

through the country; these last were particularly severe, and seemed to give permission to no native to refuse any thing even to a common soldier: "Make no attempts to conceal your property, as the Pasha knows all that you possess."

Soon after we left Hannech we entered a pass, and in three miles and a half came down to the Nile, opposite to about the middle of Zimmit, which is said to be very broad. The village of Ashowb is on this bank, just above. We observed some well-broken outlines of granite rocks clearly defined against the evening sky. We rode by the Nile side for half a mile, and then left it, though at no great distance, in direction W.N.W. In five miles we entered a kind of pass between two considerable rocks of granite. Mount Fogo was for the first three miles and a half in front of us, and is now a little to the right. In about seven miles we came to the Nile again, opposite to the island Moushli, (direction N.N.W., and presently N.), and rode generally by the river-side, with rocks close on our left. In a mile more we passed a green valley going down to the Nile, full of gazelles; and soon afterwards the rocks diminish and the plain opens. Our direction was now to the E. of North, again nearly towards Fogo. In ten miles or ten and a half from Hannech we came to a village by the river-side named Kabhadji, where we remained for the night.

This is one of the prettiest spots on the banks of the Nile. We were shut in behind and on either side by a number of low

rocks, out of which Mount Fogo, rising in eminence, presented his red and stony forehead to the moonlight. The broad and moving surface of the river is broken by innumerable islets, whose perpetual struggles with the restless water produce a continuation of melancholy sound more attractive than mere tranquillity.

Jan. 16.

Malek Zebeyr joined us at Hannech, and now travelled with us; the rival kings preserved a dignified reserve in their behaviour to each other, and only united in attention and respect to us. We set out early, and in two miles and a half arrived at Mount Fogo; a small island, named Bouggi, is formed by the Nile at its foot. I determined to ascend the mountain, hoping to obtain from that eminence (the only considerable one that we had found situated close by the water since we left Djebel el Berkel) a view of the river, and the shape and exact situation of the islands, for some distance both up and down the stream, and I was not disappointed. I was enabled to trace the course of the Nile from Hannech to Naoury, and made a kind of drawing or plan of that country, which was of use in correcting and amplifying the Map of the Nile. I observed a small cataract in the main stream just below, and two or three green spots of cultivation in the middle of the rocks which form it; the mountain is of red sandstone.

James remained with me, and after riding briskly on for about five miles we overtook Mr. Hanbury and Malek Ibrahim drinking wine and booza at a village called Amli. We were received with

shouts of joy, as there had been fears for our safety, on account of robbers, who are said to haunt the mountain.

The minstrel, whose voice and harp* are ever most willingly exerted, and most agreeably attended to, amid scenes of festivity, seizes this occasion to extemporize on the alarm excited by our absence, and the interest taken by the Aga in the safety of his friend. "The soldiers are riding about the country in search of him; the Aga trembled for his friend, and drew the sword that was never quenched; the King was anxious about his guest, and if the Pasha, and even the great Pasha, had known it, they would have been equally agitated—but he,—of whom was he afraid, or where is the Sheygy'a who would dare to face his gun that has two souls, and his pistols that are all of gold?" The poetry was much admired, but, unhappily for the truth of the matter, the soldiers were drinking their booza, and the Aga had never touched the unquenchable blade.

He afterwards sang the praises of the King his master—"He is young and tall, and his sword is without knowledge; he mounts his horse, which bounds farther than the gazelles of the Desert:

* His instrument was exactly that described and drawn by Burckhardt (p. 146.), and I never saw any other in Nubia, or any wind instrument whatever. A young Dongolawy, whom we took down with us to Cairo, had one of the same kind, without the same skill in using it. It was made in Argo, like most others, and he gave a smaller, a half-dollar, and a spear for it. He had quarrelled with his father for having married a second wife, and was setting off alone to seek for a brother, whom he supposed to be at Cairo, when we allowed him to join our party. His whole property was seven dollars, but deeming one sufficient for so trifling a journey, he had left the other six behind him.

they brought him his lance, and he refused it; they brought him his gun, and he accepted it. He went to the Pasha, but not for revenge; for the good of his subjects he went, to secure their property." He concluded by a short strain to the Aga, to whom he declared himself attached from the moment he first beheld his countenance.

These effusions came out in verses, each of four lines, apparently octosyllabic, though I sometimes observed that the fourth line was wanting, and its place in the air filled up by a hum, or merely the music of the instrument; all were sung to the same tune, which had nothing harsh or disagreeable in it. and was just sufficiently pleasant to be an excellent soporific. On this occasion the wine and the booza, and the firing and the shouts, prevented that effect. We tasted here for the first time the liquor called Om Belbel *, or the "Mother of Nightingales;" it seems dif-

* "The Om Belbel is drained through a cloth, and is consequently pure and liquid;...it has a pleasant prickly taste, something like Champagne turned sour." Burckhardt, p. 218. The manner in which palm wine and the common booza are made is described by him, (p. 143.) "As soon as the dates have come to maturity they are thrown into large earthen boilers, with water, and the whole is boiled for two days without intermission; the liquid is then strained, and the clear juice is poured into earthen jars, which, after being well closed, are buried underground; here they are allowed to remain for ten or twelve days, during which the liquor ferments; the jars are then taken up, and the contents are fit to drink; but the wine will not keep longer than a year." Booza "is extracted from dhourra, or barley, but the best is furnished by the latter; it is of a pale muddy colour, and very nutritious." This beverage was in use among the ancient Ethiopians.—(Strabo, lib. xvii.) Ζῶσι δ' ἀπὸ κέγχρου καὶ κριθῆς ἀφ' ὧν καὶ ποτὸν ποιοῦσιν αὐτοῖς . . . ἐστὶ δὲ καὶ ἔλαιον, καὶ βούτυρον καὶ στέαρ.

ferent from that drunk at Berber under the same name; it was only the common booza better strained, and mixed with palm-wine; in small quantities we found it extremely agreeable. King Ibrahim had a viceroy and secretary with him, who refused to enter into our conviviality because he was in mourning and a Fakir*. The interpreter drank plentifully night and morning, and assured us that it was usual for the rich in these countries to take a calabash of palm wine every morning on waking, instead of coffee. The King was temperate, and sufficiently civilized to prefer our cookery to his own; for which apostacy from Nubian prejudices he would have incurred the supreme contempt of his Brother of Argo.

We did justice to the hospitality here afforded us, and departed from the village much refreshed. "This is the spot," said Ibrahim in mounting, "where Zebeyr lately killed five of my *children*." We were horror-struck, and calling for a better interpreter (the Genoese being for the moment employed in that capacity), we found that he only meant five of his *subjects*.

For the first three miles we rode northward, and generally near the Nile; the river then makes a short turn eastward, and opposite the point is a large Cuphic church or castle, with arches and stone walls leading up to it from the Nile; it is divided into two parts, the lower of which is among the palms

* These holy men, a kind of Mahometan monks, make a vow to abstain from all worldly pleasures, that of marriage included; and are said to observe their vow much more strictly in Nubia than at Cairo.

by the river-side. In about two miles more we came to two old elliptical stone wells; there is a castle, chiefly of stone, on the opposite shore of Fareatti; a man was passing on a very large ramouss*, which rose three or four feet out of the water before him. There are many fortresses on the shore of the island, which seems well peopled and cultivated; the King in passing received shouts of welcome from the opposite bank.

About a mile farther is a small shelál; there is a tower on the other side, and a little lower an old stone fortress on this; it is of great extent, but of no regular architecture; it is built down to the edge of the river, and a large open square on the inclined plain, nearer the Nile, is enclosed with the rest by one exterior wall of great strength; here is a turn to the southward of East, which continues the direction for some time; there is a small island near. In about eight miles more, over sandy plains always surrounded by rocks, and generally covered with stones, we arrived at Naour, riding latterly close by the river-side, with high rocks on our left; our direction from the castle had been upon the whole S.E., as well as could be judged from the wind and moon, for it was rather late before we arrived at Naour; a very small plain between the village and the Nile is cultivated, and the wheat was then just coming up. The two

* The geographer Strabo, after travelling from Syene to the shore opposite Philæ, in an ἀπέργη, describes himself (b. xvii. p. 818.) to have crossed the river on a kind of wicker ramouss, little less simple than the substitutes for boats at present in use on the Nile.

conical rocks before described are exactly opposite on the other side.

A large fire, lighted for the benefit of the shivering Malek, in the middle of the mud room where we were to sleep, did not conduce to the comfort of the evening.

Jan. 17. There is an old castle, about half a mile above the village, resembling that observed and described yesterday. The eminence on which it stands furnished an extensive view of the country and river towards the North. We set off late, and soon leaving behind us the rocks which had so long accompanied us, entered an open plain, which was still in most parts an uncultivated desert. After four miles and a half, (E.N.E.) we came to the village and island of Defoinyá, where the Nile turns considerably to the southward of East. There are many hills on the other side, but the banks are covered with palms. Here we entered a pass in a N.E. direction, at some distance from the river, and, starting a hare, had a regular course, which, owing to the badness of the dogs, was unsuccessful.

In three miles and a half more we came to the king's capital, Hadji Omar, a large village with two fortresses. It is the residence of the queen and her father, who has given his own name to the place. It is near the river, and opposite Soobah, where we slept about two months before, in our way up to the army. The cataract was now become more noisy, but the broken boat remained exactly as we had left it.

The inhabitants of Mahass have a tradition, apparently con-

nected with one already mentioned as belonging to the Nubians between the cataracts, that they are of Arabian descent, and that their ancestors came from the East before the time of the Prophet; however, it is certain that at present the features of the people are Nubian, as well as the language they speak, and that the women are generally entirely ignorant of any other. The Koreysh Arabs come down to pass some months every year in the country with their flocks, but are not the residents*.

The attire of the minstrel proved little in favour of his Prince's generosity; he was, in fact, naked down to the loins; he was generally mounted behind some one else on a camel, with his harp in his hand, and near the person of his master.

We found that the king had killed an ox for us, in return, probably, for the powder we had expended to celebrate his return to his capital. The women were clapping their hands, and cheerfully performing their offensive movements, covered with their brown and dirty cloaks, fresh buttered, and exhaling such an odour, that we began to look for the appearance of the cloud, whose formation, according to the promise of their chorus, was to reward their perseverance. Among the crowd collected to receive the king, we observed one young man† in a blue gown, with a massive gold ring in his right ear.

* This does not quite agree with the information of Burckhardt, (p. 64.) We learned it in conversation, either from Malek Ibrahim himself or his interpreter.

† "The hair of the people of Maháss is very thick, but not woolly. All the young men wear one ear-ring, either of silver or copper, in the right ear only," &c. Burckhardt, p. 141.

Malek Ibrahim dined with us in our tent, and soon afterwards we went up to the private room in the palace, to taste the wine of his Majesty ; it is a small high room, of which the walls are partly plastered, and the roof more neatly joined than is usual. In one part were some manuscripts of the Koran, and in another a suit of quilted armour. The king and ourselves reposed on one mat, and Yacobe on a smaller one near ; there was a fire in the middle, and the cupbearer, a little black half-naked boy, sits with a large calabash of wine before him, by the fire-side ; there is a smaller calabash, which he fills out of the large one, and hands about, with a short interval between every round. The second time of the passing of the calabash I only half-emptied mine, on which the boy laughed extremely, and would have returned it, asking me, " What, do you fail so soon ? " The wine was followed by the " Mother of Nightingales."

In the mean time we had been anxiously expecting the appearance of the king's interpreter, without whom there were no hopes of conversation*. In due time he staggers in, and rolling into his place by the side of his master, falls into a state of insensibility, from which no subsequent efforts can for a moment awaken him. The history of this excess, so fatal to the vivacity of the evening, was briefly this : his name was Hadji Ali, and

* I never heard of any foreigner, whether Frank, Turk, or Arab, who could speak Nubian. It is a sharp, but harmonious, language, spoken with a very pleasing accent, and has no offensive sound in it. The *r* is strongly pronounced, but it seems free from nasals, gutturals, and sibilations.

he had performed the pilgrimage to Mecca; having fallen in with another Hadji, he had determined to celebrate the meeting with his brother pilgrim, and they had each swallowed twenty-two calabashes of wine in honour of the Prophet.

