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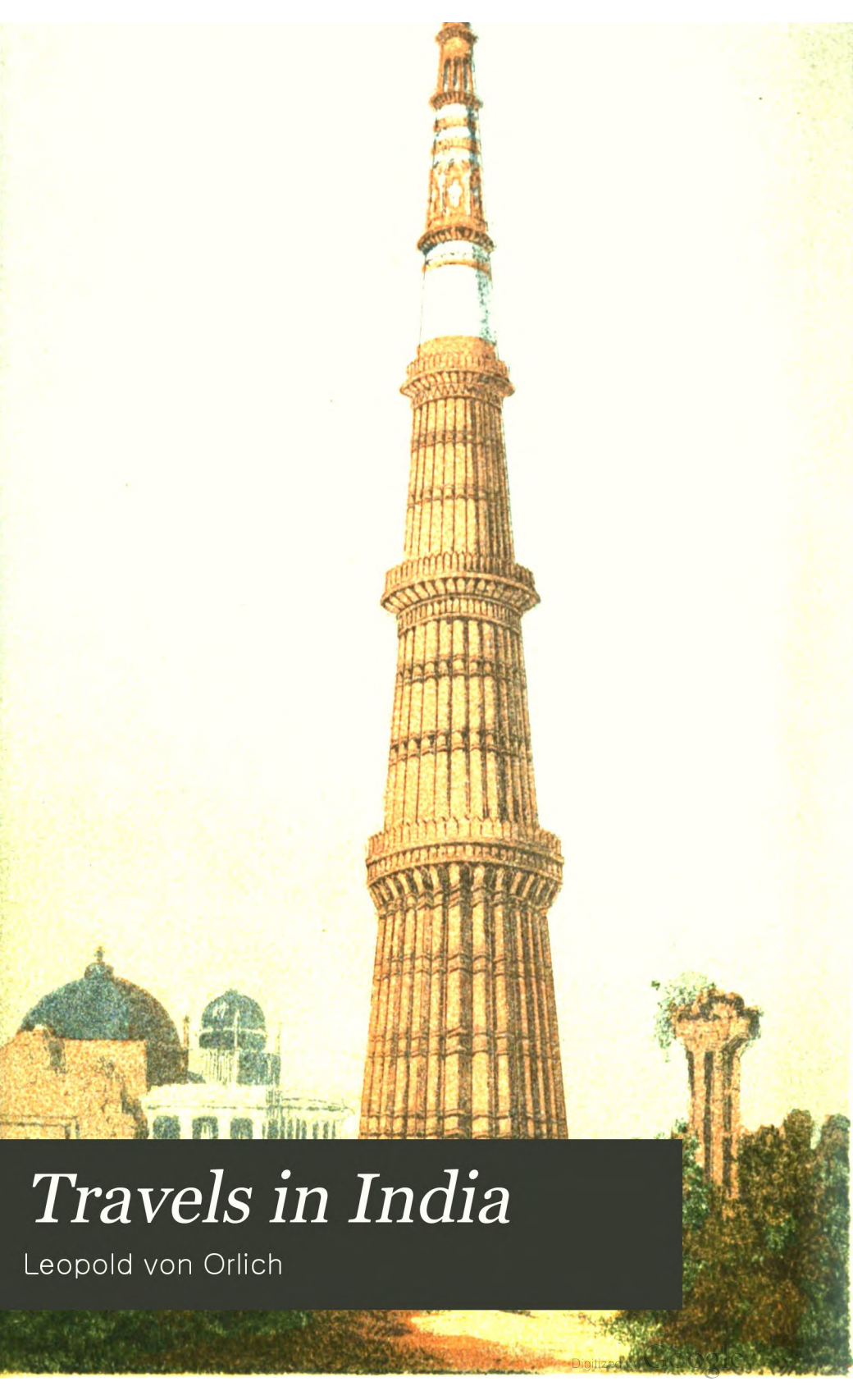

Travels in India

Leopold von Orlich

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TRAVELS IN INDIA.

VOL. I.

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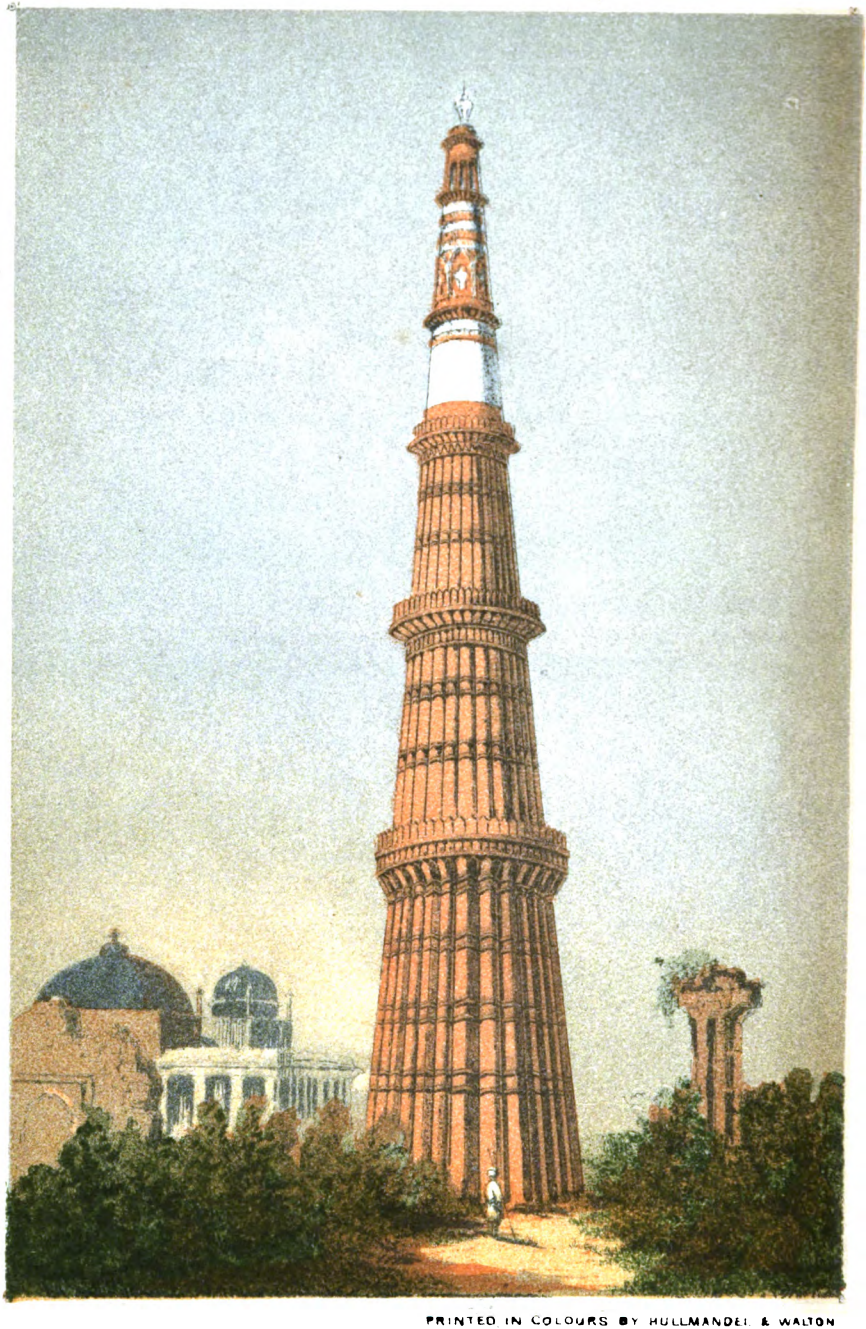

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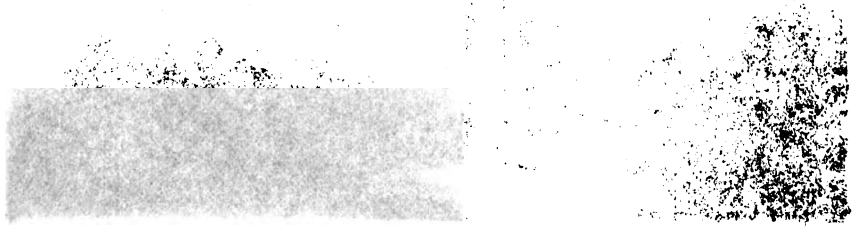

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TRAVELS IN INDIA,

INCLUDING

SINDE AND THE PUNJAB.

BY

CAPTAIN LEOPOLD VON ORLICH.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN,

BY

H. EVANS LLOYD, ESQ.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR
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TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

NOTWITHSTANDING the numerous works of every description which treat of India, notwithstanding the marvellous phenomenon presented by the rise, progress, and colossal magnitude of our Indian empire, it was, on the whole, too long before the English nation took an interest in the subject in any degree commensurate with its importance. The affairs of that country were regarded as the concern of the East India Company rather than as involving any national interest:—India, in fact, was looked upon as an El Dorado, where persons, enjoying the patronage of the Company, might acquire immense fortunes; and when public attention was drawn to abuses, real or supposed, it was, as in the case of Warren Hastings, rather to forward the views of a party than to vindicate the honour or to promote the interests of the mother-country.

Meantime the labours and indefatigable researches of many men of eminent learning and

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ability were gradually revealing to Europe, not only its natural wonders, its surpassing fertility, its richness in every production that can contribute to the support, the comfort, and the happiness of man, but likewise the treasures of its learning, the condition of its people, and, alas! independently of its absurd general idolatry, the Tantra and Sakta worship, which necessarily brutalised and enslaved a part of its people.

A decided change for the better has undoubtedly taken place within a comparatively short period; and in proportion as the English nation has been more thoroughly informed of the state of India, it has manifested a more lively sympathy in the affairs of that empire; hence public opinion has had no little influence in producing a marked improvement in the government of that remote country, which will unquestionably be still further promoted by the rapid communication now obtained by means of steam navigation.

Under these circumstances the public are now eager for the most recent and authentic information; and the work of an intelligent and impartial foreigner like Captain Von Orlich cannot, therefore, fail to be highly acceptable. The circumstance that his letters are addressed to two such eminently distinguished characters as Alexander Von Humboldt and Carl Ritter would of itself be sufficient to guarantee their inherent importance; in fact, the

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very cordial reception which this distinguished officer met with from the various civil and military functionaries, and the marked attention with which he was honoured by Lord Ellenborough, together with his visit to the native princes of Sinde, Lahore, and Oude, have enabled him to collect ample materials, which he has wrought into a highly interesting narrative. His account of the Ameers of Sinde, to all of whom he had a personal introduction, derives a peculiar importance from the recent transactions in that country — the dethronement of its princes, and its annexation to the British dominions, which have given rise to so many conflicting opinions respecting the policy and justice of that unexpected measure.

In the completion of my agreeable task I have had the advantage of the kind and valuable assistance of Colonel Sykes, a director of the East India Company, a personal friend of the author, and a gentleman who is thoroughly acquainted with the army and administration of India. He has most obligingly revised the proofs of the whole work, and not only supplied the most approved orthography of many of the proper names, but has also thrown fuller light upon some portions of the author's text, more especially relating to the Anglo-Indian army. To this gallant officer I am further indebted for the valuable tables of the revenue of India, which have never before been

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published. I have also subjoined a few notes and remarks illustrative of several facts adduced by the author.

The following pages cannot indeed fail of a cordial reception from the British nation, who will be gratified by the opinion of so enlightened and unbiassed an observer of the stability of the British power in India, which he believes to be very far from having attained its culminating point,—an opinion in which he is borne out by another distinguished German traveller, Baron Von Hûgel, who says:—

"More than two thousand times has the earth performed its revolution round the sun—a number of years, nearly equal to a third of the period of time that has elapsed since the beginning of the history of the human race—since Alexander the Great crossed the Indus, and conceived the plan of making India tributary to Greece. * * * More than two thousand years after Alexander, his stupendous plan has been carried into execution by a nation whose original possessions scarcely exceed Greece in extent. * * * This empire has within itself the elements of duration; for the cause of justice and equity, the firm upholding of the law, and implied submission to its ordinance, are the peculiar characteristics of that energetic people to whom Providence has committed the destiny of so many millions of the human race."

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"Debellare superbos, parcere subjectis"

is indeed a proud motto, more truly applicable to England than to Rome.

One doubt alone arises to cloud the brilliant prospect that England seems to have before her with regard to India. Has she not too long delayed to perform her duty, holding, as she does, so high a position in the Christian world? In the schools established and supported by her government no attempt appears to be made to lead the natives to that Divine religion which she herself professes in its greatest purity. According to Captain Von Orlich, the young men trained in her schools, for the most part turn out Deists; and this assertion is painfully corroborated by the Rev. J. Weitbrecht, in his excellent little work on Missions in Bengal, and by other highly credible authorities. While this state of things obtains the zealous labours of a few pious missionaries will be wholly inadequate to stem the fearful torrent of evil which must result from furnishing the mind of the Indian youth with the superstructure of an ample store of secular knowledge, while the only solid foundation of Gospel truth is wholly wanting; a mode of procedure which will inevitably involve them in a ruin more fearful than before, while it furnishes them with weapons against ourselves. May we not fear that, unless a radical change takes place, the lines of Homer, so affectingly spoken by

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Scipio on the fall of Carthage, may be applicable to England?—

> "The day shall come, the great avenging day,
> Which Troy's proud glories in the dust shall lay;
> When Priam's power and Priam's self shall fall,
> And one prodigious ruin swallow all."

But let us hope for better things, and rather look forward to the moment (may it soon arrive!) when the British Government shall be able, as it doubtless is desirous, to communicate religious as well as secular knowledge to the people committed to her charge.

H. EVANS LLOYD.

LONDON, *January*, 1845.

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

THREE years ago, when the disastrous events in Cabool were first made known, it was generally believed that a lengthened and serious war must be the inevitable consequence. The Author of the following work participated in this opinion, and anxiously wished to be present at the approaching campaign, for the purpose of acquiring, in the ranks of the British army, that military experience, which a long peace had prevented him from obtaining in the army of his own country. His Sovereign was graciously pleased to grant the Author's request; but the necessary negotiations with the British Government delayed his departure for India, while the rapid succession of military events in the seat of war surpassed every expectation. In consequence of this unavoidable detention, the Author only joined the British army at Ferozpoor on its return from its glorious campaign, when he saw, indeed, how well the laurels graced the brows of the victors, but with the mortifying reflection that he had come too late to witness how they had been won.

The main purpose of his journey having unhappily been thus defeated, by circumstances over

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which he had no control, it seemed to be an imperative duty to do all that was still in his power to make himself acquainted with that remarkable country, which has been visited by very few of his countrymen. If he has not taken the fullest advantage of the favourable opportunity which he enjoyed, the fault must be attributed to the shortness of the time rather than to any remissness on the part of the Author, who met with treasures far beyond his hopes, which, though fully able to appreciate, he could not in every case turn to account. He relates plainly and faithfully, what he saw and felt, and, to supply the deficiency of actual observation, he has added other matter which he heard and learnt from men of unimpeachable credit.

The Author has had the privilege of adding to his kind patrons and friends at home, many others both in England and in India, and a grateful remembrance of them will be for ever impressed on his heart.

THE AUTHOR.

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TRAVELS IN INDIA.

LETTER I.

TO ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT.

Departure from London to Southampton.— Embarkation on the Tagus steamer.—Falmouth, Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria. — Voyage on the Mahmudie canal to Atfeh; Steam navigation on the Nile.— Cairo.— Journey across the Desert to Suez.— Voyage in the Berenice war steamer, on the Red Sea to Aden, and thence, on board the Cleopatra, to Bombay. — Entrance into the Harbour on the 6th August.

Bombay, August 8. 1842.

AFTER a prosperous voyage of thirty-seven days, I arrived on the 6th inst. in this land of wonders! The fact that I have been conveyed in so short a time into a new world seems like a dream, and I should doubt its reality did not all things around convince me of the truth. However, though my imagination is most powerfully excited, and I have an interminable succession of occupation, I will at once attempt to give you a sketch of my voyage hitherward.

I passed my last day in London with our hospitable Consul-General, Mr. Hebeler, who had invited

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some of our countrymen to meet me, and whose amiable lady gave a charm to the social entertainment by her graceful and animated conversation. I was unfortunately obliged to decline an invitation from the Duke of Sussex, with whom I had previously had a long and very interesting conversation; little thinking that it was the last time that we should meet in this life, for I had to leave London that same day, and, attended by the good wishes of our ambassador, I started by the railway for Southampton. Spite of the sailor's prejudice I embarked on Friday, 1st July, on board the splendid steamer the Tagus, of 350 horse-power. The morning was unpleasant; light showery clouds driven by the wind covered the sun, and I was wet through before I reached the vessel. Here all was bustle and activity: while the roaring and hissing of the steam announced our speedy departure, goods of all kinds were hastily put on board, and the porters and sailors ran backwards and forwards, stowing the luggage and making other preparations. Most of the passengers were on deck surrounded by their friends; here was a father giving his last advice and blessing to his son; there brethren and friends bade each other a long adieu, while husband and wife parted, perhaps for ever; and a farewell salute was given to others by friends among the crowd assembled on shore. I alone stood like an isolated being; there was none to press my hand and take my last fond wishes to my friends at home; but in spirit I sent a thousand kind remembrances to those I love. At six o'clock the first gun gave the signal for separation, and a few minutes afterwards a second announced our departure. The Tagus, which was intended for the passage to Lisbon only, was

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now setting out for her first voyage to Egypt, in the place of the Oriental, which was under repair: as we passed this fine vessel the crew gave us some hearty cheers, which were warmly re-echoed by our sailors.

Our company consisted of between fifty and sixty persons, chiefly officers who were going to join their regiments in India, several naval officers, merchants, and a clergyman with his family, who were bound for Malta. The spacious deck, and the splendidly furnished saloon, which was provided with a library and newspapers, were far preferable to our small uncomfortable cabins, and we all accordingly amused ourselves either with promenading the deck, or with reading, writing, and conversation.

While steering our course between the French coast and the lovely Isle of Wight, the sky cleared up, and a light fresh breeze blew ahead; but the rolling of the vessel compelled many of the passengers to pay an involuntary tribute to Neptune; I, too, felt very uncomfortable, though I did not suffer from sea-sickness either then or afterwards. On the 2d July, at nine in the morning, we came in sight of the rocks which enclose the harbour of Falmouth. Shortly before entering it we took a pilot on board, who conducted us through the narrow channel, leaving on the left hand a reef of rocks, on which stood a small black tower, and at half-past nine o'clock we cast anchor at about 800 paces from the town. Here we had to wait for the India mail, which was not brought on board till four o'clock, and consisted of fifty-six large chests of letters, and other packages. We immediately weighed anchor, and before sunset we were on the wide Atlantic, bounded on all sides by the bright blue canopy of heaven.

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A ship life, unless broken by some special circumstances, is so regular, monotonous, and, in long voyages, often so wearisome, that in giving a description of one day I make you tolerably well acquainted with the general tenour of our life. Our captain is a grave, reserved man, and has little intercourse with his officers except on matters of duty. At sunrise the crew begin cleaning and scouring the deck; the ship's bell indicates the hours, and when it strikes nine we assemble in the great saloon, at breakfast, which, according to English fashion, consists of hot and cold meats, &c. After breakfast, and again at about twelve o'clock, the captain and his officers regularly determine the position of the ship, and the passengers eagerly inquire how many miles we have made in the last twenty-four hours, and what is our latitude and longitude? On Sundays and holydays, we all assemble about eleven o'clock for divine worship, which is performed by the clergyman: when there is no clergyman on board the captain reads prayers. On other days we each pursue our own occupations, or seek exercise and recreation on deck. At twelve o'clock, we take a second breakfast, and at four o'clock the steward summons us to an exceedingly good dinner which consists of three courses, and a variety of wines. After this we generally spend the evening on the quarter-deck, where tea and conversation while away the time. If the weather be fine, the pure air and the brilliancy of the starry heavens keep many of us on deck till midnight.

