

*Lahore vid Multán, Ooch, Kirepore, Hyderabad and Tatta, to Kárúchi  
and the Ocean: By Mr. C. MASSON.*

No. 10.

There are two routes from Lahore to Multán, one used during the dry seasons, and the other, which is also the longest, made available in the wet season. Having traversed both in progress to and from Lahore, I shall proceed to make such observations as my recollection may furnish concerning them. In the dry season the route of Syed-walla and Commallea is taken, computed at 120 kos, being

to Syed-walla	40
to Commallea	40
to Multán	40
	<hr/>
	120

On leaving Lahore you proceed by Noa Kote, and keeping the river on your right hand you march twelve kos, where the river making a detour to the east is crossed and you take the road to Syed-walla, the river now flowing to your left. In this first march after leaving Noa Kote the country gently rises, and you see the stream winding in the plain beneath. Your elevated position gives the opportunity of beholding a most magnificent and extensive view of the valley of Ravee, which exhibits a fine scene of verdure and cultivation. Destitute of any striking features of mountain crest or foaming torrent, it possesses the charms of placid beauty and repose, and amid the mingled associations of thoughts to which it gives rise none was in my mind more prevalent than admiration of the sovereign whose protecting sway has enabled his subjects in a very few years to become prosperous, and even to change the face of nature. It were needless to observe, leaving so great a capital as Lahore, that numerous villages occur in this march, and a large one is seated on the northern or Lahore side of the Ravee at the point you cross it. You now *enchemin* to Syed-walla about 28 kos pass a rich, luxuriant, highly cultivated tract of country, interspersed with an abundance of villages, large and small. In most of these you observe the peculiar square brick-built towers of the Sikh chiefs of former days, and you may be able to appreciate the state of society among these petty lords or tyrants ere Runjit Sing's superior genius destroyed their authority. The *bér* tree (*Zizyphus jujuba*) is universal throughout this space, nor is it confined to the neighbourhood of villages. It attains so great a size, and so much sweetness, that I felt almost inclined to rank it with other fruit-trees. I cannot here forbear remarking how strongly the ancient accounts of the surprising fertility and population of the Punjáb appear confirmed at the present day. Nor is it less calculated to excite surprize how singularly the country has been able to recover in some degree, and that suddenly, from the desolation in which it had been plunged ever since the demise of Aurangzebe, both by the internal ravages of the independent Sikhs and the Afghán invaders. Syed-walla is a considerable walled town, with spacious and excellent bázár. Two or there hundred yards east of it is a sound fortress with trench. From hence to Lahore I must not omit to mention the very general cultivation of a plant called *bugglár*, and in Persian *nakoot*, with the seeds of which they feed horses, and of the flour make bread for themselves. The bread is perfectly sweet, but not white; I prefer wheat. The seeds are also eaten parched and sold in every bázár. From Syed-walla the road leads through a delightful country (although not with exactly the same clusters of villages) until you arrive again at the Ravee, and for a considerable distance you trace a parallel course. The high road runs a little distance from the river, but you may follow a secondary path immediately on its banks which are embellished with groves of date trees, in which you meet at intervals with wells shaded by the branching peepul. The opposite bank is decorated in the same manner

and the view upon the river on either side is extremely fine. You again cross it at a spot perhaps 30 kos from Syed-walla, after which the country is not so cultivated or populous, and jungle commences ten kos; four or five villages being passed on the road, brings you to Commallea, a town with bázár. It appears a very ancient town, and built with burnt bricks. Here is a small fort, the residence of the Sikh Chief, who has a good garden. From hence to Multán 40 kos, villages are few generally speaking, but many wells are occasionally met with where the cultivator or owner of cattle fixes his abode, and here the traveller may obtain liberty to pass the night. This tract is inhabited by a tribe called Jats, who have but an indifferent character, nor is it deemed prudent for single travellers to pass. I did so, and escaped unhurt or unmolested. But I believe on one occasion the display of firmness prevented an attack. On approaching Multán, and at a distance from it of about three miles to the east of the road, is a considerable mud fort; a little farther on a large building, alone on the desert plain, attracts attention with its lofty minarets, and proves to be an ancient masjid. Soon after this you have a view of the city which you enter passing over the ruins which surround it. This road I travelled in the month of April coming from Sind, and before noticing Multán particularly will describe, as well as I can, the other route adopted in the wet seasons, and which I passed in the month of August. The first march is the same as in the former route to the banks of the river, when instead of crossing you trace a course more or less parallel with its eastern bank. In this route for four or five marches the country may be called populous, although not so much so as on the other side of the river, villages being found generally at short distances, and some of them large; one of them, Santghurra, had a fine Sikh fort, and occurred in the third or fourth march. In this part of the country the villages are principally occupied by Sikhs, and the greater portion of it being pasture land of excellent herbage, is favourable to the rearing of horses, to which they pay much attention. I suspect that with little exception the villages seldom extended beyond the line of our march and that on the eastern side spread a thick and intense jungle, perhaps to the border of the Sutledge. We must have marched at least seven marches when we arrived at a small place where there was a high dilapidated fort, a small pond or lake of water, and a detached eminence to the west surmounted with ruined edifices. This place had some fame for sanctity among the Mussulmans on account of some fakeer who had resided here in recent days, and we were shown an immense circular stone perforated with a hole, which it was said served the saint for a bangle. He appears to have been a man of depraved appetite as to food, which consisted, say his Moslem admirers, in dirt. This spot however is of higher importance as connected with a tradition of the existence of a city here at a very remote period which was destroyed in a peculiar manner by the immediate orders of Heaven in consequence of the sins in which the inhabitants indulged. On other eminences south of the present fort and village which lie in the plain are the evident traces of former buildings, and fragments of bricks, &c., are scattered around in all quarters and for great distances. From the eminences you have an extensive view of the country on either side; to the west, after a short distance, open the course of the Ravee distinguished but the stream not visible; to the east intricate jungle as far as the eye can reach. The grass at this village was particularly luxuriant. We ascended the latter-mentioned eminences to pass the night that we might avoid a species of stinging fly called mutchar, which we were told was still troublesome, but our precautions were vain, the horses of our party were absolutely mad, and we were compelled to march the night. (I may here note that I was in company with a Sikh chief and a party of 100 horse.) Towards two or three o'clock we arrived at the small village of Chicha Wutnee, and again saw, not I believe the Ravee but a large branch of it. We found a large boat here, and in the evening were rowed up and down the river; the Sikh Sirdár had his band of musicians and singing men. From Chicha Wutnee made a long march, I believe 15 kos, in which once came in contact with the stream. Another day's march

brought us in a line with and about a mile from Tooloomba, a large fortified town. Near our encampment was the ruin of a fort, the walls immensely high and thick, and the inner dispositions alike massy and surprising. Its antiquity is said to be very great, and undoubtedly was a wonderful edifice. The country the last two or three days was absolutely an unproductive jungle; hence to Multán four days' march. The jungle is not so thick and the country is inhabited principally by men who erect temporary villages and keep large number of cows paying to the Government a duty of one rupee per head annually for the privilege of grazing. The soil is sandy, and as you approach Multán, the villages (that is, stationary ones,) commence. In each of these is the distinguishing boorj or tower. The distance of this road may be 180 kos, but it is perfectly dry and convenient. The latter part is unsafe for the individual. I think we made it in 14 marches. Multán has a good effect in the distance, which it loses on our near approach. It is walled in, and its bázár, narrow and extensive, exhibits but little of that bustle or activity which might be expected in a city of so much reputed commerce. The citadel, if not a place of extreme strength, is one on which more attention seems to have been bestowed than I have observed in any fortress not constructed by European engineers. It is well secured by a deep trench neatly faced on its sides by masonry, and the defences of the entrance appear to much advantage. This fort comprises the only buildings worth seeing in the town, the battered palace of the last independent Chief and Zeárats, the fine and lofty gomuts or domes of which are the principal ornaments of Multán. Although miserably decreased in trade since it fell into the hands of the Sikhs, its bázár continues well supplied. There are numerous bankers, and many manufactures are carried on, particularly printing of coarse linens, &c. It also still supplies a portion of the cloth which the annual caravans carry into the countries west of the Indus. The ruins in the vicinity are very extensive, particularly to the south; and gardens, some of them very large, abound well stocked with fruit-trees, particularly mangoes and oranges. On the north stands the well preserved Zeárat of the celebrated Shummuz Tabreez, who was, agreeably to the tradition here, skinned alive. To a malediction of this personage the excessive heat of Multán is attributed, and the sun, it is asserted, is nearer to it than to any other place. Shummuz in his agony calling upon that orb to revenge him, claiming an affinity at least in name, when it obligingly quitted its sphere and approached the unfortunate town. The articles of consumption as flour, rice, sugar, &c., are very plentiful and cheap at Multán. It lies two or three miles east of the Ravee, where there is what is termed a bandar or port, or in this instance expressive of a boat station, whence it has a communication with the Indus, and consequently with the sea. This however is seldom used, there being little or no trade from Lahore to Multán. Also in the wet season there is a passage on the Ravee, but I never heard of its employment, but for the expedition of troops. Multán at the period of its capture by the Sikhs was in the hands of Mozuffer Khán (Pathán) with the assumed title of Naváb. Runjit Sing had made two unsuccessful attempts on the town, but had devastated the country. The third time of his approach, having made a feint to attack Khanghur, a fortress 20 kos distant, the Pathán Chief threw the better part of his troops into it when the Sikhs countermarched and invested Multán. The defence was very obstinate, and on the final assault Mozuffer Khán lost his life and his sovereignty together, while his daughter, celebrated for piety and learning, fell over a heap of Sikhs she herself had slain. At present a Brahmin Soand Mull resides here as governor for the king with the title of Soobáhdár. He has under his orders one Gunder Sing commanding 800 troops. The peasantry express themselves indulgently used, and consider themselves leniently taxed at one-third of the produce of their lands. From Multán proceeding southerly 20 kos the country dry with jungle and occasional villages arrive at Sujáhbád, a large fortified town, from

its lofty and ancient battlements more picturesque than Multán. Here is an admirable bázár, I thought in nowise inferior to that of the latter city. I question also if Multán can much surpass it in size. It has a garrison and a few guns mounted. Near this place are some very large gardens, particularly one bearing the name of Mozuffer Khán. There is a very large cultivation of sugarcane here, extending 2 or 3 kos from the town; hence the road leading easterly and again southerly conducts to Peer Jallálpore, the distance of 18 kos, and the intermediate space diversified for the first 5 or 6 kos; good cultivation for 4 or 5, grass jungles, and then a sandy jungle; reaching the town a manufacture of saltpetro is passed. Peer Jallálpore is a good town held by the Sikhs with sufficient bázár. It derives its destination of Peer Jallálpore from containing the tomb of some Mussalmán saint, a handsome erection standing north on entering the town; it is covered with painted tiles, has its minarets, and a fine dome. There is another large village called Chota or Little Jallálpore in the direction between this place and Sujáhbád, and singularly, although surrounded by Sikh territory, belongs to the Khán of Bháwalpore. Travellers coming from Sujáhbád must be particular in asking for Peer Jallálpore, otherwise they may be directed (as I was) to the other Jallálpore, which is out of the direct road, but not seriously. From Jallálpore about half a mile we arrive at a large cut or arm of some river which was fordable in April, wading up to the chin, and not so in September or perhaps October. A boat is stationed here. This water forms the boundary of the Sikh and Bháwalpore territories. A mile south of it a village distinguished by its groves of date trees, as I should have noted, is Peer Jallálpore. From this village viewing on all sides the traces of villages and cultivation, arrive on the banks of the Gurrar river, skirting which about a kos and a half cross it at a ferry and a course of about 8 kos conducts you to the towns of Ooch embosomed in an immense assemblage of date trees. There are now two Ooches seated contiguous and in the same line, the eastern one is small, but contains a celebrated Zeárat, a building, very old, large and handsome. The other Ooch is termed Peer-ki Ooch, the revenue being applied to the benefit of Peer Nusserdeen, who resides here. You enter this town indeed by gates, but there are no walls. It is wonderfully ancient, and the bázár, covered so as to exclude the solar rays, is very extensive. I was surprised to notice that the bulk of the shopkeepers were sellers of sweetmeats, but an acquaintance and relish for dainties might perhaps have been expected in the episcopal city of a powerful Mussalmán prelate. South of these two towns lie the immense ruins of former periods, and the prodigious number of date trees and venerable peepals prove the fact of the extent of the ancient city and also the Hindu faith of its inhabitants. Many of the buildings are at this time in that state that a very little expense might render them habitable—\* so solid was their structure; and they are all of them in the very best style of Hindu architecture. A great number of wells are interspersed among the ruins, some of them still worked. Although aware that the grounds I was traversing had been rendered classical by the expeditions of Alexander, and also that I had seen at Multán, the capital of Malli, my knowledge did not enable me to divine that in the ruins at Ooch I beheld those of the capital of the Oxydranee, or their interest would have been increased in a high degree. Leaving Ooch, its antiquities, and sacred groves, we immediately pass Mogul-ka-Shar, a little ruined hamlet so called from a Mogal colony that formerly settled here, and 3 short kos bring us to Ramkully, also evidently an ancient place. Here are large remains of burnt brick buildings and those of a very substantial mud fort; this appears to have been destroyed in late

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\* Writing this, reminds me of the existence of ancient buildings at Jallálpore which sufficiently attest its antiquity, not so extensive as those of Ooch; its prosperous period must be carried to the same era, the same style prevailing in the buildings.



years by the first Bháwal Khán, grandfather of the present Chief of Bháwalpore. The traditions of the natives authenticate the antiquity and former opulence and extent of Ramkully. At present it may have a dozen houses inhabited. Among them is a Hindu dealer. It has numerous scattered date trees about it, the indubitable evidences in these countries of fertility of soil, population, and antiquity. From Ramkully we pass 2 or 3 kos through fine pasture lands with many small villages, then pass a tract of sandy jungle with low bushes, and four or five kos bring us to a small but apparently commercial little town called Chunny Khan-ka-Kote; hence 4 kos through alternate jungle and cultivation to a small fordable stream, which is crossed, and you pass to Allahabad, a town distinguished by its groves of trees at some distance. From Ooch to Allahabad by this route is computed 14 kos. There is another southerly road leading from Ooch for a long distance pacing the bank of a broad water-course, but generally dry (in October). In this passage there are numerous villages and extensive cultivation. At 6 kos from Allahabad is a very large village and 2 kos further a good town with bázár called Googujerwalla; 4 kos from hence is Allahabad. This is a pleasantly situated town with bázár. It is 20 kos west of Ahmedpore, the head-quarters of the Bháwalpore Khán's forces, and 40 koses from Bhawalpore, the capital. From Allahabad there is a distance of 20 kos to Khánpore, one of the most commercial towns in the state. The country all this road is fine and populous, especially to the left. To the right extends sandy jungles, which terminate in the absolute desert of Jeselnere. The neighbourhood of Khánpore is famous for indigo and rice; the quantity, however, is more surprizing than the quality. From Khánpore passing 4 or 5 kos we pass into a less cultivated country, but containing villages at reasonable distances. A course of 40 kos leads to Chota Ahmedpore, having passed numerous large and small hamlets and the town of Nushara. Ahmedpore had once a wall, and in the judgment of those people may be supposed to have one still, but it is useless in point of defence. It has also a new erection, which may be called the citadel; the bázár is comparatively good, and the town is garrisoned with a regiment of 350 infantry and provided with six pieces of ordnance, it being the frontier post on the side of Sind. Five kos from Ahmedpore is the castle of Fazilpore with a garrison of 100 men. This is a massive structure with lofty walls and huge bastions, but gradually crumbling into decay. East of it is at all times a large deposit of water, and at the period of the inundations of the Indus it becomes with its dependent small hamlet entirely isolated. Here formerly stood a very large town called also Fazilpore. Its walls, 360 in number, are still in the jungle, but scarcely another vestige of its existence is observable. It was destroyed by the Indus but a few years since, and a garden of fruit trees north of the present fort was in being but four years since. This also has been destroyed, and a solitary date tree remains in evidence of the fact. I did not before know that fresh water as well as salt was fatal to trees. The inundations of the Indus have sensibly increased latterly, and in these parts so completely is the country covered with water that at certain periods the communication with Khánpore is kept up through the medium of boats, Khánpore being from the banks of the Indus 57 kos. The high road into Sind leads from Chota Ahmedpore to Subseldáh Kote, a distance of 7 kos through jungle. But it may be as well before entering Sind to make a few observations on the country we are about to leave. Bháwalpore, or the country known by that name, is one of considerable dimensions; for instance, a line drawn from Goodiana, the frontier on the Putteeála side, to Fazilpore, the frontier post on the Sind quarter, produces about 300 miles direct distance, and another from the Bikkáneer frontier to Deyráh Gházie Khán furnishes about 200 miles, the former line being from the north-eastern to the south-western extremity, and the latter from the north-western to the south-eastern extremity. Of this extent of country there are some marked distinctions as to soil, character, and produce. The portion leading to Goodiana from the capital I have not seen but have heard it spoken of in glowing terms as to fertility and

population: these it would seem entitled to possess, as its fertility would be secured by its bordering on the Gurráh river, and fertility would induce population; indeed I suspect this portion to yield to no other in the state for natural advantages. Immediately east and south-east of Bháwalpore (I mean the city) is the desert, the northern part of what is termed the great desert of Sind. This is of course but little productive although containing amongst others the forts and towns of Mozghur, Mooroot and Pooleráh. Delore, a fortress 18 kos south-east of Ahmedpore, is the spot where the treasures of the Khán are kept, and where in fact he resides a good deal. In the line from Ooch to Deyráh Ghází Khán there is a good quantity of jungle, but nevertheless a large number of villages, seven or eight towns, and much cultivation even of sugarcane. From the capital to Khánpore the cultivation is good although confined to the south by the sandy jungle, and from Khánpore to Ahmedpore (Chota) the face of the country changes and becomes more adapted for grazing owing to the greater moisture. It is in the immediate centre of the country that the most luxuriance prevails, including the districts of Ooch. Here are produced in great quantities rice, wheat, and indigo, all of which are largely exported. The Bháwalpore country is at once one of the most productive and cheapest in the world. The seasons here are divided into two only, the hot and the cold; but in the cold during the day the heat is very oppressive. It seldom or never rains. This deficiency is in nowise felt in respect of the cultivation, there not being any part of the country exempt from the operation of the inundations of the Indus or those of the tributary Punjáb streams. Vegetables of numerous kinds are very plentiful, as are some fruits as mangoes, plantains, oranges, pomegranates, &c. There are also dates for which Deyráh Ghází Khán is particularly famous, and they are so plentiful that they are retailed at one pice the puckah ser or lb. The reigning prince of Bhawalpore is of a tribe called Daud-pootre, signifying the sons of David. They formerly lived about Shikárpore, but becoming numerous and perhaps refractory, they were expelled that territory, and passing the Indus possessed themselves of the country they found, where they established separate independent states, and many of them built towns to which they gave their respective names; hence Bháwalpore, the town of Bháwal, Ahmedpore, the town of Ahmed, Fazilpore, the town of Fazil, and Subseldáh Kote, the fort of Subsel. I know not how long they may have continued in this state; but Bháwal Khán, the grandfather of the present Khán, reduced them all, and made himself absolute. He died full of years and glory, and was succeeded by his son Saodut Khán, who, after acknowledging the supremacy of Runjit Sing and consenting to pay a tribute of nine lákhs of rupees annually, died, and was succeeded by his son, the present Bháwal Khán; this is a young man of very prepossessing appearance, and I believe is generally popular. He has a reputation for possessing a manly spirit, but he is clogged by an all-powerful minister, who, it is supposed, is sold to the Sikhs; this man's name is Yákub Mahomed. A Hindu named Mooti Rám is his minister of finance, and one Mahomed Khán, a kind of superintendent and paymaster to the forces, who, when they go on service, are generally under the orders of Yákub Mahomed. The troops consist of 7 Regiments of Infantry at 350 men each, amounting to 2,450 men. Each regiment has 6 guns attached, which may suppose 400 Artillerymen. He has besides foot companies of 50 men, 100 men, 200 men, &c., all Patháns and Rohillás, under their immediate officers, who may have 1, 2, 3 or more flags, as the case may be. Such sort of troops may be estimated at 1,000. He has moreover his horse, which I cannot think to be more than 3,000 men, making a total of 7,000 men, the native accounts say 14,000, but I never could ascertain where the men were. The annual revenue to the state is computed at 18 lákhs of rupees, one-half of which is paid to the Sikhs, from whom the Khán rents the territory of Deyráh Ghází Khán for 3 lákhs of rupees. It is said by this he gains two lákhs.

