning it is well known; but its operation, as an enlivener of the spirits, in persons of weak health, does not seem to have been much regarded. Perhaps the pleasing antidote it affords to the effects of foul air in crowded assembly-rooms, may possibly hereafter give it a place among the luxuries of *London* and *Paris*. Hitherto the sacred *Sabæan* odour has been exclusively reserved for the religious ceremonies of the *Greek* and *Roman* churches; and that which was once considered an offering worthy the altars of the most High God, now scarcely obtains any notice. Fifteen hundred years before the *Christian* æra, the ordinances concerning incense<sup>3</sup> were delivered to the leader of the *Jewish* nation; and the history of the most antient *Pagan* rites also bears

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(1) *Travels to the East*, p. 250.  *Lond. 1776.*

(2) *Ibid.*

(3) "And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon."  
*Exod. xxx. 1.*

testimony to a similar custom. It seems evident, from the words of sacred Scripture, that the practice of burning incense, among the *Jews*, was introduced with reference to the supposed salutary nature of the exhalation. Immediately following the ordinance for its use, it is stated, that the time of burning it shall be at the dressing and lighting of the lamps<sup>4</sup>; when an offensive smell, thereby created, might probably have pervaded the temple. Whatsoever may have been the cause of its original introduction among the sacrifices, whether of the *Jews* or *Heathens*, its being appropriated to the service of the *Temple* long caused it to be held in superstitious veneration. Many medical properties, which it never possessed, have been attributed to it; and, down to the latest ages, considered as an offering acceptable unto Heaven, it has been celebrated as giving efficacy to prayer, or, in the language of poetry, as wafting to Paradise the orisons of men<sup>5</sup>.

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(4) "And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense, every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it; a perpetual incense before the Lord, throughout your generations." *Exod.* xxx. 7, 8.

(5) *Alexander the Great*, after the conquest of *Arabia*, sent a ship laden with incense to his preceptor *Leonidas*, for the service of the temples: and his early prodigality, in heaping incense upon the altars of his country, is noticed by *Pliny*, (*Hist. Nat. lib. xii. cap.*

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II.Plagues of  
Egypt.

The mercury in *Fahrenheit's* thermometer seemed at this time fixed. It remained at 90° for several days, without the smallest perceptible change. Almost every *European* suffered from inflammation of the eyes. Many were troubled with cutaneous disorders. The prickly heat was very common. This was attributed to drinking the muddy water of the *Nile*, the inhabitants having no other. Their mode of purifying it, in a certain degree, is by rubbing the inside of the water-vessels with bruised almonds: this precipitates a portion of the mud, but it is never quite clear<sup>1</sup>. Many persons were afflicted with sores upon the skin, which were called "*boils of the Nile*;" and dysenterical complaints were universal. A singular species of

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cap. 14. tom. II. p. 18. *L. Bat.* 1635.) *Aubrey*, in his "*Hermetick Philosophy*," printed for the second time, in *London*, in 1721, p. 172, says, "Good Spirits are delighted and allured by sweet perfumes, as rich gums, frankincense, salts, &c. which was the reason that the priests of the *Gentiles*, and also the *Christians*, used them in their temples and sacrifices." It is a curious fact, that this superstitious notion, respecting a fragrant gum, should also exist in *South America*. The *pastillas of Lama*, used by the priests to destroy the influence of *Evil Spirits*, consists of a gum which is used as incense when *Hugh Mass* is solemnized at their altars.

(1) The cause of this chemical agency in the oil of the *Amygdalus communis* has not been explained; owing, perhaps, to our ignorance of the chemical constituents of this fruit, which has not been subjected to a regular analysis.

*lizard* made its appearance in every chamber, having circular membranes at the extremity of its feet, which gave it such tenacity, that it walked upon window-panes of glass, or upon the surfaces of pendent mirrors<sup>2</sup>. This revolting sight was common to every apartment, whether in the houses of the rich or of the poor. At the same time, such a plague of flies covered all things with their swarms, that it was impossible to eat without hiring persons to stand by every table with feathers, or flappers, to drive them away. Liquor could not be poured into a glass; the mode of drinking was, by keeping the mouth of every bottle covered until the moment it was applied to the lips; and instantly covering it with the palm of the hand, when removing it to offer to any one else. The utmost attention to cleanliness, by a frequent change of every article of wearing apparel, could not repel the attacks of vermin which seemed to infest even the air of the place. A gentleman made his appearance, before a party he had invited to dinner, with lice swarming

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(2) A similar membrane terminates each foot of a common fly; beneath which, a vacuum takes place, and the animal maintains a footing upon ceilings, owing to the pressure of the external air upon this membrane.