The only interruptions to our life in its monotonous flow are passing vessels, shoals of dolphins, or a storm of wind. We encountered a heavy squall which drove

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our ponderous steamer as if it had been a plaything, towards the coast of Spain, which came in sight on the morning of the 5th of July; and, when we were off Cape Finisterre, a brisk north wind swelled our sails, so that by the aid of wind and steam we proceeded at the rate of ten miles an hour. Among my fellow-passengers I was particularly interested with Colonel M'Neile, Captain Forbes, of the Madras army, and Lieutenant Miaulis, a son of the celebrated Greek admiral, who was educated at Munich, and is now serving in the British navy. His frank, cheerful manners greatly attracted me; we mutually communicated our little adventures to each other; and the enthusiastic Greek, with sparkling eyes and animated gestures, recounted the deeds of his heroic father.

On the 7th and 8th we enjoyed serene weather and pure air under the lovely blue of this southern sky. On the preceding day, about noon, we met several Portuguese schooners, as we were passing between the wild rugged Berlinga rocks, of whose proximity the navigator is warned by a lighthouse in the little Fort St. Goa, and, at three o'clock, descried the once celebrated Mafra, whose large monastery, situated on an eminence near the city, is visible at a great distance. Soon afterwards we passed Cintra; and at seven o'clock Lisbon rose before us, like a panorama, in its entire extent and all its beauty. From this point we kept at a greater distance from the coast, which we did not see again till the following morning. Several vessels passed us, one of which had lost its foremast in a storm. At sunset we sailed by the celebrated Cape Trafalgar, and approached the Straits of Gibraltar: it was a remarkably fine evening, the air was warm yet refreshing, the sky resplendent with innu-

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merable stars, the sea slightly agitated, and profound silence prevailed on board our vessel. This, and the expectation of soon entering another sea, induced me to remain on deck till we should reach the harbour of Gibraltar. About eleven o'clock a stormy wind suddenly arose, which several times extinguished our lantern, and we were very near coming into collision with another vessel, the crew of which set up a loud cry. Their apprehensions were, however, groundless, for notwithstanding the darkness of the night, we had fortunately perceived their ship in time to avoid any accident. The nearer we approached the light-house, the more violent did the storm become; but as soon as we had passed it, and were in the Straits, a complete calm suddenly succeeded. About half past three o'clock on the following morning, a gun was fired as a signal to the inhabitants of Gibraltar that we had cast anchor in the road. We were not able to observe the solar eclipse which afterwards took place, as the sun was obscured by clouds.

Gibraltar lies at the foot of a rock 1437 feet high, which declines, more or less abruptly, towards every side; on the east it rises from the sea like a wall, and runs out in a rugged promontory nearly 500 paces in length into the Mediterranean. On the Spanish side it is perfectly level, and forms a semicircle around the harbour, and, opposite Gibraltar, joins other masses of rock at the entrance. This harbour is one of the finest in the world, and is capable of receiving the largest men-of-war. The town and fortress lie on the declivity towards the harbour: the fortress consists of a wall which surrounds the town with salient angles and bulwarks; they are most extensive on the flanks, and are commanded by some works situated above them,

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and by several batteries hewn in the rocks, the guns of which hang in chains. Gibraltar is nearly impregnable by its natural position, and on the Spanish side may be isolated by inundating the plain. Wherever the rocky soil would permit, orange trees have been planted, and gardens laid out. Cactus and aloes grow luxuriantly to the very summit of the rock, the retreat of herds of monkeys, which, like the Capitoline geese of old, were distinguished during a siege, and consequently have ever since been looked upon as sacred animals, which are not to be molested.

Accompanied by several of my fellow-passengers, I took a small boat and went on shore. I cannot describe to you the elevating yet melancholy feeling that filled my heart as I trod the beautiful soil of Spain, the most southern point of Europe. The busy life of early morning met us on our landing; mules laden with vegetables, fruit and corn, driven by peasants in their singular costume; fine vigorous men with the most expressive countenances, wearing the broad-brimmed hat, the cloak, thrown like a toga over the shoulder and presenting a most picturesque appearance, encountered us at every step. In the markets we were struck with the peculiarities and the animated manners of the natives of the South, contrasted with the calm serious deportment of the English in their scarlet uniforms and the Scotch in their Highland dress. We spent some hours in viewing the little town and the fortifications, and while we were amusing ourselves with these scenes, the women and girls riding on heavily-laden asses scrutinised us coquettishly with their piercing black eyes.

Fatigued by the heat and unwonted exercise, we went into the best inn for refreshment: here they

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charged us three shillings each for a very indifferent breakfast, and I was therefore not surprised, though rather amused, to hear the English call these people rogues and scorpions.

Meantime our vessel had taken in coals and provisions for the voyage to Malta. We hastened on board, and at twelve o'clock we were already in the Mediterranean, which extended before us as smooth as a mirror; the air was warm without being oppressive, and the sky unclouded. This fine weather continued till Saturday 13th, and our vessel made ten miles an hour. On Friday evening we approached the African coast, where the lofty Atlas chain with its bare, rugged limestone rocks rose above the clouds, and long bore us company. We sailed along these classic lands, rich in traditions and historical interest, where Dido founded her States, where Æneas sought protection, and where Hannibal, Scipio, Jugurtha, Cæsar, the Vandals, the Arabs, the Spaniards, and the French have borne their warlike arms. What ample stores of history, what busy, varying fortunes of nations and individuals were recalled to our minds as we glided rapidly onwards!

On Saturday towards evening the wind had collected dense black clouds over the mountains: while we were watching their ever-changing forms, we suddenly saw a globe of fire fall from heaven; it was as large as the moon, and bursting in a few seconds, it illuminated the coast and the sea with magnificent though transitory splendour; soon afterwards vivid flashes lightened up the whole scene, so that Mount Atlas often appeared as if standing in an ocean of fire. On Monday the wind and sea became more calm, and we were able to enjoy the view of the coast once more

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at our ease. We saw the Bay of Tunis, the site of ancient Carthage, and passed close to the rocky island of Zembra, and the island of Pantellaria, famed for its wine. On Tuesday we had a brisk east wind, and at five o'clock on the following morning we were in sight of Malta.

The entrance into a new harbour in a foreign country is an event full of expectation to a stranger, and we accordingly all came on deck, eagerly making observations and inquiries. Malta has the appearance of a bare, sterile, rocky island, which seems to owe its origin to a recent volcanic convulsion. A few orange trees, some vines and fruit trees, trained against artificial walls, and growing in soil which had been fetched from Sicily, was all that presented itself to our view. Close to the shore, at intervals of 600 or 800 paces, there are towers, some round, others square, each provided with a twenty-four pounder for the defence of the coast. We saw the flags hoisted on the lighthouse at La Valetta, to announce our arrival to the pilots and to the governor. At half past eight we took on board a pilot, who soon conducted us through a narrow channel into one of the most spacious harbours in the world. It consists of the entrance harbour and three smaller ones branching off to the east, and is bounded by calcareous rocks, from 200 to 300 feet in height, on the most westerly of which the city rises in the form of terraces. A fine sight here presented itself to our view; a large fleet of men-of-war and war steamers, under the command of Admiral Owen lying at anchor. The harbour and town are defended by innumerable works and batteries, which are admirably placed and constructed; the only fault is that there are too many of

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them. On the side of the principal harbour, separated from the town, is the quarantine-harbour: I refrain from any further description of this island, interesting in so many points of view, because you are well acquainted with it, and shall content myself with relating the occurrences of the two days which I passed here.

We had scarcely cast anchor, when we were surrounded by boats, from which our ears were assailed with loud, shrill cries, resembling those of Naples when passengers are about to land. I hired a boat and made for the Queen, in order to look for Lieutenant Johnston, whose father, Sir Alexander, had kindly favoured me with a letter to him. He is a fine young man, full of life and spirit, and bid me a hearty welcome, introduced me to his messmates, and conducted me over every part of this floating palace. The Queen carrying 110 guns, 204 feet long, 60 broad, and 46 deep, with a crew of 1000 men, had been launched only a few months before, and is probably at this time the largest and handsomest man-of-war in the British navy. Here, where the strictest discipline and order prevail, where simplicity with adaptation to the object are combined in the highest perfection, we are irresistibly impressed with the power of England; these are the fibres which she throws out on every side, with which she encompasses the earth, as with a spider's web, and appropriates to herself the empire of the seas. The spacious saloon and dining-room are well supplied with books and maps; in the officers' cabins a thirty-two-pounder is placed close to each bed, otherwise each is furnished according to the taste of the respective occupant, and here, too, food for the mind is never wanting. As we passed through the magazines, the arsenal, the store-rooms, and the

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lazaretto, I had an opportunity of remarking the regularity and order of the crew; but the finest sight was on the upper deck, where the vessel is seen at once in its entire extent, with its intricate network of cordage and ladders.

After we had spent two hours in inspecting the vessel, Lieutenant Johnston took me to the Howe of 120 guns, which, however, is nine feet narrower than the Queen; we next visited the Indus of 84 guns, which bears on the upper deck, as an admonitory warning, Nelson's celebrated words before the battle of Trafalgar—"England expects every man to do his duty." At three o'clock, we were again on board the Queen, where I dined in the company of the highly accomplished officers. Johnston afterwards accompanied me into the town, and showed me the palace, formerly belonging to the grand master, now the residence of the governor, the armoury, and the fine church of St. John's. Here we parted: my young friend was obliged by his duty to return to his ship, while I was tempted, by the coolness of the evening, to linger for some time in the town, so that it was dark when I reached the Tagus. The next morning at sun-rise I again went ashore to view the fortifications, and about twelve o'clock returned on board, quite exhausted with my fatiguing excursion. Preparations were already made to put to sea, for the steamer had arrived from Marseilles with the English mail. Meanwhile, we amused ourselves with watching the diving of some lively boys, who willingly went to the bottom of the sea, to fetch up some copper coins.

The weather was perfectly fine when we weighed anchor at three o'clock in the afternoon, but towards

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evening a westerly wind with rain arose. On Friday the 15th, a south-east wind cooled the air, rain alternated with sunshine, and in the evening continued flashes of lightning, in the west, illumined the sky and the sea; on Saturday, the wind abated, a total calm succeeded, and we were surrounded by a glassy sea under an unclouded sky. On Monday, however, at three o'clock in the afternoon, while we were passing the Arab towers, the sea suddenly became greatly agitated, our vessel pitched, heaved, and the waves dashed over her forepart, with such violence that we could not proceed more than seven knots an hour. We were scarcely eight miles from the coast; a scorching wind passed over the arid plains of Africa, and we saw the hot vapour floating over the dazzling white sand of the desert.

Shortly afterwards we descried the light-house of Alexandria. About two miles before the entrance into the harbour, which has a sufficient depth of water, but at one point is scarcely 200 paces broad, we had considerable difficulty in taking a pilot on board, near the vicinity of the coast, where some hundreds of small stone windmills are erected. In boarding our vessel this handsome, long-bearded Turk dropped his slippers, and seemed more disposed to leave us to our fate than to lose them. The sun was sinking towards the horizon as we entered the harbour, which presented a very animated scene — the Pacha's fleet, consisting of more than twenty men-of-war of various sizes, lying at anchor within it. While wending our way through this forest of masts a boat with Europeans, who welcomed us with waving their hats and handkerchiefs, came out to meet us; and before we had cast anchor, we were surrounded by innumerable Egyptian boats, from which

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arose such a medley of cries and shouts, that in truth we could not even hear ourselves speak. We were obliged, stick in hand, to force our way through this importunate crowd; and it was only by similar means that the agents of the Company succeeded in transporting our effects and securing us quiet possession of the boats we had need of. On landing, camel and ass drivers received us in the same riotous manner; however, I was resolved not to employ any of them, but, accompanied by a guide, preferred proceeding in the cool of the evening to the inn.

I was treading the classic soil of Egypt, so rich in historical reminiscences; but the images which passed before me in the twilight of evening were not like the creations of fancy. As I wandered, full of thought, through the narrow dirty streets of Alexandria, I every where encountered the Eastern world, with its peculiarities, its singular manners and customs, and its strange natural physiognomy. Here were groups of Mussulmans sitting in their picturesque costume, and smoking their pipes in gravity and silence; there women and girls closely veiled, with the exception of their eyes, fled at the approach of the infidels; in the gay bazar illuminated with lamps was seen all the bustle of a little commercial world — men and boys talking and bargaining, while asses were furiously driven amidst the throng, or heavily laden camels paced with a slow and cautious step through the crowd. No indication of joy or mirth was to be seen or heard.

After I had followed my guide for about half an hour, we suddenly entered a large square surrounded by lofty and handsome buildings belonging to the consuls: winding stairs rise to a considerable height

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above the flat roofs, and afford an extensive prospect over the city and the sea. Here too our inn was situated. We had barely sufficient time allowed us comfortably to partake of refreshments; and having regaled ourselves with bananas, melons, and delicious grapes, we were informed that our guides and asses were waiting. A disorderly crowd of boys and youths rushed upon us with their beasts, uttering their loud, incoherent yells in broken English. Before I well knew what was done, I was lifted upon an ass and driven away. My companions were treated in the same summary manner, and our cavalcade galloped, helter-skelter, to embark on the Mahmudic canal.

The evening, which the bright light of the moon and the total stillness rendered peculiarly agreeable, was as delightful as the most lively imagination can paint. Our route lay along groves of palm, over which passed a light sea breeze, and wafted pure reviving odours, which invigorated the breast with their balsamic fragrance. On passing through the gate of a small fort, a Turkish officer counted our little company, and we then proceeded full trot between bare stony hills, past Pompey's Pillar, and in less than an hour — it was just eleven — we were under shady sycamores, at the place of embarkation. A covered iron gondola, resembling a cage for monkeys rather than a boat, could with difficulty accommodate all the passengers. I therefore preferred, though the cool damp nights are said to be very injurious to the health, to remain on deck till the morning, wrapped up in my cloak.

The Mahmudie canal, the work of Mehemet Ali, is eighty-four miles long, fifty paces broad, and was at

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this time from four to six feet deep. It runs from the Nile at the village of Atfeh, to Alexandria, and serves not only for navigation, but likewise for irrigating the adjacent country. Innumerable Persian wheels turned by oxen convey the water to the canals, whence it is carried in every direction over the country, and the soil consequently yields abundance of rice, cotton, tobacco, and corn. On either side is a narrow path-way for horses and camels.

After tedious altercations we at length commenced our voyage. An Arab steersman, and two rowers of the same nation, aided by four horses, set the gondola in motion, and a man stationed in the fore-part spoke through a most discordant trumpet, at the approach of any boat. This always created a commotion; before they could resolve to which side they should respectively keep, both parties cried, shouted, and heartily abused each other; sometimes they got so entangled that our rowers were compelled to swim to the bank and take the towing line from the horses. Amidst all this din, which was increased by the monotonous creaking of the waterwheels, and the cries of birds flying over our heads, sleep was not to be thought of. Happily the moon shed so bright a light, that all objects might be pretty clearly distinguished. The navigation on the canal was extremely brisk; sometimes we met boats conveying travellers, or cargoes of cotton, corn, and mats; and then again, others laden with water jugs, poultry, and fruit. The villages lying on the banks, like most of those in Egypt, are built of clay, and consist of an irregularly constructed mass: some of the buildings are round resembling our ovens, others look like little towers, while others again are square. They are seldom more than twenty feet high, and are often

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without either roof or window, and in that case have only narrow loopholes. A small court-yard, enclosed by clay walls, in which the cattle are kept, or the threshing-floor is laid, is attached to most of them. The vicinity of such a village is generally indicated by date palms and bananas which surround it, and agreeably diversify the monotonous appearance of the country. Tents are set up in several spots for the troops engaged on the works, and superintendents employed by Mehemet Ali.

On the 19th of July at nine in the morning, we saw a gondola adorned with flags and streamers, which, as our boatmen informed us, was conveying a daughter of the Pacha. Behind the elegantly carved lattices of the cabin, we saw several veiled females, whose eyes were inquisitively directed towards us. A Turk of distinction, probably the husband, was seated on fine carpets in the open air, smoking a long pipe, and having coffee and various kinds of fruits and sweetmeats spread out before him. Their eunuchs, military attendants, and servants, followed in an equally pretty gondola. But this scene of splendour and luxury was succeeded by one of sorrow and misery. A large boat crowded with chained slaves, Arabs and Abyssinians, who were to be employed in the navy, followed in the track. Many of these poor wretches, we were told, often pull out their teeth or cut off a finger, in order to avoid the hard fate that awaited them.

Our voyage was very diversified and animated; — boats and gondolas filled with people in a variety of costume, forming the most picturesque groups — caravans, riders on horses or asses — post-messengers — the working of the telegraphs along the banks, and between whiles the boatmen enjoying the

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pleasure of swimming. I was particularly struck with the appearance, and splendid dress, of Said Pacha, who, mounted on a bay Arab, with his negro at his side, and attended by several horsemen, galloped past us at full speed. The nearer we approached the Nile, the fuller of life and activity was the scene, in the numerous craft on the canal and in the large encampments of troops on shore. The latter amused themselves with now and then wantonly discharging their muskets at us. Our progress now became more slow, as we occasionally struck on the stony bottom, and our boat was filled with water.

We were heartily glad on being informed at two o'clock that we had reached Atfeh. Here we left our gondola, and went through the village to the Nile, where the Lotus, a pretty steamer with two engines, each of sixteen horse-power, was ready to receive us, and where our luggage, which had just arrived, was being put on board. Atfeh ranks among the largest and best constructed of the Egyptian villages; it has a covered bazar, and even an inn, if a dirty house with a sign may be so designated. The Nile is here about 500 paces broad, and gradually increases in width as it approaches Cairo; in some places it flows in a bed 3000 paces in width, and is studded with sandy and clayey islands. Its banks seldom rise above fifteen feet in height, and the water, which is rendered turbid by the slimy bottom, is of an ash-grey colour. Its bed being subject to continual changes, the navigation is difficult, so that, in spite of every precaution, we twice ran aground on a sand-bank, but were soon set afloat again by the power of the engines. The prospect of the richly cultivated tracts on the bank of the river, diversified by small

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palm groves, whose fan-like crowns rose proudly and majestically above the poor huts, or waved by the side of taper minarets, was refreshing alike to the eye and mind The little town lying on the left bank, behind Atfeh, with its numerous minarets and its neat white buildings, some of which were really handsome, presented an extremely pretty appearance. We set off in about an hour; our crew, with the exception of the engineers, consisted of Arabs, and while we sat round our dinner table on deck, watching the setting sun, our Mussulmans, one after the other, ascended the paddle-box, where they spread out their turbans, and, undisturbed by the lively conversation of the Christians at their repast, performed their stated devotions.

A fine starlight night, with a thermometer in the evening of 82° Fahrenheit, was too inviting to allow me to go early to rest, lost as I was in contemplation on the vicissitudes of human life. These reflections were awakened not only by the ample records of history, but also by the varied circumstances of inhabitants of three quarters of the globe collected together in the narrow compass of a steam-boat. Most of them could look back on a life rich in experience; but what trials and struggles may its attainment have cost them up to this very moment, and how equally chequered a future might each have to encounter ere he reached the goal! How few contented, how many dissatisfied! The epitaph in Westminster Abbey involuntarily rose to my mind:

> "Life is a jest*, and all things show it:
> I thought so once, but now I know it."

The rising sun on the 30th of July was the harbinger of

* Would not *dream* be a more appropriate word than *jest?*— H. E. L.

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a fine and serene day, with an atmosphere as pure and invigorating as we had enjoyed on the preceding day. A mosque, surrounded by a grove of shady sycamore mingled with lofty date-palms, first greeted my sight; there was something mysterious and fairy-like in the magic gloom, and reminded me of the poetical scenes of the Arabian Nights. Near this mosque several of our Arab passengers went on shore, but as there was no boat to transport them to land, each one tied his scanty garments around his head, leapt naked into the river, and bidding us adieu with a *salam alekum* (peace be with thee!), swam ashore. Towards eight o'clock we came in sight of the Pyramids! from a steam-boat! What a contrast!