As soon as the re-animation of Hadji Ali was ascertained to be impracticable, we requested the introduction of the minstrel; and after hearing some repetitions of his former ditties, we desired him to sing the praises of Abdin Casheff. He obeyed instantly, and without the slightest premeditation selected exactly those qualities for which his hero was most particularly distinguished, and celebrated, in harmonious song, his generosity, his hospitality, his generalship, and his courage. "He fought the Shegy'a with their own arms, and flew through their country like a bird. The city, that he governed before, wept and lamented when he left it; and now that God has sent him us, let us rejoice: let us rejoice that he is brave and generous, that he is powerful and humane, and let us pray that he may soon return to us." (Here followed several stanzas, of little novelty or interest, beginning with—"Let us rejoice.") "He wished to stay here and govern us, but the Pasha had need of his valour and his counsels, (but for which, he would not have succeeded,) and ordered him to advance with him; and he obeyed the orders of the Pasha. May he return speedily to govern us, and then be sent to Stamboul with the keys of kingdoms." All this, and much more, he produced with the greatest fluency, in Arabic, though a Nubian.

He concluded the evening with a song, of which a small fragment is the last specimen I shall give of his minstrelsey. I shall be pardoned for adding it, were it only that it was in honour of the queen. "She is fortunate in having a husband honoured by the Pasha, and returning to his kingdom with noble guests. Her eye is like that of the gazelle, when startled she looks over the Desert, uncertain which path to take." And then followed a good deal about the morning star. Now the eye of the queen was like the eye of her subjects, bright, black, and inexpressive; and she differed from them in no visible respect, not even in the colour of her cloak, or the arrangement of her perfumed tresses. Not, however, that even she was insensible to the effect of dress; for, some of our party happening to arrive this morning at the palace before the grand procession, she came out to meet them, and anxiously inquired, "Whether her royal husband was in good health, and handsomely clothed by the Pasha?"

We retired to our tent early, and they continued their festivities. They had a supper at eleven o'clock, which was followed by another carousal, and the carousal by a meal of raw meat, for salubrious purposes; and after this physical absolution from the effects of their past excesses, they began to indulge afresh. I was waked very late by a mixture of noises, of which the loudest was made by a large ox, loose, and bellowing about the tent; the women were yet to be heard clapping

their hands and ululating* within the fortress ; and such of the men as had been able to reel out, were rioting about it. The moon was overhead, and the sky presented an unusual appearance of tranquillity ; it was mottled by a number of thin white clouds, entirely flat and motionless. The sound of the cataract was heard through the palms in the intervals of the roar of festivity.

Jan. 15. There is a fine abrupt sandstone rock about two miles from Hadji Omar, of considerable height. I set off at sunrise to ascend it, and with some little difficulty succeeded. The view was as extensive as that I had from the top of Mount Fogo, but the effect extremely different. In the former situation, from the vicinity of the mountain, the Nile and its islands were spread before me like a map ; the greater distance to which I was at present removed, left more to imagination. It is a noble sight to contemplate the Father of Rivers at the same time on the right hand and on the left, before and behind, laboriously forcing his way among the rocks, in appearance a mighty serpent winding through the Desert, but in effect the contrary ; for where he comes not, is desolation ; before him and by his sides are verdure and life ; he seems constantly struggling to do good and constantly resisted, and you

* In giving utterance to their repeated *lilli-loos*, they open their mouths wide, and move their tongue rapidly from one side to the other, like some women mentioned by Mungo Park. It is difficult to conceive a more unpleasant sight.

see together his power, his beneficence, and his beauty. The good and evil genii of Africa are in conflict, and it is melancholy to see how limited is the success of the former, and how narrow the line of fertility compared with the barrenness that extends without bounds around it : and yet the very waste has its herds of inhabitants, and it is a wonderful consideration how many animals derive from this river alone their life and the means of preserving it.

The view of the Desert is unlimited ; a number of large detached rocks are nobly scattered over it, and one or two of the more distant have as fine contours as I ever saw. The bones of some animal were lying on the very summit of the rock ; they were probably the remains of a kid or lamb carried up thither by an eagle. A Persian would have chosen that spot for sacrifice.

Just as we were mounting this morning, a scene took place, singularly characteristic of Nubian manners, and not very creditable to the conjugal affection of our host and hostess. The king was already on horseback, when his consort came out in form from the palace, and saluted him, for the first time since his return. She said the Prayer of Peace to him, and they then wept together to the memory of some friend or relation who had lately died ; he then turned round his horse's head, and proceeded on his journey. This apparent indifference surprised us the more, as the minstrel, in the conclusion of his song, had insinuated, that, " Let the morning

star rise ever so late, its dewy rays would still bring an unwelcome interruption to the happiness of the royal pair."

For two miles we kept pretty near the Nile, with a fine North wind meeting us; and in two miles more, nearly in the same direction, but farther from the river, we came to the castled town of Harám, where we were received with the usual display of rejoicings. The castle of Koke, where was the Turkish Aga with some soldiers, is about half a mile further on, and distant a *malaga* and a half, or about five miles from Hadji Omar. There is another fortress at Koke, belonging to Malek Zebeyr; when Ibrahim approached the castle of his rival brother (for they are brothers by a different mother), he seized his spear, and putting his horse to the antelope gallop, rode up to the gate as if defying him; he then alighted, laid aside his arms, and went to make his obeisance to the Aga.

We also paid a visit to that important personage, and were received with the same civility that we had universally experienced at the hands of Turkish officers. He sent us a large bowl of wine, though he recommended the use of spirits in preference.

An old soldier was also very attentive, and thinking it necessary to flatter us too, delicately assured us that it was his opinion, "that the Algerines and the English were the best sailors in the world."

We received a visit and a goat from Malek Zebeyr, who took



on shore in A Aglio

CASTLE OF KOKÉ

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incredible pains to convince us, that in his disputes with Ibrahim he had invariably had justice on his side: one thing appears certain, that he was aided in them by the Mamelouks, which will sufficiently account for his being at present in disgrace with the Turks.

The names of the stars are lamentably degraded by the Nubians, who seem to have sadly disregarded the "Poetry of Heaven." They have debased the Pleiades to a harrow, and Orion to a cow, the three little stars below the belt are the teats; the belt itself they call "the lightning stars." There is a little star a good deal to the left of Sirius, which they make the point of a spear, Sirius is the hand that is wielding it, and two stars below, a little to the right, are the warrior's feet. A planet they distinguish by the name of "a traveller star."

Jan. 19 As there were no fresh camels to be found, the Aga decided that we were to proceed with those which had brought us hither. The Gellab, to whom they belonged, venturing to make some expostulation, was instantly chastised by one of the people present, who, though a native, had accepted some office under the Turks. "What!" said the Gellab indignantly, "do you strike your own blood?"—"I am now of the blood of Mahommed Ali," was the answer.

Thus were created some delays, so that when we went to take leave of the Aga, he was already enjoying his mid-day repose. We dared to cause him to be disturbed, and our reception was

in consequence less gracious; a misfortune for which we were consoled by the time saved by that rash act.

In about half a mile we came to another castle, belonging to Malek Ibrahim, and the last in his dominions. The people here were more than usually noisy in their demonstrations of loyalty. We staid a short time there, and the Malek, who appears to have had a second wife* living there, after presenting us to the heir apparent, who was naked and crying, very warmly pressed us to

* The number of wives possessed by the Egyptian Arabs and the Nubians is not so remarkable as the facility with which they divorce and change them; a singular illustration of this presented itself to us some time afterwards between the cataracts. Floating down the river in the neighbourhood of Dakke, we were hailed by a female voice, crying from the shore, "Soldiers of the Sultan, come and see me justified." We were not deaf to such an appeal, and made the sailors row to the bank; however, the woman herself did not appear to plead her own cause, but stood at a little distance closely veiled; a man, who seemed to act as her counsel, informed us of the merits of the case.

Last year a soldier, with some of his companions, was coming into a village near here, and a child, whom he passed, said to him, "Why do you not give us the salutation of Peace? Are you come among us as an enemy, and not as a friend?" The soldier, irritated at being thus corrected by a child, began to beat the people, and at last killed one of them with a musket-shot: this man's widow was the plaintiff.

Now the law of Nubia is, that the property of the deceased, if he leave a male child, goes to the widow; if a female, she is entitled to half of it; and if none at all, to one-fourth—the surviving brother takes the rest. The plaintiff was childless, and claimed the fourth, declaring that she had yet received nothing. As this was not a case of personal chastisement, and therefore beyond our jurisdiction, we sent the parties to the Shiek, who keeps the register of all the marriages in the district, and by his decision the brother agreed to abide; for it appears that the lady had had four husbands, two of which were still living, and the disputed point seemed to be, whether she was lawfully married to the last.

pass the afternoon with him. There seemed little promise of pleasure or novelty; however Mr. Hanbury, to oblige the King, consented to remain; but the servants and camels being already in advance, I set off alone after them. I had, in mounting, a last sight of our friend the minstrel, who was employed more gallantly than enviably. I left him in the midst of a crowd of women, playing to them, and dancing with them.

In about three miles and a half from the castle is the end of an island, apparently a mile long, and at least as broad; the bed of the river on this side was nearly dry. Artemiri to the South, and Agláss to the North, are the names of two islands here. In about four miles and a half is a large village, with two castles named Gami; and in half a mile more the palms end. Between Koke and Gami there are thirteen castles, all with different names; the houses about each (and the whole bank is lined with them) take their name from the castle. The general direction was N.N.W., though nearly N.W. during the continuance of the island, and again after the cessation of the palms. I observed some flocks of pigeons, of which we had seen none since we left Djebel el Berkel. The N. Westerly bend of the Nile does not last above a quarter of a mile; it then turns N.N.W. as far as Sasef, and then North.

We had already remarked the ruined town of Sasef, situated on a rock, from the opposite bank in our way up the river. I was now riding up to examine it, though with little hopes of finding there any thing curious, when I was delighted to discover,

at a little distance on my left, four fine old pillars in the Egyptian style. They stand in the Desert, at about six hundred yards from the Nile, and precisely in the short interval of barrenness between the palms of Gami and those which begin immediately below at Sasef. They are of a very hard sandstone, and perfect; they have been covered with hieroglyphics and figures, which are much defaced and worn away by time. I copied three or four, which I did not remember to have observed in the temples of Egypt. The standing pillars are round, and on round bases; their diameter is five feet, and that of the bases six and a half. They are eighteen feet in height, of which the capital measures five. Parts of six or seven others, of the same dimensions, appear above the sand, as laid down in the plan. The distance between the first and second rows of columns (beginning from the East) is only four feet, and the interstices in each row are six feet. From the second row to the third is a distance of twenty-two feet, and from the third to the fourth, of six feet; from those pillars to the foundation of the wall *a* is a space of eighteen feet. Four paces to the North of that wall is part of a column of four feet in diameter; the two on the southern side of the ruins are smaller, and five feet apart. The ground is much elevated for an area of about forty yards square, and most so at the western end, where the destruction of the edifice has been the most complete. The ancient city, of which these ruins are the only remaining monuments, I suppose to have been Aboccis*, or

* See Appendix I.

Abouncis. In a ravine, to the N.E. of the Temple, whence the stone (a very hard sandstone) has probably been taken, I observed one other pillar.

I was detained so long by these remains of antiquity, that it was already dusk before I reached the Old Town; it seemed to differ in no respect from those frequently examined by us in Dóngola. I had a dark and windy ride of about two miles and a half from Sasef to Gourgote, where I found most of the party established for the night to leeward of a large fortress. Mr. Hanbury arrived late with James; he had been engaged in a very interesting conversation with a Geiláb, a relation of Malek Ibrahim, who had been frequently at Darfour, and whose information generally confirmed the accounts given of that country by Browne.