Arrived at Subseldáh Kote, which has been noted, belonging at present to Sind and its frontier station. This town was wrested from the Bháwalpore sway in the time of Sohdat Khán. It is of good size and walled in; has 3 guns mounted on the ramparts. The bázár is comparatively good. From this place there are two routes to Kirepore, an easterly one followed generally in the dry season, and a westerly one tracing for the latter part of it the Indus, or rather a branch of it. I have marched both and would prefer the western route at any time. In some parts they are blended, as Meerpore and Muttayleh are visited in both roads. On the western the country is more cultivated and consequently open; on the eastern there is continual jungle and liability to err in the direction from the multiplicity of small paths. Recommending the river route, in which I do not remember the names of places; I give the eastern one, which I have preserved:—

Subseldáh Koto.					Kos	
Kirepore	...	...	...	...	10	Good town and bázár.
Meerpore	...	...	.	...	4	Do. do.
Muttayleh	...	...	..	...	10	Small do
Sultánpore	...	...	...	.	8	Large village do.
Doober	...	...	..	...	14	Very small town do
Roree...	...	..	...	...	8	Large town do
					—	
					54	Kos.
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In the route here noticed there is nothing particular to be noted in the road, the country being of the same jungle description, intersected by numerous water-courses. The pasture is good, and large numbers of buffaloes are everywhere seen. Wild hogs are particularly numerous. Both routes united at Roree, distant 8 kos from Kirepore. Here we find on a rock in the river the fortress of Bucker, which is supposed to have been the Soghodi of Alexander's historians. I fancy of the local identity there may be no doubt, but I would suggest that the term be transferred to the town of Roree, the fortress being a comparatively recent erection of the Emperors of Hindustán; nor is the surface of the rock so extensive as to have furnished space for a large city, which we must suppose the capital of the Soghodi to have been. That Roree was once of immense extent is evident from the ruins of very large buildings spread over the rocky eminences behind the present town. Among these are some very curious columns. The same species of ruins and columns are scattered over the opposite bank of the river, whence we may suppose the city of the Soghodi occupied the two sides; the deserted town of Sucker at this day remains in evidence. As in no map I have seen, not even in the recent map of India, is any notice taken of Roree, nor does its existence seem to have been known to Dr. Vicent, I will from memory trace a representation of the relative situation of it, Bucker and Sucker. This spot, which appears never to have been visited by Europeans, is, I think, the most remarkable place of Sind, as it is decidedly the most picturesque.

The fortress of Bucker stands on a rocky island, the walls tracing the very skirts. It is of no consequence as a fort, being entirely commanded by the heights and detached hills; exhibiting a large extent of wall, it has an imposing appearance, and assists the general effect of the beautiful scenery at Roree with its intended battlements. The Zeárats I have noted are truly splendid from their gorgeous fronts covered with painted tiles of the most brilliant colours. As buildings, they are extensive, lofty, and well arranged. Every traveller will be delighted at Roree; I not only stayed there two days on my first visit, but could not forbear going back from Kirepore. Leaving Roree we pass through a wilderness of date trees and gardens for perhaps 3 kos. Another kos brings you to the small and pleasant town of Bha, thence 4 kos to Kirepore. This place originally intended merely as cantonments has gradually increased in importance, and has become the capital and residence of Meer

Shrob, the Chief, or as he is called the Meer of this part of the country. The bázár is considerable as to size, but miserably built. The residence of the Meer is in the centre of the bázár. We might wonder why a prince possessing so magnificent an abode as Bucker should be content to live in the centre of the Kirepore bázár; but we cease to be so when we learn that his presence is necessary for the purposes of plunder and extortion on those engaged in trade of which Kirepore is the emporium. Meer Shrob's territory extends southerly, and on the eastern side of the Indus for about twenty kos; he also takes a third of the revenue of Shikárpore. He has given large portions of his country to his sons—the eldest Meer Rustom, the second Meer Mobarrak. Meer Shrob is very old and infirm; his tyrannies and exactions have made him very unpopular. He is at all times obedient to the princes of Hyderabad, to whom he is related; they do not however interfere in the internal administration of his country. I do not know the exact revenue of this country nor the number of troops, but all questions of this nature may be referred to the calculations of Hyderabad, which suppose for all Sind one crore of rupees revenue, about 20,000 troops kept on foot, whether at Hyderabad, Loll Khonnor, Kirepore, Shikárpore, &c., of which 4,000 are horse; guns without scarcity, but few mounted. The troops of Sind may be increased by a levy *en masse* to 80,000 men, the greater part without matchlocks. From Kirepore to Hyderabad is estimated 100 kos. I have not traversed this road, but have no doubt of its being a convenient one, with plenty of towns and cultivation. If it be wished to sail down the river to Hyderabad, you must, on leaving Kirepore, proceed to Loll Khonnor, 16 kos. At 12 kos you gain the river and 4 kos further the town of Loll Khonnor, situated on a cut apparently, which joins the Indus to the Aral River, a river which flows through Beluchistán. Loll Khonnor is 21 kos from Shikárpore, a populous and commercial town under the Government of Willea Mahomed, a Beluchi, who rules here absolutely with the title of Vizier of Sind; his authority extends half the distance to Shikárpore northerly, and southerly if we include a little district under his brother to within 4 kos of Sehván, or 36 kos distance. This man is very popular and exercises no kind of oppression. Sailing down the river 40 kos, or half distance between Loll Khonnor and Hyderabad we arrive at Sehván, a place of considerable note among Mussulmáns as containing the tomb of Loll Sháh Abbás, but more important as being the presumed capital of the Musikani. The traveller by land might easily see it, although it is seated on the opposite and western bank of the river, in fact a kos from it, by expressing a wish to visit the Ziarut of Loll Sháh Abbás, which would be deemed a very sufficient reason for deviating from the road and obviate any suspicion. The present town is small, as is the bázár, but the houses are large, and the whole has evidently an antique appearance. Another 40 kos brings you to Hyderabad, or rather at its part, if I may use the expression, a small village on the eastern bank, from which the city lies east 2 kos. It is built on a small elevation of a calcareous kind of stone running at first north and south. In this direction the city is built. It then takes a sweep in the direction of the river, on which are situated the tombs of Goolám Sháh Koloro, Meer Kurmalli and others of the past and present reigning families. The city is very mean, the bázár occupies one long street, that is, the entire length of the town, and a great deal of commerce is evidently carried on. The fort, built at the head of the city, is a large irregular building, its walls conforming to the irregularities of the eminence on which they stand; they are very high, and the whole fort is a handsome erection. It is built of burnt bricks. Here the several Meers have their residences, and strangers are not permitted to enter. The last sole prince of Sind was Koloro of Abyssinian extraction; he was slain by three of his Sirdars—Futtehalli, Kurmalli and Moradalli. These, who were brothers, usurped the authority and assumed the title of Meer. The two former are dead; the latter is still living. There are now at Hyderabad five Meers, viz., Moradalli, his son, Nusseer Khán, Meer Sohdat, and Meer Mahomed, I believe sons of Futtehalli and Meer Taarah—I rather think of the ancient family of Kalhora. Meer Moradalli



may be said to govern the country. He is utterly detested, and in no country perhaps is oppression more general than in Sind; but I never heard of any cruelties, tortures or other amusements of some tyrants. The revenue I have already stated at one crore rupees and the troops at 20,000. From Hyderabad to Tatta 24 miles. If you pass by water you land 4 kos distant from it, seeing half way on the western shore the Beloché town of Rahmut, and farther on the eastern Almah-ka-Kote. If you travel by land you cross the river at once to Kotelie on the western bank which is traced the whole distance. Tatta, the Puttala of the Greeks, is still in its decay; an evidence of its former extent and the solidity of its ancient edifices attest the wealth and magnificence of its inhabitants in those periods. The elevations west of it are covered with the most superb tombs, which, as they are Mussulmán, prove the opulence of this city at no very remote period. Indeed until the last fifteen years it was the grand mart of cotton linen, but was ruined on the recent introduction of the superior British manufactures. Tatta is pleasantly situated in a country naturally fertile, and is very complaisantly spoken of by the natives of Sind, particularly the Hindus, who are aware of its antiquity. From Tatta we pass four kos partly over a tableland gained on ascent of the elevation to the west, which gradually declines into the plain on which we find the small town of Gujer. Hence proceed through a sandy jungle and pass immense deposits of rain, and some hills are approached which abound in the most curious remains of imbedded shells. Then arrive at a small hollow in which flows a stream of salt water, and ascending the circumscribing sandy jungle enter the town of Garah. There were three doongees in this water which has a communication with Karáchi. From Garah we proceed over a sandy, then a hilly country, in which no village occurs for 15 kos, after which 5 kos a troublesome march, in some places over sand, leads to Karáchi, where we have the pleasure to behold the ocean. Karáchi, though not a large town, is one of much trade. The bázár is small but good. The town is surrounded with a wall and strengthened by bastions and has a few guns mounted. The suburbs are very extensive, inhabited by fishermen and those connected with the shipping. Karáchi has 100 vessels of all sizes belonging to its harbour, and its doongees venture to Muskat, Bombay, Daman and Calicut. Karáchi harbour cannot I believe be entered by large ships, but it is evidently very commodious for the small craft belonging to it, and it is very spacious, extending about two miles inwards, the distance of the town from the mouth of the harbour. On the right going out is a high hill on the summit of which Meer Moradalli has erected a fort mounting many guns, and on the sands beneath a little to the right is a circular tower with fort, both works intended to defend the entrance. On the left going it is a sand-bank, dry at low water, and immediately beyond five detached rocks. Karáchi enjoys a very cool climate, and may claim some little notice as being the Krokala of Nearchus, and the first harbour in the Indian seas visited by a European fleet:—

				Kos
Lahore to Multán	...	...	...	120
Multán to Ooch	.	..	...	53
Ooch to Ahmedpore	...	...	.	74
Ahmedpore to Kirepur	...	...	..	57
Kirepur to Hyderabad	...	...	...	100
Hyderabad to Karáchi...	...	...	...	56

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460 = 690 miles from Lahore to the sea.

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(A True Copy.)

(Signed) D. WILSON,  
Resident, Persian Gulf.

**NARRATIVE OF A JOURNEY**

**FROM**

**THE TOWER OF BA-L-HAFF, ON THE SOUTHERN COAST  
OF ARABIA,**

**TO THE**

**RUINS OF NAKAB-AL-HAJAR,**

**1835.**



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FROM  
THE TOWER OF BA-'L-HAFF, ON THE SOUTHERN COAST  
OF ARABIA,  
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RUINS OF NAKAB-AL-HAJAR, IN APRIL 1835.

BY LIEUTENANT WELLSTED, INDIAN NAVY.

During the progress of the survey of the south coast of Arabia, by the East India Company's surveying vessel the *Palinurus*, while near the tower called BA-'l-haff, on the sandy cape of Ras-ul-Aseidà, in lat.  $13^{\circ} 57'$  north, long.  $46\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$  east nearly, the Bedowins brought us intelligence that some extensive ruins, which they described as being erected by infidels, and of great antiquity, were to be found at some distance from the coast.

I was in consequence most anxious to visit them, but the several days we remained passed away bringing nothing but empty promises on the part of Hâmed\* (the officer in charge of the tower,) to procure us camels and guides; and at length, in the prosecution of her survey, the ship sailed to the westward.

On the morning of her departure, April 29th, 1835, some hopes were held out to me that if I remained, camels would be procured in the course of the day, to convey us to some inscriptions, but a few hours' distance from the beach; and in this expectation I remained behind with Mr. Cruttenden, a midshipman of the *Palinurus*, and one of the ship's boats.

Towards noon the camels were brought, and I was then somewhat surprised to hear, after much wrangling among themselves, the Bedowins decline proceeding to the inscriptions, but express their readiness to accompany me to the ruins I had before been so desirous of visiting. For this I was then unprepared; I had with me no presents for the Sheikhs of the different villages through which I had to pass, and only a small sum of money; but what (as regarded our personal safety) was of more moment, Hâmed, who had before promised to accompany me, declined (on the plea of sickness) now to do so.

It was, however, an opportunity of seeing the country not to be lost, and I determined at once to place myself under their protection, and proceed with them. Accordingly, I dispatched my boat to the vessel with an intimation to the commander that I hoped at the expiration of three days, to be at the village of 'Ain, on the sea-coast, when he could then send a boat for me.

Having filled our water skins at 3 P.M., accompanied by an ill-looking fellow (styling himself the brother of Hâmed), and another Bedowin, we mounted our camels and set forward.

The road after leaving BA-'l-haff extends along the shore to the westward. On the beach we saw a great variety of shells; among them I noticed (as the most common) the *Pinna fragilis*, the *Solen*, the *Voluta musica*, and several varieties of *Olivæ*; fragments of red tubular coral, and the branch kind of the white, were also very numerous.

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\* An abbreviation for Ahmed or Mohammed.—F. S.



Under a dark barn-shaped hill, which we passed to the right, our guides pointed out the remains of an old tower, but as we were told there were no inscriptions, and as its appearance from the ship indicated its being of Arab construction, we did not stay to examine it.

At 4 h. 50 m. we passed a small fishing village called Jilleh, consisting of about twenty huts rudely constructed with the branches of the date palm. Along the beach above high-water mark, the fishermen had hauled up their boats, where they are always (unless required for use) permitted to remain.

In their construction they differ in no respect from those which I have described in other parts of the coast.

At 7 h. 20 m. we left the coast, and wound our way between a broad belt of low sand-hills, until 8 h. 30 m., when we halted for about two hours, about three miles from the village of 'Ain Jowári, to which one of our guides was dispatched, in order to secure a supply of dates, the only food they cared to provide themselves with. Directly he returned we again mounted. At 11 h. the loud and deep barking of some dogs announced to us that we were passing the village of 'Ain Abú Mabúth,\* but we saw nothing of the inhabitants, and at 1 h. a.m. we halted for the night.

We were now in the territories of the Diyabí Bedowins, who, from their fierce and predatory habits, are held in much dread by the surrounding tribes. Small parties while crossing this tract, are not unfrequently cut off,—and we were therefore cautioned by our guides to keep a good look-out for their approach. But after spreading our boat cloaks in the sand, we were little annoyed by any apprehensions of this nature, and slept there very soundly until the following morning, Thursday, April 30th.

The Bedowins called us at an early hour, and after partaking of some coffee which they had prepared, we shook the sand (in which during the night we had been nearly buried) from our clothes, and at 5 a.m. at a slow pace we again proceeded on our journey.

At 7 h. we ascended a ledge about 400 feet in elevation, from the summit of which, we obtained an extensive but dreary view of the surrounding country. Our route lay along a broad valley, either side being formed by the roots or skirts of a lofty range of mountains. As these extend to the northward they gradually approach each other, and the valley there assumes the aspect of a narrow deep defile. But on the other hand, the space between our present station and the sea gradually widens, and is crossed by a barrier about thirty miles in width, forming a waste of low sandy hillocks;—so loosely is the soil here piled that the Bedowins assure me that they change their outline, and even shift their position with the prevailing storms. How such enormous masses of moving sand, some of which are based on extensive tracts of indurated clay, could in their present situation become thus heaped together, affords an object of curious inquiry. They rise in sharp ridges, and are all of a horse-shoe form, their convex side to seaward.† Our camels found the utmost difficulty in crossing them, and the Bedowins were so distressed that we were obliged to halt repeatedly for them. The quantity of water they drank was enormous. I observed on one occasion a party of four or five finish a skin holding as many gallons.

At 8 h. we found the sun so oppressive that the Bedowins halted in a shallow valley under the shade of some stunted tamarisk trees. Their scanty foliage would however have afforded

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So pronounced, but probably 'Ain Abú Ma'bad.—F. S.

† The same formation of sand-hills was found by Pottinger in Belúchistan, and by Dr. Meyen in 1831, in the Pampa grande de Arequipa.—E.

us but slight shelter from the burning heat of the sun's rays, if our guides had not with their daggers dug up or cut off the roots and lower branches, and placed them at the top of the tree. But having done so, they quietly took possession of the most shady spots, and left us to shift the best way we could. Although we were not long in availing ourselves of the practical lesson they had taught us, I began to be far from pleased with their churlish behaviour. Every approach I made towards a good understanding was met by the most ungracious and repulsive return.

They now held frequent conversations with each other apart, of which it was evident we were made the subject,—and they not only refused fire-wood or water, in other quantities than they considered sufficient, but they watched our movements so closely, that I found it, for a time, impossible to take either notes or sketches.

I have no wish to drag forward anticipated dangers, but it was impossible but that I should feel if these men played us false, our situation must have been a critical one. I know that the natives of this district were reported to be especially hostile to those of any other creed than their own, and that they had some years ago (by seducing them with promises from the beach) cut off the whole of a boat's crew of the only vessel that had previously touched on their coast, and I could not but attribute to myself some degree of rashness, in thus venturing with no better pledge, than their fidelity, for our safety. There was however but little time for such reflections, and without evincing in my manner any change, or mistrust, I determined to watch their conduct narrowly, and to lose sight of nothing which might be turned to our advantage.