A mile below Cairo the country on the right bank of the Nile suddenly assumes a very busy appearance. The first object that strikes the eye is Mehemet Ali's splendid country seat, surrounded by a garden laid out with much skill and taste; more than thirty large Persian wheels are employed in its irrigation. In its immediate vicinity are some other villas, and adjoining them a row of extensive manufactories, in which, however, we did not observe any great activity. A newly-constructed road, bordered by tall, luxuriant and shady sycamores, leads from this spot, along the banks of the Nile to Cairo. Near this place we met the Atfeh steamer conveying passengers coming from India. Both parties stopped; some hurried questions were put to the few happy individuals who were hastening homewards, letters were exchanged; and we proceeded to Bulak.

Just before reaching this little town we completed our voyage of 120 miles. We had scarcely cast anchor, when boys came to meet us with asses, on

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which we proceeded in the usual fashion, and under a thermometer of 95° Fahrenheit, through the narrow, dirty streets of Bulak to Cairo, a distance of only three miles, which we accomplished in half an hour. On our way thither the increasing bustle and activity indicated our approach to a populous Oriental city. We met heavily-laden camels and asses, riders and pedestrians, fruitsellers, and the troops of his Highness in dirty cotton jackets: before us lay innumerable minarets; on one side the boundless valley of the Nile, and in the background the proudly towering Pyramids. With much difficulty we forced our way amidst the confused crowd, by means of the clamours and vociferations of our ruthless attendants, and passing through several narrow little streets, we rode into the courtyard of Hill's hotel. Six hours was all the time allowed us for stopping in this interesting place, and as I did not know whether circumstances would ever bring me to Cairo again, I resolved to make the best use of the scanty moments that were meted out to me.

In company with Lieutenant Bowen, an experienced traveller, and conducted by a guide, I at once set out. We rode on small asses, as is customary here, through the animated bazars, first of all to the negro slave market, for Europeans are not allowed to see that, where the whites are bought and sold. We passed through a door which was opened to admit us, into a large yard, surrounded with shady chambers, where these unhappy creatures were offered for sale, and where man may buy his fellow creature for 8*l.* up to 40*l.* Here we saw between thirty and forty male and female slaves, Abyssinians and Negroes. The women and girls, who were any thing but handsome, and clad in dirty gar-

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ments which barely covered them, burst into a loud laugh on our approach: they made their observations whispering and tittering, asked us to purchase them, and jeered at us when we turned from them to the men and boys. These, who for the most part were in the prime of life, vigorous and healthy-looking, lay on rush beds in the shade, partly fettered, partly free. Their countenances bore the traces of grief and dejection; two handsome negro youths, about sixteen years of age, approached me as we were going away, and addressed a few words to me. "They want you to buy them," said our guide; "they will serve you faithfully and assiduously." "What is the price of the lads?" continued he, addressing the slave merchant, who was standing by. "Twenty pounds each," replied he. How gladly would I have given these poor youths their liberty: but this would have been of no use to them, they would have been even more destitute than before! "To give them a trifle is not advisable," said our guide, "for their tormentors would immediately take it from them."

Yet still more melancholy, nay horrible, was the sight of the mad-house. In a narrow yard, surrounded by lofty buildings, the lower rooms of which contained small cells resembling the cages of wild beasts, with iron bars, in which the inmates had barely room to lie down, there were between twenty and thirty of these unhappy beings, most of them in chains, almost naked, perishing in filth; labouring under madness which had its origin either in aberrations of hopeless love, in drunkenness, or in bodily disease. The keeper described the method adopted for their cure as very simple: — scanty food, a shower-bath three times a day, and corporal chastisement. Those who are con-

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valescent are freed from their chains and employed in some light work, and those who can designate the days of the week and the hours of the day are discharged as cured!

Our ride to the citadel, built on a calcareous rock, about 200 feet high, in the south-eastern quarter of the city, was calculated to chase the gloomy reflections excited by the sad scenes we had quitted. From this building we enjoyed one of the finest and grandest prospects in the world: Cairo with its fifty-six minarets lay at our feet; immediately before us the barracks of the troops, and the busy scene of a market; in the background the mighty Nile, with its verdant plains, ships, country seats, and palm groves; towards the South the ancient aqueduct, the gigantic Pyramids, with a glimpse into the bare and boundless desert, and in the far distance the ruins of Memphis. A few paces off, a spot surrounded by wretched huts marks the place where Mehemet Ali destroyed the Mamelukes. From the windows of his small, one-storied marble palace this cold-blooded, artful tyrant overlooks his fine country and his mighty creations. In the vestibule of this palace we found some young men seated on carpets employed in writing at the dictation of an old grey-bearded Armenian, who was recounting the deeds of his master. The palace itself consists of a few apartments with silk divans along the walls, decorated partly in the Oriental and partly in the European style. A billiard-table serves for the recreation of Mehemet Ali, who usually plays with his Mameluke. Another building has been commenced in the vicinity of this palace, consisting of a quadrangular courtyard, surrounded by lofty marble halls supported by round and angular pillars in the Moorish style; in the

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centre is a covered basin, the vaulted roof of which rests upon columns; here fountains will be erected to diffuse coolness and freshness around. The whole has a grand appearance, and is executed in a skilful and pleasing style. Near these modern buildings are the ruins called by the natives Joseph's Palace. They are three thousand years old, and but little remains of them except the well, which is so deep that if a stone is thrown into it its fall can scarcely be heard.

We were quite exhausted when we reached our inn, in time, however, to fortify ourselves, by a good dinner, for our journey across the desert. Our luggage had already preceded us on forty camels. It was six o'clock when we set out in six two-wheeled carts, covered with a linen awning, and drawn by four horses, each capable of containing four persons. I had for my companions Colonel M'Neile, Captain Forbes, and my worthy subaltern officer Werner. Unfortunately, our driver was an Italian, who was to-day to make his first essay in coachmanship with untrained horses; we learnt afterwards that he had hitherto gained his livelihood as a tailor and hair-dresser, and now wished to better his condition by breaking-in horses. His setting out did not inspire us with confidence in his skill, for after spending nearly a quarter of an hour in trying to make the horses move, they broke loose and galloped full speed towards a canal twenty feet deep, into which we must inevitably have fallen, had not the man who was running at their side dexterously saved us. After we had passed through the gate, a luxuriant banana garden with a fence of tall aloes was the last indication of vegetable life that cheered us, for before us lay the stony,

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boundless desert. A strange feeling was awakened by the sight of half-a-dozen carriages crossing the desert in the stillness of a beautiful moonlight night, sometimes running beside, and sometimes behind, each other, in the track marked by the feet of the camels. It is not a glaring, sandy desert, as you well know, but a waste of stony earth, covered with gravel, broken by small undulating calcareous eminences, and does not assume its wild, rocky character till in the vicinity of the Red Sea. Indications that this track was once covered by the waves are every where apparent.

Before we reached the first station, our horses had refused, more than ten times, to move onwards: this obliged the other carriages to halt; the running grooms hurried to our assistance, shouted, halloed, and beat the horses; in the sequel Werner was always compelled to jump out and to set our cart in motion by pushing the wheels. After proceeding nine miles, we stopped at an isolated house, where ten horses only stood ready to relieve the wearied animals; we now went on as before, the same men running by the side eleven miles farther, to the second station, where we took coffee and rested in two large apartments till three o'clock. It was ten miles further to the third station, where some of the horses were changed, and from this place to the central station, eleven miles distant, the animals were made to exert all their strength, in order that we might reach shelter before the heat of the sun became too intense. A solitary shady thorn, called Mahomet's tree, because the great prophet is said to have rested here on his journey, and a massive anchor, give peculiar interest to this point. The house is two stories high, very roomy, and furnished with divans. Here we dined, and at five o'clock in

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the afternoon proceeded on our journey, the thermometer being 93° Fahr. If the road through the desert had hitherto been marked by dead camels, asses, and horses, or the graves of unfortunate travellers, it was increasingly so on this part of the journey. A large pile of stones indicated the place where only a few days before five Arabs had been struck dead by a *coup de soleil.* In two hours we reached the next halting-place, ten miles off, but hastened without stopping to the last station, which is eleven miles further on, and where we waited for the camels coming from Suez with water; we then travelled at a brisk pace to that town, which is thirteen miles distant, and alighted at the caravansary at Suez at seven o'clock in the morning.

Suez is a small dirty town, built of stone and brick, surrounded by a decayed wall, with scarcely 2000 inhabitants, who subsist by fishing and trade. It is the staple place for the coffee from Mocha, which is sent on camels to Cairo. After our luggage had been shifted and we had refreshed ourselves with sleep and food, a large boat conveyed us, at two o'clock, with the thermometer at 96°, to the war steamer Berenice, which lay about two miles off. This vessel belongs to the East India Company: it is of 646 tons burden, has an engine of 230 horse-power, and seven guns, and is commanded by Captain B——, a well-informed, able seaman, who inspired confidence by the decision of his manner, and maintained the strictest order among his crew, which consisted of thirty-six Europeans and twenty-two Lascars. A stout Arab, who has acquired great reputation by his knowledge of this sea, served as our pilot; he was the only one among the Mahometans who regularly performed his

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devotions on the paddle-box, at sunrise and sunset. All the arrangements were in the Indian style, and the servants were all Mussulmans and Parsees, one of whom was employed during meal-time in keeping up a fresh circulation of air by means of a large punca.

On the 22d of July at five in the afternoon we put to sea, in a dead calm; during the first thirty-six hours we saw at the same time the rocky coast and mountain chains of Egypt and Arabia. We then approached the sharp and singularly peaked eminences of Abyssinia; passed on Wednesday the 27th, at nine in the evening, the volcanic island of Zebaya, which is scarcely 800 feet high, and on the following day, the partly rocky, partly sandy islands of Jibbel, Zuger, and Harnish. Off Mocha a gun was fired to announce our arrival, and soon afterwards a boat put off which received the letters for the agent at that place. Mocha with its closely-built houses and clay huts, above which rise two minarets, surrounded by a few date-palms, appears to lie in a desert.

Our voyage on the unruffled sea would have been very agreeable, had we not been oppressed by a constant heat of 100° Fahr., which even at night fell only to 89°, and was not tempered by any breeze. Neither baths nor any other artificial means were of the slightest avail; eau de Cologne alone afforded momentary refreshment; and we passed our days in a state of languor without being able to procure sleep. But on the evening of the 28th, when we passed through the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb into the agitated southern ocean, a cooling monsoon blew in our faces, by which the temperature of the air and sea was mitigated 10°,

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as you will perceive from the accompanying observations. The next morning, at 8 o'clock, we entered the Bay of Aden, which is surrounded by bare rugged rocks 1780 feet in height.

We were not even allowed sufficient time to go ashore, because the Cleopatra steamer, of 700 tons burden and 220 horse-power, was waiting for us, and we were to proceed on the voyage as soon as ever the baggage was moved from one vessel to the other. Fifty Sepoys, invalids of the regiment stationed here, together with their wives and children, were embarked with us. These brown, naked, sickly-looking people, most of them Hindoos, were uncomfortably lodged in the fore part of the vessel; and as their religion forbids them to cook on board, their only food was rice moistened with water and seasoned with spices, of which they partook so sparingly that it seemed barely sufficient to sustain life.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon we weighed anchor. A violent storm arose at the mouth of the bay, as we put to sea; and scarcely had we passed the last rocks when the cry of fire was raised by the terrified Lascars. The engine was instantly stopped, and I saw some of the crew pouring pailfuls of water on the engine, which, not having been properly oiled, had become ignited. Matters were, however, soon set to rights, and in a quarter of an hour we were able to proceed on our voyage. The sea continued very rough; the wind, however, was not so violent as before, but the sky was covered with a grey veil, through which the sun shed only a faint melancholy gleam. Though the Cleopatra was in other respects so admirable in its arrangements, yet the cleanliness peculiar to the English was lamentably wanting. The provisions

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were scarcely eatable, and during the eight days we passed on board I lived almost wholly on rice and wine.

In the afternoon of the 31st we reached the region of the Monsoon: the engine was now stopped, the sails hoisted, and a strong wind carried us rapidly forward, at the rate of eight knots an hour. We had not proceeded long, and the sun was already setting, when a loud cry arose of some one overboard. It was the wife of one of the Hindoo soldiers, who, in preparing her bed for the night, lost her balance, and feeling herself going, exclaimed, "My husband! my husband!" The ship passed over her, and she instantly disappeared. The captain immediately had the sails furled; but before the vessel could be stopped and the life-boat put out, full a quarter of an hour had elapsed. An officer with six seamen, carrying a lantern as a signal, hastily steered towards the spot where the poor woman had sunk. In the darkness of the night the little boat soon vanished from our eyes, and we waited long and anxiously for its return: it was nearly half an hour ere we saw it approach us, but, as might be expected, without the body of the unfortunate Hindoo. Two days after this we buried one of our sailors. As the sun was sinking into the ocean the ship's bell was tolled; the sailors, dressed in their best suit, carried the corpse on a simple bier, charged with cannon balls and covered with a flag, to the side of the vessel: here the captain having read the incomparable burial service and pronounced the blessing, the sailors lowered the body of their comrade into its ocean-grave. It was a solemn moment! But I was shocked and astonished to see some of our passengers stand with their coffee-

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cups in their hands to witness this mournful ceremony!

From this time slight showers of rain occasionally passed over us, but, contrary to expectation, the nearer we approached Bombay the more pure was the air, and the more serene and lovely was the sky. The wind had abated so much that, on the 4th of August, it was found expedient to set the engine at work again. At length, on the 6th, we descried in the hazy distance the coast of Bombay; from this time we met many fishing-boats, which often go out as far as twenty miles to sea. In joyful expectation, we all stood on deck with our eyes riveted on the rocks and lighthouse of Bombay; but before we could clearly discern them, total darkness set in. The captain sent up blue lights from time to time, which were answered from the pilot-boats, by which such a magic brightness was spread around, that the ocean was illumined to a great distance, and our vessel seemed to swim in a sea of light. Towards 8 o'clock, we approached the harbour, which was full of vessels, saluting them as we entered with the thunder of our guns, and ere long the loud clank of the ponderous anchor chain, announced the happy termination of our voyage.

You may imagine that I was all impatience to set my foot on shore. Lieutenant Bowen and myself accordingly engaged the first boat; our luggage was speedily stowed in it, and in less than an hour, I trod the soil of India. But how shall I describe the impression which almost overpowered me at this moment! To find myself in the land which was the cradle of the human race, the land of poetry, and of the Arabian Nights! I could scarcely conceive that the

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dreams of my youth were realised. Though it was dark, the naked forms that flitted before me, the style of the architecture of the houses, and the foreign character of the scenery, told me that I was indeed in a new world. An officer, who was riding the rounds, was the first European whom we met; we of course overwhelmed him with questions respecting the army, and I was glad that he gave me hopes of being an eye-witness of some military operations. We were soon afterwards lodged in the Victoria Hotel, the only inn in this place, which much resembles our German post-houses, while the charges are on the scale of the first-rate hotel in London. We were, however, heartily glad to partake of a good supper, after which I took possession of a bed covered with a mosquito net, and soon fell into a profound sleep, from which I was awakened by the rising sun and the screams of innumerable crows.

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LETTER II.

TO ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT.

Bombay: the town and harbour. — Native town. — Bazars. — Merchants and artizans. — Colabah. — Domestic establishments of Englishmen of distinction. — Excursions in the environs and to Malabar Point and Pareil. — Burning the dead. — The Parsees. — Gymnastic exercises of the Indians and their Jugglers. — Journey to Poonah. — The chain of Ghauts. — Poonah. — Festivities of the natives in honour of the governor. — Bayaderes. — Mode of life of the English. — Parbutty and the palace of the Peishwa. — Return to Bombay. — The rainy season. — Preparations for our journey to Kurrachee. — Establishment of the governor.

Bombay, August 3d, 1842.

HAVING accompanied me till my arrival in Bombay, permit me to give you some account of this delightful island, before I proceed to relate any particulars of my diversified mode of life within the last few weeks.

At the foot of the Western Ghauts lies a small group of islands, of which Bombay is the most important. It is situated in 18° 58′ N. L., and 72° 55′ E. L. from Greenwich, and is connected on its northern side by an arched stone bridge with Salsette, the larger island. It is surrounded by several others of a lofty rocky character, the most remarkable of which is Elephanta, famed for its ancient colossal Hindoo or Buddah temple, hewn in the solid rock. Back bay, as it is called, is formed by two peninsulas which

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stretch far into the sea: the northern of these is the rocky promontory of Malabar Point, and the southern, the narrow Colabah, is of coral formation, and scarcely rises above the surface of the water. The harbour is spacious, and is situated between Colabah, Bombay, and Salsette; four miles from its eastern extremity is Butcher's Island, which is apparently connected with Elephanta, and a little to the south lies Caranja, five miles to the south-west of which, between Toll Point and Colabah, is the entrance into the harbour of Bombay. The light-house stands upon a rock 150 feet above the level of the sea, at the extreme point of Colabah. The harbour is defended by numerous batteries, which would render a hostile landing next to impossible. The coast is every where adorned with palm-trees, and I was especially struck with the beauties of the slender, lofty cocoa palm, which lifts its graceful crown towards the skies.

Bombay is divided into two towns, one lying next to the sea, and surrounded by the fortifications, and the other called the Black or Native town, situated to the west, and built upon an alluvial soil. The streets of the former are narrow, the houses three stories high, and built of wood or brick; their external appearance is not unlike that of the houses in the towns of Southern Italy. They all have verandahs which rise one above the other, and are supported by wooden pillars, and small bow windows, which are adorned with neat trellis-work. In the lower part of the town are the bazars, which are narrow and dirty, and are chiefly kept by the Parsees. The only remarkable building in Bombay is the Government-house; it has a fine colonnade, and in front of it is

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a square planted with trees, with a fountain rising in the centre. It comprehends the several government offices, a library, and a spacious saloon, adorned with marble statues of the excellent Mountstuart Elphinstone, and Sir John Malcolm. Adjoining this building are the extensive arsenals and docks. The fleet of Bombay consists of 22 war-steamers, six of which are armed for service; there are also 18 sailing vessels, 11 of which carry 98 guns; three of these are sloops, four brigs, four schooners, and four cutters; there are besides 11 iron steam-boats for the navigation of the Indus and the Euphrates. I must not forget to mention that a school-house has been recently erected, and I am happy to say that much attention has lately been paid, both by the government and private individuals to the education of the natives. I hope to be able to give you some particulars respecting it on a future occasion.

A road leads from the extensive fortifications through a gate towards the west, across a broad esplanade to the Black Town, which is about a mile distant. On our way thither we saw several hundreds of men and women, standing in the most picturesque groups round brick wells, drawing water, washing linen, and refreshing themselves by throwing large pitchers of water over each other. The streets in the Native town are very narrow, and consist of small brick houses, two stories high: the lower story is raised but little above the ground, in which the open bazars are kept, where the dealers sit cross-legged behind their merchandise, which is piled up in baskets. Here a scene of the most busy and noisy activity constantly prevails, but especially in the evening, when the streets and bazars are lighted by

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numerous small lamps. Thousands of natives throng the stalls. examining the goods of the dealers, among whom the Bannia (corn chandler), and the Mittie-walla (confectioner), have the chief custom.

BANNIA.

The *Bannia* has every variety of grain, wheat, rice, barley, iowary (*Holcus Sorghum*), bagera (*Panicum spicatum*), Gram (*Cicer arietinum*), &c. exposed for sale in baskets, and in dry weather it is piled up in heaps in the street, in front of his booth. He generally has an iron pan at his side; this he keeps constantly hot, and pours maize into it, which is thus heated and roasted. It is a favourite food of the Indians, but their choicest delicacy is a cake made of flour and sugar, seethed in Ghee (clarified butter): these the *Mittie-Wallas* (p. 35.) arrange with much taste, and attract great numbers of women and children. It is, however, too sweet and indigestible to suit our

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refined palates, though the natives indulge in it, till they actually become ill.

MITTIE-WALLA.

The *Soottar* (carpenter) (p. 36.) employs only five tools, namely a hatchet, hammer, saw, gimblet, and knife, and with these, in a very awkward sitting posture, he not only makes the neatest furniture, but the prettiest boxes of Sandal-wood, inlaid with steel and ivory, in the most delicate and elegant patterns.

At his side is seated the *Moochee* (shoemaker) (p. 37.), manufacturing singularly formed pointed shoes, and it is remarkable that he generally works with his head uncovered.