Jan. 20. There are two rocky islands beginning just below this place, called Hassanar and Wagóne. In two miles and a half, during which the black rocks are very near the Nile on both sides, we came to another village, named also Gourgote; and also, like the place where we slept, the residence of Gellábs, or slave merchants. They seem to have chosen their dwelling-places among the savage rocks, in a country congenial to their pursuits and dispositions. There are some small rocky islands near here, and a short turn of the river to the eastward round two of them.

I had been long anxious to buy a young horse of the Dón-gola breed, and my inquiries were at last successful. At a

village here a colt, only thirteen months old, was brought out for sale; the inhabitants collected to be present at the bargain, which was to be public; and after the usual ceremonies of high demands and low offers, the matter was easily arranged, and Hadji Ali, who was present as a kind of arbiter, solemnly proclaimed the conclusion of all differences in these words—"In the name of God, the horse is sold*."

We entered a pass shortly afterwards, and in a mile and a half came out opposite to the end of a rocky island; there is a large tower on the opposite side; thence the Nile flows due north, and is for some distance without rocks. In one mile more we came to a fortress with a few houses, hemmed in by the rocks on the north, and called (as well as I could understand) Rochgure. A boy ran out from one of the huts, and stopped us in the name of God and Mahommed; he shewed us a severe

* Mr. Hanbury had bought a young horse some days before, and both are now safely arrived in England. The Dóngola breed has been particularly mentioned by Bruce, Poncet, and Burckhardt, and is much the best that exists on the banks of the Nile. They are not so large as English horses, but finely made, muscular, swift, and capable of enduring great fatigue. They have generally a white face, and four white legs; but the best breed is distinguished by having only three. They are not confined entirely to Dóngola, but are found in the same perfection in Dar Shegy'a on the one side, and a part of Dar Mahass on the other. We found them as low down as Tinareh. They are occasionally broken before they are two years old, because, as the natives assured us, it would be impossible to break them thoroughly afterwards. I never saw one of them either broken-kneed, or lame, or diseased. Burckhardt (p. 66) declares the breed to be originally from Arabia.—Bruce, who exaggerates the size to which they arrive in a country where he never saw them, calls them of Saracen extraction.

wound under the left arm, which he had received the other night from a Gelláb, and begged for our assistance or advice. The Gelláb was not to be found, so we mounted the boy on an ass, and sent him to the Aga of Koke, strongly recommending him to his humanity. He had a fine countenance, and though aware of his danger behaved with remarkable firmness. He was an orphan, of not above fourteen or fifteen years of age, and had no relation or friend on earth.

Thence we entered another short pass, and went out of it between two fine granite rocks into a small cultivated plain with palms, and a village, where the course of the Nile is rather to the westward of north; and then through another pass to another plain and castle. We were astonished to observe how well every scrap of land was cultivated here, while such tracks of rich soil are left barren in Dóngola.

In a mile and a half from Rochgure we entered the pass of Abshoonab, winding among the rocks, through which our general direction was very little to the west of north; and in four miles and a half we came out to a plain and sakie, opposite to a small island, named Atbore. Great masses of quartz are scattered about here, and a very finely peaked hill is visible at some distance on the left. There is a green spot on the other side, where is a castle and village, named Absári. We observed some wild pigeons and partridges.

In about a mile more (N.N.W.) we passed through a long plain, in one place interrupted by rocks, to Cólmerri, a small

castled village. A civilized native strongly recommended us his lodgings for the night; his house was of straw, and one of the walls was on the point of being destroyed in the night by the kick of a horse, whose unshod foot broke quite through it.

The Nile past here flows N.N.W, and a little below turns N.W. Its windings, which are numerous but not important, are, in this country, from no point visible for above a mile or two, owing to the height of the rocks now forming its banks; these are delineated, as accurately as they were observable, in the chart, and it is, therefore, unnecessary to be minute in detailing them here.

Jan. 21. A pass of three miles (general direction N.W. by N.) brought us to the plain and village of Ghimba, by the river-side, which we followed for one mile more, through the plain to Orourki, a large village, shaded with palms. Its Arabic name is Billa Dhourra, "Without Dhourra;" there is a small island opposite. The rocks begin again just below, and on a projecting one, on the very narrowest part of the river, N.W. of Orourki, is the castle of Tinareh. The name belongs only to the castle, and not to the district or villages near. Shiek Mahommed, under whom is the part of Mahass below Tinareh, and who is out of favour with his new master, was sitting, with a few idle fellows about him, waiting for his mid-day meal; he is one of the very few fat Nubians I ever saw. In four miles from here, chiefly over rocks by the river-side, we came, as usual, to a small plain, with its village and palms; and to

another in one mile more ; the Nile thus far running due west, and about four or five hundred yards broad : below there is a gentle turn to the southward. In about a mile more we passed by a string of houses and palms, continuing for half a mile, and called Koye, the name of the district and village on the opposite bank ; and in a mile and a half more the Nile again takes its natural course to the northward. The turn is rather sharp, and as the river is very broad, and keeps nearly the same direction for four or five miles, it has much the appearance of a deep bay. The mountains on both sides have gradually flattened and retired from the river, and a large palm village stands on the angle on the opposite side, made by the turn of the Nile. We observed some pikes of stones on the higher hills behind. The houses and trees extend for a mile more ; and we then entered a pass, and, after four miles, came into a plain, whence we had a fine view of the ridge of mountains, separating the Maháss from Sukkót* ; and in five miles and a half we descended into a plain by the Nile side. Many of the inundation flies were blown in our faces by the strong north wind, at the distance of two or three miles from the river.

In about seven miles we got to the temple, and in less than a

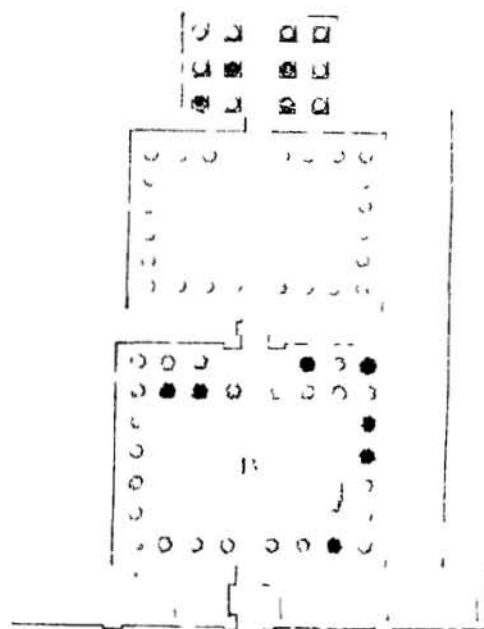
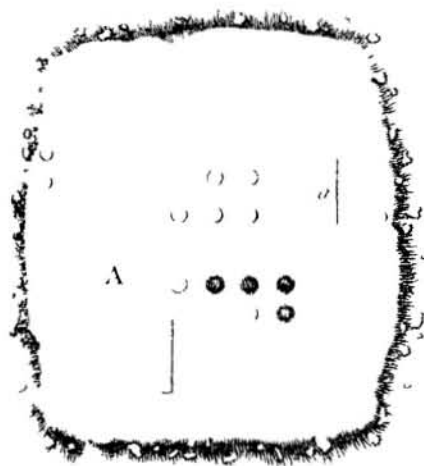
* The district of Sukkót joins immediately to Dar Maháss, and comprehends the island of Say. I recollect to have been particularly assured of this, or I should not have ventured to advance it against the authority of Burckhardt, who makes Say a distinct territory between Sukkót and Maháss. P. 32.

mile and a half more to the village of Sóleb*—our general direction being N.N.W., like that of the Nile at this place.

Jan. 22. “If you do not obey,” said one native to another, who was somewhat reluctant to execute a commission that we had given him, “If you do not obey, your ears will go to Cairo with those contained in the boxes of the Agas.” It appears, that after the battle with the Sheygy’a, three camels’ loads of ears, packed in boxes, had passed through Sóleb on their way to Egypt; and the people, who had never seen a box before, concluding such receptacles to be only made for such articles, naturally supposed ours to be similarly charged: we did not endeavour to undeceive them. We passed the day in the examination of the Temple.

The temple of Sóleb faces the Nile, and is about four hundred yards distant from it. In advancing towards it your attention is first attracted by an elevated stone foundation *a*, of thirty feet seven inches in thickness, extending in front of the temple, and of equal length with the portail; it is much ruined, and in some places cannot be traced without difficulty. There is an entrance eight feet six inches in width, exactly opposite to the gate of the temple; two narrow walls, one each side of the entrance, lead nearly up to the remains of two sphinxes, *b* and *c*, of which the former is of grey granite, and has the ram’s head; it is six feet in length; the other is so much broken as to be nearly shapeless: they are situated thirty-four feet six inches from the

* It is pronounced *Sulleb*.



200 Feet

100 Feet



117 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

stone foundation, and ninety feet nine inches farther still is the beginning of a staircase leading up to the temple; two other sphinxes have been posted in front of it, of which there remains a part of one only. Thence to the wall of the temple is an ascent for seventy-two feet over heaps of ruins. The front of the portail, which is far from perfect, is about one hundred and seventy-five feet long; the width of the staircase before it fifty-seven feet. The wall, which is twenty-four feet thick, is not solid, but contains on each side of the entrance three cells, into which there is no door, and whose use is not obvious; there is in the wall of the gateway itself a kind of nook, or retired space, measuring eleven feet seven inches in width, such as I have observed in some temples of Nubia and Egypt.

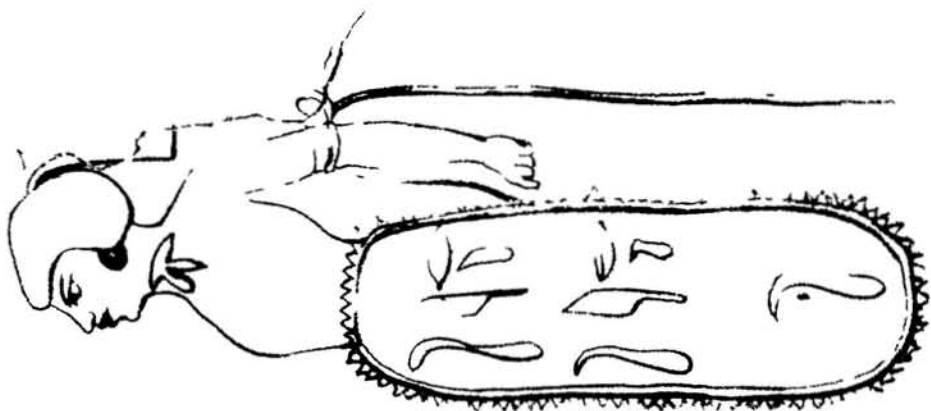
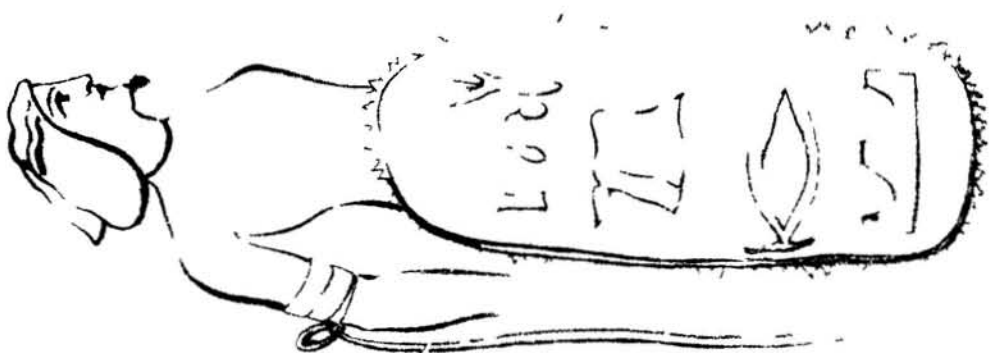
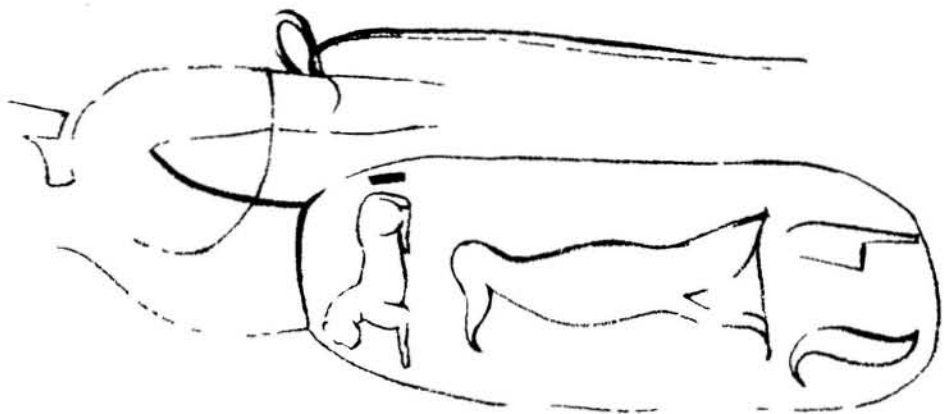
The first chamber is one hundred and two feet six inches in breadth, and in depth only eighty-eight feet eight inches; round three sides of it runs a single row of pillars, and on the fourth and farthest has been a double row, making on the whole thirty columns, of which seven are still standing and perfect; there is nothing original in their shape or execution, and they are all from the same model; the diameter of their base is five feet seven inches, and their height about forty feet; they are inscribed with hieroglyphics only: the space between them and the wall of the temple has been covered by a roof, which is now fallen in.