At 10 h. 30 m. continued our journey on the same sandy mounts as before. At 1 h. 30 m. we passed a sandstone hill called Jebel Māsīnah. The upper part of this eminence forms a narrow ridge presenting an appearance so nearly resembling ruins, that it was not until our subsequent visit to them that we were convinced to the contrary. We had now left the sandy mounts and were crossing over table ridges elevated about 200 feet from the plains below, and intersected by numerous valleys, the beds of former torrents, which had escaped from the mountains on either hand. The surface of the hills was strewn with various sized fragments of quartz and jasper, several of which exhibited a very pleasing variety of colours.

In the valleys the only rocks we found were a few rounded masses of primitive cream-coloured limestone. Placing the existence of these in conjunction with the appearance of the mountain on either side, I have no hesitation in pronouncing them to be of this formation—which is indeed the predominant rock along the whole southern coast of Arabia.

A few stunted acacias now first made their appearance, which continued to increase in size as we advanced.

At 4 p.m. we descended into Wādī Meifāh, and halted near a well of good light water. The change which a few draughts produced in the before drooping appearance of our camels, was most extraordinary. Before we arrived here, they were stumbling and staggering at every step; they breathed quick and audibly, and were evidently nearly knocked up—but directly they arrived near the water, they approached it at a round pace, and appeared to imbibe renovated vigour with every draught. So that browsing for an hour on the tender shoots of the trees around they left as fresh as when we first started from the sea-coast, notwithstanding the excessive heat of the day, and the heavy nature of the road.

It may appear strange that these animals should have been so much distressed in crossing a tract of only forty miles. Camels however differ in Arabia, in point of strength and speed, more than is generally supposed. These with us at present bore about the same resemblance to those on which I journeyed from 'Aden to Lāhejī, as a first-rate hunter would be a post-horse in England.

During the time we remained here, an Arab brought several fine bullocks to water. They have the hump which we observe in those of India, and to which in size, the stunted growth of their horns, and their light colour, they bear otherwise a great resemblance.

Arák trees are here very numerous, but they are taller, larger, and seem a different species to those found on the sea-coast. The camels appear very fond of those we found here, but unless pressed by hunger, they, never feed on the latter.

The arák tree\* is common to Arabia, to Abyssinia, and to Nubia; is found in many places along the shores of the Red Sea,—and the southern coast of Socotra abounds with it. Its colour is of a lively green, and at certain seasons it sends forth a most fragrant odour. The Arabs make tooth-brushes of the smaller branches which they take to Mecca and other parts of the East for sale.

Tamarisk and acacia trees are also very numerous, and the whole at this period were sprouting forth young branches, and their verdant appearance, after crossing over such a dreary waste of burning sand, was an inexpressible relief to the eye.

At 5 P.M. we again mounted our camels,—our route continued in a west-north-westerly direction along the valley. It is about one and a half mile in width; the bank on either side, and the ground over which we were passing, afford abundant evidence of a powerful stream, having but a short time previous passed along it.

The country also begins to assume a far different aspect. Numerous hamlets, interspersed amidst extensive date groves, verdant fields of jowári, and herds of sleek cattle, show themselves in every direction,—and we now for the first time since leaving the sea-shore fell in with parties of inhabitants. Astonishment was depicted on the countenance of every person we met, but as we did not halt, they had no opportunity of gratifying their curiosity by gazing for any length of time on us. But to compensate for such a disappointment, one of our party remained behind, to communicate what he knew of us. In answer to the usual queries, who we were? whether we were Musselmans? and what was the nature of our business here? his reply was, that we were Káfirs going to Nakab al Hajar in order to visit, and seek for treasure. Others he gratified with the intelligence that we arrived here, to examine and report on their country, which the Káfirs were desirous of obtaining possession of. In vain I endeavoured to impose silence on him, he laughed outright at my expostulation; while our guides, either disliking to be seen in our company, or having some business of their own, left us the instant we arrived near the village.

They returned shortly after sun-set, and we were in the act of halting near to a small hamlet, when the inhabitants sent a message to them, requesting they would remove us from the vicinity of their habitations. Remonstrances or resistance (except on the part of our guides, who remained quiet spectators of all which was passing without an attempt at interference) would have been equally vain, and we were consequently obliged to submit.

It was now dark, and it soon became evident that our Bedowins had but an imperfect idea of the road, for we had not proceeded more than three or four miles, when we found ourselves climbing over the high embankments which enclose the jowári fields.

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\* *Salvadora Persica*, called also *sinák* and *minwák* by the Arabs. It is probably a plant of African origin, being found throughout tropical Africa. From *Siwák*, pronounced *Suag* by Dr. Oudney (*Denham's Travels*, p. 31), and called *nyótút* in Senegambia (*Adanson's Travels*, p. 299), the Arabs have formed the verb *sáka*, he brushed his teeth, and *sinák* or *minwák*, a tooth-brush. Its fruit, when unripe, is called *barir*; when ripe *kebáth*. It is well described by Forskál (*Flora Arabica*, p. 32) under the name of *Cissus Arborea*. It is not the *Bák* of Bruce (*Appendix*, pl. 44), which is the *Avicennia*, *Mada* (Delile, *Voy. en Arabie de Léon la Borde*, p. 81).

The camels fell so frequently while crossing these boundaries, that the Bedowins at last lost all patience, took their departure, and left us with an old man and a little boy, to shift for ourselves. I should have cared the less for this, if before they left, they had had the goodness to let us know to what quarter they had intended to proceed.—but this they had not condescended to do, and we were consequently preparing to take up our quarters in the fields when we unexpectedly came across an old woman, who without the slightest hesitation, as soon as she was informed of our situation, promised to conduct us to her house. We gladly followed her, but had wandered so far from the path, that we did not arrive there till eleven in the evening.

We found our guides comfortably seated in a neighbouring house, smoking their pipes and drinking coffee. I was excessively annoyed, but it would have availed me nothing to have displayed it.

It appears we had arrived at a sort of caravansera, one or more of which are usually found in the towns of Yemen, as in other parts of the East.

A party had arrived shortly before us, and the house was filled with men, who were drinking coffee and smoking. We therefore requested the old lady (whose kindness did not abate when she heard we were Christians) to remove the camels from the courtyard, and there, after a hearty supper of dates and milk, we slept very soundly until about three o'clock, when we were awakened by finding our guides rummaging our baggage for coffee. At any other period I should probably have been amused at witnessing the unceremonious manner in which they proposed helping themselves, as well as the nonchalance they exhibited in piling, without ceremony, saddles, baskets, or whatever came in their way, upon us. But men are not in the best humour to enjoy a practical joke of this nature, when snatching a hasty repose, after a fatiguing day's work—and I, therefore, with as little ceremony as they used to us, peremptorily refused to allow them to remove what they were seeking for. As we anticipated, they took this in high dudgeon, but their behaviour, unless they had proceeded to actual violence, could not have been much worse than it had been hitherto, and I therefore cared little for such an ebullition.

*Friday, 1st May*—Although it was quite dark last night when we arrived here, yet we could not but be aware, from the state of the ground we had passed over, that there must be abundance of vegetation, yet we were hardly prepared for the scene that opened upon our view at day-light this morning.

Fields of *dhurrah*,\* *dokhn*,† tobacco, &c., extended as far as the eye could reach; their verdure of the darkest tint. Mingled with these we had the soft foliage of the acacia, and the stately, but more gloomy aspect of the date palm,—while the creaking of the numerous wheels with which the grounds are irrigated, and several rude ploughs, drawn by oxen in the distance; together with the ruddy and lively appearance of the people (who now flocked towards us from all quarters)—and the delightful and refreshing coolness of the morning air, combined to form a scene, which he who gazes on the barren aspect of the coast could never anticipate being realized.

At 6 a.m. we again mounted our camels. We passed in succession the villages of Sahún, Gharigah, and Jewel Sheikh, and at 8h. 30 m. arrived at another small village, where we had hitherto been led to anticipate we should find the Sultán; but, to our very great joy, we found upon inquiring for him, that he had set off yesterday for Abbán, and we accordingly pushed on.

Several people stopped us on the road to inquire who we were, and where we were going? They saluted us with much civility after the Arab fashion, and appeared perfectly satisfied at the answer our guides now thought proper to give to them, that we were proceeding to their Sultán on business.

\* *Sorghum vulgare*.

† *Sorghum saccharatum*.



We met the only man who recognized us in the course of our journey as Englishmen. He was a native of Hadramaut, and had heard of the English at Shahr. He was impressed with a belief that we were proceeding to purchase Hasan Ghoráb from 'Abdul-Wáhid.

At 9 h. we passed Manṣúrah, and Sa'id and at 9 h. 30 m. arrived at Jewel Agil, one of the largest hamlets of the group. Leaving several other villages to the left, we now passed over a hill about 200 feet in height, composed of a reddish-coloured sandstone. From the summit of this, the ruins we sought were pointed out to us.

As their vicinity is said to be infested with robbers, we were obliged to halt at a village, in order to obtain one of its inhabitants to accompany us to them. Our guides, as usual, having gone to seek shelter from the heat of the sun, had left us to make our breakfast on dates and water, in any sheltered spot we could find. The sun was nearly vertical, and the walls of the houses afforded us no protection.

Seeing this, several of the inhabitants came forward, and offered with much kindness to take us to their dwellings. We freely accepted the offer, and followed one to his habitation. Coffee was immediately called for, and it was with some difficulty, by promising to return if possible in the evening, after we had visited the ruins, that we prevented his ordering a meal to be immediately cooked for us.

Thus, combined with several other instances which came before us on our return, convinced me that if we had been provided with a better escort, that we should have experienced neither incivility nor unkindness from this people.

About an hour from this village we arrived at the ruins of Nakab al Hajar,\* and a rapid glance soon convinced me, that their examination would more than compensate for any fatigue or privations we had undergone on our road to them.

The hill upon which they are situated, stands out in the centre of the valley, and divides a stream which passes, during floods, on either side of it. It is nearly 800 yards in length, and about 350 yards at its greatest breadth. The direction of its greatest length is from east to west. Crossing it diagonally, there is a shallow valley, dividing it into two nearly equal portions, which swell out into an oval form. About a third of its height from the base, a massive wall averaging, in those places where it remains entire, from thirty to forty feet in height has been carried completely round the eminence. This is flanked by square towers, erected at equal distances. There are but two entrances by which admission can be gained into the interior. They are situated north and south from each other, at the termination of the valley before mentioned.

A hollow square tower, each side measuring fourteen feet, stands on either hand. Their bases are carried down to the plain below, and they are carried out considerably beyond the rest of the building. Between these towers, at an elevation of twenty feet from the plain, an oblong platform has been built, which extends about eighteen feet without, and as much within the walls. A flight of steps apparently was formerly attached to either extremity of the building, although now all traces of them have disappeared. This level space is roofed with flat stones of massive dimensions, resting on transverse walls. It is somewhat singular that we could not trace any indication or form of gates. The southern entrance has fallen much to decay, but the northern remains in almost a perfect state. The sketch on the map will illustrate its appearance and dimensions better than any verbal description.

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\*Nakab-al-hajar signifies "the excavation from the rock."

Within the entrance of this, at an elevation of ten feet from the platform, we found the inscriptions, which are also given. They are executed with much apparent care, in two horizontal lines on the smooth face of the stones of the building. The letters are eight inches in length. Attempts have been made, though without success, to obliterate them. From the conspicuous situation which they occupy, there can be but little doubt, but that when deciphered, they will be found to contain the name of the founder of the building, as well as the date, and purport of its erection.

The whole of the wall, the towers, and some of the edifices within, have been built of the same material, a compact greyish-coloured marble streaked with thin dark veins and speckles. All are hewn to the required shape with the utmost nicety. The dimensions of those at the base of the walls and towers, were from five to six and seven feet in length, from two feet ten inches to three feet in height, and from three to four in breadth. These decrease in size with the same regularity to the summit, where their breadth is not more than half that of those below. The thickness of the wall there, though I did not measure it, cannot be less than ten feet, and, as far as I could judge, about four at the summit, notwithstanding the irregularity of its foundation, the stones are all without deviation, placed in the same horizontal lines. The whole has been carefully cemented with mortar, which has acquired a hardness almost equal to that of the stone. Such parts of the wall as remain standing, are admirably knitted together, others which by the crumbling away of their bases incline towards their fall, still adhere in their tottering state without fracture. And those patches which have fallen, lay prostrate on the ground in huge undiscovered masses.

There are no openings in these walls, no turrets at the upper part,—the whole wears the same stable, uniform, and solid appearance. In order to prevent the mountain torrent, which leaves on the face of the surrounding country evident traces of the rapidity of its course, from washing away the base of the hill, several buttresses of a circular form have been hewn from that part, and cased with a harder stone. The casing has disappeared, but the buttresses still remain.

We must now visit the interior, where we arrived at an oblong square building, the walls of which face the cardinal points. Its largest size, fronting the north and south, measures twenty-seven yards. The shorter, facing the eastward, seventeen yards. The walls are faced with a kind of free-stone, each stone is cut of the same size, and the whole is so beautifully put together, that I endeavoured in vain to insert the blade of a small penknife between them. The outer surface has not been polished, but bears the mark of a small chisel, which the Bedowins have mistaken for writing.

From the extreme care which has been displayed in the construction of this building, I have little doubt but it formerly served as a temple, and my disappointment at finding the interior filled up with the ruins of the fallen roof, was very great. Had it fortunately remained entire, we might have obtained some monument which would possibly have thrown light on the obscure and doubtful knowledge we possess concerning the form of religion followed by the earlier Arabs.

Above and beyond this building there are several other edifices, but there is nothing peculiar in their form or appearance.

From a stone which I removed from one of the walls, the inscription was copied.

Nearly midway between the two gates, there is a well of a circular form ten feet in diameter, and sixty in depth. The sides are lined with unhewn stones, and either to protect it from the sun's rays, or to serve some process of drawing the water, a wall of a cylindrical form, fifteen feet in height, has been carried round it.

On the southern mound we were not able to make any discoveries. The whole appears an undistinguishable mass of ruins. Within the southern entrance, on the same level with the platform, a gallery four feet in breadth, protected on the inner side by a strong parapet three feet in height, and on the outer by the principal wall, extends for a distance of about fifty yards. I am unable to ascertain what purpose this could have served. In no portion of the ruins have we been able to trace any remains of arches or columns, nor could we discover on their surface any of those fragments of pottery, coloured glass, or metals, which are always found in old Egyptian towers, and which I also saw on those we discovered on the north-west coast of Arabia.

Although, as I have before noticed, attempts have been made to deface the inscriptions, yet there is no appearance of the building having suffered from any other ravages than those of time; and owing to the dryness of the climate, as well as the hardness of the material, every stone, even to the marking of the chisel, remains as perfect as the day it was hewn.

We were naturally anxious to ascertain if the Arabs had preserved any tradition concerning their buildings, but they refer them, in common with the others we have fallen in with, to their Pagan ancestors.

“Do you believe,” said one of the Bedowins to me, upon my telling him that his ancestors were then capable of greater works than themselves, “that these stones were raised by the unassisted hands of the Káfirs? No! no! they had devils, legions of devils (God preserve us from them!) to aid them” This we found was generally credited by others.

Our own guides followed us during the whole of the time we were strolling over the ruins, in expectation of sharing in the golden hoards, which they would not but remain convinced we had come to discover; and when they found us as they supposed unsuccessful in the search, they consoled themselves with the reflection that we had not been able to draw them from the spirits, who, according to their belief, keep continual watch over them.

The ruins of Nakab al Hajar, considered by themselves, present nothing therefore than a mass of ruins surrounded by a wall; but the magnitude of the stones with which this is built, the unity of conception and execution, exhibited in the style and mode of placing them together,—with its towers, and its great extent, would stamp it as a work of considerable labour in any other part of the world. But in Arabia, where, as far as is known, architectural remains are of rare occurrence, its appearance excites the liveliest interest. That it owes its origin to a very remote antiquity (how remote it is to be hoped the inscription will determine) is evident, by its appearance alone, which bears a strong resemblance to similar edifices which have been found amidst Egyptian ruins. We have (as in them) the same inclination in the walls, the same form of entrance, and the same flat roof of stones. Its situation and the mode in which the interior is laid out, seem to indicate that it served both as a magazine and a fort,—and I think we may with safety adopt the conclusion that Nakab al Hajar, as well as the other castle which we have discovered, were erected during that period when the trade from India flowed through Arabia towards Egypt, and from thence to Europe, and Arabia Felix, comprehending Yemen, Sabá, and Hadramaut, under the splendid dominion of the Sabæan or Homerite\* dynasty, seems to have merited the appellation she boasted of.

The history of these provinces is involved in much obscurity, but Agatharchides, before the Christian era, bears testimony, in glowing colours, to the wealth and luxury of the Sabians, and his account is heightened rather than moderated by succeeding writers.

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\* The ancient people called Himyarí by the modern Arabs were probably called Homerí by their ancestors, as their territory corresponds with that of the Homēritæ of Ptolemy (Geogr. vi. 6).

This people, before Márbe\* became the capital of their kingdom, possessed dominion along the whole of the southern frontier of Arabia. We are expressly informed that they planted colonies in eligible situations for trade, and fortified their establishments.

The commerce was not confined to any particular channel; on the contrary, we learn from an early period, of the existence of several flourishing cities, at, or near the sea-coast, which must have shared in it. We know nothing of the interior of this remarkable country, but there is every reason to believe, as is most certainly the case with Nakab al Hajar, that these castles will not only point out the tracks which the caravans formerly pursued, but also indicate the natural passes into the interior.

The inscription which it has been our good fortune to discover, will, there is every reason to believe, create considerable interest among the learned.

This character bears a strong resemblance to the Ethiopic,† which in many respects approaches the Hebrew or Syriac,—and when the inscription from Hasan Ghoráb was shown to a learned Orientalist in Bombay, he at once proved the justness of the suggestion, by pointing out an exact similitude between several of the letters. I am not sufficiently versed in Oriental literature to pursue the subject further,—and these few remarks arising out of what has come before me, are offered with much diffidence.

Nakab al Hajar is situated north-west, and is distant forty-eight miles from the village of 'Ain, which is marked on the chart in latitude  $14^{\circ} 2' N.$  and long.  $46^{\circ} 30' E.$  nearly. It stands in the centre of a most extensive valley called by the natives Wádí Meifah,—which, whether we regard its fertility, its populousness, or its extent, is the most interesting geographical feature we have yet discovered on the southern coast of Arabia. Taking its length from where it opens out on the sea-coast, to the town of 'Abbán, it is four days' journey or seventy-five miles. Beyond this point I could not exactly ascertain the extent of its prolongation,—various native authorities fixing it from five to seven days more throughout the whole of this extent. It is thickly studded with villages, hamlets and cultivated grounds. In a journey of fifteen miles along it, we counted more than thirty of the former, besides a great number of single houses.

The date groves become more numerous as we approach towards the sea-shore, while in the same direction the number of cultivated patches decrease. Few of the villages contain more than from one to two hundred houses, which are of the same form, and constructed of the same material (sun-baked bricks) as those on the sea-coast. I saw no huts, nor were there any stone houses, although several of the villages had more than one mosque, and three or four Sheiks' tombs.