A loud hammering indicates the workshop of the *Lohar* (smith and locksmith) (p. 38.), who performs his hard labour in a similar, inconvenient sitting posture.

The *Seikelgar* (stone and glass grinder) (p. 39.)

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works in a less constrained position, and sets his small stone wheel in motion by means of a tight string.

SOOTTAR.

As soon as the cool season sets in and refreshing winds prevail, the harvest of the *Pattangh-walla* (the kite-maker) (p. 40.) commences, because old and young delight in flying the kite; and while the Mussulman selects those which are adorned with the crescent, the Hindu chooses those which are ornamented with stars and painted in gay colours.

The *Bazars* (calico printer) (p. 41.) displays much skill in printing from wooden blocks, which he holds in his hands; but his goods are not so much in vogue since the handsomer and less expensive English prints have come into fashion.

Next to the Bazars, the *Ruiwalla* (the cotton beater) (p. 42.) and *Sellogry* (the cotton weaver) (p. 43.) generally take their place. The former beats the cotton,

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just as it is taken from the husk, against a tightened cord, till it becomes loose.

MOOCHEE.

The *Sellogry* prepares the finest and most delicate tissue on a loom, taking off the flocks with a brush and arranging the threads.

Among the most wretched-looking people are the *Dahl-Bechnewallæ* (poor women, sellers of dhal, *Cytisus Cajan*) (p. 44.), who sit at the corners of the bazars, and carry on a little trade in fruit, spices, or flowers.

The *Batty-walla* (candle maker) (p.45.) looks almost equally miserable; during the cool evenings he sits by his hoops, which are suspended in the open air, and to which the wicks are fastened. The hoops he turns diligently over a vessel filled with hot wax or tallow, which he pours over the wicks with a ladle, and the current of air thus created quickly hardens them. Candles are, however, in request only in the

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cool season, and then chiefly by Europeans; lamps made of clay or glass are in general use.

LOHAR.

The *Parsee* is distinguished among the busy crowd by his lofty, vigorous form, aquiline nose, large, fine eyes, and noble Greek physiognomy, set off by his high turban. The Parsees are the most industrious of all classes; they are the best shipwrights, the most able merchants, and the richest of the natives. Their chief men are distinguished by their intellectual activity, and give entertainments in the European style. One of them, the philanthropic Sir Jamsitjee Jeejeebhoy, a man worth a million, has been knighted by the Queen, on account of his benevolent character, and has been honoured with a gold medal. Most of the Parsees are acquainted with the English language and are very conversant with English literature.

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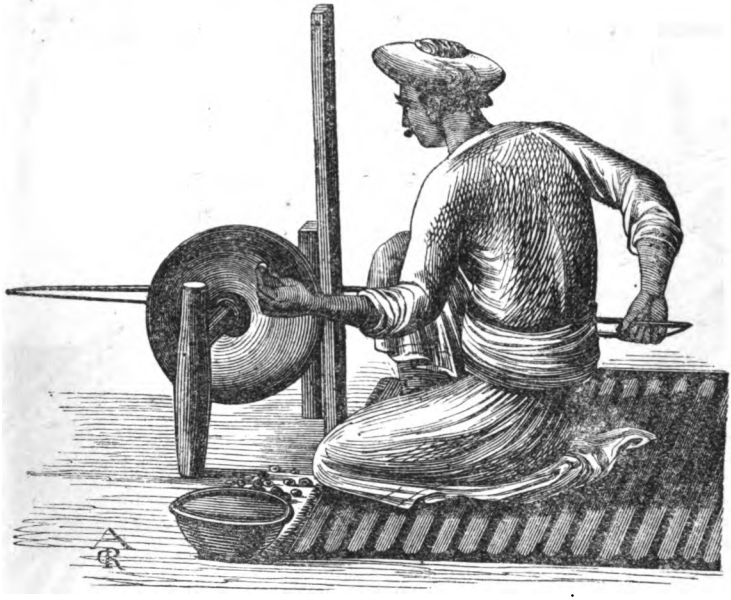
The *Hindoo* is distinguished by his smaller and more elegant figure, particularly the upper part of the



SEIKELGAR.

body, and his mild expressive features: like the Parsee, he has mustachios, and wears an upper garment of white cotton, and wide pantaloons of the same material, but his turban is flatter.

The *Marwarees* (corn-dealer) (p. 64.) are of a more robust frame of body, and wear high red turbans, and girdles ornamented with heavy, gay tassels and tufts, and the women wear ivory bracelets on their arms. The Mussulman costume is very similar; he is more animated in his movements and gesticulations than the Hindu, and suffers his beard to grow.

Bombay includes several villages and many handsome country seats. Immediately behind the Black Town begins a series of the finest country houses, en-

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closed by beautiful gardens; both stories being surrounded by a verandah supported by pillars. As soon

PATTANGH-WALLA.

as the hot winds set in, screens lined with aromatic reeds are placed between the pillars, and constantly kept moist by running water. These villas, which are de-

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tached, are built with every accommodation and regard to the climate, and extend as far as Pareil, the residence of the governor, which is four miles distant.

BAZARS.

Malabar Point is adorned with equally handsome country seats, the situation of which is yet more healthy and beautiful; it is the residence of the Europeans and the most distinguished of the natives. If you will bear me company in my excursion thither, you will become better acquainted with this lovely island, which is 18¼ square miles in extent, and is inhabited by about 200,000 persons, increased by a floating population of 70,000 seamen, merchants, pilgrims, and peasants. Nearly two thirds of the population are Hindus; about 20,000 Parsees, and the remainder Mussulmans, Jews, and Portuguese Christians. The latter, who have a darker complexion than the natives,

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were recommended to me as servants, because they are willing to perform any kind of work, and are more faithful and trustworthy than the Europeans and Mussulmans.

RUIWALLA.

The first day that I passed in India was Sunday. My companion Lieutenant Bowen, who had quitted me early to join his regiment, which had landed three days before, and was quartered in the barracks at Colabah, sent me a polite invitation to join his officers' mess. It was quite out of the question to walk thither in the burning heat of the sun; and indeed it would have been a violation of all etiquette. I therefore engaged six palanquin bearers, who carried me in an hour's time to Colabah. The motion was very pleasant, but it was quite repugnant to my feelings to be carried by my fellow beings; though these brown men (who wear no other dress than a white cotton garment

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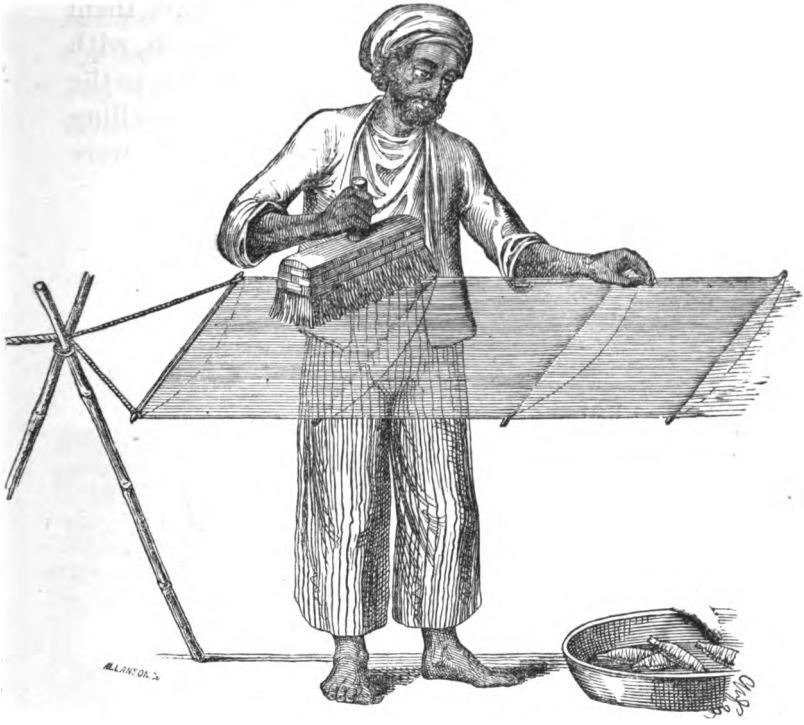
round the waist) are used to it, and gladly offer their services for one rupee the whole day.*



SELLOGRY.

Colabah is joined to Bombay by a causeway, which gives it the appearance of a peninsula; as soon as we crossed this causeway, a Protestant church met our eye, and immediately behind it commenced the Bungalows. These are spacious wooden houses, of which those nearest the sea are taken down during the Monsoon. Most of them are surrounded with small gardens; and

* A rupee is equal to 16 annas, or 2 shillings sterling; a lack is 100,000 rupees, or 10,000*l.* sterling; a crore is equal to 100 lacs, or a million sterling.

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the neat buildings are overshadowed by mangoes, palms, and tamarinds. I was greatly pleased with the society of my new comrades, and did not leave them till late in the evening. Two of these gentlemen, with whom I had been particularly taken, fell victims to the cholera a few days afterwards; and my travelling companion Lieutenant Bowen and some others were attacked by fever.

DAHL-BECHNEWALLEE.

As neither the governor nor the commanding general were here, I paid a visit on the following day to General Barr at Mazagon House, to whom Colonel Sykes had introduced me by letter. The general and his family were at breakfast, and I was received by all with the greatest kindness. General Barr is one of those fine, noble, manly persons who instantly produce a favourable impression; his deportment is grave and dignified; he is wholly devoted to his country and to his profession, and greatly beloved by his family, to whom, indeed, he is in every sense the

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kindest of husbands and fathers. His lady is the most warm-hearted and benevolent of women, and has no thought but that of ordering her family as in the sight of God. Three sons, officers in the army, and two daughters, who closely resemble their estimable parents, and one of whom has been recently

BATTY-WALLA.

married, completed this happy family circle. After some conversation, I was invited to take up my residence in the house, and you may imagine that I considered myself fortunate to be received into such a family. The same evening I was surrounded with all the comforts and conveniences of a wealthy Indian country seat.

The general has four-and-twenty servants, one of whom stands at the foot of the stairs in the hall to

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receive visiters; near him is generally seated the *Durzee* (man tailor), busily occupied in embroidering, or making articles of dress for the ladies.

The man with a stick in his hand, and wearing a metal plate on his breast, is the *Chuprassy*, (p.47.) who is employed as messenger or letter-carrier. He is also engaged by rich natives to precede them, and proclaim to the crowd the virtues, powers, and noble qualities of his master in flowing and poetical phrases.

DURZEE.

Another servant, who always wears a bunch of keys at his side, is the *Sirdar* (p. 48.), called the Treasurer and Superintendent, and sometimes the Butler.

The *Byhishti* (water-carrier) (p. 49.) is always seen with his leather water-bag at his side.

Early in the morning, shortly before breakfast, the *Mahli* (gardener) (p. 50.) brings a nosegay and a small basket in which fruits and vegetables are tastefully

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arranged; his master expresses his satisfaction by touching what he brings with his right hand.

The sole business of the *Hookaburdar* (p. 51.) is to attend to his master's hookah or pipe; he carefully rolls up the tobacco, which is composed of flowers and spices, moistened with rose-water, and throws it on the

CHUPRASSY.

charcoal fire. By means of a long tube, which is wetted from time to time with rose-water, the fumes are drawn through the water, which is in the stand, and diffuse an aromatic odour.

When the heat is very great, another servant, the *Chowree burdar*, stands behind his master's chair,

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cooling the air with a fan made of the silky hair of the tail of the Nepaulese cow. All the washing is done by men, and the Dobys (p. 52.), though they wash the linen in cold water, and only beat it, far surpass our laundresses in the execution of their labours.

SIRDAR.

Fresh cool beverages are a great luxury, or, I should rather say, are quite indispensable; great pains are therefore taken to cool water in porous vessels or in ice, and wine is cooled by means of saltpetre and salt, or the bottle is covered with damp linen and exposed to a current of air. The *Abdar* (p. 53.), who has the charge of this department, is the only servant

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who is permitted to keep on his shoes while performing his office, to prevent him from taking cold.

BYHISHTI.

The *Babatschy* (cooks) (p. 54.) are well acquainted with English cookery, and are very cleanly and teachable.

There are many other servants employed in the household, and others in the stables, each horse having its own groom, who runs by its side when the master either drives or rides out. The lowest of all in rank is the Mather (p. 55.): his name is indeed princely, but he is, as it were, the Paria, because it is his

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business to clear away the dirt, and to perform all the drudgery of the house.

MAHLI.

The *Ayah* (nurse or confidential servant) (p.56.) of the mistress of the house is generally represented with a casket of jewels in her hand, and those who have the charge of the younger children are usually accompanied, when they go out walking, by two men-servants, that the little ones may have protection at hand if needed. In this singular country every one attends exclusively to his own particular duty ; the Hindoo is commanded to do so by his religion, and the Mussulman follows

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the example as a matter of convenience. Each therefore thoroughly understands his own business; and the consequence is, that you are admirably waited upon, though the greater part of these useful people are content with eight rupees or sixteen shillings per month.

HOOKABUDRAR.

I now pass my time quite in the Indian fashion. In the morning, before sunrise, I take a ride with H——, the eldest son of my excellent host, to different parts of

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the island ; the refreshment of a bath succeeds, and immediately after, about half-past nine o'clock, we assemble for breakfast, after which every one follows his own occupation till two, when a slight luncheon once more unites our circle. About five o'clock we again make some little excursion, and at eight we meet

DOBY.

at dinner, where we relate to each other the little adventures of the day, and in the evening we amuse ourselves at the billiard-table. Receiving and paying visits give some diversity to our daily life. Although this is the rainy season, we continue to have the finest weather; slight showers of rain falling only in the

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night, so that we are frequently able to extend our rides to the most distant parts of the island.

ABDAR.

A new causeway leads from Mazagon House through the west end of the Black Town, across the marshy soil of the island, past the cemetery of the Mussulmans; not far from which it is intended to build a theatre. Immediately beyond the plain commences the Malabar peninsula; at the entrance of which stands the handsome country house of a wealthy Hindoo goldsmith, with a pagoda in front of it. The peninsula is very rocky and extends far into the sea: it is adorned with a pleasing variety of country seats, interspersed with groves of cocoa-nut trees, and traversed in all directions by good roads. We followed a winding direction round the northern extremity, and the nearer we approached the sea the more wild and rude the scenery became; shattered masses of rock lay scattered around,

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and the palm tree rarely enlivened this district There was something sublime in the appearance of

BABATSCHY.

this tract washed by the dashing billows of the majestic ocean. Malabar Point is formed by a rock, 60 feet high, projecting into the sea, upon which Mr. Elphinstone built a small summer residence; and not far off, close upon the beach, are the ruins of some very ancient Hindoo temples. From this point we enjoyed one of the most beautiful prospects in the world, closely resembling that of the Bay of Naples, but far exceeding it in grandeur. Before us rolled the boundless ocean, breaking with fury against the rocks, and dashing its waves aloft into the air. A fine view presented itself of the two towns which

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form Bombay, Colabah, and, beyond it, the port, animated with numerous ships, with the islands of Ele-

MATHER.

phanta, Caranja, and Butcher's Island, scattered like fairy flower-gardens on the bright bosom of the ocean.

One evening at sunset, as we were riding home along the road leading to the south, enjoying this varied prospect, we saw a poor Hindoo, with a small box in his hand, carefully feeding with sugar the ants that were crawling across the path. Masses of rock painted red indicated this, and some other sacred

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spots. At a distance on the strand, in a bay formed by Colabah and Malabar Point, we saw bright flames

AYAH.

ascending in several places; they were the funeral piles of those who had died in the course of the day. As soon as a person expires the corpse is bathed, anointed with fragrant essences, and then placed on a bed of holy grass before the door of the house. Hymns and prayers are addressed to the dead body, which is strewn with sacred leaves and flowers, and the relations, with concise exclamations of grief, instantly bear the deceased to the funeral pile. In Southern India the procession is accompanied with

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music, and the face of the departed is coloured with crimson paint. The mourners, who are members of a religious order, sit cross-legged in damp garments round the fire, seemingly lost in contemplation, with their eyes fixed on the dead body which is placed between blocks of wood; and, when the last remains have been burnt up, the ashes are collected, and every one returns to his home in silent meditation. The pile is not more than five feet high, and is adorned with flowers; ghee and fragrant oils are poured upon the wood to cherish the flames; and in a few short hours every trace has been effaced by the wind or the waves.

The Parsees meanwhile, turning towards the ocean, gaze upon the setting sun, and worship that luminary and the watery element; many of them holding manuscripts in their hands, the language of which they do not understand. Their burying-place is not far distant: it is planted with palm trees and surrounded by a wall; thither they bear the corpse, which, like the Hindoos, they deck with flowers, and place in the open air, and wait patiently till it is devoured by the birds. As soon as a limb has been eaten by them, and especially if they have commenced with the eyes, these poor ignorant people imagine that the life of the deceased was acceptable to God, and that his spirit is in bliss!

On one occasion I visited the temples and the fakirs, the Hindoo saints. My young friend told me of two of these men, who, for fifteen years, had subjected themselves to the greatest bodily pain. One of them held up a flower-pot in his right hand, and had performed his vow with such energy of will that his nails had grown into it; the other who, likewise naked, had suffered his hair and beard to grow, and

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held a lotus flower. Neither of them could put their arm into any other posture; they were held in great veneration by the members of their own religion, who daily brought them food and drink, and performed the necessary ablutions. On our arrival at the pagoda my friend inquired after them: we were sorry to learn that they had quitted the temple only the day previous, as the term of their probation had expired. We then rode to some other pagodas; in front of nearly all of them was a tank or walled pond, with flights of steps leading into the water, in which the people bathe, to wash away their sins. The Brahmins are distinguished by their foreheads being painted in a particular manner, generally red, by their white garments, and a cotton skein of thread fastened to their left shoulder and brought across the breast. The fakirs are perfectly naked, emaciated, and very dirty; their faces are deformed by all kinds of paint, and their lank, matted hair gives them a very disgusting appearance. They are regarded as saints, and every temple can boast of some of them. Others perform their devotions in luxury and indolence, satisfying themselves with frequent bathing and silent meditation, or with smoking the hookah with grave indifference. In front of the temple is the sacred bull, hewn in stone, and within the building are some of their divinities with burning lamps placed before them.

Having determined to undertake a journey to Poonah, in company with the younger son of my excellent host, the General's lady contrived to let me see some specimens of the dexterity of the natives. First of all, several men, women, and children appeared in the garden, to exhibit their skill in balancing; it is impossible for you to form any conception of the

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agility, distortion of limb, and pliability of body of these people: our rope-dancers would have been quite abashed in their presence; but I can tell them, for their comfort, that they would have displayed more grace in their exhibitions. They represented almost all kinds of remarkable animals, in doing which several bodies were so interlaced, that the different individuals could scarcely be distinguished. They also performed feats of strength, and one man bore on his shoulders six others, standing two and two above each other. These performances were succeeded by a band of jugglers, consisting of a long-bearded old man, accompanied by three boys and several women. They first exhibited various tricks with tamed serpents, among which was the venomous cobra de capella; these animals sometimes danced to the sound of a pipe, twined themselves together, and then suddenly disappeared. They then exhibited the most extraordinary transformations, some of which were wholly inexplicable. Thus a strapping boy fifteen years old contrived to creep into a round basket, two feet high and three feet broad, in such a manner that when the basket was opened there was nothing to be seen of him; he must have managed most cleverly to cower down into the veriest nook on that side of the basket which was nearest us. The exhibition closed with thrusting daggers down their throats, and flames issuing from their mouths.

I have likewise had an insight into social life in India, for which I am indebted to the hospitality of some of the principal families; it consists chiefly of dinners, musical entertainments, and, in the cooler season, of balls. At the former, a stranger is much struck by the appearance of the numerous attendants

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in their national costume, each guest being obliged to bring his own servant. Everything is in the English style, with the exception of the Punca, which is suspended over the table, and keeps up a constant circulation of air. I cannot omit speaking of the mango. This gold-coloured fruit, which is larger than our nectarine, has a most delicious fragrance, and combines in its taste the ambrosia of the pineapple, the flavour of the orange, and the juiciness of the peach. The mango of Bombay is the finest in India, and is sent by messengers to great distances; preserved in sugar, it is one of the most delicious fruits imaginable.