The front wall of the second chamber, which is rather less in width than the first, and only sixty-eight feet three inches in length, is niched in the entrance, like the propylon, and is twelve

feet in thickness; in the chamber itself there is no considerable portion of any pillar standing, and it was not without some difficulty that we were enabled to trace a single row of twenty-four columns, exactly resembling those in the first chamber, which has surrounded it within a few feet of the wall; their fragments are scattered about in every direction, and the very bases of some are rooted up, and the mud foundation on which they have stood is exposed. So entire, yet so partial, a ruin can only be attributed to the sudden yielding of that foundation; an earthquake would not have spared the columns which still remain in the other parts of the temple.

The middle of the chamber is low and hollow, and a very large stone is lying in one part of it, which might, at first sight, be mistaken for a part of the foundation of a wall. On the posterior wall, and near the entrance into the adytum, lies a sculptured stone, about ten feet long; a hawk, an owl, and an ox, with other hieroglyphical figures, are represented on it, of unusual size, but in low relief.

It is difficult to ascertain the dimensions of the adytum, as no part of the side walls can be traced, and only a few feet (at *b*) of the posterior one; it has, however, clearly contained twelve pillars and not more, and of these three are still entire (except the capital of one), and about half of a fourth; the rest have fallen chiefly towards the Nile before their enemy the Desert, and one of them is now so much inclined in the same direction, that he must shortly be laid with his brethren. They are of a different



model from those in the first chamber, but not of a new or uncommon one; they are five feet eleven inches in diameter, and the distance between the two rows on the left is six feet two inches, and between the two middlemost of the four rows nine feet six inches. The length of the chamber appears to be thirty-seven feet. The lower parts of all the columns bear representations of figures about three feet high, of which the lower half is concealed by a tablet inscribed with hieroglyphics. I copied some of them, as I had before copied some similar at Sasef; they are in low relief, but executed in the very best style, as are all the sculptures remaining on the temple, though in some places they have never been finished. Jupiter Ammon appears twice among the few remaining figures, and to him I suppose the building to have been dedicated; part of a Mendes, with the flail and lotus, is distinguishable on a fragment.

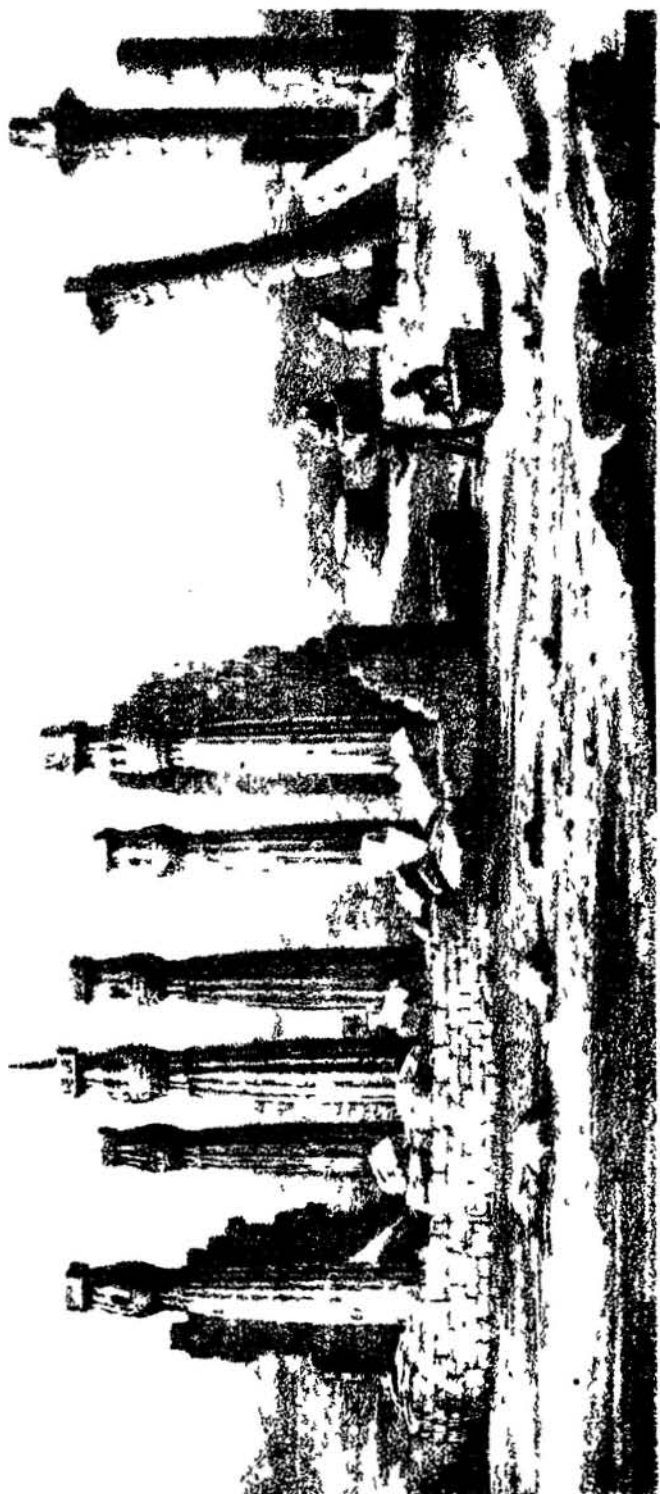
On the western side of pillar *d* we observed some marks, evidently artificial, in a character unknown to us, though most resembling Greek. I copied them twice, in two situations of the sun, and, as I believe, with the greatest accuracy. I have shewn them to three or four men of learning, who have not recognised them; however, I feel it my duty to make them public, in the hope that they may at length meet some eye, to which they are not strange. It is the only ancient inscription in any language that we have been fortunate enough to observe during our expedition; though we have neglected the examina-

tion of no spot, where such a discovery might probably have been made.

The temple of Soleb affords the lightest specimen I have seen of Ethiopian or Egyptian architecture. The sandstone of which most of the columns are composed is beautifully streaked with red, which gives them, from a little distance, a rich and glowing tint. The side and posterior walls have almost entirely disappeared; and the roof (for the adytum has been completely covered,) has every where fallen in, so that there remains no ponderous heap of masonry to destroy the effect of eleven beautiful and lofty columns, backed by the mountains of the Desert, or by the clear blue horizon. We were no longer contemplating a gloomy edifice, where heaviness is substituted for dignity, height for sublimity, and size for grandeur; no longer measuring a pyramidal mass of stone-work, climbing up to heaven in defiance of taste and of nature. We seemed to be at Segesta, at Phigalea, or at Sunium; where lightness, and colour, and elegance of proportion, contrasted with the gigantic scenery about them, make the beauty of the buildings more lovely, and their durability more wonderful; there is no attempt in them to imitate or rival the sublimity that surrounds them,—they are content to be the masterpieces of art, and therefore they and nature live on good terms together, and set off each other's beauty. Those works of art that aim at more than this, after exhausting treasures and costing the life and happiness of millions, must be satisfied at last to be called hillocks.

PLATE I

SECTION OF THE



Jan. 23. Two horses had been furnished us by Malek Zebeyr at Koke, which were exchanged for two others at Kólmerri, and these last were to convey us down to Wady Halfa. Two men, possibly their owners, were to attend us to our journey's end, and bring the horses back; last night, however, was so extremely clear, that they were tempted to take advantage of it, to commence their return to the South, rather sooner than we had reckoned upon; and when we woke in the morning, they were no longer to be found. Pursuit was hopeless, as, besides our camels, we had only one weak and tired jade. It was, luckily, just possible to proceed with the animals still remaining to us, assisted as they were for some distance by an ass belonging to a merchant, who was going down as a partner from Dóngola to Sukkót, for dates, the whole stock in trade being one dollar.

Having finished our observations on the temple, and exhausted the resources of Soleb, we proceeded in the evening to Doshe, a very mean village, about two miles lower down. We examined the small excavated temple there, and passed the night in the castle, where we were surprised to find regular brick and pot floors. We had here some of our former difficulties in obtaining necessities, which we were obliged to surmount in the usual manner.

The temple of Doshe is excavated in a rock by the river-side, commanding one of the finest views in the world, and is in itself perhaps the most miserable building that has ever been

consecrated to the gods of the Nile. Its extreme dimensions are twenty-three feet ten inches by twenty-five feet ten inches. The width of the farther part is eight feet seven inches and a half, and at the bottom are the broken remains of three sitting statues, of the rudest sculpture. On each side of the middle part are two holes, the one for a lamp, and the other probably for a small statue. The height of that part is six feet four inches, and of the cross division only six feet. We distinguished the remains of some ill-shaped figures within. There are also some sculptures on the exterior of the rock, and a hieroglyphical tablet near the entrance, which is now quite defaced.

A few yards higher up the mountain, above the temple, is another tablet, four feet wide and about five in height. On the upper part of it, Apis is represented receiving offerings: a figure wearing the corn-measure stands close behind him, and then a third figure, with the crosier in the right hand and the staff in the other. The rest of the stone is occupied by fifteen lines of hieroglyphics.

At a little distance, on the same rock, is the representation of a man with the long thick hair, making an offering. This figure is only nine inches high. A well-shaped vase is sculptured near.

THE LITTLE ISLAND OPPOSITE DOSHE IS CALLED USHBY.

THE ROCK IN WHICH THE TEMPLE IS EXCAVATED CONTAINS MUCH IRON ORE, AND WE COLLECTED THERE MANY CURIOUS MINERALOGI-

cal specimens, which are since happily arrived in England. In about six miles, at first over rocks, and then a desert plain, about a mile from the Nile, we observed two entire, and one broken pillar, standing in the midst of the foundations of a church; at the foot of them lies a fragment of a black granite Egyptian altar-piece. The pillars are large, and composed of three stones each: they are not fluted, nor ornamented with any kind of sculpture. There are no stone remains lying about, but much brick, and huge masses of quartz piled up like a wall behind it. On the other side are some large mud buildings, with the Cuphic arch. The Nile is lined with palms, and at least twenty mud castles are visible; the common straw houses ceasing to be numerous.