More attention within this district appears to be paid to agricultural pursuits than in any other part of Arabia I have seen. The fields are ploughed in furrows, which for neatness and regularity would not shame an English peasant. The soil is carefully freed from the few stones which have been strewn over it, and the whole is plentifully watered morning and evening by numerous wells. The water is drawn up by camels, (this is a most unusual circumstance, for camels are rarely used as draught animals in any part of the East,) and distributed over the face of the country along high embankments. A considerable supply is also retained within these wherever the stream fills its bed. Trees and sometimes houses are also then washed away, but any damage it does is amply compensated for by the muddy deposit it leaves,—which

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\* The Mariaba of the Greeks (Strabo, xvi., p. 778).

† It also has some similitude to the undeciphered characters on the Lát of Firóz Sháh at Dehlí (As. Res. vi., pt. 7—10).—F. S. Similar characters may also be seen on the pedestal of a small statue in the museum at Bombay.



although of a lighter colour, and of a harder nature, is yet almost equally productive with that left by the Nile in Egypt. But beyond what I have noticed, no other fruits or grain are grown.

Having now made (during the short time we were allowed to remain) all the necessary observations on the ruins, and the surrounding country, our Bedowins, as evening was approaching, became clamorous for us to depart.

About 4 P.M. we finished packing our camels, and travelled until near sunset, when we halted near one of the villages.

Our reception here was very different from that which we on our journey from the well experienced at the first village. About fifty men crowded around us; their curiosity, though much heightened by all they saw about us, was restrained within the bounds of good taste. Such questions as they put to us respecting our journey were proposed with a degree of delicacy, which surprised and pleased me. Milk, water and firewood were brought to us almost unsolicited, for which we had nothing to return but our thanks. I much regretted on this occasion being unprovided with some trifling presents, which we might have left as a memorial of the Englishman's sojourn among them.

What a different impression we might have formed of this people, had we drawn our opinion from our guides or our first reception amidst them!

Saturday, 2nd May, we started shortly after midnight, and travelled until four, when finding we had lost our way, we halted until day-light. At this time a heavy dew was falling, and Fahrenheit's thermometer stood at 58°; it was consequently so chilly, that we were happy to wrap ourselves up in our boat cloaks.

At 8 h. we again halted at the well to replenish our skins, previous to again crossing the sandy hillocks, and then continued on our journey. From 9 A.M. this morning until 1 h. 30 m. we endured a degree of heat I never felt equalled. Not a breath of wind was stirring, and the glare produced by the white sand was almost intolerable. At 2 h. our guides were so much exhausted, that we were obliged to halt for an hour. At 5 h. 30 m. we arrived at the date groves, near to 'Ain Abú Mabuth, where there is a small village and some fountains of pure water about fifteen feet square and three deep.

At 7 h. we arrived at the beach, which we followed until we came opposite to the vessel. It was, however too late to care about making a signal to those on board for a boat, and I was moreover, desirous, from what we overheard passing between the Bedowins, who were with us to defer our departure until the morning. Any disturbance we might have with them had better happen then, than during the night. We, therefore, took up our quarters amidst the sand-hills, where we could light a fire without fear of its being observed by those on board.

It will readily be believed that if we felt fatigued, it was not without reason. We had been but seventy hours from our station at Bá-'I-haff, during which we had been forty-four hours mounted on our camels. The whole distance, 120 miles, might have been accomplished, on a quick camel, in half that time,—and it was the slow pace during the excessive heat of the weather at this season which formed the most toilsome and tedious part of the journey.

*May 3.*—We were discovered at an early hour this morning from the ship, and a boat was immediately dispatched for us. Strengthened now with the boat's crew, we settled with the Bedowins, without any other demand being made on us, and in the course of a few minutes we were on board the vessel, where we received the congratulations of all on our return. Considerable apprehension had been entertained for our safety, when it was discovered that Hamed had not accompanied us.

The success which has attended this brief journey to the interior will, it is hoped, prove an inducement to others to follow up our researches. Had I been differently situated, I should have proceeded on to 'Abbán, on the road to which there are at a village called Eísán, ruins of nearly equal magnitude with Nakab al Hajar. But independent of these ancient monuments, in themselves—far more than enough to repay the adventure,—the condition, character, and pursuits of the inhabitants, the productions, resources, and nature of the country, severally furnish subjects of peculiar interest, and would, there can be no doubt, amply repay the curiosity of the first European who should visit them.

I imagine, to proceed, nothing more would be necessary than for an individual to procure a letter from the British Government to the Sheikh of 'Abbán. A guard could there be sent to escort him from the sea-coast, and he could from thence be forwarded to the next Sheikh by a similar application.

By the assumption of a Mohammedan or even a medical character, and by sacrificing every species of European comfort, he might, I have very little doubt, penetrate to the very heart of this remarkable country.

ACCOUNT  
OF  
AN EXCURSION IN HADRAMAUT  
BY  
ADOLPHE BARON WREDE.

# ACCOUNT OF AN EXCURSION IN HADRAMAUT

BY

ADOLPHE BARON WREDE.

COMMUNICATED BY CAPTAIN J. B. HAINES, INDIAN NAVY.

As you take great interest in all that promotes the cause of science, I beg to communicate to you the brief outline of a journey—from which I have very recently returned—to the very interesting part of Arabia, which on our present maps bears the name of Hadramaut, and being that portion which separates the desert of El Akkaf from the Indian Ocean.

The endeavours of former travellers to penetrate South Arabia have always been unsuccessful from the very strong religious fanaticism which animates all the inhabitants, more especially those of the towns.

Lieutenant Wellsted, in his valuable work on Arabia, suggests the propriety of subsequent travellers adopting the Mohammedan costume, the better to escape observation, which I accordingly did under the name of Abd-el-Hud, and in that disguise I left Aden on the 22nd of June, 1843, and sailed for Osurum; from whence I travelled by land to Makalla. Being afraid of drawing upon me the attention of those inhabitants who are acquainted with Europeans, I hurried my departure as quickly as possible, and left the latter place on the 26th of June for the interior, under the protection of a Bedowin of the powerful tribe Akábre. The celebrated Wadi Doán was the end of my first journey, which I reached after a march of  $8\frac{1}{2}$  days: our stages were generally very short, as we had to pass a ridge of steep hills; the actual time consumed on the road was 49 hours and 18 minutes; the general direction N.-W. The first day's journey lay through a continued succession of deep and narrow dales, bounded by bare granitic mountains which elevate their serrated summits about 2,000 feet above the level of the sea. A great many chalybeate springs, the heat of which indicated  $100^{\circ}$  to  $130^{\circ}$  of Fahr., rose from the sides of the mountains, the waters of which proved good and drinkable, as they contained no trace of sulphur. Although the broken ground of the dales is apparently infertile, yet a great many trees and plants are to be seen luxuriantly flourishing, and which supply sufficient food for the camels of the numerous caravans passing along this road. The traveller too enjoys the shade of the rich foliage of the lofty trees which shelter him at noon from the scorching beams of the sun. As a perfect calm prevails in these valleys from 10 A.M. till 4 P.M., the temperature rises to the height of  $150^{\circ}$  to  $160^{\circ}$  of Fahr. The road passed through many villages, and there were others at a short distance from it. On the 4th day's journey I ascended the mountain of Sidara, which rises about 4,000 feet above the level of the sea. The sides of this mountain are covered with aromatic plants: on arriving at its summit I found myself at the foot of two peaks, called Chareibe and Farjalat, which on the right and left rose perpendicularly to the height of 800 feet above my position, and being hardly 10 minutes\* asunder, they looked like the colossal pillars of a gigantic gate. Iron-sandstone now appears to cover the before-mentioned granite. The thermometer had fallen, and, after the fatiguing march of the day, the night was sensibly cold. The following day I ascended some terrace-like ridges

\*The Baron gives all his distances in time, by which we are probably to understand the time required to walk.



rising one above the other, the highest of which is named *Gebel Drôra*. From the commencement of this day's journey I observed the iron-sandstone to be overlaid by a sandstone having a fine granular texture, yellow in colour and very hard. I was now about 8,000 feet above the level of the sea, and my view from W. to N.-E. ranged over a yellowish plain of immense extent, on which rose every here and there conical hills and ridges. In the E. the summit of the colossal *Kar Seban* towered beyond the plain. Towards the S. is seen a labyrinth of dark granitic cones, and the view is lost in the misty atmosphere of the ocean. From this point the road continues to follow the level ground, while on the right and left many *Wádís* meander through the plain in narrow defiles conveying the rain-water to the lower regions.

At the point where these defiles commence the traveller meets with a few stunted acacias, which afford a little shelter and scanty food to the camels. Every 6 or 9 miles there are cisterns, but neither bush nor village interrupts the monotony of this immense plain. The temperature on this elevated plateau was very agreeable in the day-time, the thermometer never rising above 80° Fahr.; but the nights were intensely cold, the thermometer sinking to 50°. The sudden appearance of the *Wádi Doán* took me by surprise and impressed me much with the grandeur of the scene. The ravine, 500 feet wide and 600 feet in depth, is enclosed between perpendicular rocks, the debris of which form in one part a slope reaching to half their height. On this slope towns and villages rise contiguously in the form of an amphitheatre; while below the date-grounds, covered with a forest of trees, the river, about 20 feet broad, and enclosed by high and walled embankments, is seen first winding through fields, laid out in terraces, then pursuing its course in the open plain, irrigated by small canals branching from it. From the description you will, I trust, form a correct idea of the *Wádi Doán*, of the extent, situation, and character of which travellers have given such contradictory statements.

My first view of the valley disclosed to me four towns and four villages within the space of an hour's distance. The road that leads down into the *Wádi* is a very dangerous one, particularly in its upper part; on the right, in some places, are precipices from 300 to 400 feet in depth, whilst a rocky wall on the left nearly stops up the road, leaving it scarcely 4 feet in breadth; and to add to the difficulty it is paved with pebblestones, which, having been constantly trodden by men and animals, have become as smooth as a looking-glass. No kind of parapet or railing whatever has been constructed to prevent accidents.

At *Choreibe*, one of the towns of the *Wádi*, I was received with all possible hospitality by *Sheikh Abdalla-Ba-Sudan*, a man celebrated for the influence he has in the country, and for the reputation of sanctity he has attained. From *Choreibe* I directed my course towards the S.-W. to copy the inscriptions subsisting in the *Wádís Uebbene* and *Maifaah*. I was not permitted to visit *Nakab el Hadjar*, *Eisan*, and *Habalen*; I however discovered in the *Wádi Uebbene*, an himiaritic inscription on a wall which encloses, as it were, the valley. About 6 English miles distant from *Nakab el Hadjar* I was stopped by a band of *Bedowins* who forced me to return to *Wádi Doán*. The country of *Habahn* was in open insurrection, as the former Sultan, *Achmed-ibn-Abd-el-Wachet*, had been dethroned by his nephew and imprisoned, together with his brother. On the road from *Wádi Doán* to *Wádi Maifaah*, at the distance of 5 days' journey, is the fertile *Wádi Hagger*, where immense forests of date-trees are watered by a continually running stream, that rises 4 days' journey N.-W. from the town of *Hota*. One day further down this *Wádi* is called *Giswuel*, and 2 days' journey more downwards it is called *Wádi Mefah*, under which name it reaches the sea near the village of *Bir-el-Hassi*, eastward of *Ras-el-Kalb*. By a more northern route, passing the *Wádi Reide-Eddin*, I reached *Choreibe* in 8 days, having been 20 days absent from the town. *Wádi Doán* changes its name several times; it is called *Choreibe*, *Wádi Nebbi*; from thence *Wádi Doán*; from *Gahdun* *Wádi Hajarin*; from *Hora*,

Wádi Kasr; and from Kubr el Hud, Wádi Missile, under which name it reaches the sea near Sah-Hud. After resting a few days I set out in a N.-W. direction, and two days' long and fatiguing journey brought me to Wádi Amt, which I followed in a northern direction. It is equal to the above-mentioned Wádi in extent, and resembles it in form and in the proximity of its towns. From Hora, where the Wádi Amt joins the Wádi Hajarín, I again ascended the high table-land, and taking a westerly direction arrived in 4 days at the town of Sáva in the Wádi Ráchie. This Wádi is not so populous as the two before-mentioned Wádís, most part being covered with sand. It runs 8 days N. from Sáva, above Terim, into the Wádi Kasr. Here I was told that the desert El-Akkaf was only a day's journey distant, and that that part which extends 8 days along its borders to Kubr-el-Hud, was inaccessible, and was called Bahr el Saffi; that the whole space was full of *snih spots*,\* in which anything which happened to fall would perish. The place derived its name from King Saffi, who starting from Bellad Sabba Wadian and Ras el Ghoul, attempted to march an army through this desert, in the midst of which his troops perished. On the following day I set out for that place, in order to convince myself of the truth of the statement which I had received. After a 6 hours' journey in a N.-W. direction I reached the borders of the desert, which is about 1,000 feet below the level of the high land. A melancholy scene presented itself to my astonished sight! Conceive an immense sandy plain strewn with numberless undulating hills, which gave it the appearance of a moving sea. Not a single trace of vegetation, be it ever so scanty, appears to animate the vast expanse. Not a single bird interrupts with its note the calm of death, which rests upon this tomb of the Sabæan army. I clearly perceived three spots of dazzling whiteness, the position and distance of which I measured geometrically. "That is Bahr el Saffi," said my guide to me; "ghosts inhabit those precipices, and have covered with treacherous sand the treasures which are committed to their care; every one who approaches near them is carried down, therefore do not go." I of course paid no attention to their warnings, but requested to be led to those spots in accordance with the agreement I had made with my Bedowins. It took my camels full 2 hours' walk before we reached the foot of the high plateau, where we halted at sunset, in the vicinity of two enormous rocky blocks. On the following morning I summoned the Bedowins to accompany me to the places alluded to above, but they were not to be induced; and the dread of ghosts had obtained such complete mastery over them, that they scarcely ventured to speak; I was therefore determined to go alone, and taking with me a plummet of  $\frac{1}{2}$  a kilo's weight and a cord of 60 fathoms, I started on my perilous march. In 36 minutes I reached, during a complete lull of the wind, the northern and nearest spot, which is about 30 minutes long and 26 minutes broad, and which towards the middle takes by degrees a sloping form of 6 feet in depth, probably from the action of the wind. With the greatest caution I approached the border to examine the sand, which I found almost an impalpable powder; I then threw the plumb-line as far as possible; it sank instantly, the velocity diminishing, and in 5 minutes the end of the cord had disappeared in the all-devouring tomb. I will not hazard an opinion of my own, but refer the phenomenon to the learned who may be able to explain it, and restrict myself to having related the facts.

The following day I returned to Sáva where I visited a himiaritic tomb, which was only 15 minutes distant from the town. The fanaticism of a Sheikh had unfortunately destroyed

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\* The subsequent context will show the nature of these spots. It appears probable, from the author's want of sufficient acquaintance with the English language, he knew of no better term than the one he has used, and which, we believe, means those accumulations of drift snow that are found in the hollows of rocky regions, and into which the weary traveller sinks.—Ed.

the inscription that had formerly existed on the entrance. The next day I started on my return to Choreibe, which I reached after a 4 days' march. Having remained four days at this hospitable place, I left it in order to visit the country of Kubr el Hud, which historically and geologically is highly interesting; two sons of my host and the celebrated Habib Abdalla ibn Haidum accompanied me. We rested the first night at Grein, a considerable town on the right bank of the Wádi Doân, and on the following day I arrived at Seef, about an hour after my companions who had preceded me.

An immense multitude of people had assembled in the town to celebrate the feast of the Sheikh Said ben Issa ibn Achmudi, who was buried in Gahdun, situated in the vicinity of Seef. As soon as I had arrived among the crowd they all at once fell upon me, dragged me from my camel, and disarmed me; using me very roughly, they tied my hands behind my back and carried me, with my face covered with blood and dust, before the reigning Sultán Mohammed Abdalla ibn ben Issa Achmudi. The whole of my captors raised a horrible cry and declared me to be an English spy exploring the country, and demanded my instantly being put to death. The Sultán being afraid of the Bedowins, on whom he, like all Sultáns of the Wádi, is dependant, was about to give orders for my execution, when my guides and protectors came in haste and quieted the Bedowins' minds by means of the moral influence they had over them. In the meantime I remained confined to my room with my feet in fetters. I was imprisoned for 3 days, but provided with every necessary; on the evening of the third day my protectors came to me with the news, that they had pacified the Bedowins under the condition that I was to return to Macalla, and that I should give up all my writings. At night I concealed as many of my papers as I could, and delivered only those which were written in pencil, with which they were contented. After my notes were given up, the Sultán wished to see my luggage, from which he selected for himself whatever pleased him. The next morning I set out on my return to Macalla, which town I reached on the 8th of September, after a journey of 12 days, and thence took a boat for Aden.

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MEMOIR

OF

THE SOUTH COAST OF ARABIA

FROM

THE ENTRANCE OF THE RED SEA TO MISENAT

1839.



MEMOIR  
OF THE  
SOUTH COAST OF ARABIA FROM THE ENTRANCE OF THE RED SEA TO  
MISENAT, IN  $50^{\circ} 43' 25''$  E.

BY CAPTAIN S. B. HAINES, INDIAN NAVY.

RAS BAB-EL-MANDEB, or the Cape of the Gate of Affliction, is a prominent cape which forms the south-western extremity of Arabia, and the north-eastern shore of the entrance into the Red Sea. When seen from the eastward the land assumes the shape of a wedge of gunner's quoin, and is visible from a vessel's deck, on a clear day, at the distance of 35 miles. Its highest peak, named Jebel Manhalí, rises to 865 feet, whence it slopes to the southward, and terminates in a low point on the sea.

Before proceeding with the narrative, I may be permitted to state that, in the following pages, it is proposed to give a description of about 500 miles of the southern coast of Arabia—hitherto almost unknown—and such an account of its population, government, and commerce, as was obtained, during the survey of these shores, by myself and the officers of the E. I. Company's ship *Palinurus*, in the years 1834, 5, and 6:—premising that the longitudes were determined by meridian distances, measured from the flag-staff at Bombay, assumed to be in  $72^{\circ} 54' 26''$  E., by the means of 5 and also of 8 chronometers, at different times, and by quick and direct measurements.

I am happy to have the opportunity afforded me of expressing my thanks to Rear-Admiral Sir Charles Malcolm, who has ever proved himself a generous promoter of scientific pursuit, also to my friends Lieutenant Sanders, Assistant Surveyor, Lieutenants Jardine and Sheppard, Messrs. Smith, Cruttenden, Grieve, Ball, Rennie, Stevens, and Barrow, for their cheerful assistance during the survey. The late Dr. Hulton also proved a valuable auxiliary, and, I lament to add, fell a victim to his unceasing exertions throughout the progress of a tedious and trying service.