One fine morning, the air having been cooled during the night by a fall of rain, we rode to Pareil. On the way thither, we crossed several eminences which afforded beautiful prospects over the island and the sea towards the Ghauts. We met many country people carrying various kinds of fruits, or large vessels full of liquor (called by the English toddy), an intoxicating beverage, extracted from the palm. A mile to the left of this road is the Botanic Garden, which was formed two years ago by voluntary contributions. Pareil is a large, irregular building, and was formerly a Portugese Jesuit College; it contains some very fine and richly ornamented apartments, and is surrounded by an extensive, but ill-arranged garden. The governor generally spends the hot season at this place, and the rainy season in his country seat near Poonah. He receives the superior officers and strangers at breakfast, every Saturday.

On the evening of the same day we visited the lighthouse of Colabah. An adjacent churchyard

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contains the graves of the many persons who have suffered shipwreck on this coast. Two years ago, some vessels with troops from England stranded here, on board of which were several officers with their families, and above 500 men, few of whom could be saved. It was a heartrending moment to the seamen and spectators on shore, to see the despair of the people on the wreck struggling with the waves, without being able to render them the slightest assistance. I was told that in June 1837 the monsoon set in with such violence that most of the vessels in the harbours were dismasted. The prospect from the lighthouse towards Malabar Point is most beautiful: in other directions the objects lie too scattered to be comprehended in one view. Between the burying-place, to which I have before alluded, and the walls of the lighthouse, innumerable serpents have their retreat.

On the 14th of August we commenced our journey to Poonah: at 11 o'clock we went on board what is called a Banderboat, which had a small cabin, with a crew of five Mussulmans, a steersman, and four rowers. We expected to be able, by the aid of wind and tide, to reach the village of Panwelly, above thirty miles distant, in eight hours; but we had scarcely sailed a league beyond Elephanta, when we were driven between Butcher's Island and Salsette, where the wind gradually abated, and we were obliged to have recourse to our oars. A monotonous singing, and the Gurguru, or pipe producing a guttural sort of sound, passing from mouth to mouth, broken by the exhortations of the steersman, animated our indolent crew: but our misadventures had retarded us so much, that we were obliged to cast anchor at eight o'clock at

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the mouth of the Panwell river, where we waited for the next tide, with which we reached the Mole at four o'clock in the morning. We found our one-horse buggy waiting for us at a bungalow near the bank; and we drove along an excellent road, made by Mountstuart Elphinstone, through the neat and cheerful village of Panwell. As soon as we had passed the village, we entered a richly cultivated valley, between the most luxuriant rice fields, and at our side and in the background rose the picturesque, singularly formed chain of the Ghauts. A dingy funnel-shaped mountain, which rises like the chimney of a forge from the centre of a table mountain, in wild, jagged masses, forms a most strange contrast with the bright verdure of the foliage and meadows. This striking object is surrounded by ragged masses of rock, which tower majestically above the large-leaved teak-tree, and appear from a distance exactly like ruins of ancient castles. They rise about 3000 feet above the level of the sea. We saw scarcely a bird, excepting some green parrots and the dazzling white, long-legged Paddy bird (*Ardea*), which was seeking its food in the rice plantations. The inhabitants were ranged round the fire in their wretched clay huts, or walking in the fields covered with a mat of palm-leaves, which runs to a point above their heads, and hanging down over their shoulders, serves as a protection against the rain. Every now and then we met long trains of amply-laden Hackeries drawn by oxen carrying sacks. The creaking of the wheels of these clumsy and heavily-built Hackeries, or farmer's waggons, is heard at some distance. These wheels are made either of a solid piece of wood, or have eight spokes, two and two, placed close to each other, and traverse the axle-tree

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nearly at right angles. The Hackeries are used by the farmers to bring home their harvest, and to carry their productions to market. In those districts, where manure is employed in tillage, a basket is hung on the Hackery to convey it to the fields. We also occasionally met Brinjares, driving oxen, carrying sacks of corn upon their backs.

After proceeding nine miles, we reached our first stage close to a hideous Maharatta idol hewn in stone, and painted red. Here the road rises more and more, the eminences are more thickly wooded, and the valley gradually closes in at the village of Kampuly, at the side of which stands an ancient temple, dedicated to Mahadeo (the God of Death), surrounded by a large walled tank. From this place, the road leads in many windings up the Kandalla pass to the village of Kandalla or Kindalla, which is about 3000 feet above the level of the sea. Here we left our buggy, which was drawn up by men while we were carried to the summit in palanquins. The morning was delightfully cool, and the sun from time to time darted his beams through the breaking clouds: the scenery which surrounded me was luxuriant in the highest degree, and the flowery carpet of the mountain parterres lay before me in such freshness and beauty, that I found it impossible to remain any longer in my palanquin, borne on the shoulders of men. At one point of view we suddenly overlooked the whole of the valley through which we had just passed. On one side ten beautiful waterfalls, — the largest of which, the Calliani, is about 1400 feet high, — rushed down over ledges, and broken masses of rock presented a most magnificent sight which can be enjoyed only in the rainy season; while at the bottom,

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MARWAREES.

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deep down in the valley, lies Kampuly with its solitary temple. Turning to the other side, the chain of the Ghauts, running towards the south, and the distant wide-spread ocean, lay before us. At this moment "a solemn silence and sublime repose" reigned over the whole landscape; as if all nature was rapt in mute adoration before God.

We breakfasted with a Parsee in a bungalow at Kandalla, a little village built on the top of the Ghauts, on the most picturesque points of which stand several country houses, belonging to British officers. From hence the road gradually declines, and passes over a table land from 3000 to 4000 paces broad; the eminences at either side assume more and more an undulating character, retire to a greater distance in the vicinity of Poonah, and at length appear only in isolated masses. We found post-horses ready at every ten miles; but, as we were unfortunately obliged to reach Poonah the same day, we were forced to defer our intended excursion to the celebrated cave-temples of Carli. We did not arrive at our destination till 9 o'clock in the evening, when I was welcomed in the kindest manner in the bungalow of Captain St. Clair.

Poonah, the former residence of the Peishwa, or supreme Rajah of the Maharattas, lies on an extensive bare plateau, about 2000 feet above the sea, surrounded by strangely formed trap mountains, on the rocky summits of which are scattered ruined castles of the Maharattas. On account of the salubrity of the climate, Poonah is one of the chief stations of the British. Five thousand men were garrisoned here at this time, and Sir Thomas M'Mahon, general-in-chief, and Sir George Arthur, Governor of Bombay, were also at Poonah. The city, which in the height of its

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splendour contained a population of more than 140,000 inhabitants, now scarcely numbers 60,000. Most of the houses are two stories high; and are built of stone, wood, or brick. The principal streets are macadamized and very clean; the bazars broad, and planted with trees. A considerable trade is carried on, and we every where saw indications of increasing prosperity. The barracks, a Protestant church, and innumerable country houses and bungalows of the civil and military officers, surrounded with the most beautiful flower gardens and orchards, lie in a semi-circle towards the east, immediately without the city, which has no gates. Besides bananas, oranges, mangoes, and pomegranates, grapes and apples grow here in perfection. Roads run in every direction, and bridges, with several arches supported by stone piers, are thrown across the Moota and Mola, which flow in a broad and stony bed.

It was a happy coincidence for me, that, on the very first day after my arrival, the principal inhabitants were preparing to give a festive reception to the Governor, who had lately arrived from Europe. Accompanied by my friend, I rode through the city to the house of a wealthy Hindoo merchant: the houses were all adorned with flowers, and crowds of persons dressed in white were standing in the streets, anxiously waiting to see the Governor pass. He was seated with Sir Charles Napier in an open carriage, preceded by a body of cavalry, and his servants, who were dressed in bright scarlet liveries; his suite followed in several other carriages, and a detachment of cavalry closed the procession. Though I had not yet been presented to Sir George Arthur, he had the goodness to invite me to be present at this interesting

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and unique ceremony. The houses of the gentlemen who gave the entertainment were distinguished by particularly rich garlands of flowers.

Amid the sound of unharmonious music, the host received his distinguished guest at the threshold of his gate, which opened into a quadrangle surrounded by open arcades. A narrow, dark staircase led to the very simple, low, reception room on the second floor. Here the gentlemen of the family and the servants were standing. As soon as we were seated on divans and chairs, the music (consisting of a small drum, a pipe and a kind of guitar) immediately struck up. Some of the Bayadères commenced dancing, while others at the same time crowned us with wreaths of flowers, and sprinkled us with ottar of roses. At the desire of the host, the company were presented with various kinds of gilded spices on silver salvers, and the beetle-nut, neatly folded in beetle leaves and mixed with catechu and chunam, were handed round. The Bayadères were very much ornamented with jewels, and wore massive rings in their ears and noses and around their ancles: they were dressed in gay garments, which fell in ample folds around them; and a scarf of the finest texture covered their neck and bosom, while their beautiful silky black hair hung down in braids over their shoulders. During their dance, which consisted partly in a revolving movement, partly in a springing step, they flung the shawl in various graceful forms about the body, and accompanied the music with a monotonous song. To heighten the beauty of their eyes, they had blackened the eyelids with antimony. Their hands and feet were small and delicate, and the contour of the figure and of the countenance extremely elegant and noble: if not ac-

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tually beautiful, these Bayadères had a very attractive, feminine appearance.

After we had looked at the dancing for about a quarter of an hour, our host conducted us to the interior small flower garden, enclosed by the Zenana, in the centre of which was a basin with a fountain. Festoons and garlands, interspersed with innumerable lamps and painted paper lanterns, diffused a magic charm over the whole scene. While gazing around on these elegant decorations, we saw the wives and daughters of our host peeping through a wooden lattice in the second story; but no sooner did they perceive that they were remarked, than they immediately vanished from our inquisitive eyes. After taking leave of our host, we visited several other persons of distinction, and every where met with a similar reception: the more wealthy, of course, displayed greater splendour and profusion in the decorations of their houses, and likewise brought forward more numerous Bayadères.

I am living in a continual round of military and other festivities. When the gun is fired at the dawn of day, I join the troops, and much of my time is taken up with visits, and all kinds of fêtes. I cannot speak in sufficiently high terms of the hospitality of the Governor, of the general in command, and of Sir Charles Napier, and of the courtesy of the officers of all the troops, who indeed treat me like a comrade. I am particularly pleased with Dapoory, the country seat of the Governor, which is about five miles from Poonah: it is most agreeably situated, and is surrounded with a delightful flower and botanic garden. Close to it lies the village of Kirkee, where the 14th regiment of Dragoons is stationed. I have likewise

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attended a ball given by the officers of the 1st European regiment in their mess room. Indian luxury was here combined with European comfort. The novel sight of Indians of distinction in their picturesque costume, moving gravely and silently among the handsome ladies, and the military in their rich uniforms, furnished matter for various reflections and comparisons on the characters and manners of different nations. In the adjoining garden arbours made of artificial flowers, and tents adorned with festoons, were lighted up in every variety of style, and all the walks were laid with the richest carpets: the night was so beautiful and cool, that the company prolonged their enjoyment till the morning dawned.

Captain Keith Erskine, one of my new acquaintances, whose wit and humour is a constant source of amusement to us, undertook the wearisome task of a cicerone, and rode with me one fine morning to Parbutty, a mile south-west of the city. A short distance before reaching Parbutty we visited Heera Baugh, formerly the summer palace of the Peishwa; it is situated in a luxuriant flower garden, by the side of a large pond shaded with pipal (*Ficus religiosa*), mangoes, tamarinds, and banyan trees. We were received by Manackjy Carsetjy, a young Parsee, who had raised himself by his talents from the subordinate condition of a writer, to that of an Indian grandee. After the publication of some tolerable poems, he received, by way of encouragement, the distinguished appellation of "the Byron of the East." This, together with his subsequent travels in Europe, — where the title of prince is so lavishly bestowed upon every Indian, and where the pope and the great men of England and France, received him with special marks

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of distinction, and presented him with costly gifts, — tended to make him such a conceited dandy, that we can only pity the vain young man, who now really fancies himself a second Byron, for having acquired some knowledge of the civilised world.

Parbutty is an isolated peak, about 300 feet high; there are some very picturesque prospects from the summit, where several temples of Parvati, wife of Mahadeo, are built. Before us lay the pond, surrounded by a meadow, which was covered with land-crabs, and on one side of which stood the delightful Heera Baugh. Close to this palace is the Elephant park, where the Peishwa used to have combats of tigers, and behind it rose the town and numerous bungalows, amidst a forest of mango trees, above which gleamed the bright tops of the pagodas; while in the remote distance the rocky eminences were covered with Maharatta castles. Our guide was a blind Brahmin, who gave us such a vivid description, in English, of the mode of life of the Peishwa at his country-seat, of the decayed temples, and of the fine natural scenery around us, that we could scarcely persuade ourselves that he did not actually see the objects which he depicted so well. As we were going away, one of his companions asked us for an alms for him; but he himself merely expressed a wish to know our names, that he might keep us in remembrance. We returned through the ill-built and dirty south-end of the town to the old palace of the Peishwa, which is surrounded by a high wall and a moat. It is a large quadrangular building, with colonnades of elegantly carved wooden pillars, and has a kind of tower shaded by a verandah; but the whole is in such a state of decay that it is not worth the expense of repair.

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The short period of eight days allotted to our stay passed rapidly away, amidst such an ample variety of objects to engage my attention. I spent the last evening at a cheerful repast with the officers of the 14th regiment of Dragoons, where, according to English custom, we had numerous toasts and speeches. With these agreeable impressions, accompanied with many good wishes, I took leave of S——, for whom I had conceived a great regard, and in two hours I was on my road to Bombay, in company with the Governor's aide-de-camp. Orders for post-horses having been sent on before, we reached Panwell early on Monday the 22d, but we were detained several hours, because the Governor's gondola did not come to fetch us till eleven o'clock. It was quite dark by the time we landed at Trombay on Salsette, whence a small carriage conveyed us along a causeway towards Colabah. The day had been very rainy, but was succeeded by a starlight night; luminous insects fluttered on every side, and every now and then some poor bird, startled by the noise of our carriage, flew across our path from the thickets, and the numerous ruined temples and Portuguese churches along the road. Our journey, which had hitherto been so prosperous, was suddenly interrupted by a slight accident: we had scarcely passed the bridge when our coachman, to avoid some carts, turned too far aside and overturned us into a ditch. My companion leaped out of the carriage window in a trice; but I waited very patiently till the door was opened, and was thankful to find myself on my legs again. Our light vehicle was soon raised by the assistance of some persons passing by at the time, and at midnight I arrived safe and sound at Mazagon House.

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The following days were spent in the cheerful society of the amiable circle, in relating our adventures, and in preparations for my journey. Incessant rain, which fell like a water-spout, and obscured the sun for fourteen days, rendered it quite impossible to stir abroad. At such time the air is always so full of aqueous particles, that clothes, linen, and indeed every thing, is damp, and it is impossible to preserve arms and other articles of steel from rust: in order, in some degree, to lessen the unpleasant effects of these vapours, pans of charcoal must be constantly kept burning in the room.

With respect to my arrangements, I regret that I did not provide for them in Europe; for, with the exception of tents, every thing is incredibly bad and dear in this place. I was several days looking out for a horse, as the Arabs demand a hundred pounds for a serviceable animal, and I was obliged to rest satisfied with having procured one for 817 rupees. It is equally difficult for a stranger to obtain good servants: I have hired two Mahometans; the first, who is my butler, speaks English with tolerable fluency: he took part in the campaign in Affghanistan, and is to receive 42 rupees per month; and the latter 14 rupees. I intend to hire the other servants whom I shall want as soon as I reach the Indus.

I passed two days with the Governor at Pareil, where I had ample opportunity of making myself acquainted with the splendid establishments and luxury, of persons filling the highest offices in India. His Excellency has a band of twenty-five musicians, which performs every evening during dinner: a body guard, consisting of an officer and twenty-five men, accompanies him on his travels and on state occasions; and

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he has about two hundred servants, of whom more than forty are clothed in scarlet liveries. Several Parsees and Mahometans are about his person; forty are employed in the gardens, the rest in the stable and in various other departments.

Our departure for Sinde is fixed for the 10th of September at the latest; and we may hope that before that time the fury of the monsoon may have passed, and that the breakers may not prevent our landing on that coast. My next communication will probably be from the mouth of the Indus. Commending myself to your continued kindness, I beg you heartily to greet my relations and friends.

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LETTER III.

TO CHARLES RITTER.

Embarkation in the war steamer Zenobia, and departure for Kurrachee.— Fearful ravages of the cholera.— Dangerous landing on the coast at Kurrachee.— Kurrachee.— Alligator Pond, Maggar Talao.— Sinde under the Hindoo Princes.— Dominion of the Moguls.— The Ameers of the family of the Talpooris. — Inhabitants of Sinde. — The Belooches. — Life and mode of government of the Ameers.— Language of the inhabitants of Sinde.— The English residents.— Voyage to Garrah.— March to Tatta.— Embarkation on board the Satellite steamer.—Hyderabad.— Audience of the Ameers.— Journey to Sehwan and Sukkur. — Inhabitants. — Preparations for the journey to Ferospoor.

Kurrachee, September 11. 1842.

When you bade me farewell, I did not anticipate that the next indication of my being alive, would be sent to you not far from the mouth of the Indus; on whose banks your indefatigable spirit has spent so many hours in learned research. But still less could I have imagined that I should send you descriptions which, in their awful reality, reminded me of the terrific scenes delineated by Boccaccio, in such fearful colours, of the desolation of the plague at Bologna; for I, too, alas! have been an eye-witness of such melancholy scenes.

You will have learnt from my letter to Alexander von Humboldt, that I intended to go with several officers in the early part of September to the Indus,

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on board a war steamer belonging to Govrnment. Accounts however of disturbances in Sinde, induced the Government to hasten our departure, and the more so, as Sir Charles Napier was appointed general in command of all the troops there, and was naturally desirous to proceed as speedily as possible to his new destination. The General had the goodness to offer me, in case of hostilities, a place on his staff, which, of course, I most gratefully and joyfully accepted. With deep regret I bid farewell to the amiable family at Mazagon House, and kindly accompanied by the General and his sons, I embarked on Saturday the 3d of September at three in the afternoon, on board the Zenobia steamer of 670 tons and 284 horse-power. Besides Sir Charles Napier, we had on board 22 officers, 150 soldiers of the 28th, or Queen's regiment, 50 seapoys, 23 European soldiers' wives, 27 children, Werner, and about 60 servants. Our horses were in a boat, which was towed by the Zenobia.

We weighed anchor at sunset ; a small mizzling rain, with wind and a hollow sea, rendered our voyage very disagreeable. It was especially trying to the soldiers and women, children and servants, who were obliged to remain on deck closely crowded together without any covering. Happily the weather cleared up when we had passed the last light, and got into the open sea. But towards midnight the sky again became cloudy, a tropical rain fell in torrents, and with such violence that I was roused by it from my sleep, and, taking my cloak, I went to see how it fared with the poor people on deck. Only picture to yourself such a multitude of men, women and children, crouching together in the narrow compass of the deck, in the open air, without protection

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against the rain, standing in water, and at the same time completely drenched by the dashing of the waves; the wind was bitterly cold, and not a dry spot, either to lie down, or to stand upon, was to be found. The soldiers of the 28th regiment, who had arrived three days before, with their wives and children from New South Wales, could not have suffered so much on that long voyage, as during this single night. We had besides no means of cooking warm food for so many persons; biscuits, tea, and brandy, was all that we could give them. It was a scene of misery and distress; and alas! I little thought that in four days the third part of these poor sufferers, and in less than fourteen days more than the half of them, would be launched into eternity.