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upon his clothes. The only explanation he could give as to the cause, was, that he had sat for a short time in one of the boats upon the canal. Perhaps objection may be made to a statement, even of facts, which refers to no pleasing theme; but the author does not conceive it possible to give *Englishmen* a correct notion of the trials to which they will be exposed in visiting this country, without calling some things by their names. The insects of the *Nile* are many of them also common to the *Don*: other instances of similarity in the two rivers have been before noticed. The gardens of *Cairo* are filled with turtle-doves, whose melancholy notes suit the solitary disposition of the *Turks*. Their national music has the same plaintive character. The houses of the city are larger and better built than those of *Constantinople*; the foundations being of stone, and the superstructure of bricks and mortar; but they have the same gloomy appearance externally. The interior consists principally of timber. The *French* had pulled down many houses, in order to obtain fuel: owing to this, and to the commotions that had taken place, a considerable part of the city appeared to be in

ruins. The inhabitants generally ride upon *mules* or *asses*: the latter are so active in this country, and possess such extraordinary strength, that for all purposes of labour, even for carrying heavy burthens across the sandy desert, they are next in utility to the *camel*, and will bear work better than *horses*. The horse in *Egypt* is rather as an animal of parade, than for essential service. The vast army of the *Wahabees* in the desert were said to be mounted upon *camels* and upon *asses*. The population of *Cairo* consisted at this time of *Arabs* and *Mamlukes*, for the chief part; and, besides these, were *Copts*, *Jews*, and *Greeks*, together with the adventitious multitude caused by the events of war, which had filled the streets of the city with the *Sepoys* and various casts of *India*, with *Turks*, *Italians*, *French* and *English* soldiers, merchants, and adventurers of every description. The *Indian* army, under General *Baird*, was encamped in the Isle of *Rhouda*, and presented the first military spectacle it is possible to conceive; offering a striking contrast to the appearance of the troops from *England*, which were encamped upon the *Alexandrian* Plain. The *Indian* army, in possession of abundant supplies, and having all the comforts which wealth and power could bestow, might be considered rather as an encampment

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Statistics  
of *Cairo*.

British  
Army from  
*India*.

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of powerful princes than of private men. The tents of its subalterns were superior to the marquees of general-officers in the *English* army, where the Commander-in-chief lived as the poorest soldier, and wretchedness and privation were the standing orders of the day<sup>1</sup>. Every morning, at sun-rise, as in Lord *Hutchinson's* army, a gun was fired, and the whole line of the troops from *India* were under arms, amounting to 3000 men. At this hour, we often resorted to the Isle of *Rhowla*, to view the magnificent parade<sup>2</sup>. An immense grove of the most enor-

(1) The luxury and pomp of the *Indian* army may be conceived, by simply stating the fact, that glass lustres, manufactured in *London*, exported to *India*, and thence conveyed, after a voyage up the *Red Sea*, upon the backs of *camels* across the desert from *Cosseir* to the *Nile*, were suspended in the audience-pavilion of the Commander-in-chief. Breakfasting with a lieutenant of the sixty-first regiment, we were regaled with white bread, and fresh butter, made upon the spot for the occasion, (which perhaps had never been seen before in *Egypt*), fruit, cream, tea, coffee, and chocolate. The impression made by external splendor, upon men characterized as are the inhabitants of the *Turkish* empire, is more effectual for the advancement of our political interests in the *East*, than the operations of war. An ignorant *Moslem* attaches higher ideas of power to the appearance of wealth, than to any effect of military strength.

(2) The author may here notice the visit he made, upon one of these occasions, to the *Nikus*, or *Nilometer*, upon this Isle, in company with Mr. *Hammer*. As the interior of this building was long concealed from the observation of *Europeans*, it may be proper to mention, that the roof is supported by pointed arches erected early in the ninth century. Mr. *Hammer* copied some *Coptic* inscriptions upon the



mous *sycamore* fig-trees, larger than any of our forest trees', secured almost the whole army from the rays of the sun. Troops in such a state of military perfection, or better suited for active service, were never seen, not even in the famous parade of the chosen Ten-thousand belonging to *Buonaparté's* legions, which he was so vain of displaying, before the present war, in the front of the *Thuilleries* at *Paris*. Not an unhealthy soldier was to be seen. The *English* inured to the climate of *India* considered that of *Egypt* as temperate in its effects; and the *sepoys* seemed as fond of the *Nile* as of the *Ganges*. After General *Baird* had inspected the line, the *sepoys* were marched to *Caïro*, where, having piled their arms before one of the principal *mosques*, they all joined the *Moslems* in their

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the walls, stating, that the building was constructed by the Caliph *Al-Mamoun*, in the year 211 of the *Hégira*, answering to the year 833 of our æra. The same fact is attested by the observations of *Le Pere*, as read to the *French Institute* at *Caïro*, January the 11th, 1799. (*Voy. Decade Egyptienne*, tom. II. p. 278. au Kaire, An VIII de la République.) For the rest, the building has been recently so often described, that it was not thought necessary to give a particular account of it.