The peak of Jebel Manhalí\* is in lat.  $12^{\circ} 41' 10''$  N., and long.  $43^{\circ} 32' 14''$  E. Off the extremity of the Cape Báb-el-Mandeb, numerous rocky points, projecting about half a mile from the mainland, form shallow bays, affording shelter to boats and small vessels; and here the boatmen from the opposite coast of Abyssinia land their sheep and drive them to Mokhá, to spare themselves a tedious voyage back against southerly winds.

About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the north-eastward of Jebel Manhalí is a small range of hills, named Jebel Heikah, extending about 3 miles in a N.N.W. direction of less elevation, and of an

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\* The orthography of the names of places has been altered according to the standard adopted in the *Geographical Journal*:—i.e., the consonants are to be sounded as in English, and the vowels as in Italian, or as in the English words *father*, *there*, *fatigue*, *cold*, *rude*. See vol. vii, p. 245. Ev

irregular outline. The intervening land is low, sandy, and barren; but in the valley a few bushes and spots of grass may occasionally be seen, and on this scanty food I found beautiful antelopes subsisting. A little to the eastward of the cape is a square dark hill, named Turbah, on which are some ruins and near it an old village, possibly the site of the ancient Ocelis: the steep rocky points here form a sheltered anchorage. In a valley are some old date-trees and a well of brackish water, at which the wandering Bedowins of the Şubeihî tribe occasionally water their camels.

Jebel Manhalî and the other hills would seem to be of volcanic origin; on its summit I found the needle of my theodolite deflected several degrees from the magnetic meridian. To the northward and eastward of this small hilly district the land is low and sandy.

Returning to the straits, a small spot named Pilot-Island lies about half a mile distant from the Arabian shore.

*Perim*, or *Meyûn*, a bare rocky island, about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles long by 2 broad, rising 230 feet above the sea, lies at the distance of 2 miles from the coast of Arabia; and forms, between it and Pilot-Island, a good channel, known by the name of the Small Strait, its least breadth being  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile. It possesses a good harbour on the south-western side, with an entrance half a mile wide. Here are a tank, the ruins of a rudely-constructed pier, &c.—traces of the British occupation in 1801. The needle was here deflected  $3^\circ$  on the rocky part of the island. Variation  $5^\circ 42' W.$ , in 1836. Lat. of south point of island  $12^\circ 38' N.$ , long.  $43^\circ 28' 40'' E.$  High water, on full and change, at noon. Rise of tide about 6 feet.

*Râs Sejân*, a cape on the Abyssinian shore, forms the southern point of entrance into the Red Sea. It is a gloomy-looking peak, about 380 feet high, projecting to the northward from the coast, with which it is connected by a piece of low land 700 yards wide, having a swampy bay, surrounded with mangrove-bushes, to the westward. The northern face of this cape is rocky and steep, but, from a small bay to the eastward, a bank runs out about 1 mile, with from 5 to 6 fathoms on its outer edge.

The distance from *Râs Sejân* to the nearest point of the Arabian coast is exactly  $14\frac{1}{2}$  geographical miles, which is therefore the extreme breadth of the Strait of Bâb-el-Mandeb: this is divided into two, as before-mentioned, by the island of *Perim*; and between the south point of this island and Cape *Sejân*, forming the southern entrance, or Large Strait, the breadth is exactly  $11\frac{1}{2}$  miles. This channel is again narrowed by a cluster of islets, called *Jezîratu-s-sab'ah*, or Seven Islands, commonly known to the English by the name of "The Brothers": they are named the "Eight Brothers" by Horsburgh\*; but it seems more correct to describe them as six rocky islets, extending  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles in an E. and W. direction; the highest, or north-eastern, lying  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles due E. of *Râs Sejân*, and  $9\frac{1}{2}$  miles S. of the southern point of the island of *Perim*.

The high Brother forms a conspicuous peak rising about 350 feet above the sea, with a small bay on its northern side abundantly supplied with turtle and fish of various kinds. The position of the peak is in  $12^\circ 28' N.$ ;  $43^\circ 28' 50'' E.$  A low rocky island to the westward is the only part which may be considered dangerous.

The western island is distant only 4,624 yards from the coast of Africa, and the easternmost  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles, with soundings the whole way, varying from 6 to 25 fathoms, and a safe channel, although the currents and tide are rapid and irregular, with a rise and fall of 7 feet: the anchorage good.

\* Indian Directory, Vol. i., p. 233.

The *Brothers* are of a brownish colour, the most western is certainly volcanic: they are of considerable height, and five out of the six islands may be seen from 20 to 30 miles in clear weather; the highest, perhaps 29 miles; the second from the westward, 26 miles; and the westernmost, 22 miles; giving a height of about 350, 300, and 250 feet respectively.

The soundings in the Small Strait vary from 8 to 14 fathoms; in the middle of the Large Strait we had no bottom with 120 fathoms of line.

The coast of Abyssinia from Rás Seján to Ras el Bir extends in a S.S.E. direction about 20 miles, being low and sandy, and covered with mangrove and brushwood; towards the interior are three or four ranges of flat-topped limestone mountains, named Jebel Ján, which reach a great elevation, and form the northern boundary of an extensive plain covered with thicket, opening out to the westward on a range of mountains named Jebel Tejúrah, which continues parallel to the sea-coast in a southerly direction. At the back of the southern bluff of Jebel Ján I discovered the remains of a large Bedowín encampment, which had been deserted by a party of the Danákili\* tribe of Somáls, who, like the Šubeihī Arabs on the opposite coast, probably leave the sea-shore during the months of June, July, and August. The few inhabitants we here met with were wretched-looking beings of this tribe; and from them we learnt that the only fresh water was to be found near the hills, from 10 to 12 miles distant from their present habitation. Here are some jackals, foxes, and hyænas; and among the feathered tribe I saw the ostrich, pelican flamingo, curlew, and plover.

The little village situated inland is named Tejúrah. The territory of the Danákili tribe extends some distance along the coast, and for many miles inland. The only instance on record of a female chief being placed at the head of this tribe, occurred in 1836. The neighbouring tribes hold the Danákili in great disrepute, generally considering them cruel, treacherous, and inhospitable.

To return to the coast of Arabia:—as before-mentioned, the land to the northward of the hilly tract of Heikah is low: the coast from Rás Báb-el-Mandeb extends in a north-easterly direction about 7 miles, when it turns abruptly E.S.E. for about 25 miles, as far as Rás A'rah forming, in the bight, the bay of Ghubbet el Heikah, which affords a convenient and smooth-water anchorage to ships working up to the straits against the strong north-westerly winds in June and July. At Sekeyyah is a group of palm-trees, and 2 miles to the eastward a well of good water; fuel is abundant. *Jebel Hejáf* is a low range of hills extending for about 16 miles in the same direction as the coast, from which they are distant about 8 miles: they are of a dark aspect, irregular in their outline, and terminate in a bluff to the westward. *Jebel A'rah* (Chimney-peaks of Horsburgh) is a remarkable range of lofty mountains extending in a N.-W. by N. direction for about 18 miles, with an irregular outline, being a continued chain of peaks, terminating to the S.-E. in a barn-shaped hill, with a peak in its centre: they have a dark, gloomy aspect, and are bounded to the N. by a higher range of distant mountains.

Along this coast are small projecting rocky points, forming little bays, with a sandy beach; towards the interior, the land, as it rises towards the hills, is covered with bushes.

We met a few fishermen, looking wretchedly poor; and on one occasion a party of Subahar Bedowins, fully accoutred for war. During our little excursions from the coast we saw some

\* That is, people of Dankolah.—F. S.

antelopes and hares; and it is amusing to observe the former cooling themselves on the sea-shore during the day—at sunset they disappear.

*Rás 'A'rah*, the southern cape of Arabia, is a very low sandy rounded point, in lat.  $12^{\circ} 37' 30''$  N., long.  $44^{\circ} 1' 40''$  E., and is one of the most dangerous capes on the coast, being in the direct route for vessels proceeding to or from the Red Sea, and having a bank of hard sand, extending nearly  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles off-shore to the eastward of it, with one or two dangerous rocky patches with only 9 feet water. In 1836 a fine Dutch ship was wrecked here, and during my service on this coast several vessels have been lost. This bank, which extends as far as *Khór 'Amrán*, is the more dangerous as the water suddenly shoals from 15 fathoms; indeed a ship with good head-way could hardly get a second cast of the lead before touching the ground. It is advisable by day not to approach nearer than 15 fathoms, and by night into not less than 20 fathoms water.

In the bight of the small bay to the westward of *Rás 'A'rah* are a few date-trees and a supply of fresh water; the bay also affords shelter against the strong winds during the N.-E. monsoon: the coast immediately around it is rather steep.

*Khór 'Omeyra* is a remarkable inlet situated  $13\frac{1}{2}$  miles E. by N. from *Rás 'A'rah*,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles long from E. to W. by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  broad: it is almost land-locked by a narrow spit of sand which projects from the eastern shore and forms its southern boundary, leaving a very narrow entrance to the westward, with only 6 feet water; nor does this depth increase for 2 miles, when it opens out into a fine basin, having from 3 to 6 fathoms water. At high water the low southern spit of sand is nearly covered.

*Jebel Kharaz*, or the Highland of Sant' Antonio, reaches the height of 2,772 feet above the sea at its northern peak, while its southern bluff in lat.  $12^{\circ} 41'$  N., long.  $44^{\circ} 16'$  E., rises 2,085 feet almost immediately to the north of the basin of *Khór 'Amrán*. On the western side of the summit of the north peak we found a ruin of roughly-hewn stone without date or inscription but sufficiently remarkable to give a name to this mountain, which is called *Jebel Jinn*, or *Genii-Hill*, on account of some mysterious tale attached to this building. The mountain is chiefly composed of limestone; I also saw some granite.

*Rás Ka'û* is a projecting cape, lying 17 miles E. by N. of the entrance of *Khór 'Amrán*, which, from its dark appearance, is commonly known by the name of the Black Cape: it is in lat.  $12^{\circ} 39' 45''$  N., long.  $44^{\circ} 32' 30''$  E. Three miles inland to the N.-N.-W. is the remarkable saddle-hill named *Jebel Ka'û*, rising 798 feet above the sea; three other small hills occur to the south-west of it, near the coast. Between this cape and *Khór 'Omeyra* a very dangerous sand-bank with overfalls extends, at one point reaching 4 miles off-shore: no vessel should approach nearer than to 15 fathoms water by day, and 20 fathoms by night, and even then great attention must be paid to the lead.

The whole of this coast is low and sandy with a few bushy shrubs, while here and there a rocky point breaks the desolate monotony of the scene. To the eastward of *Rás Ka'û* the coast is still flat and sandy for 18 miles, as far as *Rás 'Amrán*, forming a bay nearly 5 miles deep: the land towards the interior is low, and covered with ragged wild bushes. Antelopes, hares, plovers, partridges, bustards, and various small birds of beautiful plumage, were seen. At *Rás 'Amrán* the territory of the *Şubeihî* tribe of Arabs terminates: these people, though numerous, are little known: from the slight intercourse we had with them, I should consider them kind and communicative, and well adapted by figure and constitution to endure hardships. We had some difficulty at first in making acquaintance with them; but when they gained confidence, they accompanied two of the officers of the ship, Messrs. Ball and Grieve, to the summit of *Jebel Jinn*, where they found the ruins before alluded to, which may possibly be of the same date as



those of Nakab el Hajar,\* Hisn Ghoráb, &c. The Šubeihí tribe are said to number 12,000 persons: they are Mohammedans, and are governed by their principal chiefs, who are absolute. The women are, generally speaking, delicately formed, with very dark eyes and long beautiful hair. Their territory is for the most part barren, yet on a few productive spots they cultivate coffee, fruits, &c. Cattle may be always found in large flocks, and camels in great numbers.

*Rás 'Amrán*, in lat.  $12^{\circ} 43' 30''$  N., long.  $44^{\circ} 49' 40''$  E., is the S.-W. extreme of a small rocky island, divided from the mainland by narrow channels, almost wholly filled up with rocks: off its western side are three small rocks of considerable elevation, with deep water close outside them. The cape of the mainland is a rocky promontory, rising 712 feet above the sea, which projects, including the island, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles in a S.S.W. direction from the general line of coast, and forms the western limit of the bay which lies to the eastward.

*Bander Feikam* is a bay about 5 miles broad by 2 miles deep, formed by the projecting land of *Rás 'Amrán* on the W. and *Jébel Hasan* on the E.; near its centre is a small round island, with a rock, barely covered with water, about 800 yards to the E.S.E. of it, with from 5 to 6 fathoms water between it and the island, to the N.-W. of which a shoal-patch extends a short distance. On the western shore of this bay is the tomb of Sheikh Sammarah, surrounded by a few fishermen's huts. Projecting to the S.-E. is a small dark-coloured peak called *Jezirat Abú Shammah*, and to the westward of it are two anchorages for small boats. The land surrounding the bay is a low, dreary, swampy tract of sandhills, so much so, that at high water each cape appears like an island. The soundings in the bay are regular, and the bottom of sand or mud.

*Jebel Hasan* is a mountainous mass of granite, which forms a peninsular promontory, 6 miles long from E. to W., by 3 miles in breadth: its highest peak, in the form of a sugar-loaf, reaching 1,237 feet above the sea. This promontory has numerous projecting rocky points, to each of which the Arabs give a name: to the S.-W. are *Rás Feikam* and *Rás Alargah*;† the most southern, called *Rás Mujallab Heidi*, is in lat.  $12^{\circ} 43'$  N., long.  $44^{\circ} 59'$  E., and forms the western limit of the small bay named *Bander Sheikh*. *Rás Abú Kiyámah* divides this bay from *Khór Kádir*. On the southern and eastern sides of this promontory are nine rocky islets, nearly connected with the main at low-water springs; two of these islets lie in the middle of the entrance to *Khór Kádir*; another is situated off the S.-E. point called *Rás Šálih*; and five of them off the N.-E. bluff, about one mile from the shore.

The white tomb of Sheikh Kádir is about 1,100 yards to the northward of the extreme point of *Rás Abú Kiyámah*; near this spot the 'Akrabís deposit coffee, cotton, and a few other articles of merchandise, in readiness for the small trading-boats lying in *Bander Sheikh* and *Ghór Kádir*, the only two ports belonging to the 'Akrabi tribe.

At the eastern end of this mountainous promontory is a remarkable double peak of granite 700 feet in height, which from its peculiar shape is commonly known by the name of the *Ass's Ears*. The outline of the whole of *Jebel Hasan* is very picturesque: a deep ravine winds through the hilly tract from *Bander Feikam* to the little bay of *Bander Sheikh*. The land to the northward is low, and immediately at the back of the mountains a deep inlet, named *Khór Biyar Ahmed*, or *Seilán*, extends 3 miles to the westward, almost insulating the promontory of *Jebel Hasan*.

*Biyar Ahmed*, a small fort and village situated about 3 miles from the beach and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles due N. of the *Ass's Ears*, contains about 250 inhabitants: it is the residence of the chief, or Sultan, as he is called, of the 'Akrabí. About 2 miles to the N.-E. of *Biyar Ahmed* is the village of *Seilán*.

\* Described in *Journal*, vol. vii., p. 20.—Ed.

† From the Portuguese "*alarga*"?—F. S.

The territory of the 'Akrabí tribe does not exceed 20 square miles, with a population of 600 males, a fine body of men, who keep their more quiet neighbours in a constant state of alarm. Their chief is named Ahmed ibn Meidí, who in person conducts his followers through every kind of war and rapine, and has for many years supported himself in independence, until forced to pay a tribute to a neighbouring chief in consideration of the freedom with which he is permitted to spoil the adjoining tribe of Abdálí. This chief is noted for his treachery, and it was not without some difficulty that we established any communication with him; but at length he allowed two of the officers, Messrs. Cruttenden and Grieve, to visit his village, and received them very civilly. The women of this tribe are generally pretty, of a slight, elastic, healthful form, which, added to great cheerfulness, creates a charm not often awakened by the tawny inhabitants of a tropical and desert country. This territory is bounded on the N.-E. by the Abdálí and Haushábí, and to the westward by the Šubáihí tribes. The chief produce of the soil is jowári (millet), of which they export great quantities; large flocks of sheep and goats are seen browsing, tended by the watchful eye of the pretty Bedowín shepherdess: in the interior are thick forests of thorny acacia, affording a retreat to the antelope from the scorching rays of the sun; doves also are numerous, and occasionally may be heard the lively chirrup of the Bayah, or Hottentot crested sparrow, and the warbling of a small beautiful bright yellow bird with crimson legs. Indeed, notwithstanding the usually arid appearance of the country, much may be found here, as well as elsewhere, to enliven the traveller as he passes on, or to break the monotony of a minute nautical survey of a little-frequented coast.

*Bunder Tuwayjí*, or 'Aden West Bay, (the 'Aden Back Bay of Horsburgh), is formed by the projecting headlands of Jebel Hasan on the W. and Jebel Šamshán on the E., enclosing a bay 8 miles broad from E. to W., by 4 miles deep, with an entrance between Rás Salfí on the W. and Rás Tarsheín on the E., exactly 3 miles 750 yards wide. The peninsular promontory of 'Aden is almost divided from the mainland by a creek on the eastern side of this bay named Khór Maksá, similar to that behind Jebel Hasan on the opposite side of the bay, which gives these lofty promontories—not very unlike in appearance—the aspect of two sentinel islands guarding the approach to the magnificent bay they enclose. A ship may anchor in any part of this bay, the soundings gradually decreasing from 5 fathoms towards the shore, with a clear sandy bottom. In going into the inner or eastern bay it is requisite to keep over on the starboard or southern shore, as a flat runs off  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile to the southward of the small islands of Alikah. Probably just past Flint Island or Sheikh Ahmed would be as good an anchorage as any: of course with a westerly wind the smoothest water will be on the west side. The tides in the bay are strong and irregular, owing to the influence of the outside currents: by several observations the rise of tide at full and change was  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet between the hours of nine and ten. Variation of the compass  $5^{\circ} 2'$  W. in 1836.

*Jebel Šamshán*, so called from the turreted peaks on its summit, is a high rocky promontory of limestone, the most elevated point of which reaches 1,776 feet above the sea; it extends 5 miles from E. to W. by 3 miles in breadth, its southern point Rás Sinailah, the Cape 'Aden of our charts, being in lat.  $12^{\circ} 45' 10''$  N., long.  $45^{\circ} 9'$  E. Numerous rocky points project from this mass of mountains forming small bays and shelter for bagalás or boats.\* Commencing on the inner or north-western side, the point of Hejáf forms the southern and western limit of the inner bay; immediately off it lies the rock of Jeramah, and 1 mile due N. of it are the two islands of

\* Captain Haines' Memoir is accompanied by a beautiful plan of 'Aden, and of the adjacent bays on the scale of one inch to a mile; with several spirited outline sketches of the highland forming Cape 'Aden, Jebel Hasan and Jebel Šamshán or Cape 'Aden, which give a much better idea than can any description of the numerous peaks and varied outline of these remarkable mountains.—Ed.