On Sunday the 4th, at daybreak, the rain abated, and light clouds, through which the sun darted his scorching rays, travelled rapidly across the sky. The exhalations of the wet decks and clothes of the people crowded together, and the heat of the engine, rendered the atmosphere so suffocating, that I was obliged to give up an attempt to go to the forecastle. About nine o'clock it was reported that the cholera had broken out on board, and that three persons had been seized with it: two of them were only slightly attacked; but a woman died in the course of the same day. We had scarcely committed her to the sea on Monday morning, when nine men were seized by this frightful pestilence: in a few hours this number was so fearfully augmented, that a portion of the deck was fitted up as an hospital, and above forty of the sufferers received into it. Death often followed the attack in less than four hours; and, in order to make room for fresh cases, it was necessary to cast the

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dead into the sea, sown up in their beds, charged with shot, without delay, and without the usual prayers. Two medical men, the officers, and the soldiers, did their utmost to afford relief to the unhappy sufferers; but alas! neither friction nor medicines, port-wine, sago, arrow-root or brandy, were of the slightest avail.

Some of these scenes of woe can never be effaced from my memory. One fine young woman, in the prime of life, with an infant at her breast, threw herself on the ground in an agony of pain; though already struggling with death, she would not resign her beloved babe, and before sunset, the bereaved husband had committed both his treasures to the deep. Another woman, weeping and sobbing by the side of her husband, knelt down to warm his benumbed limbs with her body; "O my husband, my husband, you must die," she exclaimed, wringing her hands in the anguish of her heart, but she soon held only the cold corpse in her arms. Most affecting was the separation of a young woman from her husband and child, only three years old: in the agonies of death she embraced both; neither would let go of the other till death had cast his dark shadow over the distorted countenance. Not less moving and painful was it to see the engineer, a fine young man, in his dying moments: he was married only two days before our departure, and implored God with tears to grant that he might expire in the arms of his beloved wife. These heart-rending scenes, the cries and lamentations of the dying, the wail of the living, and the frightfully distorted countenances of the dead, must soften and move the stoutest heart. In four days we buried forty-five European soldiers, two natives, three sailors, four women, and three children, and brought about thirty cholera patients on shore.

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On Tuesday the disease was at its height; on Wednesday, the 7th, the sea was more calm, and from that time we had fine weather. Under a brilliant starry heaven, but in a dark night, we came within sight of the rocky coast at midnight. The Captain, desirous to ascertain his position, ordered the vessel to steer as closely as possible to it, and soundings to be taken, when the steersman suddenly called out with all his might, in an almost unintelligible language, that we were close upon a most dangerous reef. A gun was fired twice, but no answer was returned. Like a stray wanderer pursuing a beaten tract in a forest, we steadily pursued the direction of the coast, with the rocks constantly on our left hand, sometimes just touching the rocky bed of the sea. At last, we threw out an anchor, when it appeared that, as the ebb had set in, we should not have sufficient depth of water; we, therefore, quickly weighed anchor, and again put out to sea. At length, at one o'clock A.M., we succeeded in casting anchor in a creek. When the morning dawned we perceived that we had passed Kurrachee, and had anchored ten miles beyond it, in an arm of the sea, running N. W. into the land. Accordingly, about 7 o'clock we steered our course towards that town, and in two hours came to anchor opposite the ruins of a small fort situated on a rock fifty feet high. We were soon surrounded by a host of sharks, which raised their greedy jaws out of the sea: they are ever on the watch to profit by the accidental fall of a man overboard, or the rash attempt of any person to swim to the boats coming to take the people on shore. They are, however, not so dangerous to the natives as to the Europeans. Though the sea did not appear to be

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much agitated, yet the breakers were so violent, that the first boat we let down was dashed against our vessel, and the poor sailor who was in it had his breast-bone broken, and he died soon after. Lord Altamont, who had had a slight attack of cholera during the preceding night, Captains West and Bennet, and myself, chose the first boat that approached, which we could only reach by means of a well-calculated leap.

From the old fort which projects into the sea a bay runs three miles inland, in an easterly direction, which, in some places, is so thickly studded with clumps of mangroves (Rhizophora), that, at a distance, they look like little islands. Wild swine have their retreat in these bushes, between which the wind drove us with such rapidity that in the space of an hour we reached the flat, sandy coast, and were carried ashore by our boatmen. The town of Kurrachee, which is only 300 paces from this bay, in the vicinity of the ancient Crocola, is a small, closely-built, dirty place. The inhabitants, 14,000 in number (9000 Hindoos and about 5000 Mahometans), subsist by trade, navigation, and fishery. The slave-trade formerly carried on by Muscat, from Zanzibar to Sinde, in Hubshys and Abyssinians, was so considerable that 600 to 700 young people, of whom three-fourths were girls, were imported here every year: Georgians were occasionally imported for the harems of the rich. The price of a handsome Abyssinian girl was sometimes as high as 250 rupees: boys were sold at from 60 to 100 rupees.*

At the eastern outlet of the town is a mosque and a pond, which, however, is often dry: but a few

* The slave trade is entirely abolished under the British rule in India.

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date palms, bananas, tamarinds, and tamarisks, indicate that nature is not wholly dead. Two miles to the east of the city are the cantonments of the troops, of which there were at this time 2000 men. At present only a few houses are built of stone, most of them being constructed of clay and wood. The place marked out for the barracks of the European troops, has been very injudiciously selected in the sultry plain; a far preferable situation would have been along the elevated coast of Ghisry creek, which is constantly fanned by a pure, cool air, and where a view of the sea is refreshing alike to mind and body. Fresh water is supplied by a subterraneous spring, which runs from the town to the cantonments in a bed fifteen feet broad: every where else there is only a brackish ground. Bare, undulating, calcareous mountains extend from east to west, and form, as it were, a barrier on the north side. The sky is scarcely ever clouded except in the rainy season, and the temperature seldom rises above 95° Fahr.; as a whole year frequently elapses without a fall of rain, the small quantity of corn grown here is nourished by irrigation with Persian wheels. From May till September a dry wind prevails, and incessantly carries dark clouds of dust across the sandy plain.

We waited in a small guard-house for the servants and horses of the officers, to whom we had sent our introductions; and we expected them with the greater anxiety, because Lord Altamont's illness became more serious, and nothing short of the most careful attendance and treatment seemed likely to preserve his life. It was noon before I reached the tents of Lieutenant Manbee; and here, too, I met with the kindest welcome from the officers of the Engineers and

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Artillery, and those of the 22d regiment requested that during my stay here I would consider myself their guest. I did not see Werner till the next day: he had nearly lost his life on quitting the vessel, and, in order to save himself, was compelled to sacrifice my barometer

In this camp, where nearly all live in tents, our time passes away quite in a military style, and the intercourse with such a general as Sir Charles Napier, cannot fail to be highly instructive and profitable. It unfortunately happened at a trial of rockets, two days after our arrival, that the General was wounded in the calf of his leg, by the bursting of a rocket in the tube; though I stood at the charger's side, I escaped, singularly enough, without receiving the slightest injury. I occasionally make excursions on horseback in all directions, and often ride to the town. I have been particularly struck with the athletic appearance of the men, who are very handsome, and who set off their fine countenances by a towering cap of cotton or silk, embroidered with gold and silver; the women are not nearly so handsome, but they are tall and slender, and wear very long, dirty dresses. In a moral point of view, the inhabitants have, I regret to say, a very bad reputation.

One of my most interesting excursions was a ride to the Alligator Pond at Maggar Talao, or Peer Mangar, ten miles to the north of this town, and a place of pilgrimage for the natives. Captain West, who accompanied me, chose a camel, while I mounted a horse, and we agreed to change places on our return. Our guide, a handsome Arab, dressed in white, with his sabre at his breast, sat on the saddle in front: my friend occupied the seat behind, and I

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followed, sometimes keeping pace with the rapid trot of the camel, sometimes galloping on before, enjoying this novel exhibition.

TWO RIDERS ON A CAMEL.

Soon after quitting our tents, we came to a few huts lying in the shade of date palms, bananas, and stunted tamarisks, and surrounded with very poor-looking corn fields, then crossing a dried arm of the Indus, fifty feet in width, we had still two miles of the plain to cross. Barren calcareous hills, to the height

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of 200 feet, rose before us, in undulating lines from east to west; and from their highest summits we had a fine view of the town of Kurrachee, the valley of the Indus, and the ocean. During our ride amidst these broken fragments of rock, along a narrow path, sometimes ascending, and then descending, we saw only wild pigeons, some vultures, and herds of goats, which subsist on the scanty blades of grass which grow between the boulders. The herdsmen, as well as the few travellers whom we met, were armed.

After proceeding about two hours, we reached an eminence, from which we overlooked a fine valley above 1000 paces broad, enclosed between mountain chains running parallel to each other; far below, at our right hand, lay a flourishing wood of date palms, skirted by a beautiful little grove of tamarinds. Blue and white cupolas which covered the graves of the saints, glimmered amid the luxuriant verdures, and it seems evident that a high degree of cultivation formerly existed here. After passing some huts, we stopped at a pond 200 paces long and 50 paces broad, which is overgrown with grass and reeds, and contains but little water. It is supplied by a mineral spring, which issues from the rock about a mile from this place, and which is so warm that a person cannot bear his hand in it. After issuing from its source, the water flows only a few paces above ground; it then forces its way through a rock, from which it discharges itself, at a temperature of 90° Fahrenheit, at the foot of the graves into a small bricked basin, and thence into the pond above mentioned. In this pond above fifty alligators are kept, several of which are more than twenty feet long. These animals are accounted sacred, and the pilgrims must offer a goat

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to obtain a sight of them, and to satisfy their rapacity. They are under the special charge of fakirs, and we had scarcely dismounted, when several of these dirty, naked men came to offer their services. One of them broke off some reeds to keep at bay the eager alligators, and cried in a mournful tone, *owh! owh!* "come, come!" Above thirty of these reptiles instantly crept out of the water, and, like so many dogs, lay in a semi-circle at the feet of their master. It was a strange scene to see these animals with wide gaping jaws, not more than four steps from you: but they were so docile that they drew back at the slightest touch with the reed. Meantime, our guide had purchased a goat for a rupee; it was slaughtered on the spot, and thrown in large pieces to the alligators, which greedily tried to snatch the morsels from their companions, and in so doing their scaly bodies struck with such violence against each other, that some of them rolled completely over. After they had finished their repast, the fakir drove them back into the pond. The largest and most sacred of these alligators, which we estimated at nearly twenty-five feet in length, was kept by itself in the basin.

Turning aside from this disgusting sight, we visited the tombs of the saints. They are built of stone, with mosaic work of coloured grey tiles, and, as I said before, are furnished with cupolas. They are scarcely 20 feet high, and have only sufficient room within-side for the stone sarcophagus, and to accommodate a few persons. Before the entrance is a small projection in the form of a canopy, supported by elegantly carved wooden pillars. The sarcophagus is decorated with painting and all sorts of fanciful ornaments, feathers, ostrich eggs, ribbons, little bells, and lamps. An old

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grey-bearded fakir, who lay at the entrance of the principal tomb, rose slowly at our approach, and on our asking him the date of these buildings, gravely assured us that we were looking upon monuments 2000 years old; and seemed much mortified when we intimated our incredulity. By the side of the pond stands a lofty, strikingly beautiful tamarind tree, the stem of which at the height of five feet from the ground measured 22 feet in cicumference. We sat down under its light, elegant feathery foliage, which spreading on all sides formed an impenetrable canopy, and here partook of some refreshment, and drank to the health of our friends at home. We set out on our return in a temperature of 90°, but happily under a somewhat clouded sky: I found my seat on the back of the camel very unpleasant, but by its rapid trot it brought me home so speedily, that I soon forgot the inconvenience, and in little more than an hour I was comfortably seated in my tent.

Our departure for Sukkur is fixed for the 15th; but before I ask you to accompany me through these hitherto imperfectly known countries, you must allow me to give you a short historical sketch of the princes and the people who formerly inhabited them, as well as of those who now occupy them.

Sinde derives its name from the river Sinde or Indus, which flows in a course of 320 German miles, and in the last 100 miles traverses this country. The Indus is to Sinde, what the Nile is to Egypt: its stated inundations, when the snow melts in the Himalaya mountains, and the heavy rains fall, diffuse fertility over the country, which might be one of the richest in the world, had not the destructive spirit of the Mahometan usurpers deprived it of its strength.

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The traditions of the priests unfortunately give us but scanty information respecting the Hindoo dynasties who formerly reigned here. It is said that in the seventh century Shash, a Brahmin priest, won the heart of the consort of the reigning Rajah Sazee by his great personal beauty. He was a confidential friend of the prince, and the queen happening to see him one day from behind a curtain in her husband's apartment, fell so deeply in love with him, that she resolved to take him for her husband whenever the rajah should die. An understanding was soon come to between them; the rajah died shortly after, whether from poison, or from a natural cause, is not stated: the artful priest, however, became the heir of the fine and extensive kingdom of Sinde. The jealousy of many of the neighbouring princes was, indeed, aroused by this, and they endeavoured to enforce their pretensions to the throne, but were either defeated or put out of the way. Shash is said to have reigned forty years, and was succeeded by his eldest son Dahir.

During his reign several vessels, richly laden with costly goods and beautiful female slaves, which came from Ceylon and belonged to the Caliph of Bagdad, were driven into the Indus and plundered by the inhabitants. The Caliph Abdool Mulik in vain demanded satisfaction, and took up arms, but he died during the preparations for war, and left his son Valid to take vengeance upon the spoilers. This prince sent a large army furnished with all kinds of ammunition by sea and land to the Indus, under the command of the young and handsome Bin Cassim. Bin Cassim advanced victoriously in 711 to Allore, the capital of the kingdom of Sinde. Here he was met by Dahir with

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an immense army; 30,000 infantry were placed in front of his numerous cavalry and elephants to repel the first shock of the enemy. Dahir himself, history informs us, mounted on his largest elephant in a richly ornamented howdah, attended by two beautiful female slaves, who occasionally presented him with wine and refreshments, rode between the ranks of his warriors, encouraging them to the combat. The battle commenced with equal fury on both sides; but the elephants, driven to madness by the firing, turned round, destroyed everything in their way, and spread terror and consternation among the Hindoos. The rajah's elephant also fled, Dahir was mortally wounded in the neck by an arrow, and he expired in a few moments: in order to conceal his body from the vengeance of the enemy, it was buried on the spot; but his female slaves betrayed the melancholy end of their master. His body was instantly disinterred, and his head fixed as a trophy on the point of a spear, whilst thanksgivings for the victory were offered to Allah on the ruins of the Hindoo temple. Two daughters of the rajah fell into the hands of the conqueror, who, on account of their surpassing beauty, sent them to his master for his harem. When they appeared before Valid they accused his general of infidelity towards his master, by an outrage upon their persons; sentence of death reached Bin Cassim in his victorious career: he patiently submitted to the most dreadful tortures, and died in the space of three days. His dead body was shown to the princesses as a proof of the power, and strict justice of the caliph. Contemplating it with looks of satisfaction, they confessed that he was innocent, that their object had been to take vengeance on the murderer of their father, and that they

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were now ready to suffer any kind of death themselves. The caliph caused the rajah's daughters to be tied by their beautiful hair to tails of horses, and torn to pieces in the streets of Bagdad; while he erected a splendid monument to the memory of his faithful general.

Sinde remained in the hands of the Omiades till the invasion of India by Mahomet the Ghaznivide; after which the country became the prey of the Ghoorur and the Moguls. The dissensions at the court of Delhi, the weakness of its princes, and the great distance of the seat of government from Sinde, made it easy for the viceroys appointed to this country to declare themselves independent of the great Moguls. From the times of Aurengzeebe we find the sovereignty in the hands of one tribe or family, the Kaloora or Abassys, said to be descended from the Abassyde caliphs; they subsequently became tributary to Nadir Shah, at his death to Ahmed Shah Dooranee, and finally to the Mahrattas. The Kaloora, who had rendered themselves odious to the people by their cruelties, having murdered the ambassador from Judpoore, a near relative of the Beloochee family of the Talpoor dynasty in Hyderabad, in 1785, Meer Futteh Ali, the head of the family, supported by several Belooche chiefs, went against the Kaloora, succeeded in expelling them, and made himself master of the country. Only a few of them escaped, some of whom found an asylum in Judpoore, and others in Caboul with Timour Khan, and obtained the gift of jaghires, or feudal tenures. Meer Nusseer Khan, who is still alive, and was at that time a boy of only ten years of age, was witness to the dreadful ravages and desolation, with which the country was at that period afflicted, and from which it has not recovered to the present hour.

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He observed to an Englishman that he should never forget the ruin of the flourishing, populous town of Sukkur, and in anticipation of his fate he often expressed a desire to dictate the history of his own times to some learned man.

Meer Futteh Ali, whom some old people affirm to to have seen tending his flocks, was at first dependent on the Affghans, but by the help of the Beloochees, many tribes of whom he invited into the country and invested with jaghires, he was enabled not only to maintain himself on the throne, but to become master of the whole country of Sinde. He however gave up two fifths of it, to two of his earliest adherents—Sohrab, to whom he gave Khyrpoor and Northern Sinde, and to Thara, Meerpoor. He retained the remaining three fifths with Hyderabad as the capital, under his own government, with the title of Ameer, and reigned in conjunction with his three brothers, Meer Gholaum Ali Khan, Meer Karam Ali Khan, and Meer Murad Ali Khan. It was agreed that the eldest of the family should always reside at Hyderabad, and exercise sovereignty over all. Meer Futteh Ali undertook not only the payment of the tribute to Caboul, but also the expenses of the government and the maintenance of the whole Talpoor family.

On his death in 1801 his next brother, Gholaum Ali Khan, became chief of the family, and on his decease in 1811 the sovereignty was assumed by Meer Karam Ali and Meer Murad Ali, after a contest with Meer Sobdur and Meer Mohammed, which ended in their submission. Karam Ali died in 1828, without male posterity, and Meer Murad Ali, the only survivor of the four brothers, contrived to maintain the sovereignty. He had four sons—Noor Mohammed,

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Meer Nusseer Khan, Mohammed Khan, and Ahmed Khan, of whom the two last died without children.

When Futteh Ali and his brothers expelled the Kalooras, Khyrpoor, situated in the north, fell into the possession of Meer Sohrab Ali Khan, who had taken part in the insurrection: he died in 1830 in consequence of a fall from a verandah, and left five sons, the eldest of whom, Meer Rustam, succeeded him. Khyrpoor lies on both sides of the Indus, extends northwards to Shikarpoor and Mitan, southwards to the desert, and yields a revenue of between five and six lacs.

Meerpoor, the other territory separated from Sinde in a direct line between Cutch and Hyderabad, is the most inconsiderable of the three portions, and produces a revenue of scarcely five lacs. It was assigned by Meer Futteh Ali to two brothers, the Ameers, Meer Thara and Meer Baga: the former survived his brother and retained the sovereign power in favour of his sons, Meer Ali Morad Khan and Meer Ali, and succeeded in excluding his nephew Mallea Khan, from all participation in the government. Both Khyrpoor and Meerpoor are connected with each other, and with Hyderabad by intermarriages; and although they have at times been in a state of hostility, the Ameers of Hyderabad have hitherto maintained their influence and superior authority.

These three principalities, Hyderabad, Khyrpoor, and Meerpoor, form the country governed by the Ameers, among whom, properly speaking, only the eldest of each of these families has a right to the title of Ameer. It is remarkable that Meer Futteh Ali and two of his brothers were Sunnites; whereas Meer Morad, through the influence of his minister Isman Khan, a Persian, was educated as a strict Sheeahs.

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Meer Morad Ali died in 1834: after his death a triumvirate, consisting of Meer Nur Mohammed, Nusseer Khan, and Sobdar, assumed the government; and after the death of the first in 1839 we find five Ameers in Hyderabad, the eldest of whom, Meer Nusseer Khan, was recognised as the head of the family.

A HINDOO BANKER IN SINDE.

The inhabitants of Sinde are Mahometans and Hindoos; of the former, the Belooches belong to the caste of warriors, and the Juts to that of the peasants: and it may be assumed that the fifth part of the

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inhabitants of the cities are Hindoos. Though so greatly oppressed in their religious and civil relations, the wealth and commerce of the country are nevertheless chiefly in their hands; and they probably form a sixth part of the million of inhabitants said to reside in this country. They suffer their beard to grow, and wear the turban of the Mussulmans, whose manners and customs they have adopted; they have the submissiveness and servility of the Jews of Europe, and are as handsome, but even more dirty than the Juts. As bankers, they enjoy such confidence that their bills pass current throughout India.