A quarter of a mile farther, in the midst of a heap of large stones, is a pillar with a capital, and a sculptured fragment of stone supported by it. On the N. and S. sides of the capital is the Isis face, in not so high relief as those at Dendera, nor so low as those at Djebel el Berkel; the East and West sides have no face or hieroglyphics, but are worked. The pillar is fluted, though not deeply, and is ornamented with no sort of sculpture: its diameter is three feet ten inches, and height about twenty-six feet. The fragments of other similar columns are lying about, and one capital with the face very perfect and well executed. There are also remains of smaller pillars, of not above three feet in diameter; there is also a perfect pedestal, three feet eight inches square, covered with hieroglyphics, of sandstone, like the rest of

the temple. The whole ruin is only one hundred and twenty yards in circumference. A broken sitting statue of black granite lies near, as well as another sculptured fragment of the same material. The name of the place is Sedenza, and the island Aboudia, of above a mile in length, begins just below.

We observed the fields every where fenced by palm branches to protect the young corn from the voracity of the antelope: a more insufficient protection, as it would seem, either in strength or height, against the bounding gazelle, can hardly be conceived.

In four miles beyond the temple (N.N.E.), we passed a village called Fakir Welad Ali. An island begins just below. In six miles we were going North again; and in a mile more N.N.E. In fourteen or fifteen miles from Doshe, we arrived at Shoofah, where we remained for the night. As our beasts, by the desertion at Soleb, were reduced to six camels, a dying horse, and an ass, for nine persons and a great deal of luggage, it is not surprising that our day's journey was not longer.

The Nubians, like the Egyptians, divide the year into three seasons of four months each; the Nile, that is, the inundation; the winter; and the summer. Their year begins, in consequence, about the middle of July, the conclusion of their summer; this last is their sickly season, agreeing nearly with the period of the plague at Cairo.

Jan. 25. The island of Say, of which I obtained an excellent view in the morning, from a hill behind the village, begins about a mile above Shoofah, and is probably eight miles long, varying in width from one to three. Much wheat is grown there, of which a part used to be annually bought by the Sheygy'a. There are some remains of antiquity there*, consisting, as we were informed, of three or four pillars, and, I believe, the probable site of a temple, which, though apparently of no great importance, we were still anxious to examine. We had been disappointed in our former attempts to cross over into the island, and were not fated to be more fortunate now. The Turkish Aga with the ferry-boat was on the opposite side of the river, of which the western branch is far from being narrow, and we could not even obtain a ramouss to pass over on.

On leaving Shoofah, we still followed the bank, in hopes that some opportunity might present itself, if in any part we should find the stream very narrow or shallow. In the mean time, so strong a tempest arose from the North, as to obscure with clouds of sand the shore and mountains opposite. Houses or inhabitants were no longer visible on the island, and on our side there was nothing but the moving Desert; the sky, otherwise clear and cloudless, assumed a yellow appearance, and the conflict between the wind and the opposing current was so violent, that

* They were mentioned and described to us by Amiro. It appears that Burckhardt had not heard of them: (p. 56.)

it would have rendered very difficult an attempt to cross by swimming. With great regret, therefore, were we obliged to turn our backs, for the second time, on this island, and again yield to circumstances, which seemed united to forbid our visit to it.

We proceeded over the sand-hills; the storm increased, and the camels bellowed and advanced with difficulty. Some of the party relieved themselves by reversing their seat on that spacious animal, and thus presenting their backs to the wind; one or two, whose beasts were less tractable, were obliged to take to their feet. We observed, however, none of those mountains of driving sand, which have been so often described or fancied; the aspect of the agitated Desert is dreary and desolate in the extreme, but not formidable.

In about nine miles from Shoofah we came to a solitary old Coptic church, situated nearly a mile from the Nile. It contained many brick arches, and at the entrance one of stone; it was covered with Arabic inscriptions of a recent date. In half a mile more is the end of the island of Arnietti, which begins just below Say; it has the appearance of being rich and covered with palms. There is presently a turn of the Nile to the eastward, and for five miles we went gradually through nearly all the points of the compass from North to S.S.E. We then turned East again, and after performing upon the whole about sixteen miles, were stopped by the approach of night.

Since the defection at Sóleb, we had no guide whatever, and during the whole of to-day saw no habitation or human being*. We chose, therefore, for our place of repose, a spot among the rocks, close by the river, and sheltered from the North by a bank fringed with acacias, which also afforded food for our animals. There was a little rough island opposite, not one hundred and fifty yards from us, with a mud fortress on it, though apparently inhabited only by wild-geese. We lighted a fire by the river-side, and made up a large mess of rice with a little portable soup and the leg of a goat, which supplied a very tolerable meal, in succession, to ourselves, our servants and the Italians, the Dongoláwy and a Cairine Arab who had joined our party, and lastly to the dog Anubis. Seeing our fire, the people on the other bank began to beat a tambour, and shouted repeatedly, to convince us that they were prepared for the attack; supposing, no doubt, that no good people would have encamped in so desolate a place; and as we were not anxious for any nocturnal visit from them, we thought it prudent to fire a pistol-shot in answer. I woke in the night, and heard the sound of the tambour still mingling with the cries of the inhabitants. The jackalls and hyænas completed the concert; they were very clamorous and very near us, and in the morning we saw their traces, interspersed with those of the gazelle, within twenty yards of our bivouac. Our beasts had strayed, many of them to some distance, in pursuit of food.

* We started one or two hares and some quails in the Desert, about half a mile, from the river.

The moon rose, and the wind abated about midnight, and we slept well, and without any molestation, till day-break.

Jan. 26. A very miserable horse, which had attended rather than assisted us from Koke, fell down in the sand yesterday afternoon, and could not be raised again. We sent back after him this morning, but as it proved impossible to get him on, he was left among the shrubs near the water. If he has escaped the jaws of the hyæna, he is now probably wandering at large over the deserts of Sukkôt; for, as there was no track in the place where he was left, and as the road of the traders is much farther from the Nile (in order to cut off the bend here made by it), he is not likely again to fall into the hands of man.

In seven miles (E. by N., with some little variations both ways), performed over such ground as yesterday, and always out of sight of the river, we found it running N. by E. We observed much quartz, appearing in some places as if artificially built up, much granite schist, and granite. We then followed the direction of the Nile, and in ten miles passed some old granite quarries by the road; there were some half-finished pillars still lying there. In thirteen miles we came opposite to Djebel Mama, which is only known by the inhabitants of this bank by the name of Djebel Gronga; it is of sandstone, while the rocks on the western bank are granite. Here we saw a camel and some goats, the property of an Ababde, and three young gazelles feeding with them; at our approach they retired into the Desert, slowly

and securely, as a loaded camel is seldom disposed to run races with an antelope. Their actions were extremely beautiful; when we stopped they stopped also, and gazed at us; when we moved on they did so too, and continued long in sight, quietly retreating before us*.

In fifteen or sixteen miles we passed a few mud and straw cottages, and in two more we came to the village of Dal. We sent for the Shiek, who, in answer to our demand of lodging, shewed us to a tree, surrounded by camels' dung. Certain Turkish maledictions (the only part of that language which is well understood by the natives) presently procured us a more hospitable reception; and passing over to the island of Dal, we found luxuries both of food and shelter, which made us amends for the inconveniences of yesterday.

Jan. 27. The river on the eastern side of the island of Dal is covered with castled rocks full of wild fowl; a cataract is audible from below. The inhabitants seem a lively and independent race of people; indeed these little rocky islands crowded together, with the Desert on both sides, afford such opportunities of resisting or escaping, in case of need, that it would be wonderful if the natives of them were not more attached to liberty than those who have the fortune to be born on happier soils; they are said to have frequently treated even the soldiers

* We were assured that they are sold in Alexandria for two or three dollars each, and eaten like game; the flesh is said to be dry, and of little flavour. They are generally caught when young, and kept tame.

with insolence, and, like all the islanders from Say to Wady Halfa, have a peculiar contempt for Christians. On our asking if there were any ancient buildings here, the Shiek replied, "What do we know of the works of the Idolaters? Are we not all Mussulmen here?" For we always passed for Turks in places where we did not stay long enough to be detected.

There is a small saints' tomb near here, the first we had observed for above forty miles.

In about four miles and a half we entered the Batn el Hadjar, which begins not so soon on this side as on the other.

The Italians were violent in their exclamations against the *bruttezza* of the Nile; and the effect produced on them by scenes of wild deformity was merely painful. In one of the rudest spots in the whole river I observed a boat, that had grounded there when the water was high, with its masts and rigging still entire, standing in the midst of the rocks; it bore no marks of any injury, and there was something particularly dreary, and almost magical, in its appearance there alone, and deserted by its inhabitants—a single work of art amid the desolation of nature.

We passed over some very fine masses of black granite, whose exterior preserved a remarkable freshness and brightness; though we observed some rocks, chiefly of red granite, which were ragged and crumbling away, like the stones of an old building. I heard some cries in the Desert on the left, probably those of the gazelle under the paws of her enemy. In three miles and a half more we came to the small vale of Kólbe, which is quite

uncultivated; the canal separating it from the island was passable, and we heard the voices of the people on the other side. We proceeded for about two miles more, the length of the island, and entered it at the other extremity. We found it well cultivated, and started some quails out of the young wheat.

We met here one of our old Ababde* guides, who saluted the servants on both cheeks, and seemed delighted to see us; and instantly exerted his influence to procure us a supply of provisions. We observed a Nubian receive a severe kick from a camel, and his manner of expressing his indignation was sufficiently amusing; he instantly fell on his knees, and after devoting, with a vast variety of imprecations, the sacred head of his offender, scattered in the air a quantity of sand, of which the greater part fell upon himself. I have frequently seen quarrels among the Arabs carried on in the same manner.

The Nile to the South of Kólbe runs N.N.E., it then makes a bend to the westward to embrace the island, and at the end of it again resumes its course to the eastward of North. To avoid another night in the Desert, we determined to sleep in a small green plain, about half a mile to the North of Kólbe.

We saw on all sides of us a number of those miserable mud fortresses, built to afford the wretched inhabitants a security,

* The Ababde have a bad character among travellers; and treacherous and violent acts are related to have been committed by bodies of them. As individuals, I believe them to be generally well-informed, obliging, honest, and grateful, without being at all responsible for their conduct as a mob.

which neither the strength, nor the grandeur, nor the poverty, of their black everlasting rocks could promise them. They tell us that the Bisharein, till the Pasha's expedition, used to come down on the East bank, and hide themselves in the caves till night, in parties of thirty, forty, or fifty, armed with lances and swords; they then crossed and carried off every thing that fell into their hands; till the invasion of the Mamelouks, they had also to sustain the persecutions of the Sheygy'a. The evil of which they complain most at present is the destruction of their green corn by the gazelles; and in a fruitless attempt to diminish it, I passed two or three moonlight hours with my gun under a tree; in the wheat, among the rocks. The Cataract of Kólbe, near which we had attempted to sleep in our way up, was extremely audible, as were the usual howlings of the wild beasts in the Desert.

Jan 28. A camel lives about thirty years; the sound produced by him is the same for every sensation, and always expressive of discontent*, as if every change of situation were painful to him; the same when he is unloaded and fed, as when beaten.

There is a town eastward in the river at Kolbe, and we here entered a pass of about three miles, which again brought us down to the bank, which we followed for six or seven miles

* The camels of Cairo are larger, and not, I think, so irritable as their brethren of the South. We saw near Lausne one specimen of a much smaller breed, not two-thirds of the usual size of the dromedary; it was full grown, and a light and very beautiful animal.

more to a few houses, called Okme; a village opposite, of the same name, was noticed in our way up. The Nile has been of late smooth and uninterrupted, though not more than a hundred and fifty yards broad. There is a high chain of rocks on the other side, at some little distance from the bank, running north and south nearly. Our direction had been thus far to the westward of north; but about half a mile lower down the river turns north; and in a mile more, meeting a chain of low rocks going down to it on this side, is driven N.E.; and in another mile, being opposed by the great ridge, which has so long accompanied us on the other, is again forced northward. Every turn is occasioned by the resistance of some high and projecting rock, which frequently extends to some distance inland, and allows no passage by the Nile side; and hence it happens, that at every considerable bend of the stream the traveller is obliged to take some pass to avoid the mountain that occasions that bend.