Jám 'Alí and 'Alíyah ; but, as before-mentioned, a flat, dry at low-water spring-tides, runs out  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile to the southward of these islands, thus narrowing the passage into the inner bay to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile, with  $2\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms water in the mid-channel. Within this bay are five small rocky islands : the eastern and principal one, named Jezírah Sawáyih, is 300 feet high, and almost joined to the mainland at low-water spring-tides. The others are named Marzúk Kebír, Keis el Hammán, Kal-feteín, and Firinjí. Proceeding to the westward, nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile from Hejáf, is the rocky point of El 'Aínah, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile beyond the Flint rock or small island of Sheikh Ahmed ; 500 yards further W. is the small point of Rás ibn Tarsheín ; rather more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile beyond is Rás Marbút, and the same distance again brings us to the extreme W. point of this promontory, named Rás Tarsheín ; the high peak about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile at the back of which reaches 988 feet above the sea. Turning thence to the S.-E., the same bold coast continues for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles as far as a round island named Jezírah Denáfah, 1 mile beyond which is Rás Sinailah, the southern point of this peninsula.

*Rás Marshigh*, 2 miles farther E., is a narrow projecting cape forming the south-eastern point of the promontory, and affording shelter to the anchorage called Bander Darás, lying between this latter cape and Rás Taíh.

'Aden, once a populous town, now a ruined village of 600 persons, is seen immediately on rounding Cape Marshigh, lying on a plain little more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile square, encircled on the land-side by singularly-pointed hills, with its eastern face open to the sea, while immediately in front is the rocky fortified island of Sírah. The position of the N. point of this island, which may be taken as that of the town of 'Aden, is  $12^{\circ} 46' 15''$  N. lat., by means of numerous observations of sun and stars on shore ; and  $45^{\circ} 10' 20''$  E. long., being the mean of eight chronometers measured from Bombay, the flag-staff there, as before-mentioned, being assumed at  $72^{\circ} 54' 26''$  E. This island commands the eastern bay and town of 'Aden : it is a triangular rock about 430 feet high towards the southern end,  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile long by 600 yards broad. Of late years the sand has filled up the small creek which used to separate it from the mainland, consequently at low-water it is now joined to the coast of Arabia.

On the summit of the island is an old fort with a wall which reaches down to the round tower on the other side, the only fortification now perfect. But if these were all put in repair, a mere handful of men could defend it ; three reservoirs for water still remain, but one of them is almost entirely filled up with sand and stones.

Between the island and Rás Marshigh the curve of the land forms a small sandy bay named Bander Hokat, and another to the northward between the N. point of the island and Rás Kutam.

The anchorage in the eastern bay of 'Aden is very regular, so that a vessel may choose her own position, from 5 to 10 fathoms. During the easterly winds a heavy swell rolls in, but from June to August, with the wind from the westward, good anchorage and smooth water may be always found close under the island. The hot dry gusts blowing from over the hills are usually strong and disagreeable.

There are several mosques in 'Aden, but the only one kept in repair is that lying immediately to the southward of the town, being the mosque and tomb of Sheikh Idrís. To the S.-W. the Wadí Kubbeh, or Tomb Valley, extends among the numerous pointed hills that enclose the plain ; to the N.-W. a track leads through a pass in the hills, at an elevation of 226 feet, and descends upon the shore of the western inner bay, and on the sandy isthmus which joins this rocky peninsula to the mainland. And here we are indebted to the perseverance of the late Dr. Hulton, our surgeon, and Mr. Cruttenden, of the *Palinurus*, for the discovery that what has

hitherto been vulgarly termed a Roman road is in fact the aqueduct of Soleimán the Magnificent, extending in a general N.-W. direction upwards of 8 miles into the interior. It is built of red brick and stone, about 4 feet 6 inches wide, and the enclosed water-course measures 19 inches by 16 there are no remains of arches, the ground not requiring them; and its general appearance is that of a mound about 5 feet high, and bricked over. Commencing at the northern extremity of the peninsula, just inside the ruined wall named Dureib-el-'Arabí, which extends from sea to sea entirely across the isthmus, only 1,300 yards wide at this part, the aqueduct for the first mile curves slightly to the eastward, whence it assumes a N.-W. direction as far as the village of Biyar Amheit, a distance of 16,320 yards along the line of aqueduct. Here was the source that supplied the various reservoirs placed at certain distances along its side. the well is 60 feet deep, and near it are the ruins of a small fort. The white tomb of Sheikh 'Othmán is conspicuous on the right side of the aqueduct about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles before reaching Biyar Amheit: and a bridge on the line is thrown across the north-eastern end of the inlet of Khór Maksá, where it joins a large swamp. The labour and expense employed by the Turks to ensure a plentiful supply of water, one of the prime necessities of life in this arid and burning clime, are highly praiseworthy. Besides the magnificent aqueduct above mentioned, there are numerous hanging tanks, if the term may be allowed, formed by excavations in the limestone rocks, which receive the mountain stream and have a deep hollow beneath prepared to receive the surplus water overflowing from that above. There are also several tanks of great size around the town, and about 300 wells lie towards the plain, many of which are hewn out of the solid rock, from 60 to 125 feet deep. Another fine tank just beyond the before-mentioned wall was exclusively intended for the use of vessels in the harbour. Such magnificence in works of public utility bears the strongest evidence to the former state of opulence and prosperity of 'Aden: indeed, we know that scarcely two centuries and a half ago this city ranked among the foremost of the commercial marts of the east. In the time of Constantine it was considered a Roman emporium and celebrated for its impregnable fortifications, its extended commerce, and excellent ports, in which vessels from all the then known quarters of the globe might be met with. But now what a lamentable contrast! Its trade annihilated, its governor imbecile, its tanks in ruins, its water half brackish—deserted streets and still more deserted ports—yet these latter remain as nature made them, excellent, capacious, and secure.

The remains of several old fortifications and other buildings are met with along the rugged paths of J-bel Shamshán. In 1838, accompanied by Lieutenant Swan, Dr. Arbuckle, and Mr. Hamilton, officers of the *Palinurus*, I ascended this mountain, and discovered, to my surprise, that an excellent road had already been made from its base to its summit, built in a zig-zag direction, from 10 to 12 feet broad, and in some places raised to the height of 20 feet. Centuries have elapsed, probably, since this great and skilful undertaking was completed; yet it is extraordinary to observe how slightly it has suffered from the destructive effect of time.

Another object here of some interest to the historian is a Turkish cemetery on the S. side of the plain of 'Aden: many of the tombs are constructed of white marble, and the head-stones inlaid with jasper tablets, on which are inscriptions surmounted by the cap and turban. At 'Aden also are 3 long brass guns, probably relics of Soleimán the Magnificent, perhaps brought here by his fleet in 1530. The longest measures  $18\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and would probably carry a shot of 80 lbs.; the inscription on this could not be deciphered; the second measured 17 feet, and bore upon it "made by Mohammed ibn Hamzah," in the year of the Hijrah, 701 [?]. The third is highly ornamented, and measures 15 feet 7 inches, and the only trace of inscription is "Soleimán ibn Selim, 901" (A.D. 1523).\*



The peninsula of 'Aden bears much resemblance to the rock of Gibraltar, and could easily be rendered as impregnable; but its rocky heights are more elevated and much more peaked in their outline than those of that celebrated European fortress.

The present Sultán of the Abdálí territory, in which 'Aden is situated, is an indolent and almost imbecile man, 50 years of age, who resides at Lahaj. He is named Al Hasan ibn Fudhl Abdu-l-Karím, and has seven sons, the eldest aged 22. The Abdálí tribe is said to number 10,000; yet this chief permitted the Fudhlí in 1836 to ransack the town of 'Aden, and carry off 30,000 dollars (6,000*l.*), and afterwards, in order to make peace, consented to pay a tribute of 365 dollars, 365 mansúries,\* and 40 camel-loads of jowári (millet).

At 'Aden good water may be procured (but it requires care); fire-wood, vegetables, and fruit are scarce and dear; in August and September grapes and pomegranates may be had; bullocks and sheep are plentiful, and occasionally poultry.

Of its present population of 600 persons 250 are Jews, 50 Banians, and the rest Arabs here is a dowlah, or Assistant-Governor, a Collector of Customs, and a guard of 50 Bedawí soldiers. The exports consist in coffee and jowári in small quantities; the imports, of cotton cloths, iron, lead, rice, dates, and occasionally cattle and sheep from Berberah, Bander Kásím and Zeila', which afford the Arabs an opportunity of improving their breed of cattle. The revenue is derived from a heavy duty on both exports and imports, and a land-tax of 25 per cent. and amounts, I believe, to about 12,000 dollars (2,500*l.*) annually; yet the dowlah contrives to increase this sum by his extortions on every occasion. The Sultán possesses 3 small vessels.

But, as before-mentioned, the superiority of 'Aden is in its excellent harbours, both to the E. and to the W.; and the importance of such a station, offering, as it does, a secure shelter for shipping, and almost impregnable fortress, and an easy access to the rich provinces of Hadramaut and Yemen, without the long voyage to Mokhá, is too evident to require to be insisted on.

Lahaj is a dirty, populous town, about 18 miles N.-W. of 'Aden, in lat. 13° 2' N., long. 45° 0' 30" E., standing in a wide plain, surrounded by gardens and date-trees. This is the residence of the Sultan of the Abdálí, and his palace, built of stone and mud, is situated on the W. side of the town, and guarded by a host of armed slaves. The population of the place may be 5,000, among whom are a few Jews and Somálís. The bázár is filled with inferior silks, cotton cloths, dates, butter, tobacco, &c. A great portion of the land in the neighbourhood is cultivated, and produces some flowers and fruits, among which I observed the melon, lime, mango, almond, plantain, and jessamine, which last is very highly prized by the Bedowin girls, who link it into wreaths to adorn their raven tresses. On the road from 'Aden to Lahaj the traveller passes through several scattered villages, thinly peopled; Darab, Mahallah and Mişderah, are mere collections of rude huts made of mats, each village having a tower for its protection in the centre. The spoils of a shipwreck which had recently occurred bedecked the persons of their wretched inhabitants.

The Abdálí appear to be strict Mohammedans.

Quitting Cape 'Aden, which is perhaps the most remarkable feature on the S. coast of Arabia, the land turns suddenly to the N.N.E. for 19 miles, then again to the eastward for 12 miles, reaching to Rás Seilán, a low, round cape. The shores around this bay, which is called Ghubbet Seilán, are flat and sandy, gradually improving as you advance to the eastward. A low plain extends into the interior covered with stunted bushes and patches of the cotton-tree

\* Mansúrí, a small copper coin, bearing the impress of Mansúr, one of the Imáms of San'á 365 of these equal a German crown at Lahaj, and answer to the Komási of Mokhá.

and acacia, which latter thrives luxuriantly in this arid soil. The soundings in this bay are irregular: the shoal water extends to a considerable distance off-shore, and vessels should, if possible, avoid it, owing to the difficulty they might experience in getting out of the bay when blowing hard from the eastward. A ship was wrecked here in 1836, and two bagalás narrowly escaped sharing the same fate.

This part of the coast is inhabited by the Yáfa'í, a numerous tribe, said to amount to 20,000 persons, spread over an extensive tract of country, and reaching inland to the high mountains called from them the Jebel Yáfa'í: this range, which rises about 6,500 feet above the sea, extends in an E. and W. direction, generally speaking, about 30 miles from the shore, but the bight of the bay of Ghubbet Seilán approaches it within 20 miles. The Yáfa'í territory on the coast lies between the Abdálí to the S.-W., and the Fudhlí to the N.-E.: in the interior it is mountainous with numerous fertile valleys, producing coffee, wheat, and millet\* in abundance. It formerly extended for 40 miles beyond Rás Seilán; but during the years 1837-8 the Fudhlí have been too powerful for them, and have obtained possession of this fertile tract of country, which has long been a cause of altercation between them and the Yáfa'í on account of the abundant produce of the cotton-trees; the last victory gained by the Fudhlí was in 1837, when they took possession of three towers erected a short distance from the coast, for the protection of this fertile tract, expelled the Yáfa'ís, and are still, I believe, the undisputed possessors of it, being constantly subject to the invasions of their rivals; 500 Bedawís are always kept in readiness to repel an attack.

*Gnabb Wáh*, a village about 5 miles N.-W. of Rás Seilán, is situated near the above-named towers; and during my visit to it preparations were in progress, on the part of the Yáfa'í, for the renewal of hostilities against the Fudhlí, as a year's truce which they had made would expire on the 18th January, 1838. Seven hundred matchlocks were already collected, and the cotton gathered in and forwarded to the interior, to be conveyed to Hadramaut for sale, as the Yáfa'í have no vessels.

Sultan 'Alí ben Gháleb, chief of the Yáfa'í tribe, is a bold and resolute Bedawí with a daring, yet handsome expression of countenance. His family consists of several sons and daughters; the eldest girl is married to the chief of the Fudhlí, but this does not prevent their constant feuds, notwithstanding which, presents are constantly exchanged between father and daughter.

The principal residence of the Sultan is at El Gharrah, a town about 100 miles, or 5 days' journey, from Sughrá. From the little intercourse we had with the Yáfa'ís they seemed to partake much of the character of their chief. They possess large flocks of goats and sheep, numerous camels, and a few horses.

*Rás Seilán* is a low, round, sandy point, in lat.  $13^{\circ} 3' 30''$  N., long.  $45^{\circ} 28' 30''$  E.: a few date-trees grow near the cape, with some larger trees to the N.-W. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the westward of the cape is the village of Sheikh Abdallah ben Marbút, containing one square building and a few huts: it forms the present limit of territory between the Yáfa'í and the Fudhlí. From Rás Seilán the coast runs in an almost straight N.N.E. line for 20 miles to Sughrá, with a sandy beach the whole way. The bank of soundings off Rás Seilán extends 10 miles off-shore, dropping suddenly from 40 to 100 fathoms at that distance: the 20-fathom line of soundings averages a distance of 5 miles from the coast. Sand, shells, and broken coral is the usual nature of the bottom along this portion of the shore.

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\*Jowárí of the Hindús, dhurrah of the Arabs; i.e., sorghum vulgare or saccharatum.—F.S.

*Al-sálih* is a small town 10 miles to the N.-E. of Rás Seilán, and about 2 miles from the coast. It contains 200 houses, 40 of which are built of stone—its population about 500; the country immediately around is well watered and cultivated. The trade of this place is in the hands of a few Banyans, among whom is the Sultan's agent. We were received here with civility, and good faith was evinced in their transactions with us. A few partridges were shot. To the S.-E. of Al-sálih the tomb of a Sheikh lies near the beach, and close to it the fishermen draw up their boats. About  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the westward, towards the interior, is a village named El Kho'r, surrounded by low hills, on which small towers have been erected for the purpose of its protection: its inhabitants are chiefly agriculturists, and the soil amply repays the trouble bestowed on it. Here, and at Al-sálih, the nephew of the Sultan governs as a lesser Sheikh.

*Barrow Rocks*, so named from the discoverer, are two dangerous rocky reefs, with only 6 feet water on one: they lie  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile apart, and 2 miles distance from the coast rather more than half-way between Al-sálih and Sughra, from which latter place the northern reef bears S.-W.  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant. The best direction for clearing them is to keep in 15 fathoms water, while the dark saddle-shaped hill called *Kermín Kílási* bears on any point between N.N.E. northerly to N.N.W. This hill, which is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the beach, bears N. by W. 3 miles from the northern reef. There is a channel between the reefs and the shore  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile wide, with 6 fathoms water.

*Sughrá\** the principal port of the Fudhlí district, is a village of 200 persons, with a stone building called a castle, being the residence of the Sultan for several months of the year. This castle lies in  $13^{\circ} 21' 30''$  N.,  $45^{\circ} 46'$  E., and is situated about a quarter of a mile from the beach, on the borders of a plain commencing at the foot of Jebel Kharaz, which is its eastern limit, having the valley leading to Wadí Bahrem, and a barn-shaped hill with a peak on its western end, to the north; and a number of granite hills, terminating in a small eminence, forming a point to the westward at some distance from the sea, probably the Black Point of Horsburgh.†

Much mullet is cultivated, and here is also a large grove of date-trees in the immediate vicinity of the village.

A break in the reef of rocks, which girts this part of the coast at a distance of  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile forms a small harbour or shelter for bagalás, with 1, 2, and 3 fathoms water. The *Palimurus* anchored in 9 fathoms water, muddy bottom, 600 yards from the edge of the reef, the Sheikh's castle bearing N. by W.; high water on full and change at 7 o'clock; rise of tide from 8 to 9 feet; the flood-tide sets to the westward, variation  $5^{\circ}$  west in 1837. Good water, bullocks (similar to those of Súrat, and at a moderate price), sheep, poultry, onions, and pumpkins may be easily procured. The *Palimurus* was probably the first European vessel ever anchored on this part of the coast, and it was amusing to see the general curiosity excited, particularly when the guns were fired; the exclamations of surprise knew no bounds. Our reception, after the first shyness had been overcome, was very cordial. The Sultan, as he is called, is named 'Abdallah ben Ahmed ben Fudhlí, and in 1837 his family consisted of three sons and three daughters, whose mother is the daughter of the Yáfa'i chief before mentioned. 'Abdallah is far from prepossessing in appearance, of slight proportions, but resolute and determined in character, and much respected and feared by his neighbours: the Fudhlí tribe is reckoned at 15,000 persons, 4,000 of whom are said to be capable of bearing fire-arms. The territory is stated as extending northerly to the distance of 80 miles, bounded on the E. by Makátein and the Urlají tribe, and reaching as far as Rás Seilán on the W., comprising about 70 miles of

\* By corruption often pronounced and written Shugra.

† Vol 1, p 259

coast. The country is chiefly mountainous, *Jebel Kharaz*, a high range 16 miles N.-E. of *Şughrá*, reaching 5,442 feet above the sea. The *Wadí Bahrein* winds through this range of mountains, abundantly supplied with streams which flow into an extensive lake, whence the valley takes its name. The largest village in this district is *Mein*, with a population of 1,500, said to lie 36 hours' journey to the N.-W. of *Şughrá*. Many of the natives are said to inhabit caves in the mountains. The *Fudhlis* are a fine, bold-looking race of men: the women are the prettiest we have seen in all the parts of Arabia we have visited. Their religion is a lax state of Mohammedanism; the fast of the *Ramazán* almost passes unnoticed. The import and export duties are valued at 600 dollars annually. At the time of our visit, a dollar, or 4s., would buy 12 lbs. of coffee, 150 lbs. of millet, and 24 lbs. of *g'hí* or clarified butter.

From *Şughrá* eastward to *Makátein*, a distance of about 44 miles, the coast becomes irregular. For the first 13 miles it is flat, and then gradually ascends from the sea to the heights of *Jebel Kharaz*; advancing to the eastward we suddenly lose the bank of soundings which extends from *'Aden* rather beyond *Şughrá*, and find from 20 to 30 fathoms close in-shore.