THE JUTS, PEASANTS OF SINDE.

The Hindoos and the Juts are the only people on whom the British government can depend. The Juts, who are a tall, vigorous, and handsome race of people, were originally Hindoos, and, properly speaking, are the Aborigines of the country; the women are distinguished by their beauty and modesty, which cannot be said of the Mahometan females. As they form the agricultural class, they lead a quiet and peaceful life. Besides the cultivation of the soil the

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Juts are occupied in the breed of buffaloes, goats, and camels. The camel is as valuable and useful to the Jut, as the horse is to the Arab.

A BELOOCHE ON FOOT.

The Miani are employed in navigation and fishery; they live as much upon the rivers and lakes as on shore—nay, some of them have no other dwelling than their boat. The women are as vigorous, and muscular as the men, and share in their hard labours; and while the husband is mending his nets, or smoking

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his pipe, and the child is suspended in its network cradle to the mast, the wife guides the boat with a large oar.

The Belooches, who form scarcely a tenth part of the population, are the freebooters of the desert, and originally came from the mountains and steppes in the north-west. Their manners, and many of their customs are conformable with the mosaic laws, and their oral and written traditions, as well as their general appearance, have so much resemblance with those of the Jews, that the Belooches have been looked upon as the descendants of the lost tribes of Israel. Thus for instance, on the death of the husband, his brother is bound to marry his widow, and the children are the heirs of the deceased; and again, a man may divorce his wife, according to the forms usual among the Jews. They consider themselves as the masters of the country, and devote themselves to arms, robbery, and the chase. Some few of them engage in agriculture, and all attend to the breeding of horses and camels. Their ignorance, and the uncivilised state in which they live, renders it difficult to reduce them to obedience and discipline: each tribe obeys only its chief; but if danger threatens any one tribe, messengers on camels and horses, are despatched in every direction to summon all that can bear arms. These camels are so hardy and fleet, that it is affirmed, on credible authority, that, on the entrance of Lord Keane into the country, a camel belonging to Meer Nusseer performed the journey from Hyderabad to Sukkur, a distance of between fifty and sixty geographical miles, in two days; the rider contrived to keep up its strength by giving it plenty of rice, ghee, and intoxicating liquors.

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The houses of the Belooches are as wretched, dirty, and confined, as those of the other inhabitants; and only those of the chiefs are rather more roomy, and ornamented with carpets. The women are engaged in domestic occupations, while the men enjoy themselves in smoking, drinking, sleeping, or playing with the children. The Belooches are robust, though not tall; their complexion is of a dark brown colour: they have fiery eyes, and a fine, noble expression of countenance. The men wear a coloured cap of cotton or silk, embroidered with gold and silver, an open shirt, a yellow or red silk waistcoat, wide pantaloons, and pointed shoes. They are armed with a long matchlock, sabre, shield, and bow and arrows. They do not shave either the head or the beard; and they either suffer their hair to fall in ringlets over their shoulders, or they tie it in a knot on the crown of the head. They consider the beard a great ornament, and pay much attention to it; old and holy men are fond of dyeing it red, and the Sheeahs, like the descendants of the Prophet, prefer green to every other colour. The women wear wide pantaloons, and a garment which reaches to the ground and fits close to the body, a kerchief loosely wound round the head, and their hair falls in long plaits. They very seldom change their clothes, and are so dirty that neither the colour of their dress nor even that of their face can be distinguished.

These Belooches, in their capacity of executors of the commands of the Ameers, are the blood-suckers of the poor, oppressed peasant, who is obliged to deliver to the princes more than the half of his produce. The revenues of the country, which formerly amounted to 90 lacs, have now declined to between 40 and 50, but

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with good management this might be increased to three times that sum. The Ameers are as ignorant as the people: their time is spent in the harem, or in hunting, and the latter is pursued with such eagerness that the country is thereby daily more and more depopulated. In order to enlarge their preserves, which consist of Babul trees, a species of Mimosa Arabica, tamarinds and tamarisks, they have recourse to the most arbitrary measures. Thus Meer Futteh Ali expelled the inhabitants from one of the most fertile districts of the Indus, near Hyderabad, which produced a revenue of nearly two lacs, because it was the favourite haunt of the Babiroussa; and Meer Murad Ali caused a large village to be totally destroyed, in order that the lowing of the cattle and crowing of the cocks, might not disturb the game in an adjoining preserve belonging to his brother. In the middle of this preserve is a small isolated building with a pond in front of it; thither the game is driven and killed by the Ameers who are stationed behind the wall. When Lord Keane entered the country with the army, three of his officers took possession of a building of this kind, which was closely surrounded with trunks of trees: here they intended to pass the night, and to enjoy the pleasures of the chase on the following morning; but the wood, which was dried up by the sun, was set on fire, probably by design, and all three perished in the flames.

Each of the Ameers has his own preserve, which they visit in great style, attended by their chiefs and a number of servants, with dogs and falcons. They are either mounted on camels or horses, or go in their large state barges along the river. The people along the road thither are compelled to provide for the nu-

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merous train, and the inhabitants of the villages in the immediate vicinity of the preserves are forced to beat up the game; and it not unfrequently happens that some of them are shot instead of the game, or torn to pieces by the Barbiroussas. In hunting, the Ameers use long muskets, inlaid with gold and jewels, to which the locks of the guns presented by the English are fixed, though they do not esteem them as they ought. It is considered a great honour to a stranger if he is invited to one of their hunting parties.

The language of Sinde, both oral and written, differs very much from that of the rest of India, but the princes and people are so ignorant, that very few Mahometans are able to write it. The characters are called Khada-wadi, and are found in the letters of the merchants. Compared with most of the alphabets of Hindostan, that of Sinde is very poor: there are but two characters which designate vowels, and these are only used as initials. Hence the written language is used merely in letter-writing, and the few books in Sinde are written in Persian characters. The pronunciation of the Belooches is so uncouth, that the Sindians say they learnt it from their goats, when they were herdsmen in the mountains of Kelat! There are two different dialects; that of Lar, which is used in Hyderabad and the environs, and that of Sar, spoken in Upper Sinde.

The first British settlement in Sinde appears to have been formed in the year 1758, when the demand for woollen and other manufactures, for which the countries, watered by the Indus were celebrated, invited the English to open a trade with them; and the profitable sale of these goods seemed to promise a

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favourable result. These connections were, however, broken off again in the year 1775, because the government in Sinde threw great obstacles in the way of the trade. But repeated attempts to pass through the channel of the Indus induced the East India Company to renew the commercial connection with Sinde in 1799. Mr. Crow was accordingly sent thither, and succeeded in establishing a factory, and in obtaining from the government of Sinde permission to fix his residence in Tatta, or in Kurrachee. On this occasion, too, the Ameers manifested great repugnance to the introduction of a factory in the latter place, and were urgent that the settlements of the English should be confined to the harbours of Shah Bunder and Tatta. Mr. Crow had scarcely established himself in Kurrachee when, in August 1800, he suddenly received orders, probably at the instigation of the native merchants, to repair immediately to to Tatta, and to confine his factory to that place. The goods had been formerly sent to Dehra-Jamka or Aurungabunder, and thence to Shah Bunder, distant twenty miles to the west. There must have been at that time a pretty brisk trade with Mooltan and Lahore, for the factory of Shah Bunder had twelve boats, each of 30 or 40 tons, and two vessels for travelling merchants.

At length, on the 22d August 1808, a formal treaty was concluded with the Ameers of Sinde, and, on the 19th November 1820, it was renewed, with the additional clause that neither any other European nation, nor the Americans, should be allowed to trade there. It was stipulated, at the same time, that no encouragement should be given to the robberies of the Khosas, and other tribes in Cutch. It is well

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known that the British government sent Captain Alexander Burnes, in 1821, to the Indus, to obtain a knowledge of the country, and especially of the navigation on that river. His accounts made the Indian government still more desirous to secure the free navigation of the Indus. Accordingly, Sir Henry Pottinger was sent by Lord Bentinck, the Governor-General, with proposals to the Ameers to place the navigation and trade on the Indus on a secure foundation. Sir H. Pottinger succeeded in concluding, on the 19th June 1832, a treaty with Ameer Morad Ali of Hyderabad, and Rustum of Khyrpoor, in which continued friendship was promised, and the merchants of India assured of undisturbed trade on the Indus; the Ameers, however, reserving to themselves the right of granting passes to merchants for a moderate toll, with the condition that no armed vessel should navigate the river, and that no person should settle in the country. This treaty was modified in 1839 by a stipulation that the English should be allowed to have garrisons in Tatta, or at some other points, while they engaged, on the other hand, to defend Sinde against foreign invasion of every kind. When Lord Keane advanced towards Affghanistan, he was induced, for the security of his rear and of the navigation, to put garrisons into Kurrachee, Sukkur, and Shikarpoor. The necessity of making the Indus the frontier of the vast empire of British India, became more and more important. In the conclusion of all these treaties, the Ameers manifested more compliance with the British government than their Belooche chiefs, who very clearly perceived that the establishment of so great a power as that of the English would put an end to their influence and

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their extortions. The Belooches, therefore, on several occasions, acted in a hostile manner, in opposition to the will of the Ameers. Since that day, the princes of Sinde have been dependent on the British government, and are directed and watched by a political agent at their court.

Sukkur, October 10. 1842.

The preparations for my journey to this place, and the difficulties I encountered, obliged me to break up my communications, and the fresh orders to depart for Ferospoor prevented me from resuming my letter till to-day.

On the 13th September my effects were sent on before to Tatta, laden on four camels, under the care of my servants. Two days later, at four in the afternoon, my palanquin-bearers brought me to Gisry Creek, three miles from Kurrachee, where I found a boat waiting for me in the Garrah Creek, which here empties itself into the sea. There is no doubt that the main arm of the Indus, once flowed in the present bed of the Garrah; and may we not suppose that the few ruins on Gisry Creek indicate the site of the ancient Pattala? My travelling companions had preceded me in another boat. The tide carried us on the Garrah, which is here some hundred paces broad, and winds through a desert country, between tamarisk bushes and acacias; an ancient round tower was the only building visible on its banks. Two miles below Garrah the breadth of the river was diminished to one hundred paces, and it gradually became so narrow, and, as the ebb set in, so shallow, that we were obliged to leave our boat at a short distance before we reached Garrah, and to walk to

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the village. The soil on both sides is alternately the most fertile mould, and sand covered with salt.

Before I reached Garrah, I was joined by my fellow-travellers: we proceeded together through the dirty village, built on a gentle declivity, to a caravansary at the eastern end. Our way led by the house of a tanner, and I accordingly stopped to examine his operations. The hides are sewed together in the shape of the body of the animal, and suspended to three stakes, over a small bricked basin, with the neck upwards; a constant flow of water and some bark of the Babul tree (Mimosa) is then poured through the neck of the skin, and gradually forces its way through the small apertures. From time to time the hide is let down into the basin to be made more pliable, and the hair is scraped off with a long knife. As soon as the hide is properly tanned and oiled, it is dried in the shade; the leather of Sinde is some of the best in India, and not inferior in softness and durability to that of Europe.

All the houses here are built of clay; they are scarcely twenty feet high, have flat roofs, from which a kind of ventilator sometimes rises, and air-holes supply the place of windows. Long-continued rain would destroy these huts, and sweep away entire villages. The caravansary is a small open apartment, with a court-yard enclosed by a mud wall, and is kept by a Parsee, who is commissioned by the British government to provide for the accommodation of travellers. We resolved to wait here till the afternoon: carpets were accordingly spread in the hall, and, while we took some repose, the servants prepared a repast, consisting of tea, rice, and fish. When the sun was near setting, our little caravan

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commenced its march to Tatta, some on camels, some on horseback. Our road lay through a desolate tract, first by the side of a dried-up branch of the Indus, then through a fertile district between high tamarisk bushes, and over numerous ditches, partly dry, partly full of water. After riding two hours we found the landscape more diversified by lofty trees and detached farm houses, round which the land was cultivated. We saw a jackal standing by the road-side, behind a tamarisk bush; his large eyes were directed towards us, and he was so bold, that we might have shot him with a pistol.

It was 10 o'clock when we arrived at the village of Gongah, but having the advantage of the bright moonlight, we were enabled securely to traverse the country, which was more and more intersected with ditches. It is a large place, with several brick houses, situated in a very fertile plain. We found the officers who had set out the day before, encamped by the side of a pond, under tamarisk and mango trees; and we took up our quarters next to them. At 3 o'clock in the morning we resumed our march through a plain traversed by deep ditches, between corn fields of Jowaree (*Holcus sorghum*) twelve feet high, and Bajeera (*Panicum spicatum*). Three miles further on, we found ourselves on a broad road in an impenetrable jungle of tamarisks and stunted tamarinds, only now and then relieved by a babul or banyan (*Ficus Indicus*) tree rising above it. Half way there was a small caravansary by the side of a pond, under the care of a priest and some fakirs. The ground about it was cultivated, and a small garden with bananas and mangoes, and a few tamarinds, overshadowing the water, afforded a refreshing and agreeable object in this wilderness.

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At 7 o'clock we approached a rocky chain about 150 feet high, on which an extensive town appeared to be situated, but it was a mass of numerous large and small sepulchres, with lofty vaulted roofs like cupolas, covered with glazed tiles, chiefly blue, and adorned within and without, with mosaic work, made of china. Some of them were in perfect preservation; others had suffered by violence, or by the lapse of time, for they are said to be 200 years old. As we rode past them we met the first Belooches I had seen; they were handsome, vigorous men, with dark, fiery eyes, and long beards; wore a shield on their back, a sabre by their side, and a long gun over their shoulder. One of them had a boy, about eight years old, on the horse behind him, and looked at us with an air of defiance. We asked if they were Belooches? "Yes, fighting Belooches," was his insolent reply.

From this elevation we suddenly came in sight of the ruins of Kulan Cote, Tatta, and the Indus in its broad channel, flowing through a boundless fertile valley. Tatta, whether it is the ancient Patala, or Minagara, is uncertain, lies three miles from the Indus, on an eminence slightly elevated above the valley, and affording a surprisingly beautiful prospect from a distance: the streets are narrow, irregular, and very dirty; the houses, which are built of clay, wood, or brick, are from twenty to thirty feet high, and resemble square towers with flat roofs, on which the inhabitants are accustomed to sleep, in the open air, during the warm nights. Cakes of dung, used for firing, and prepared by the women and children, are piled up against the walls.

There are only a few mosques in the place, which are built of stone and painted white, but they have

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the same dirty and ruinous appearance as the town; and there are no traces of the extensive trade which was formerly carried on. The silk and cotton manufactures of the Lundshis, wrought with gold and silver, which were formerly so much in request, are now nearly exploded by those of Mooltan, and the few that are still manufactured here, are usually taken by the Ameers, who pay barely sufficient to enable the weavers to live. The inhabitants are about 10,000 in number; they wear wide garments, Sinde caps, or turbans, and the women long cotton dresses reaching to the ground; poverty and dirt everywhere prevail. We traversed the town in its whole length, passed through the valley, which is irrigated by water wheels driven by oxen or camels, is highly cultivated, and produces corn and cotton.

We reached the place of embarkation, four miles to the east, at ten o'clock. Here we found our servants, who had already arrived and pitched our tents; but we were unable to obtain any repose, as they did not protect us against the scorching rays of the sun, and the thermometer was 110° of Fahrenheit (in my tent it rose to 118°). Indeed in Sinde the sun is fierce enough to dye white men black, and is sufficiently powerful to roast an egg; an experiment which has been tried with success. The British government has four iron steamers on the Indus, which are 120 feet long, 35 broad, and of 70 horse power: they draw only three or four feet water, and are armed with guns (three pounders) and wall-pieces. Along the coast are depôts of tamarisk wood for fuel, which consumes rapidly, but gives very great heat.

In the afternoon some boats arrived to convey us, and our effects to the steamers, two of which were to

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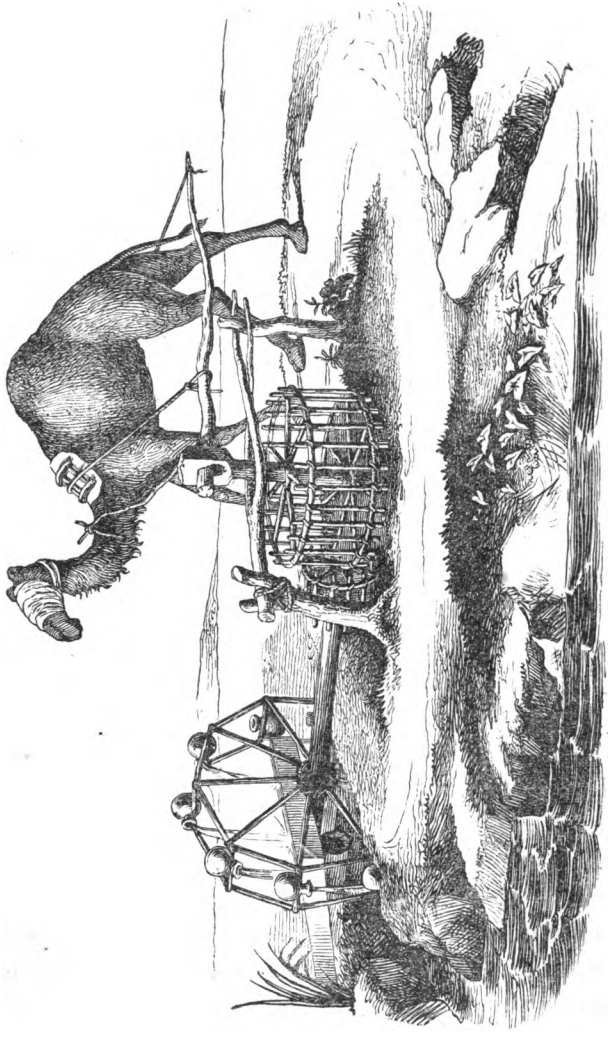

PERSIAN WATER-WHEEL WORKED BY A CAMEL.

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start for Sukkur the next day. We were obliged to send the horses by land, by way of Hyderabad. I embarked with four officers on board the Satellite, the others on board the Planet. The captain undertakes to supply the passengers with provisions at four rupees a day, but the table on board was so indifferent, that I was obliged to content myself with rice, biscuit and tea.

We set out at day-break on Saturday the 17th September. The river, which was 600 feet in breadth at the place of embarkation, soon became twice as wide. The sun emerged from its wide watery expanse, and illumined once more the shining summit of the city of the sepulchres. On both sides groves of babul and tamarind, alternated with corn-fields and villages. In the middle of these corn-fields is a high scaffolding, on which a poor fellow is stationed all day long, without any protection against the sun, to scare away the birds, by continued hallooing, and throwing missiles at them with a sling. It is extremely amusing to see how the inhabitants of the opposite banks visit each other, supported by a goat's skin, filled with air, which they fasten to their waist and neck, and swim across from one side to the other: it is very rare indeed that any one is drowned in doing this, or falls a prey to the alligators.

The navigation of the Indus, is very difficult on account of its shifting bed and violent current, which runs four miles an hour: we were therefore obliged to cast anchor every evening, and every day to take on board a new pilot. The slimy and dirty water of the river, when clarified by alum, becomes as clear as crystal, and very pleasant; but the cook on board the steamer would not take this trifling trouble, which

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would have added so greatly to our comfort. On the 18th, in the forenoon, the thermometer being at 98° Fahrenheit, we proceeded along the right bank; beautiful woods diversify the monotony of the country, and the fresh verdure of the meadows covered with yellow flowers enlivens the eye. We passed a preserve three miles in length, ornamented with the finest babul trees, and surrounded with hedges and a clay wall. This preserve abounds with barbiroussas, antelopes, jackals, hyenas, black and red partridges, parrots and other birds.

On this day we twice stuck upon a sand bank, from which however our engine, and the strong current, soon set us free. In the evening we anchored in a beautiful wooded inlet; the moon behind the shadowy trees, between Jupiter and Venus, pouring her silver light through the foliage, while a cooling breeze wafted the perfume of the babul flowers towards us. Our Hindoos soon made a fire under the trees, to cook their food, while we rambled through the thickets, gun in hand, in search of game, but were soon obliged to give up our intention, as the ground was excessively damp and marshy.