This was the case here, and after following a beaten track for six or seven miles in a N.N.W. direction, we found the sun setting without there being any appearance of our approach to the river; we, therefore, left the road, and going eastward for about two miles, found it running N.N.E. nearly. It is difficult to say whither the other road would have led us, as the Nile long preserves its course to the eastward of north. I had the pleasure of performing the greater part of this day's journey on foot, as my camel was hungry and intractable.

All the left bank in Sukkót is covered with deep sand, which is only sprinkled at intervals over the black mountains on the right. I have already remarked that the contrary is the case in Dóngola.

We passed the night on a little rocky island, covered with shrubs, and now uninhabited, though containing a thick wall of considerable length, built down to the water's edge. The Nile is narrow, and the shores barren. The few palms that are here and there scattered on the other side are hardly to be distinguished from the dark rocks behind them.

Jan. 29. After riding four miles (E. and E.N.E.) over sand hills, when the road was frequently quite untraceable, we came to the river again, and followed it generally for five miles more; we then approached an island, above a mile long, and about a mile and a half broad, round which we rode, for two miles, east. It was full of black ducks, and apparently not inhabited. By good luck we here found a naked native, who had been on an unsuccessful search after a stray cow, and was returning to his home across the water. For three piastres he undertook to be our guide; and the high wind had now so completely concealed all tracks of feet, and there were here some passes, otherwise so difficult to be discovered and followed, that without his assistance our progress must have been extremely tedious and uncertain.

During the first mile we passed the cataract of Ambigo, now perfectly impracticable; and in about two more over

the hills we came to a plain about three miles long, and half a mile broad, with a small grove of acacias at the bottom of it. We then descended to the Nile, and followed the banks to the eastward, for one mile, to two or three houses, and a fortress called Attyre.

As it was beginning to be dark we here collected our party, and entered a very fine pass round a mountain, in a northerly direction; and after a mile and a half reached a larger village, named also Attyre. We were admitted, after some altercation, into a comfortable straw hut, where we passed the night admirably.

Jan 30 We began by returning through a part of the pass, with which we finished our labours of yesterday. It is the finest spot in the Batn el Hadjar; the rocks are wilder, and have an unusual grandeur of contour. We rode for some distance by the side of a kind of ravine, with some trees at the bottom, the only ones we observed there, reminding us a little of the Alps.

In about four miles we came down to the Nile, running N.W.; it is quite smooth, and about two hundred yards broad, with a small island dividing the stream nearly equally. It continues for a mile more in that direction, and then again turns eastward. We soon afterwards passed a small village, and then entered the pass of Meschia, in Wady Samne; this brought us out in about a mile to the village, and in one more we reached the temple of Samne.

To Burckhardt's description of this temple I have only to

add, that the entrance faces the south, and is not, as usual, towards the river; that the diameter of the polygonal pillar is two feet six inches, and that the other four are cut square, but measure two feet four inches by one foot eight inches. The part to the northward of the standing pillars (which were never, I think, more than six,) is more rudely finished than the rest, and appears to have been constructed at a different period. In the front is a large hieroglyphical tablet, of a later date than the temple, more deeply cut than the figures, and at the expense of the feet of some of them, and the entire legs of one. The best of them are about four feet in height. We were pleased to observe on the wall, among numerous more modern inscriptions, the name of a fellow countryman—*Hyde, March 3, 1819.*

We never saw the Nile so narrow as in this spot; it has two passages between the rocks projecting from either shore, of which the broadest seems hardly twenty yards. On the point on the opposite side we could discern two rows of broken pillars (there being two, apparently, in the first, and four in the second, row) standing before a small ruined stone edifice. Near it are some large buildings of mud and brick.

One or two broken boats were lying on the adjacent rocks; the cordage of one of them was quite perfect and untouched, a fact strongly proving either the honesty* or the subjection of the natives.

* “ It ought to be added, that the Nubians in general are free from the vice of pillage.”—Burckhardt, p. 34.

In a mile and a half (N.N.W.) we came to an important cataract, where the river turns N.N.E., and in a mile and a half more, due east. Here we entered a pass, which, in another mile, brought us down to a spot by the Nile side, covered with acacias, and opposite to the northern extremity of an island, named Meli, of about two miles in length; a high mountain in it is crowned with some mud ruins.

We found a party of Gellábs encamped among the trees, one of whom was the owner of the camels that had brought us down from Dóngola. He had joined the rest of the caravan at Gourgote, whence they had set off after our departure, and having passed us on the road, had been expecting us for two or three days. During this time they had killed and consumed a crocodile, except a very small portion*, which was willingly accepted by us. The taste a little resembles that of crimped skate, but is so very much richer, that a Nubian palate and stomach seem absolutely necessary to enjoy and digest it; this with a little English beef, (preserved for a case of absolute want), and some Dochen† bread, formed the most singular and the

* "Crocodile's flesh is of a dirty white colour, not unlike young veal, with a slight fishy smell." Burckhardt, p. 284, who in the same place mentions, that a crocodile having been taken alive, and presented to the Governor of Esneh, one hundred balls were fired at it without effect, till it was thrown upon its back, and the contents of a small swivel discharged into its belly. Burckhardt does not say that he witnessed this exhibition.

† See Burckhardt, p. 22.

most savoury meal that we had made since the commencement of our expedition.

The Gellábs had twelve loaded camels, and several asses, which they rode themselves; they had also three female slaves with them, two of whom were nearly naked, and trudged on foot all the day; the other was clothed, and mounted on a camel. This enviable distinction was the consequence of her superior beauty and value. Her owner was not deterred by delicacy from inviting our attention to all her good points, and demanded for her a hundred dollars; the price, he told us, he had paid for her at Darfour. He endeavoured to give probability to this assertion by the aid of much gesticulation, and frequent mention of the name of God and the Prophet.

Jan. 31. We were assured that by a little additional exertion we might arrive at Wady Halfa this evening, and this information was received with great joy by most of our party. As to myself, I own that I looked forward with no pleasure to the conclusion of an expedition, which had afforded me many of the happiest hours in my life. There was something in being constantly, and never laboriously, employed; there was much in the novelty of the country, and the singularity of the scenes that had, from day to day, presented themselves; but there is much more in the feeling with which you tread a country yet unexplored; you no longer follow a road that has been traced out for you by more adventurous travellers; you no

longer pace' in the trammels that they have imposed upon you ; you are destined, perhaps, yourself, to guide the steps and direct the enthusiasm of others.

In examining a country on the banks of the Nile, the traveller finds a constant companion in that mighty stream, whose progress he is following through prosperity and through adversity ; and I felt that I should part with it as with an old friend, whose society I had enjoyed, by whose liberality I had been benefited, and in whose labours I had participated.

There was yet another source of constant enjoyment in the perfect beauty of the climate during that season ; in the health breathed by the cool north wind, and the cloudless serenity of the sky. There was a light in the face of heaven that I had not felt elsewhere ; and a brightness in the new and numerous stars that can exist in no moister atmosphere. Inconveniencies, difficulties, and dangers occurred seldom, and passed quickly ; the employment, the interest, and the gratifications were perpetual.

We began with a long pass, (N.E. by N.), which, in eight miles, brought us down to the Nile, opposite to three small islands ; a shorter of only two miles (N.N.E.) succeeded ; and we followed the bank for one mile more, to a fine perpendicular rock, where began another pass of about seven miles, generally over an elevated plain. Some trouble in arranging the luggage on my camel, threw me into the rear of the caravan ; and as their tracks were concealed almost as soon as made

by the blowing sand, it was not till after a variety of wanderings that the goodness of my beast enabled me to overtake them. I was surprised, in searching for the road, to find so many; some, traceable for a short distance, became suddenly invisible or impassable; others appeared to lead straight into the interior of the Desert; all seemed to have been lately trodden, though we had sometimes past whole days without meeting a human being.

James and Giovanni were still missing, and Mr. Hanbury offered money to one of the Gellábs to go back in search of them; he positively refused, and they all proceeded; however, we had hardly set out to seek for them ourselves, when they came up. It appeared that Giovanni, who had never quite recovered his Dóngola fever, had been seized by a violent fit of vomiting and dysentery, owing to the keenness of the wind. The Dongoláwy, who was with us, expressed his expectation of dying by cold in the course of the night. We examined the thermometer in the evening, after sun-set, and found it at 58°.

In about four miles more, chiefly by the Nile side, the direction nearly North, we came to some acacias exactly opposite to the Shoonah, where we had dined with Mahommed Effendi, on the day of our leaving Wady Halfa. The Gellábs had already unloaded their beasts and established themselves there for the night, and it being now dark, we followed their example.

They professed never to have travelled this road before, but discovered all the windings without a moment's hesitation by

certain signs observable only by themselves; small heaps of stones laid in particular places supply to their practised eyes the want of experience. The small remainder of our rice boiled up with a few dates furnished the last scanty meal to which we were for some time likely to be condemned.

Feb. 1. The thermometer at sun-rise was at 45° . We received soon afterwards a visit from the two Agas resident on the other bank, and then mounted for the last time.

The course of the river for the first mile and a half is N.N.W nearly, till it is opposed and driven into a N.N.E. direction by a very high rock on the left bank, from the top of which is a remarkably good view of the cataracts and the whole of the Batn El Hadjar. The boundlessness of the rocky prospect constitutes its greatest, and perhaps only, grandeur. We have rarely observed in these deserts any fine groups of hills; they rise with no abruptness or irregularity, and have little variety in their outlines; there is a want of height in the rocks, of clouds on their tops, of woods and cataracts down their sides, and of ravines at their bases, and the light yellow sand which fills their chasms does not satisfy the eye that has dwelt on the virgin snow of the Alps. I hardly recollect any piece of scenery* in this country, of which the Nile does not form the noblest feature.

* I except the "Pass of the Water's Mouth," which possesses peculiarities, that I have no where else seen united.

In a mile and a half more is an old town, situated in a very desert, but not very strong, place; and in five miles we came to a large cluster of islands, of which one larger than the rest was full of sheep and goats. The distance between the extreme branches of the river must in this spot be nearly three miles. Our direction thence was about N.N.E., and an eminence a little lower down gave us an opportunity of looking back on the black islands that form the cataract, with the water struggling through them.

In about four miles more we arrived opposite to the Shoonah, whence we had originally commenced our journey. Our luggage was deposited on the bank, and the Gelláb, whose camels we had employed for so many days, requested some recompense for their labour; we had a pleasure in mortifying, by our decided refusal, one of the dealers in human flesh, of whose brutality we had ourselves seen some few proofs, and of which poor Burckhardt, had been obliged to endure so many.

In the mean time we perceived Reiss Bedoui steering his cangee across to us, and were soon receiving the salutations and congratulations of himself and crew. They were all dressed out in their best clothes, and looking admirably well for men who had not eaten meat for three months.

Strange reports respecting us had been spread and believed during our absence; some related to our valour in the battles of Korti and Dager, and the honours we received from the Pasha in consequence; that which had excited most interest was,

that 'in one excavation we had found seven camels' load of gold*.

Our good Ababde too had been here, and told, how we had obliged him "to leave his wife and child among strangers." However, he had found them safe on his return, and allowed that the adventure had turned out for his good.

One evening an Aga had arrived from the army, bearing the ears of the Shegy'a, and, in spite of remonstrances, had selected our boat as most worthy to convey his honourable person and charge to Cairo; however, Bedoui set sail in the night, and lay hid till the storm was passed.