*Jebel Kharazí*, or *Fudhlí*, is a range of lofty mountains extending for about 20 miles nearly E. and W., about 5 miles inland from the coast, which follows the same direction. Its summit is singularly broken into gables, peaks, and bluff points. The most conspicuous gable is rather to the W. of the centre of the range, and rises 3,900 feet, and is remarkable for an opening like a great embrasure, or cleft, which gives it, from the eastward, the appearance of a double peak, whence it descends almost abruptly towards the sea. The highest point of the range is to the westward, and reaches 5,442 feet: from this it declines slightly to the eastward, when a barn-shaped mountain reaches 3,950 feet above the level of the sea. The structure of this range is, I believe, limestone, but we were not able to land to examine it: the valleys appear well wooded.

*Makátein*\* is an anchorage formed by a slightly projecting rocky point of the coast, resorted to by trading vessels for shelter during the N.-E. monsoon: the cape lies in  $13^{\circ} 24' 30''$  N.,  $46^{\circ} 32'$  E., whence some rocky islets project to the southward about 500 yards, and a reef to the distance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile.

*Makátein* may easily be known by two black hills immediately to the eastward, and close on the sea. There are others 3 or 4 miles farther E., but not so distinctly separate as the former; when arriving from the eastward, they resemble one long hill; 500 yards to the N. of the point of the cape is a black ruin. High-water here on full and change at 9 h.; rise of tide 6 feet; variation  $5^{\circ} 12'$  W., in 1835. Five miles W. of this spot is the best anchorage off *Makátein-Şeghír*, or the lesser, formed by a projecting point. Six miles to the eastward of *Makátein* is the small rocky point named *Sambéh*, and for 13 miles beyond, as far as *Howaiyah*, a low sandy coast with rocky points prevails: throughout this distance the bank of soundings extends about 6 miles off-shore.

*Howaiyah* is a town of about 600 houses, situated on a wide plain, 5 miles inland, bounded on the N. by hills, the principal house in lat.  $13^{\circ} 28' 45''$  N., long.  $46^{\circ} 47' 25''$  E. This is the residence of *Násir ben Abú Bekr*, chief of the *Urláji* tribe, who received us civilly, and supplied the officers who visited him with horses to ride through the adjoining hamlets, the population of which, including the town, may amount to 5,000 persons, chiefly employed in agriculture. We here got some fine bullocks, with an abundant supply of good water and excellent fish

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\* Commonly written and pronounced *Maghatain*, k being sounded like g.



*Nasdi*, a town of the Urláji tribe, seven days' journey, or about 200 miles, from Haur, is said to be populous, and the soil to be fertile. *Maghná* is another small town situated in a secluded spot 4 miles farther inland.

The Urláji territory extends about 55 miles along the coast from Makátein on the W., to Wadí Šanam on the E., and is said to reach 200 miles into the interior. The coast is flat, but about 35 miles inland is a high mountainous range of very irregular outline. We are told that the tribe can muster from 7,000 to 8,000 fighting men.

*Rás Urlajah* is a low sandy cape: the soundings off this part of the coast, and for some distance to the eastward, are regular, the 20-fathoms bank reaching about 2 miles off-shore with sand and coral, and 160 fathoms at 6 miles' distance. Twenty-one miles farther E. is the tomb or kubbeh of the *Sheikhah Hurbah*, a female devotee, who is said to have perished from voluntary starvation, imagining that it would be a meritorious act in the sight of her Maker and of Moḥammed, as she believed, his prophet. This ancient shrine is very conspicuous, being covered with white chunam.\*

Twenty miles to the eastward is the mosque of Sheikh 'Abdu-r-raḥmán Baddás, standing on a low, round, sandy point, and a village inhabited by a few fishermen. Two banks, with 40 fathoms water, are reported to lie at some distance off-shore at this part of the coast, but we were not successful in our search after them.

*Rás Safwán* is a slightly projecting point thinly covered with bushes, on its extreme edges in lat.  $13^{\circ} 48' N.$ , long.  $47^{\circ} 42' E.$ ; almost immediately N. of it is the southern peak of the *Jebel Hamarí*, which range forms the leading feature on this part of the coast: it extends from 25 to 30 miles in a N.-E. direction, its highest central peak, about 16 miles N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  W. of Rás Safwán, rising 5,284 feet above the sea. This range is apparently of limestone, and, when seen either from the eastward or westward, its summit resembles the roof of a barn. The aspect of the whole range is very dismal and rugged. The peak lies in  $13^{\circ} 3' 30'' N.$ , long.  $47^{\circ} 37' 30'' E.$  A little more than 1 mile N.-E. of the cape is the village of Haurá, of about 100 persons: it is only noted as the residence of a patriarch of the Dujábi tribe.

*Jebel Makdnati* is a projecting bluff on the coast, 4 miles N.-E. of Haurá, forming a small bay for boats to anchor in: the cape is moderately elevated, perhaps 200 feet, and white with dark veins. Close off it lies a small island, and inland it terminates in sand hills; from the summit of the cape several villages may be distinguished in the valleys of this territory; the extensive valley of Wadí Meifah lies at the eastern foot of the Hamarí range; fine large groves of date-trees add much to the beauty of the scene.

It is to the northward of this range, and apparently in a prolongation of the Wadí Meifah, that the remarkable ruin named Nakab el Hajar is situated, which was visited by two of the officers of the *Palinurus*, Lieut. Wellsted and Mr. Cruttenden, in April 1835: unfortunately, Dr. Hulton, who volunteered his services to be one of the party, could not then be spared from the duties of the ship.†

*Rás al Kosáir*, a low rounded sandy cape, 7 miles farther to the N.-E., has two large trees on the edge of the shore; a conspicuous gable-shaped hill rises in the distant range of mountains, with a bluff both to the E. and to the W. of it; the centre of the gable, or barn, bears from

\* Chunam is the Hindú word *chúná* (from the Sanskrit *chúrna*) with the Portuguese nasal termination *m*. It signifies lime, particularly shell-lime, and thence a white plaster made of it, which takes a fine polish.—F. S.

† Captain Haines' Memoir is accompanied by a sketch of these ruins by Mr. Cruttenden, with a ground plan, and a copy of the inscriptions; the latter differs in five of the characters from the copy published in the *London Geographical Journal*, Vol. VII, p. 32.—Ed.



this cape N. by W. about 40 miles distant. This is the eastern boundary of the Diyabí territory, which extends about 36 miles along the coast. They are a tribe much feared, and bear a bad character. From this point as far as Rás el 'Asidah, a distance of 22 miles, the coast forms a bay 6 miles deep, named *Ghubbet 'Ain*; on its shores are situated the villages of 'Am Abú Ma'bad and 'Am Jowári; the former consists of a mosque and about 100 huts, the latter, of 70 huts; springs of water, (as their names denote,) date-trees, and jowári, (sorghum or dhurrah,) abound. Farther to the eastward is the fishing hamlet of Gillah, inhabited by 50 abject-looking Baddás Sheikh's, who are permitted to live unmolested, owing to the sanctity of their descent.

Rás el 'Asidah,\* the eastern cape of this bay, is very conspicuous, from having at its extremity a dark, rocky, conical hill, 160 feet high, and not unlike a haystack: it lies in lat.  $13^{\circ} 57' N.$ , long  $48^{\circ} 15' 20'' E.$ † This cape forms three projecting rocky points; in a small bay to the westward is the tower of Ba-'l-háf, so named from a Sheikh whose burial-place is contiguous. The bay affords fair shelter during an easterly wind; but a good look-out must be kept in the event of its changing to the westward: the bottom is clean and the soundings regular. It is high water on full and change at 8 h. 30 m.; the rise of tide from 5 to 6 feet; the variation  $5^{\circ} 23' W.$  in 1835. The tower is garrisoned by two or three Wáhidí soldiers, who levy dues on the goods landed here for 'Aden, Makallah, &c. Here is no fresh water but what is brought from a distance.

To the eastward of Rás el 'Asidah the coast takes an E. by N. direction for 30 miles, as far as Rás el Kelb; for the first half of the distance the shore is irregular, with rocky projecting points. Rás Roñl is a remarkable round cape, considerably elevated, perhaps 400 feet, with a deep hollow, apparently like a crater, in the middle; on each side of the cape is a bay for boats.

Jebel Hisn Ghoráb, 5 miles farther E., is a square-shaped dreary-looking brown hill, 464 feet in height, with steep sides, its eastern point lying in  $13^{\circ} 59' 20'' N.$ ,  $48^{\circ} 24' 30'' E.$  It was here that the late Dr. Hulton and Mr. J. Smith, officers of the *Palinurus*, discovered, in the course of their indefatigable and successful rambles, that a narrow pathway led to the summit, and, as no difficulty ever deterred them from attempting an object attended with any prospect of success, they forthwith climbed up, and found the remains, which may be compared to those of Nakab el Hajar. Much time and labour must have been employed in the construction of the road, which in some parts is nearly 10 feet broad. On a second visit, these officers effected a more minute examination, measuring with care, and making plans of each separate portion. It was here that the inscription, in characters similar to those above-mentioned, was found, carved on the smooth face of the solid rock, and whence it was copied by Dr. Hulton.‡ He described the inscription as being very slightly impaired by the lapse of years, and not one character seemed effaced. The tanks, together with the ruins of several walls, were composed of cement as hard as the rock itself. I am indebted to Lieutenant Sanders, who afterwards became my Assistant-Surveyor, for a plan of these remarkable remains. I will not attempt to draw any conclusion as to the period in which a city may have flourished here, nor venture an opinion concerning the supposed unknown character of the writing, as a copy has already been sent to

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\* Cape Porridge.—F. S.

† "Not" observes Captain Haines, "in  $46^{\circ} \frac{1}{2} E.$ , as published in the London Geographical Journal, vol. vii., p. 20."—Ed.

‡ See Bengal Asiatic Journal, for 1834.

those more competent to come to a correct decision on this point; \* but I may briefly mention that an Arab tradition states that this spot was originally peopled by a tribe called Kúm-Harmás, whose descendants still dwell near Makallah, and also by the tribe of Wádí Misenát (to the westward of Sihút); the former constitute a separate and distinct tribe, now bearing the name of Bení Seibán, who have insensibly become incorporated, and many of them will be found dispersed among other nations. The Wádí Misenát tribe still maintain a desolate and exclusive mode of living, and are known by the opprobrious epithet of 'Abid el 'Ibád,† or the slaves of Somáls. This appellation arose from their assimilation with the slaves of Africa. On the N.-E. side of the continent of Africa, there is a district called Samhá, containing the populous towns of Makdishá and Jubah, bordering the river of that name, known by the natives of Bráwáh as Wewendah.‡ This river rises, it is said, in Abyssinia, probably in the Mountains of the Moon. The language of the people inhabiting these towns is wholly unlike the Sawáhili§ spoken in Zingibár; and it will be remembered that, when the Portuguese took possession of this coast in the 15th century, they found the villages, &c., from Makdishá to Šofálah, governed by Mohammedans, differing in dialect, person, and character, from either the Arabs or Africans. The causes which have led to so great a dissimilarity in people who occupy almost the same spot of land I leave to those more versed in such inquiries: one thing, however, appears certain, that there was an established facility of intercourse with Abyssinia; and since the tide of population from that part of the world flowed down the Jubah, and there exists an affinity between the languages, the presumptive intimacy of the two nations acquires double weight. Possibly a clue might thus be traced to elucidate the name and origin of the tribe who are said to have occupied this station, and then proceed towards solving those hitherto undeciphered inscriptions. At whatever time the buildings around Hişn Ghoráb were erected, I consider their discovery of great importance, the fort having, doubtless, been intended to protect the harbour on its eastern side, independently of the town beneath, which, judging from the size and extent of the ruins, must have been considerable. Its position would point it out as a sea-port of some consequence, and the citadel on the hill might be the grand depôt for its commercial resources.

*Bander Hişn Ghoráb*, a small, secure, and well-sheltered bay, and harbour  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile wide by 1 mile deep, lies immediately to the eastward of the black hill of Hişn Ghoráb. Off the eastern side of the bay a rocky reef reduces the entrance to 1,700 yards, or half its width, and must be carefully avoided. At the bottom of the bay is the square tower and hamlet of Bír 'Alí, or the Well of 'Alí, and several adjoining hamlets, containing each about 50 Wáhidis. In standing into the bay the square tower must not be brought to the northward of N. by E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. (magnetic.)

*Haláni* island, a rocky limestone plain,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile long from N. to S. by  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile broad, lies about 1 mile S.S.W. of Hişn Ghoráb Point, separated by a shoal channel; between it and Rás Mafrádh, 2 miles to the westward, is a tolerable shelter against easterly winds.

*Sha'rán* is a circular table-topped sandstone hill 300 feet high, lying  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles E. by N. of the point of Hişn Ghoráb, and close to the sea, remarkable for a cavity or crater-shaped hollow within, filled with water, the edge of which is fringed by an overhanging bank of mangrove-trees; the diameter of the cavity is about 2,500 yards, and is reported by the Arabs to be

\* A copy of this inscription, as well as of similar inscriptions found at Nakab el Hajar and at San'á, has been forwarded to Professor Gosenius at Halle. See also several letters on the subject of the Ikhkili or Himyaritic language, by M. F. Fresnel at Jiddah, in the 'Journal Asiatique,' for July and Dec. 1838.—Ed.

† Literally slaves of slaves.—F. S.

‡ The plural of Wendah in the Sawáhili language.—F. S.

§ Sawáhili, plural of Šahil, signifies "coasts;" the "coasters," or inhabitants of the shore, are therefore called sawáhili, often spelt *sehil* by travellers.—F. S.

fathomless. We had no means of ascertaining its depth in the centre, but at 8 yards from its western bank it was already 11 fathoms deep. The water is very salt, and on analysing it I found it to contain sulphuretted hydrogen. This sheet of water is named Kharif Sha'rán, and, having heard strange reports of it, I determined to visit it. Accompanied by Lieut. Sanders and Dr. Hulton, I landed early one morning, and, in spite of the superstitious feelings of the Arabs, but almost suffocated with heat, we scrambled up to the summit of the sharp circular edge that forms the bowl, whence we had a romantic and beautiful view: before us that deep dark water of Kharif Sha'rán, girt by a belt of mangroves; immediately around rocky heights frowning over fertile valleys which bloomed beneath; and in the distance the dark blue and ever-beautiful ocean, reaching away to the distant horizon, only broken by a few rocky islets, and perchance a solitary sail spread to catch the first breath of the ever-welcome sea-breeze. As before mentioned, this hollow resembles a crater, but I do not conceive it to be of volcanic origin. Our guides pointed out a level plain to the N. called Maídán,\* and said that a number of iron rings and pegs, commonly used to picquet horses, had been found there; but we could see nothing. We returned on board by noon, well pleased with our trip, but suffering much from the heat, which was oppressive in the extreme.

The Kadhreïn islands, or rather rocks, lie about 1 mile offshore, nearly S.S.E. of Rás Khadá, a rocky point at the foot of the hill of Sha'rán.

*Sikkah* or *Jibús*, is another small island, rising 450 feet above the sea, and lying 5 miles due S. of Rás Khadá, in lat.  $13^{\circ} 54' 40''$ , long.  $48^{\circ} 28' 20''$  E., and may be seen at a distance of 30 miles: its summit is flat and white, owing to the excrements of numerous flocks of birds which resort thither, and keep up an abundant supply of this manure, so valuable to the agriculturists. This island is called Sikkah by the natives of the coast, and Jibús by Arab navigators, from its outline resembling the Kítár,† a musical instrument of the Indians.

*Rás Makdahah* is a dark, moderately elevated cape, being the southern termination of a range of hills which extend 10 miles inland in a northerly direction: it forms the eastern limit of the Bay of Makdahah, affording an anchorage sheltered from easterly winds; the only danger is a sunken rock  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile off-shore on the N.W. side. The village of Makdahah, consisting of a mosque, one stone and mud building, a few huts of matting, and a population of 60 persons, lies in the eastern angle of the bay, close under the hills. It affords no supplies, and indifferent water; yet, notwithstanding its poverty, it is the chief residence of the sultan or chief, Moḥammed ibn Abú Bekr, a tributary of 'Abdu-l-Wáhid, who derives the principal part of his revenue from traffic in the aforesaid manure. He is a fine-looking man, and visited me on board the *Palinurus*, where he behaved very courteously.

*Baraghah Island* is a lofty and precipitous limestone rock without a vestige of vegetation which lies off Rás Makdahah, between which is a safe channel about 1 mile wide, with 15 fathoms water. It lies in lat.  $13^{\circ} 58' N.$ , long.  $48^{\circ} 32' 40'' E.$

*Khárijah*‡ is a town said to contain 3,000 inhabitants, about two days' journey inland from Makdahah, between the first and second range of the Wáhidí mountains. It is in a fertile country abounding in date-groves and excellent pasture-land, affording food for numerous herds of cattle, which enables the natives to export large quantities of g'hí, &c.

\* A plain.—F.S.

† Either the parent or offspring of our word guitar.—F.S.

‡ El Khárijah, "the exterior," as the principal town in the Oasis of Thebes, is called El Khárijah, *valgo* El

*Rás el Kelb* (Cape Dog) is a low, round, sandy cape in lat.  $14^{\circ} 1' 40''$  N., long.  $48^{\circ} 46' 50''$  E., lying 13 miles E.N.E. of Rás Makdahah, the intervening coast being also low and sandy. This cape is considered dangerous, many boats and bagalás having been wrecked upon it, and thence it is said to derive its name. But if the lead be attended to, the soundings will give due warning of any danger.

From Rás el Kelb the shore turns abruptly in a N.E. direction for 40 miles as far as Makallah: the first part of it is wretchedly waste and sombre in aspect; sand-hills extend inland for some miles. The distant mountains in the interior appear equally sombre, yet relieved by a very irregular outline, assuming the form of peaks, bluffs, &c., and rising almost precipitously to the height of from 2,000 to 4,000 feet above the sea.

*Rás Rehmat*, the next cape, is elevated perhaps 300 feet, of limestone, and of a dark peaked outline; on its south-western face the sand from the plain has been swept up into a great heap by the strong S.W. monsoon: it takes its name from the effects experienced by the bagalás in running up during the tadhbíreh, the Arabs considering that, if they rounded this point in the S.W. monsoon, the extreme violence of the wind had abated: it signifies "lull of the wind," a term frequently used by the Arabs when it falls calm. From seaward this cape is remarkable as being the commencement of the bold, rocky land extending from hence to the N.E. for 17 miles. Here is the eastern limit of the Wáhidí territory, which has a coast-line of 60 miles in extent; its only two ports are Bá'l-háf and Ilisn Ghoráb. The Wáhidí tribe consists of several thousand persons, and, it is said, can muster 2,000 match-locks in case of war. They are a brave, hospitable race, much respected and feared by their neighbours. The sultan Abdu-l-Wáhidí is said to be an upright chief, and possesses great influence on account of his noble descent. 'Abbán is his usual residence, and that town and Melfah are said to be equal to Makallah in size and in the number of their inhabitants.