(3) The Editor of *Hasselquist's Travels* has mistaken his measure of circumference for diameter:—"This is a huge tree, the stem being often fifty feet thick." See *Hasselquist's Travels*, p. 259. Lond. 1766. It cannot surely be intended that the *sycamore-trees* of *Egypt* were nearly nineteen yards in diameter

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devotions—to the surprise and satisfaction of the *Turks* and *Arabs*, who speedily circulated a report over *Cairo*, that the *English* army was filled with soldiers belonging to the *Faithful*. These men were all volunteers; and no instance had ever occurred of their being conveyed so far from their native land at any former period.

Dinner  
given by  
the Com-  
mander-  
in-Chief.

A dinner given by General *Baird* to all the *English* officers, and others of our countrymen in *Cairo*, took place while the camp remained upon the Isle of *Rhouda*. We were invited: and the scene was so extraordinary, that it ought to be noticed. The dinner was given in the pavilion before mentioned: this was illuminated by glass lustres suspended from an enormous *bamboo* cane, sustaining the inner covering of the tent; and by wax candles in glass cylinders. *English* porter, roasted pigs, and other *English* fare, together with port, claret, and *Madeira* wines, appeared upon the table. The dinner was cooked by *Indian* servants, upon the sand near the tent; and a view of the extraordinary cleanliness observed by these cooks, as well as of their peculiar habits, were among the most curious parts of the exhibition. Having drawn a line around them, they suffered no person to pass this boundary. The rules of their *cast*

enjoined that none of the cooking vessels should be touched, except by their own hands. After dinner, the officers smoked the *hooka*: every pipe had its peculiar attendant upon the outside of the tent; the long flexible tubes alone being brought under the sides of the pavilion to those seated at table. The servants in waiting were principally negroes, dressed in white turbans with muslin jackets, but without stockings or shoes. The upper part of the pavilion was adorned with beautiful net-work; the hangings were of green silk, and the floor covered with *Indian* mats. The tables were of polished mahogany; and the company present in full uniform;—an association of things so incongruous with the natural horrors and barbarism of the country, upon the border of an interminable desert, and in the midst of such a river as the *Nile*, where persons from *India* and from *England* were met to banquet together, that perhaps no similar result of commerce and of conquest is ever likely to occur again, in any part of the habitable globe. Upon this occasion, we heard the extraordinary fact, maintained and confirmed by indisputable testimony, that certain *Brahmins* who had accompanied the *Indian* army in its march from the *Red Sea* to the *Nile*, from *Cosseir* to *Kené*, saw at *Dendera* the representation of

Discovery  
made by  
*Brahmins*  
in *Upper*  
*Egypt*.

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their God *Vishnu* among the antient sculpture of the place'; and were with difficulty restrained by their officers from assaulting the *Arabs*, on account of the neglected state in which *his* temple, as *they* supposed, was suffered to remain. The officers of General *Baird's* army spoke highly of the accuracy of *Bruce's* observations; and the General himself assured us, that he considered *Great Britain* as indebted to *Bruce's* valuable Chart of the *Red Sea*, for the safety of the transports employed in conveying the *British* forces.

Examina-  
tion of an  
*Abyssinian* n  
concerning  
*Bruce's*  
Travels.

At this time there happened to arrive in *Cairo* an *Abyssinian* Dean, a negro, who had undertaken his immense journey for religious purposes, and then resided in the monastery belonging to the *Propaganda* Friars<sup>2</sup>. The author had been often engaged in noting, from this man's account of his country, some information respecting the state of Christianity in *Abyssinia*; and had purchased of him a manuscript copy of

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(1) It were to be wished that some officer belonging to the *Indian* army, who was present upon that occasion, would specify what particular figure the *Brahmins* conceived to be a representation of *Vishnu*.

(2) There are two monasteries in *Cairo*, one called the *Terra Sancta*, and the other the *Propaganda*, Monastery.