At last, that faithful captain, beginning to be seriously anxious about our safety, had consulted a necromancer respecting us; he received for answer, "that we were only detained by the illness of one of our party, and should shortly be here." The necromancer's predictions were happily fulfilled; we found letters with good news from below; and as our sailors were repeatedly assuring us that "the day of our return was a *white day* for them," it would be ungrateful not to confess, that it was a white day for us also.

* Another rumour, which added two pieces of cannon to our discoveries, had a singular origin. Amiro once mentioned to us, that among the ruins at Say he had found a small cannon, probably brought up there by the troops of Sultan Selym, when they conquered that country.

A P P E N D I X.

A P P E N D I X I.

MAP OF THE NILE.

IN the application of the names of the ancient cities to the present remains found in Ethiopia, it appears to me that the authority of Ptolemy ought to be followed in preference to that of Pliny; because, being a native of Egypt, he is more likely to have been well informed on the geography of the Nile; because those subjects formed more exclusively the object of his attention; and because his exposition of the country is much more elaborate, and has proved, wherever the truth can be ascertained, to be very far from inaccurate

The S.W bend of the Nile is mentioned by Eratosthenes, as quoted by Strabo, who makes the turn begin two thousand seven hundred stadia to North of Meroe, and continue for three thousand seven hundred stadia till it returns to the lat. of Meroe; it then resumes its course a little to E. of North for five thousand three hundred stadia to the Great Cataract; the distances are exaggerated, but their proportions are nearly correct.

Ptolemy places Meroe in $16^{\circ} 26'$ N. lat., and Napata, which he supposed to be situated on the *αγκων*, in $20^{\circ} 15'$. We then find three or four cities placed in 18° along the banks of the river, thus fixing the lat. of the westerly course taken by the Nile, after it has ceased to flow S.W., and before it recovers its natural direction to the northward; he places the great Cataract in $22^{\circ} 30'$. The errors in any of these latitudes will hardly

prove to be much more than half a degree ; in places of inferior importance his mistakes may naturally have been greater.

Ptolemy distinguishes between the minor and the major, or, as we call them, the first and second cataract, and marks the situation of the cities as they are, below, between, or above them. Again, he mentions, in every instance, the side of the river on which they stand, and the longitude, as well as latitude, of each ; whereas Pliny, in his account of Petronius's expedition (a much less exact and detailed account than that of Strabo), merely mentions the order in which a number of towns, the only ones he had found in the country, were taken by that general. I cannot therefore bring myself to believe that Ibrim, situated from eighty to one hundred miles *below* the major cataract, is (as marked in the map of Nubia prefixed to Burckhardt's Travels, and admitted by Niebuhr in his *Inscript. Nub.*) the Primis (in Strabo Premnis), which Ptolemy places three degrees of latitude *above* it. Ibrim is the common contraction of Ibrahim, given probably to the fortress from some Chief, who had repaired or defended it ; the coincidence of two letters is not a sufficient reason for disregarding the authority of Ptolemy, in a country where places are continually changing their names, and where there exists at this moment a city and kingdom of Mérawe, which, though pronounced accurately in the same manner, is certainly not Meroe*.

* Of all the names recorded by Bion and Juba, only two or three are noted by Pliny and Ptolemy. The exploratores of Nero found, from Hierosycaminon to Napata, not one of the cities taken by Petronius ; and of the names mentioned by Macrizi, (Burckhardt, p. 493.) in his account of this country, I believe only that of Say to remain now, after an interval of not more than four hundred years. There are now three villages in Mahass (one ruined near Koke) called Hadji Omar, from a native Chief, and which, like Momfoch in Dóngola, have taken that name within the last twenty years.

Silco, the ruler of the Noubæ and all the Ethiopians (see Niebuhr's Inscript. Nub.), boasts to have, in one attack, reduced the country of the Blemyes from Primis to Talmis. Now the distance from Ibrim to Kalabshe is not more than eighty miles of rocky and thinly-peopled ground. May we not also conclude from this that Primis was the frontier town (on the South) of the Blemyes? and is it likely that the country of a people formidable to the Roman power should have had such narrow limits as Syene and Ibrim? The Noubæ, we are told by Strabo, lived on the left bank, from Meroe to the Ancones, of the Nile, or the country of the Sheygy'a. May not the Blemyes have occupied the countries from there to Syene, including Dóngola, which may have been their southernmost city?

If Ibrim be not Primis, Ebsambal (fifty or sixty miles below the cataract) has still less claim to be Pthur, which was $1^{\circ} 10'$ above it. Stadisis is the place last mentioned by Pliny, and ought therefore to be sought near Napata, (which, according to Strabo's more accurate account, was the limit of Petronius's conquests,) and therefore not much less than eight hundred and seventy* miles from Syene; it is conjectured to be Aamara, which is little more than one-third of that distance. Ptolemy gives us little help here; he mentions, indeed, a place called Tasitia, but places it only half a degree above the great cataract—a situation agreeing well with the *precipitation* of the Nile, said by Pliny to exist there, though ill with his “quo dicemus ordine.” I am inclined, however, to believe the two places to be the same from the vicinity of Stadisis (in Pliny's arrangement) to Atteva, which is, no doubt, the *Αυτοβη* of Ptolemy, a city only $24'$ to the N. of Tasitia. If Stadisis (where is the only cataract mentioned by Pliny) be not, as seems probable, near the *great* one, we must of necessity sup-

* “Longissimi à Syene progressus 870. M. P.”

pose it to be the *Tadis* (Tadis) which Ptolemy places on the West bank, a little below Meroë; and it may then, without much inconsistency, be situated among the rocks of the Shegy'a.

In the map then prefixed to this work, the authority of Ptolemy has been principally attended to, as being, notwithstanding his errors in latitude, the most accurate of the ancient geographers, though it is impossible, on account of those errors, to follow even him too closely.

The position of Tasitia was so nearly that of Samne, that I have little hesitation in supposing them to be the same place; there is, besides, a very considerable cataract at Samne. Pnouns was only 20' N. of the great cataract, and Aamara is more than a degree; but as the mention of Pnouns, or Nupsis, by both Bion and Juba, proves it to have been a considerable place, it is more likely to have left important remains than Gerethis, whose site, according to Ptolemy, was more nearly that of Aamara, but whose name is not mentioned by other geographers; I have, therefore, though with diffidence, fixed Pnouns at the ruins of Aamara.

The situations of Boon (*Βων*), and this geographer's Autoba, or Atteva, were not very distant from those of the small temples of Sedenza and Doshe; and Phthur, or *Φθουρ*, another important city of Ethiopia, I have no doubt was Soleb, though placed by Ptolemy about 20' nearer to the great cataract.

A similar difference the other way will not prevent us from supposing the temple at Sasef, to be the remains of Aboccis, (Pliny) or Abouncis.

Nero's Exploratores place the island Gaugodes*, between Tergedus

* "Insulam Gaugoden esse in medio eo tractu; inde primum visas aves psittacos, et ab altera (quæ vocatur Artigula), animal sphingion—à Tergedo cynocephalos." We saw no such animals, which does not at all prove that they may not have existed

and Napata, distant respectively four hundred and thirty-one and five hundred and eleven miles from Syene. Now, the island of Argo, following the course of the river, is at least five hundred miles from Assouan; Juba mentions a "Gora in Insula," which is, by transposition, Argo.

Ptolemy's Primis * is situated on the same bank, and about a degree north of Old Dóngola, a place as well adapted for defence as Ibrim, and which is proved, by the remains there found by us, to have been a city of as great antiquity. Strabo† mentions, that to get to Primis, Petronius marched through the sands, where the army of Cambyses had been overwhelmed by a whirlwind; in this particular he is at variance with Herodotus, and evidently confuses the fate of the expedition sent by Cambyses to the temple of Hammon, with the ἀλληλοφάγη of that which he commanded himself. But if it be true, that the desert which proved any how fatal to the Persians, must be traversed to reach Primis, it is clear that the site of that city must be sought much farther from Syene than has hitherto been supposed. Herodotus is so indefinite as to the position of the Macrobia ‡, that it is impossible to collect from his account the exact place where the progress of the army was arrested; it may have been in the rocks of the Batn el Hadjar, or of Dar Mahass §.

there formerly. It appears from Herodotus, (ii. 71.) that, in his time, hippopotami were common in Egypt, where the accidental appearance of one is now almost a prodigy.

* Πρίμις μικρά (the other Primis was near Meroe) was 3° above the great Cataract, and Dóngola is 4° nearly. There are no remains of any age of antiquity on the right bank, between Aamára and Dóngola.

† Lib. 17, p. 817, D., &c. &c.

‡ Bruce (vol. 2. B. 2. 5.) supposes the Macrobia to be the "western Shangalla, situated below Guba and Nuba, the gold country, on both sides of the Nile, north of Fazuclo."

§ The story mentioned by Strabo, Diodorus Siculus, and, I think, some other

The identity of Berkel and Napata has been discussed elsewhere ; if it has been proved, Nacis is the city whose situation approached nearest to that of Sannab.

Of the *general* map of the Nile given with this Book, all to the north of Wady Halfa, and to the south of Berber, is taken from the map prefixed, by Colonel Leake, to Burckhardt's Travels. In delineating the country from Wady Halfa to Karsinger, I have followed my own map of that country, and from Karsinger to Berber, the course of the river is laid down according to information kindly communicated to Mr. Hanbury and myself by the Chevalier Frediani (Amiro), in a letter from Berber. The greatest confirmation of the general accuracy of this part, is the authority of the ancient geographers. It may be mentioned in addition, that the river that had been visited by our Ababde guide, (which was no doubt the Nile), was described by him as being five days to the east of Argo ; and that the well of Nabeh (passed by Burckhardt* on his road from Daraou to Berber) is situated three long days and a half from the Nile. Both of these distances agree tolerably well with the delineation I have given of that part of the river.

The Chevalier also mentioned that he had found no remains of anti-

authors, that Cambyzes reached Meroe, and built and named the city after his wife, or mother, is entirely unconfirmed by Herodotus ; and, I think, as inconsistent with his account of that expedition, as it is with the account of that of Petronius, as given by Strabo himself.

* P. 189. " A third route was pointed out to me from Nabeh, leading in a S.S.W. direction to the Nile, in three long days and a half ; but that part of the Nile is inhabited by the Arabs of Mogrât, who were the enemies of our caravan," &c.

quity between El Bellál and Berber, except the ruins of some Christian churches.

The position of the ruins of Meroe is given according to the observations of Bruce made at Shendy ; the latitude is probably nearly correct ; but I suspect from the information of Ptolemy, as agreeing with some received by Mr. Hanbury and myself in that country, that a more accurate observation of longitude would place them, *at least*, 1° more to the westward.

The latitude of Wady Halfa is $21^{\circ} 52' 52''$, as observed by Mr. Cooper, a young Irishman, of great talents, who was travelling in Egypt at the same time with myself, and whose acquaintance I had the pleasure of forming there

A P P E N D I X II.

PONCET left Siout October 2, 1698, and on the 6th arrived at Helaöue, or the "Place of Softness," where he rested four days, and in two more arrived at Chabbé*, a country full of alum; and in three more at Selyma in the Desert, where is a fine spring of water; and on the 26th at Machou†, grosse bourgade sur le bord oriental‡ du Nil. Ce fleuve forme en cet endroit deux grandes îles remplies de palmiers, de séné et de coloquinte. Machou, le seul lieu habité depuis Helaöué, est dans la province de Tungi§; il appartient au Roi de Sennaar et fait le commencement du pays des Barauras que nous appelons Barbarins. L'Erbab ou le gouverneur de cette Province, ayant appris que l'Empereur d'Ethiopie|| nous appelloit a sa cour, nous invita à venir à Argos où il demeure. Cette bourgade est vis-à-vis de Machou de l'autre côté du Nil; nous y allâmes en bateau—they reposed there two days: Le grand Douanier, qui

* The Editor, in a note, places Chabbé on the frontiers of Dóngola; it is probably the place marked Sheb in Colonel Leake's map, nearly in the latitude of Philæ, or nearly 4° to the N. of the present frontier.