*Rás Assasah*, or Aşr el Hamrá (Red footstep), is a rocky point, being the termination to seaward of a rugged range of hills which extend some distance inland: this cape is 6 miles N.E. of Rehmat, and in the valley between lies the town of Al Ghađhar, embosomed in luxuriant date-groves, at about 4 miles from the shore.

*Rás Burúm*, 8 miles farther, is a bold, dark, craggy cape, chiefly of limestone, the highest point of which I have seen at 38 miles' distance; the cape lies in  $14^{\circ} 18' 30''$  N.,  $49^{\circ} 3' 25''$  E. Between this point and Rás el Aħmar, or the red cape, the coast forms a small bay called *Ghubbet Kulún*, and again to the S.W. another small bay, in the bight of which was a hamlet of about 40 miserable-looking people of the Berishí tribe.

The village or town of Burúm lies at the N.W. angle of a small bay which forms to the N. of Rás Burúm: it is surrounded by date-trees, and situated immediately at the foot of an offset of the range of hills which here extends down to the shore and forms a bold and rocky coast. In 1835 its population was about 450, the huts and houses wretchedly built; but we obtained good supplies of water, wood, and stock. The natives were very civil to us. This village, as well as Fawah, Al Ghađhar, &c., is under the Sheikh Moħammed Safalı, chief of the Berishí tribe; he has also several smaller tribes tributary to him. Ijillí, a white mosque erected on an eminence a short distance from the beach, may be plainly seen by vessels passing along-shore; it was erected by a pious priest of the name of Sheikh Wulí, who is also patron saint of the village. The valleys inland hereabout are rich and beautiful, producing large quantities of millet; they are bounded by the purple-streaked mountains which rise from 5,000 to 6,000 feet above them, whose summits in the cold season, we were told, are at times covered



with snow. Heavy and continuous rains fall in November and December, July and August; and even in April and May I have seen rain for three days following. The variation here in 1834 was  $4^{\circ} 44'$  W.

From the bluff of Radham,\* the N. cape of Bander Burúm, to Makallah, a distance of 15 miles, the coast is low and sandy, forming a slight bay, with high mountains in the distant background. About half-way from Burúm is the town of Fuwah, containing about 500 inhabitants, who were not very courteous to those of our party who visited them. The soundings throughout this extent are regular.

*Rás Makallah* is a low neck of land projecting about 2 miles in a S S.E. direction from the base of the hills, which here extend from the interior close down to the shore; its S. point is in lat.  $14^{\circ} 29' 40''$  N., long.  $49^{\circ} 14' 20''$  E., with a rocky shoal with only 4 fathoms on it, lying  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile to the S. Three-quarters of a mile W.N.W. of the cape is *Rás Marbát* with a ruined fort; and 2 miles to the N.W., and within the bay, lies the town of *Makallah*, the principal commercial depôt of the S. coast of Arabia, partly built on a parrow rocky point, projecting about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile to the S., and partly at the foot of a range of reddish limestone cliffs, rising about 300 feet, immediately at the back of the town, and on which are 6 square towers for the protection of the place. Almost directly above this remarkably level range of cliffs the flat-topped summit of *Jebel Gharrah*, composed of beautiful white limestone, rises 1,300 feet above the sea, and may be seen at a distance of 42 miles. The northern portion of the town is built on ground sloping from the base of the hills to the bay, and enclosed on the W. side by a dilapidated wall extending to the shore, with only one entrance-gate, constantly guarded by a few Bedowins. The *Nakib* or Governor's house, a large square building, is in lat.  $14^{\circ} 30' 40''$  N., long.  $49^{\circ} 11' 48''$  E.; the other buildings are chiefly cajan huts, intermingled with a few stone houses and two mosques. The population of the town may be about 4,500, being a motley collection of the *Bení Hasan* and *Yáfa'í* tribes, *Karáchies*, and *Banias*, with foreigners from nearly every part of the globe. On either side of the projecting point on which the town is built is a small bay; that on the W. side is sheltered from the W. by a rocky reef, nearly dry at low-water spring-tides, and forms a haven much frequented by Arab boats and coasting vessels. I have observed 20 of these arrive in the course of a day, and some from 100 to 300 tons burden. The custom-duties are 5 per cent. on goods from India. The exports consist in gums, hides, large quantities of senna, and a small quantity of coffee; the imports, chiefly of cotton cloths, lead, iron, crockery, and rice, from Bombay; dates and dried fruit from *Muskat*: *jowári*,\* *bajri*,† and honey, from 'Aden; coffee from *Mokhá*; sheep, honey, aloes, frankincense, and slaves, from *Berberah*, *Bander Kosair*, and other African ports. Much coasting trade is also carried on. Traffic in slaves exists to a frightful extent; I have seen 700 Nubian girls exposed at once in the slave-market here for sale, and subject to the brutal and disgusting inspection of the purchasers; the price varies from 7*l.* to 25*l.* a-head. The duties here in 1834 amounted to about 800*l.*, but in 1836 to upwards of 1,200*l.*; the chief part of the trade is carried on by the *Bania* merchants. The present *Nakib* or chief *Mohammed ben 'Abdu-l-'Abíd*, is a young man of firm and upright character, and is much respected: commerce has greatly revived since his reign. A ship in want of supplies will find *Makallah* the best port on the coast for procuring them: the water is good, but it requires watchfulness here as well as elsewhere on this coast to obtain it pure; there is none in the town; it is brought from a distance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile, and furnishes a means of subsistence for many of the poorer class.

\* Millet, or sorghum, of various kinds.—T. E.

† Or Bajra.—Pestum spicatum.—T. E.



The anchorage in the bay is good, from 8 to 10 fathoms, sandy bottom, with the flag-staff on the Governor's house bearing N.N.E. from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile off-shore. A rock with only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  fathom water lies 700 yards due W. of the extreme S.W. point of the town, and must be carefully avoided. High-water at full and change at 8 h. 30 m., rise of tide 7 feet. Variation  $4^{\circ} 30'$  W. in 1834.

While we were at Makallah an excellent opportunity for exploring the interior of the province of Hadramaút occurred, but on account of the expense it would have entailed I was obliged to decline it. The journey was to have been made in company with a respectable and wealthy merchant named Ṣalīḥ ben 'Abdallah ben Sul, who, having been wounded in the arm by a musketball, had come to the coast in hopes of meeting with some European surgeon who could extract it for him: this was kindly and immediately done for him by Dr. Hughes, then a passenger on board the E. I. C. ship the *Hugh Lindsay*, and, in gratitude for the relief from violent pain, this merchant offered to conduct any officer safely to the interior on his return home: but, as before stated, we were obliged most unwillingly to decline it. Ṣalīḥ ben 'Abdallah described his intended route as follows—the first day's journey to Tukam; the second to Jebel Akar, the third to Wásel; the fourth to Raddah, a place of considerable extent belonging to the Yakis; the fifth day arrive at Sá'ah, of the Yabará tribe; the sixth day at 'Abd al Bati, inhabited by Al Tatamín Eiwarmas; the seventh, Tarbál; the eighth, Sihun; both the last possessed by the Yata'is. Allowing 20 miles a-day for the camel's journey, this would be 160 miles' journey from Makallah; a courier can accomplish it in 4 days. The usual estimate of the distances from Sihun, the capital of Hadramaut, to the different towns, is said to be as follows.—to Dau'an 36 hours; to Tarím 6 hours; to 'Anát 26 hours; to Shibám 24 hours—the whole province is represented as fertile, the towns and villages populous, abundance of water and date-groves.

The appearance of the natives of Hadramaút that we saw was favourable; handsome features, slight made, active men, well armed with matchlock and kris, ornamented with gold or silver.

From Rás Makallah the coast extends to the N.E. in an almost unbroken line of low sand for 40 miles, as far as the cliffs of Hámí; the edge of the 20-fathom bank of soundings generally lying about 2 miles off-shore, and dropping to 100 fathoms, at 4 miles' distance, clear bottom of sand and shells. Immediately to the N.E. of Rás Makallah the small anchorage of Bander Roweíní affords shelter for bagalás against the S.W. monsoon. Two miles farther is the village of Rághib, with a large ancient mosque; this coast abounds with fish, and the whole of the inhabitants of the village appeared to be fishermen.

Bú Heish, 3 miles beyond, is a village surrounded by date-trees in a well-watered valley, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the shore.

Shehr, once a thriving town, but now a desolate group of houses, with an old fort, lies close to the shore in lat.  $14^{\circ} 38' 30''$  N., long.  $49^{\circ} 27' 35''$  E. This was formerly the residence of the chief of the Kaṣáídí tribe, but the village has now dwindled to about 300 persons, chiefly fishermen.

Súku-l-Baṣír is a small town lying inland, about 4 miles N.W. of Shehr; it is said to contain 4,500 inhabitants: its mosques may be distinctly seen above the date-groves from the sea, and the valley appeared extremely luxuriant. Much tobacco, plenty of vegetables, good dates, and pure water may be obtained here. Five miles farther to the N.E. the oblong, table-topped hill of Jebel Dheb'ah (Hyæna Mount), entirely separate from all other hills, rises close

to the shore: as it is visible at some distance, it forms a good landmark for making Makallah from the eastward.

Zakfah is a pretty village surrounded by date-groves, on the shore, 4 miles farther E., and Máyariyán, 2 miles beyond, is a ruined village, abundantly supplied with water.

Shehr, the chief town of the district of this name, extends one mile along-shore, with a fortified castle, the residence of the sultan, on an eminence near the centre, in lat.  $14^{\circ} 43' 40''$  N., long.  $49^{\circ} 40'$  E., and is visible from seaward before any other object in the town. Here is a mosque and a custom-house; the town is built in the shape of a triangle, and, though the dwellings are much scattered, they are tolerably spacious and comfortable; the population is about 6,000. Supplies may be easily obtained here, but the water is not good. Shehr is a place of much trade; its manufactures are chiefly coarse cotton cloths, gunpowder, implements of war, &c. The duties on exports and imports amount to about 5,000*l.* annually.

The anchorage off Shehr is only an open roadstead; clean bottom of sand and shells in 7 and 8 fathoms, from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 mile off-shore.

Four miles N.E. of the town is the hill of Yakalif, on which are the remains of a wall and a terrace: this hill forms a good landmark for making the place.

The sultan of the Hamúm tribe, Sheikh 'Alí ibn Násir, is a young man under 30 years of age, and is very superior to the generality of Arab chiefs: he is able to muster 7,000 matchlocks in case of war.

The Hamúm tribe is subdivided into the following lesser tribes:—

Beit 'Alí (Tent of 'Alí),	Beit Subhí,	Barwákhi,
—Aghraf,	—Hamúdíyah,	Sa'il,
—Ghoráb,	—Shencin,	Hakkam,
—Bú Salih,	—Karzet,	Hur.

We were also given the names of the following towns and villages in this territory, besides those already, or to be, described:—

Defeighah,	Karadah,	Zaghafah,	Mayán 'Abádub,
Sewán,	Taballah,	Sa'id,	Ma'du',
Nagkar,	Wásalat,	Dau'an,	Ararah,
Ariyah,	Arab,	Meyú,	Muṣayyid.
Tiklidah,	Bú'ish,	'Aríf,	

Hámí, the next village, 13 miles farther to the eastward, lies just below the dark double hill of the same name, in a picturesque ravine, with a date-grove and cultivated ground near the beach; its population is about 500; supplies are not easily obtained; fishing seems the chief occupation of the inhabitants. Hot-springs are numerous near Hámí; those I examined stood at  $140^{\circ}$  Fahr.

Between Hámí and Rás Sharmah, 9 miles farther E., the coast forms a bay 2 miles deep with sandy bottom and regular soundings; in the bight of the bay, on a rocky eminence  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile from the coast, stands the ruined fort of Hishn el Misenát, and between this point and Rás Sharmah lies *Sharmah Bay*, considered the best on the coast for shelter during the N.-E. monsoon. Along the shore of this latter bay are the ruined fort of Mughrá, the ruined mosque and village of Kalfah, and El Gharm, a small fishing village; while inland at 2 miles distance is the walled town of Dís, containing 1,000 persons and some hot springs. In 1836

the Daulah or Governor here was named Aiwás ibn Ahmed, who was very civil to the officers who visited him, but the legitimate chief is Moḥammed 'Omar ibn 'Omar, the owner and captain of a fine ship, which command he prefers to that of an unsettled government.

Dhabbah, a village 4 miles farther inland, surrounded by date-groves, is noted for its hot springs of peculiar efficacy in rheumatic complaints.

*Rás Sharmah* is a small headland projecting to the S.-W., and forming the eastern limit of the bay; the point lies in  $14^{\circ} 48' 30''$  N., long.  $50^{\circ} 2' 30''$  E., immediately N. of it a hill named Chehár Saber\* rises 170 feet above the sea; and 700 yards W. of the extreme point of the cape lies the small rock called Jezírah Sharmah, 70 feet high. It is high water here on full and change at 9h.; rise and fall 8 feet; variation in 1835 was  $4^{\circ} 39'$  W. From Rás Sharmah the coast runs nearly due E. for 8 miles, presenting a succession of limestone and chalky cliffs rising almost precipitously 400 feet above the sea.

*Rás Baghashú'*, a rocky cape 300 feet high, is the eastern termination of this bold shore, and lies in lat.  $14^{\circ} 49' 10''$  N., long.  $50^{\circ} 9' 30''$  E.; a miserable village of the same name stands a little to the eastward; and 4 miles to the westward, in a gap of the cliffs, is another small village called Dhafghán. About 3 miles to the northward is Jebel Hamúm, a hill, near which we found some inscriptions in the same character as those of Hish Ghóráb,† &c. Here also are several springs of good water and considerable cultivation.

A lofty range of mountains extends in the direction assumed by the coast, varying from 10 to 15 miles' distance from the sea: commencing to the eastward of Makallah, they bear the name of Jebel Jambúsh, then Jebel ibn Shamáyik, with a remarkable bluff towards its eastern end on a still more distant range: then follow Jebel Asad, (Mount Lion,) which stretches away to the north-eastward towards Ras Fartak.

The Beit 'Alí sub-division of the Hamum tribe have great influence along this part of the coast; their Sheikh, Hasan ibn 'Alí, is a man of ability and courage, and commands 1,000 matchlocks, a force sufficient to make a chief much respected and feared by his weaker neighbours.

Thirteen miles of low sandy coast in an E.N.E. direction bring us to the sandy cape of Rás Koşair; and 1 mile due N. of the point is the small town, or rather village, of Koşair containing several stone buildings, but chiefly huts; its population is estimated at 300 of the Beit 'Alí and Beit Ghóráb tribes. The highest house in the centre of the village is in lat.  $14^{\circ} 54' 40''$  N., long.  $50^{\circ} 21' 50''$  E. The natives have a few boats, and catch abundance of sharks, the fins and tails of which find their way, *via* Maskat and Bombay, to the Chinese market, and fetch good prices.

Half a mile to the N.-W. of the village is a ruined square fort and a date-grove, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles in the same direction is the scattered hamlet of Koreim. Immediately to the S.-W. of the cape a rocky shoal extends for  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile.

For the next 30 miles the same description of low, sandy coast continues to the north-eastward, forming a slight curve, in which the chief place is.

*Raidah*, a small town of 700 inhabitants on the sea-coast, only noted as the residence of the Sultán, 'Alí ibn Abdallah, &c., a descendant, it is said, of one of the principal chiefs of

\* This is a Persian, and therefore not the native name.—F. S.

† See London Asiatic Journal for 1838, p. 91.—Ed.

Southern Arabia. The present chief is a man of about 50 years of age, and is much respected; he is of the Kašaidi sub-division of the Hamúm tribe, and his territory extends from Ras Baghashú' to Misenát, a sea-coast of about 35 miles. Frankincense, aloes, ambergris, and sharks' fins are the chief articles of export. Here are about 30 boats.

The villages of Raidah, Seghír, or Serrár, of 80 people; of Harrah, conspicuous for its round tower; and the ruined fort of Husein el Katheri, lie on the coast between Kosair and Raidah.

Misenát is an old ruin on the coast, 13 miles E. by N. of Raidah, and lies in lat.  $15^{\circ} 3' N.$ , long.  $50^{\circ} 43' 25'' E.$  Here is a spring of excellent water, but the land is swampy and abounds in mangrove-trees. The remains would indicate the site of a town of some size, and we were told that coins and other things have been picked up here, and amongst them a pair of scales. It is melancholy to find this interesting coast, which in former days was probably fertile and populous, now almost entirely desolate; and the few inhabitants that remain nearly always at strife with their neighbours.

At this place a party of officers, consisting of Lieut. Sanders, Dr. Hulton, and Mr. Smith left the *Palinurus* and proceeded about 10 miles inland to Wádí Sheikháwí, 3 miles distant from the village of Mayokí, where they discovered some inscriptions similar to those found at Hishn Ghoráb,\* &c. The valley is said to be fertile and to contain numerous villages. Wádí Sheikháwí may be easily distinguished by a remarkable gap in the mountains that encompass it.

The coast between Misenát and Sihút is low and dreary, with a gradual ascent to the Sheikháwí mountains, the eastern termination of which forms the western side of Wádí Masellá.

The Mahrah territory here commences and continues to the eastward nearly as far as Marbát.

'Abdu-l-Kúrí, or *Palinurus* Shoal, a dangerous patch lying off this part of the Arabian coast, was unknown to both Arab and European navigators till this survey in 1835; an old fisherman, who had lived many years in this neighbourhood, pointed it out to me as a place where I should be likely to catch plenty of sharks, and it was not until after a difficult and tedious search, and struggling against a current running 3 miles an-hour, that we were able to take soundings upon the shoal spot. The shallowest part of this newly-discovered shoal is a pointed rock with only 4 fathoms water on it, and lies in lat.  $14^{\circ} 54' 50'' N.$ , long.  $50^{\circ} 45' 20'' E.$ , determined by observations made on the spot by Lieut. Jardine (an excellent and accurate observer) and myself, and agreeing by trigonometric and chronometric measurements within a few seconds. The variation of the compass, by means of twenty-three observations in 1835, was  $4^{\circ} 26'$  westerly.

The shoal extends for 1,850 yards in a N.N.E. and S.S.W. direction, and is from 300 to 600 yards broad, with a bottom of alternate rock and coral. The soundings round the shoal cannot be relied on, as they vary suddenly, and do not always decrease on approaching it. The nearest land is at the old ruin of Misenát, distant  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and bearing N. by W., being almost in a transit bearing with the eastern bluff of Sheikháwí Gap. From the shoal the sandy beach on the mainland is not visible.

The fishermen assured me that forty years ago there was more water on this spot, and at that period no coral could be perceived at the bottom. The soundings, measured from the shoal

\* See *London Asiatic Journal* for 1836, p. 92.