† Moshi.

‡ A mistake, of course, for the west bank; he afterwards mentions that he crossed the river to get to Dóngola, which is on the east.

§ Read Fungi, or Funnye, the name of one of the branches of the royal family of Dóngola.

|| By Ethiopia he means Abyssinia; Ethiopia, in fact, commences at the first Cataract.

est fils du Roi de Dóngola demeure aussi à Argos ; ce Prince ne paroît jamais en public que monté sur un cheval couvert de deux cens clochettes de bronze, qui font un grand bruit, et qu' accompagné de vingt mousquetaires et de deux cens soldats armés de lances et de sabres ; his palace was of sun-burnt bricks, the walls being flanked with towers without embrasures. After staying eight days at Machou, they left it on the 4th of November, and arrived at Dóngola on the 13th*, crossing† the river in a large boat kept by the King for the convenience of his subjects. Tout le pays que nous trouvâmes dans notre route jusqu'à cette ville et même jusqu'à celle de Sennaar est un pays très agréable. Mais il n' y a qu' environ une lieu de l'angre ; ce ne sont audelà que des déserts affreux. Le Nil passe au milieu de cette délicieuse plaine.

Les bords en sont hauts et élevés, ainsi ce n'est point l'inondation‡ de ce fleuve qui cause, comme en Egypte, la fertilité de cette campagne, mais l'industrie et le travail des habitans. Comme il ne pleut que très rarement en ce pays là, ils ont soin d' élever par le moyens de certaines roues que des bœufs font tourner, une quantité prodigieuse d'eau qu' ils con-

* The distance from Moshi to Old Dóngola is from eighty-five to ninety miles.

† It appears then that they travelled on the *west* bank from Moshi till they arrived opposite to Dóngola, and then crossed the river; thus they traversed a rich and fertile country. On the other bank they would have found only sands and barrenness.

‡ That is not true ; many parts of Dóngola are as regularly inundated as the plains of Egypt ; were it not so we should not have found such tracts of luxuriant ground covered with vegetation, which have not, perhaps, been cultivated for centuries. As our own observation, however, is at entire variance with that of a traveller, many of whose descriptions are very correct, I shall confirm it by the authority of Buckhardt, p. 66.—“ South of Hannek the immense plains of Dongola commence ; I was credibly informed that there are no rocks in this district, which, during the period of the inundation, presents a watery surface of from twelve to fifteen miles in breadth.”

duisent par le milieu des terres dans des réservoirs destinés à les recevoir , d'où ils les tirent en suite quand ils en-ont besoin pour arroser leur terres qui seraient stériles et incultes sans ce secours.

On ne se sert point d'argent en ce pays là—tout s'y fait par échange comme dans les premiers temps, &c., on ne mange que du pain de Dora, qui est un petit grain ronde, dont on se sert aussi pour faire une espèce de bière épaisse et d'un très mauvais goût ; comme elle ne se conserve pas, on est obligé d'en faire presque à toute heure. Un homme qui a du pain de Dora, et une calebasse pleine de cette désagréable liqueur, dont ils boivent jusqu' à s'enivrer, se croit heureux et en état de faire bonne chère. Avec une nourriture si légère ces gens là se portent bien et sont plus robustes et plus forts que les Européans*.

Leurs maisons sont de terre, basses, et couvertes de cannes de Dora , mais leurs chevaux sont parfaitement beaux et ils sont habiles à les dresser au manège. Leurs selles ont des appuis bien haut ; ce que les fatigue beaucoup. Les personnes de qualité ont la tête nue, et les cheveux tressés assez proprement. Tout leur habit consiste dans une espèce de veste assez mal propre et sans manches et leur chaussure dans une simple semelle qu' ils attachent avec des courroies. Les gens du commun s'enveloppent d'une pièce de toile † qu'ils mettent autour de leur corps en cent manières différentes. Les enfans sont presque nus. Les hommes ont tous une lance qu'ils portent partout—le fer en est crochu—il y en a de fort propres ; ceux qui ont

* This is not now true of the Nubians of Dongóla, though perfectly so of the Arabs above.

† These cloaks are still worn by those of the natives, who can afford any clothing, and generally in the manner represented in the frontispiece; they are of cotton, and manufactured in the country.

des épées les portent pendues au bras gauche. He then speaks of the blasphemies, vulgarity, and debaucheries of the natives, and mentions the tears that came into the eyes of his companion Père de Brevedent, on reflecting that this had long been a Christian country, lost to religion from the want of a person sufficiently zealous to devote himself to the instruction of that abandoned nation—Nous trouvâmes encore sur notre route quantité d'hermitages et d'églises à demi ruinés.

He then mentions that the country had, two years before, been ravaged by the plague, which had made great havoc in Upper Egypt and the country of the Barbarins—de sorte que nous trouvâmes plusieurs villes et un grand nombre de villages sans habitans, et de grandes campagnes autrefois très-fertiles tout à fait incultes et entièrement abandonnées.

Presently follows his description of the city—La ville de Dóngola est située au bord oriental du Nil, sur le penchant d'une colline sèche et sabloneuse ; les maisons sont très mal-bâties, et les rues à moitié désertes, et remplies de monceaux de sable que les ravines y entraînent de la montagne. Le château est au centre de la ville ; il est grand et spacieux, mais les fortifications sont peu de chose. Il tient dans le respect les Arabes qui occupent la campagne, où ils font paître librement leurs troupeaux, en payant un léger tribut au Mek ou Roi de Dóngola (Le Mek ou Malek de Dóngola s'appelle Achmet—*Note*.) They dined often with that prince, though at a separate table ; his dress was a long vest of green velvet reaching to the ground. La garde est nombreuse, ceux qui sont près de sa personne portent une longue épée devant eux dans le fourreau ; les gardes du dehors ont des demipiques ; he visited them often, and invited them to remain at his court Son royaume est héréditaire ; mais il paye tribut au Roi de Sennaar.

They left Dóngola on the 6th of January, 1693, and in four days entered the kingdom of Sennaar, and on the 13th arrived at Korti*, grosse bourgade sur le Nil. Comme les peuples qui sont audessus de Korti, le long du Nil, se sont revoltés contre le Roi de Sennaar, et qu'ils pillent les caravanes quand elles passent sur leur terres, on est òbligé de s'éloigner des bords de ce fleuve, et de prendre sa route entre l'Ouest ‡ et le Midi et d'entrer dans le grand désert de Bihouda, qu'ou ne peut traverser qu'en cinq jours, quelque diligence que l'on fasse. Ce désert n'est pas si affreux que ceux de la Lybie où l'on ne voit que du sable ; on trouve de temps-en-temps en celui-ci des herbes et des arbres ; après l'avoir passé nous revînmes sur le bord du Nil à Derriera grosse bourgade où nous demeurâmes deux jours. This country abounds in provisions, and is called Bellad Allah †, or the Country of God. From there their direction was westerly, and after some days' march they found the Nile at a place called Guerri, where there was a quarantine on caravans from Egypt, for fear of the small-pox ; here they passed the river on the 1st of February, and slept at a stone village called Alfaa. They then marched N.E., pour eviter les grands détours que fait le Nil, passed the villages of Alfou, Cotrau, and Camin, and traversed a large island not marked in the maps ; and then passing through a number of charming forests, pleins de petits perroquets verts, d'une espèce de gelinottes et d'un grand nombre d'autres oiseaux qu'on ne connaît point en Europe ; and many fertile and well cultivated plains, nous découvrîmes la ville de Sennaar, dont la situation nous parut enchantée

* Thus, on the eighth day from leaving Dóngola, they arrived at Korti. It is properly a journey of three days, following the Nile, and about fifty-eight miles.

† This is again a mistake, for l'Est. Shendy bars nearly E.S.E. from Korti.

‡ There is some contradiction here, between the accounts of Poncet and Bruce, Vol. 1. p. 380, &c.

A P P E N D I X III.

THE country above the second cataract has probably been in no age so depopulated as in the present. The ancient Ethiopian empire, of which Dóngola must have formed a very flourishing portion, was powerful and celebrated; though, from the facility with which the second Ptolemy seems to have penetrated to Axum, it must in his days have been greatly reduced in consequence. The exploratores of Nero describe themselves to have traversed only solitudes, though they enumerate more towns of importance than are to be now found in the same country. These solitudes, however were not created (according to Pliny) by Petronius, but the consequence of frequent wars with Egypt; which seem to have been afterwards renewed with such success, that it was not beneath the dignity of the Romans to secure tranquillity to their province by exciting civil dissensions among the Ethiopians, and hiring the Noubæ to invade the territories of their more constant and active enemy, the Blemyes. (Vide Niebuhrii Inscriptiones Nubienses.)

Christianity, whose usual effect is increase of population, seems to have been introduced by the missionaries of Theodora in the beginning of the sixth century; (Gibbon, ch. xlvii.) and about 737, A.D. a Coptic Patriarch boasted that the Kings of Nubia and Ethiopia (here meaning Abyssinia) could bring into the field one hundred thousand horse and as many camels. The Nubians, according to the same author, embraced the Mahometan

faith in the twelfth century. It appears, however, from the information collected by Burckhardt, (App. III.) that Salamoum, King of Dóngola, though less powerful than the Sultan of Egypt, was yet a considerable and a Christian Prince at the end of the thirteenth century; the church of Ysous was still the first church of Dóngola. Ibn Batouta, who travelled about 1330, asserts, that in the country of Nouba (Burckt. p. 537) the people were still Christians, but that the King of Dóngola, then called Ibn Kenz Eddyn, had turned Moslem in the time of El Malek el Naszer (of Egypt). After that we hear nothing more of the Christianity of the Noubas; they probably soon followed the example of their Prince, and embraced the faith to which they were called by their fears or their loyalty.

No immediate affliction was the consequence of this apostacy; in the time of Macrizi (who flourished in the beginning of the fifteenth century) grapes and olives were still growing in the country, and in the district of Bakou, or The Wonder, where the Nile runs west, there were cities touching each other, consisting of fine buildings. The interval between this period and the arrival of Poncet in the country, at the end of 1698, was fatal, from whatever cause, to its wealth and populousness. The French missionary found many villages without inhabitants, and many plains, once fertile, uncultivated and abandoned; even the streets of the capital were half deserted and filled with sand. He attributes this desolation, in part, to the ravages of the plague, which had raged there two years before. Yet even then the King of Dóngola wore a vest of green velvet, and was attended by numerous guards; so that in the interval of one hundred and twenty-two years between Poncet's travels and our own, more and disastrous changes must have taken place in that kingdom; these last are, no doubt, to be charged to the arms of

the Shegy'a, who, even in the time of Poncet, were already independent of the King of Sennaar. Their custom of carrying away with them the inhabitants of a conquered country, will account for the depopulation that they have every where introduced.

These details only enable us to ascertain that the old churches, of which we observed many in ruins, were erected from the beginning of the sixth to the middle of the fourteenth century; and, I suppose, the burial places, which we generally observed in the neighbourhood of the churches, to be those of the Christian inhabitants. Most of the churches were entirely of brick; the mixture of mud in the construction of the saints' tombs, and their greater state of perfection, proves them to be of a later age; and I can easily believe them to have been all Mahometan, and, therefore, erected during the last four centuries. Of the old towns and castles, those that are chiefly of brick may have been the work of the Christians, and those of mud are either of a later date, or (like the castles near Burgade) much more ancient. It is difficult, however, on such slight data, to decide with certainty, and this is of less importance, as, though many of these old buildings create, in the traveller who is examining them, a peculiar kind of interest, there is no one in the whole country that can ever have possessed the slightest claims to beauty or architectural merit. It was painful to be constantly occupied in noticing such productions, while the ruins of Cyrene were yet undescribed.

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