On the 19th, at ten in the morning, we landed opposite Hyderabad, near a mango grove, in which the house of Mr. Mylne, the political agent, is situated. He received me in the kindest manner, and promised to further my wishes to pay my respects to the Ameers, and immediately sent his moonshee with a message to that effect to the palace. Meantime I proceeded to the dwelling of Dr. Leith, some hundred paces distant, to whose lady I had a letter of introduction. Here too I met with a cordial welcome. The time passed away in conversation and

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music, and on the banks of the Indus I heard the accomplished Mrs. Leith sing to the piano, "Herz, mein Herz, warum so traurig;" which pretty little song, though already forgotten in Germany, awakened in me the liveliest recollections of home. Then came an interesting group of Myrcasis or Luris, the Minnesingers of Sinde, who, in the neighbourhood of the capital, sung an eulogium on Lord Keane's expedition to Affghanistan, and the might of the English. Their instruments consisted of guitars and small drums; their singing was monotonous and mournful, much resembling the noise of water wheels; and where the voice was insufficient, the defect was made up by pantomimic gesticulations.

The moonshee brought word that the Ameers would be happy to receive me at six o'clock. An hour before that time their Highnesses sent four horses, richly caparisoned, their bridles adorned with gold and silver, and their Delhi housings finely embroidered; while the girths were torn and in part mended with dirty ropes. I rode Dr. Leith's horse, while my companions mounted those sent by the Ameers, and, accompanied by an escort of irregular cavalry, we proceeded to Hyderabad, which is more than five miles distant. The sun was already setting, and the moon was high above the horizon, when we obtained a clear view of the city.

On our arrival at the decayed fort, a small, square, clay building, with semicircular towers in the middle of the lines, and surrounded by a moat eight feet broad, we were received by the moonshee of the Ameers, Meer Nasseer Khan, and sixteen of the principal chiefs. These handsome men, in their picturesque costume, and armed with matchlocks, pistols,

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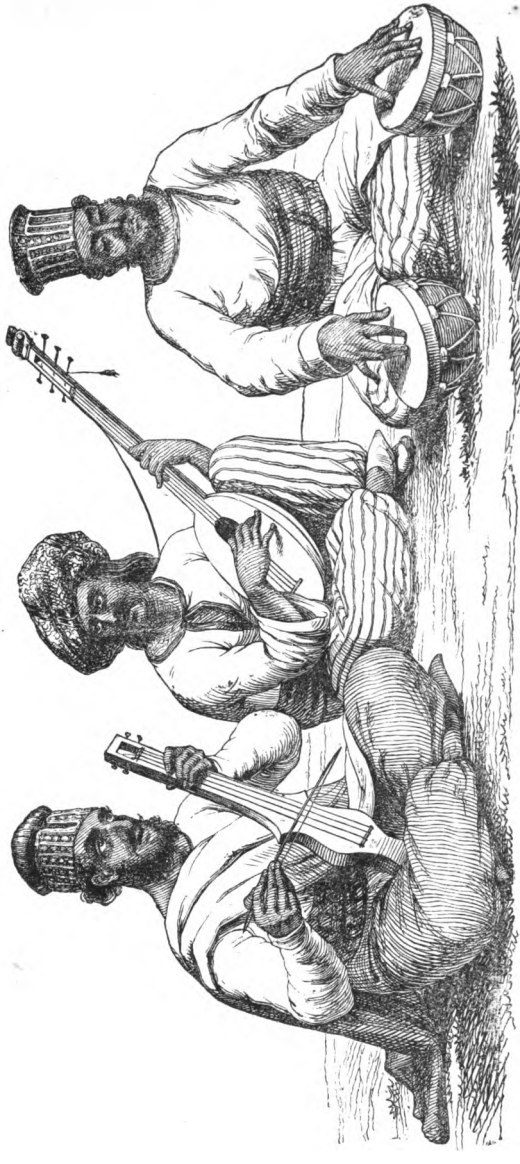

MYRCASIS.

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sabres, and shields, saluted me in the name of their masters, touching their forehead with the right hand, and said that they were commanded to conduct me to the palace. One after the other approached me, addressing me courteously, and making a number of inquiries; the moonshee was particularly talkative, and repeatedly expressed his regret that I did not understand the Persian language.

Hyderabad, which has 35,000 inhabitants, is situated on a gentle, rocky, eminence, 200 feet high, which here bounds the valley of the Indus, and like all the other towns in Sinde, is built of clay, wood and brick. The streets are narrow and dirty, the bazars very animated, and hundreds of people were standing by the roadside to look at us as we passed by. The Great Fort likewise forms a quadrangle, with circular projecting towers: in the angles it has clay walls, forty feet in height, with a moat eight feet broad and five deep, which however is dry. Here our escort halted. Such an immense crowd of people was assembled at the huge gates, that the chiefs and the guard had some trouble to keep them back when the gates were opened. Though I rode very slowly in order to get some notion of the interior of the fort, I soon perceived that it was quite impossible, because the whole, consisting of huts and small houses, appeared to be an irregular mass of confusion. In a few minutes we stopped at an iron grating, the entrance to the palace of the Ameer Meer Nasseer Khan, and alighted from our horses. This palace is a square brick building, inlaid with coloured porcelain tiles; it rises above the platform of a massy high tower, the repository of their treasure. From this platform is a bird's eye view of the beautiful Indus, which is 900

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paces broad, meandering through a lovely country of forests and groves, interspersed with corn-fields and hamlets, while the city of Hyderabad lies on one side, and the circumjacent country, as far as the eye can reach, is spread out before the spectator.

After we had passed through the gate and ascended the platform, the Ameers, headed by Meer Nasseer Khan, surrounded by many of his chiefs, came out to meet us. When Mr. Mylne presented me to them, they all shook hands with me, and Nasseer Khan invited me to take a seat, which was placed opposite to him. The Ameers had taken their places on a long silk divan, around which were ranged the chiefs in picturesque groups, either standing, or sitting cross-legged upon carpets, each with his sword or gun before him, and all eyes turned upon us; the moon shed a magic splendour over this scene, every object, even in the far distance, was perfectly distinguishable.

Meer Nasseer Khan, the eldest of the Ameers, who has a revenue of eleven lacs, is so extremely corpulent, that he is incapable of any bodily exertion, and even on the chase prefers the slow camel to the fleet horse. His Highness is, however, considered by his Belooches to be the handsomest man in the country. Meer Mahomet, an elderly man with a long, flowing, grey beard, is somewhat disfigured by a harelip: he is the same who boasted to Sir Alexander Burns that he had promoted his journey through Sinde, and vaunted himself upon being a great friend of the English. He carried in his hand a magnificent sword, richly adorned with jewels, and a snuff-box which was in constant requisition. Meer Shadad and Meer Hussin Ali are brothers, the former is distinguished by remarkable beauty of

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person, and highly polished manners. He was leaning on a blue velvet cushion, adorned with brilliants; and when he passed his hand over his carefully trimmed black beard, and raised his dark, flashing eye, I felt involuntarily drawn towards him. His younger brother, who is only seventeen years of age, is shy and mistrustful. Meer Sobdar Khan was not present; he is not on good terms with his colleagues, and desired to receive me alone. They all wore velvet Sinde caps embroided with gold; coloured silk garments, pantaloons and red shoes; pearl necklaces and valuable rings were their only ornaments.

After having for some minutes reciprocally expressed our extreme satisfaction at meeting, his Highness asked my name, which I was obliged to repeat several times: he then inquired about my king and my country. Nasseer Khan candidly confessed that he had never heard of that kingdom, which however must, he thought, be very powerful, as it was on such friendly terms with England. An expression of surprise ran through the whole circle, when on Meer Shadad's inquiring what was the strength of the Prussian army, one of the officers replied that it consisted of above 500,000 well disciplined troops.

His Highness, at my request, sent for his arms; they were long damasked guns, richly inlaid with gold. While I was admiring them, Abas Ali, Meer Assad's favourite son, a handsome youth of sixteen years of age, was introduced; his Highness observed, when he entered, that he was well acquainted with the English language, in which I might converse with him; but the prince addressed me in a jargon which neither Mr. Mylne nor I could understand;

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and when his Highness inquired what I thought of the prince's pronunciation, somebody, observing my embarrassment, replied for me, assuring his Highness that I was quite astonished at the prince's progress, which seemed to give his father much pleasure! His tutor, it appears, is a subaltern officer, a deserter, and now commander of the artillery of the Ameers.

After having conversed about half an hour, we took leave of their Highnesses, shaking hands, and embracing each other; and then rode to the residence of Sobdar Khan, a few hundred paces distant. At the entrance of the gate of his palace, we had to pass through a dirty puddle; which, however, is nothing extraordinary here, where dirt and splendour go hand in hand. His Highness received us under the verandah, attended by his two sons and about twenty chiefs. Meer Sobdar is about fifty years of age, his manners are polished, he is chivalrous and of a warlike spirit. He is the only one of the Ameers who loves the military profession, and endeavours to improve himself in it. Here the same questions and salutations were repeated; but I could not forbear expressing to his Highness how much I was struck with the fine appearance of his sons, with which Fatteh Ali, the eldest, was so delighted, that he repeatedly embraced me on our departure.

We set out on our return, again surrounded by the chiefs; as soon as we reached our escort, I thanked each of them for their company, and begged them to recommend me to the favourable regard of their Highnesses. It was already eight o'clock when we arrived at Dr. Leith's residence; we had scarcely sat down to dinner when the moonshee of the Ameer, Meer Mahomet, arrived, and brought to me with his

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master's compliments several large dishes, with fruits, confectionary, some plain Cashmere shawls, and silks of Tatta, requesting me to accept these trifling presents as a remembrance of him. However, as I am travelling here in the character and enjoy the privileges of the English officers, who are not permitted to accept any present from Indian princes, it appeared to me to be necessary to decline accepting them. Mr. Mylne was of the same opinion, which he endeavoured to make intelligible to the moonshee, who, however, was not satisfied, and laid them down at my feet. To avoid the kindness of the other Ameers, from whom similar presents were said to be on the way, I immediately took leave of Dr. Leith and his lady and went to our steamboat, which was lying on the opposite bank.

At daybreak on the 20th we were already on the way to Sehwan, but the rudder chain breaking, we were detained an hour, and overtaken by the Planet; scarcely were we in motion again when we heard the lamentable cries of a poor Dhoby, whose son, a boy eight years of age, had fallen into the Indus. We saw him rise several times, and then disappear. Werner was going to leap into the river, to save him, but the captain would not permit him, because the current of the stream is so strong, that the best swimmer must have perished; and before the long-boat could have been put out, he must have been carried down several miles. The unhappy parents stood mute and thoughtful the whole day on the deck, with their eyes turned towards the direction where their boy had sunk.

In the evening both the vessels anchored off the village of Becah. We took our fowling-pieces and

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rambled through plantations of indigo, cotton, and sugar-cane, but shot only a few birds. There must have been plenty of jackals, for we heard them howling all the night through. We had scarcely set out on the following day, when we stuck fast upon a sand-bank, and all our attempts to get off were fruitless; while we were in this predicament a large boat, under full sail, passed us, but all our calling for assistance was to no purpose, till the captain, in order to frighten the uncivil pilot, fired a wall piece in the direction of the mast, on which the boat immediately made towards us; we fastened our anchor chains to its stern, spread the sails, and thus by aid of the wind, got afloat again in four hours. On this day we for the first time saw an alligator on a sand-bank, at which some of our party fired in vain.

On the 22d we were frequently only three steps from the bank, passing by beautiful preserves and richly cultivated fields: at the outskirts of the preserves we saw some jackals, one of which was fired at, and killed; and also several alligators, which however plunged into the water before we got within shot of them. In the afternoon we passed Batchan and Kotiah, which lie close to the foot of the bare Lukkee mountains, and are so washed by the Indus, that nothing is now to be seen of the road which Lord Keane caused to be made for the army. Two miles below Sehwan, the Indus, which had hitherto flowed in a bed 5000 paces in breadth, assumes a totally different appearance; it divides into several branches, the most navigable of which, scarcely 200 paces broad, runs to the town of Sehwan, which we reached at sunset, and landed under some tamarind trees.

This town is situated on an eminence about 100

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feet high, and would have been already swept away by the river, were it not protected by its rocky soil. We immediately proceeded to view the town and the old fort, which lies to the north-east, close to the bank, on an elevation 160 feet in height, which is separated from the town by a deep ravine. Its natural position is so favourable that we may well take it for granted that Alexander the Great formed a settlement here; the ruins of the fort are of a later period; they fully resemble in their construction, particularly in the form of the bulwarks, that at Hyderabad, and are probably of the time of the Moguls. The vaults, the strong walls, and the well-shaped bricks indicate the hand of a master. It is not easy to ascertain its shape, which however appears to have been an oval, with broken lines about 2000 paces in circumference.

We proceeded from the fort, through the dirty, noisome town, to the tomb of Lal Shah Baz, a saint from Khorasan, who is said to have been buried here 600 years ago; and whose sanctity and miracles are in such high repute, that pilgrims flock from Afghanistan and India, and even the princes of those countries pay homage to him. The priests assure the superstitious multitude that even the Indus obeys the saint, and therefore no ship dares to pass by without making an expiatory offering. The entrance is bedizened with ostrich feathers and bells; when we came into the paved forecourt, we saw some hundred men and boys dancing to the sound of a drum and pipe, running confusedly about, and throwing up skyrockets amidst songs and shouts. We were soon surrounded by the crowd, who in a very insolent manner insisted that we should pull off our boots;

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but my companions would not submit to this, alleging that the Mahometans were not required to take off their turban. As most of these fanatics were in a state of intoxication, we preferred giving up our intention of seeing the tomb, and in the darkness of the evening returned to our vessel.

On the 23d we again got on a sandbank, but were afloat in an hour. At times the current was so strong that our boat could scarcely move on; the navigation became every hour more difficult, because the water had suddenly fallen four feet. The thermometer at noon was usually 103° F., and seldom fell below 89. Our captain and lieutenant were seized with a violent fever, accompanied with frightful retching; which, however, providentially did not prove fatal. In the following days we passed tracts of country which were well cultivated, and sprinkled with villages consisting of wooden houses, built on stakes to secure them against inundations. The district seemed very populous, for the inhabitants flocked in hundreds to the banks to see us pass. The men were handsome and muscular, and wore a garment round their waist; the women were uncommonly tall and slender, and by no means ungraceful, and generally carried pitchers of water on their heads. In the river we saw large flocks of pelicans, geese and ducks, and herds of buffaloes wading in the water; on the banks, stags, jackals, foxes, and several tame bears, which in the evening come from the preserves to slake their thirst. At length, on Tuesday the 27th, at half past eight in the morning, we came in sight of the minaret and graves of Sukkur. The landscape here suddenly assumes a totally different aspect: both the banks are bordered by luxuriant forests of date palms, among

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which the towns of Sukkur, Bukkur, and Roree, successively appear, surrounded by small rocky islands, covered with tombs of the most various descriptions. After the monotonous countries through which we had passed, they had an exceedingly pleasing appearance.

A WOMAN OF SINDE.

Sukkur, which only eighty years ago was a populous town, but is now covered with the ruins of sepulchres and temples, is built on a rocky calcareous spot which rises 100 feet above the river, and is totally barren. It contains scarcely 6000 inhabitants, and, properly speaking, consists of two towns — the bazar, built by

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the English close to the bank, and the old town. Between the two towns lie numerous bungalows and the barracks of the regiments stationed here, also erected by the English within the last three years. A minaret about 70 feet high, from which there is an extensive and noble prospect, is situated among tombs on a small eminence at the western end. The mighty stream meanders through the boundless arid plain, becoming narrower and narrower the nearer it approaches Sukkur; and small calcareous rocks rise on its banks, which are suddenly converted into a smiling landscape, by a forest of date palms, extending for several miles on both sides. Bukkur and the Island of the Tombs, lie in manifold groups, under the shade of ancient fig and tamarind trees; while on the bare hills of Sukkur the ruins of temples and sepulchres alternate with pretty bungalows.

If the eye is attracted here by the bustle of military life, it is equally gratified by the prospect of the Meannee, and the white sails of the boats, which may be discovered at a great distance glistening in the sun. To the north of the town the ground becomes level and fertile, and, on that side, the place with its environs might be easily converted into an island, by the windings of the Indus. Bukkur lies opposite to Sukkur, on a limestone rocky island, only 200 feet above the level of the sea, and twenty feet above that of the Indus. It is enclosed by a decayed wall two feet thick, and contains only a few houses besides the barracks and magazines. Roree, the largest of the three towns, is situated on gentle eminences on the left bank: it is built of clay and stone, and has 8000 inhabitants. Between the two towns are some small rocky islets, covered with sepulchres, fig-trees, and

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tamarinds. The number of different sea-shells inclosed in the calcareous rock, especially near Roree, is very remarkable; there are also great masses of flint, agate, and jasper. At this place, where Lord Keane had a bridge thrown over the Indus, the river is only 1800 feet broad and 30 feet deep. Immediately beyond Sukkur it makes a bend to the north, so that this place is nearly surrounded by water, like a peninsula.

We anchored by the side of the Planet, which had arrived the day before, without accident. Captain Nott, the commander of the flotilla on the Indus, had the kindness to send me his boat, and I received an invitation from Major Clibborn to take up my abode in his bungalow. I am indebted to the hospitality and kindness of these two officers for the agreeable manner in which I spent my time here. The house of the major, an enthusiastic tiger hunter, lies close to the Indus, on a promontory 20 feet high, connected with an ancient sepulchre. There is a charming prospect from the verandah over the three towns and the banks of the Indus. The silence of the whole scene was interrupted only by the continued creaking of the water-wheels, the falling in of the bank, or by the thunder of the cannon of the Ameers of Khyrpoor, who were at this time at variance.

The heat is so great and oppressive, being every day above 100, that it is impossible to take exercise except in the early part of the morning, or after sunset. During my stay here, although the sky was every evening covered with thunder clouds, and flashes of lightning illumined all around, yet not a drop of rain fell; only dense clouds of dust were driven through the air. In order to enjoy the coolness and

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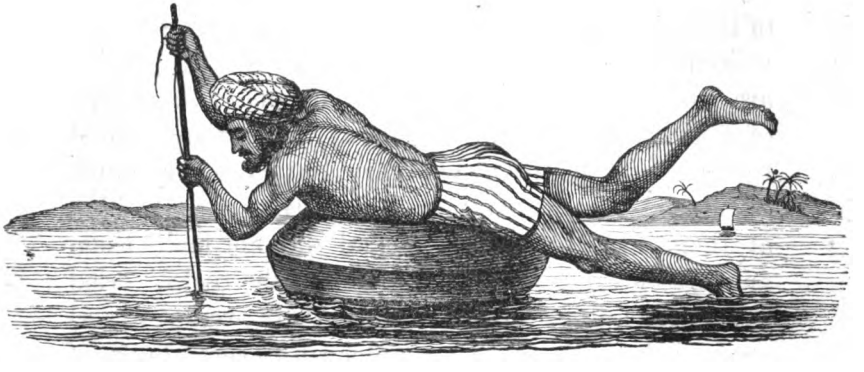
to be protected against the water-gnats, troublesome little insects with a long sting, the wound of which is very painful, I sleep at night, lulled by the howling jackals, in the open air on the platform of the house. Bathing in the Indus is not refreshing, the warmth of the water being 70°, and it is besides dangerous to Europeans on account of the alligators. Colonel Booth, who is passionately fond of swimming, plunges, notwithstanding, every morning into the waves, surrounded by a crowd of his servants, who, by their cries and shouts, keep these animals at bay. At the hour of noon when all is quiet on the river, the alligators come to the surface to bask in the sun, and we take advantage of this moment to fire upon them. Sometimes we amuse ourselves with the Pula fisheries of the Meannees.



PULA FISHERY.

The fisherman first of all lays a large, oval, iron vessel in the river, commends himself to the protection of Allah, and places himself on it in such a manner that his body covers the opening at the top; he then by the aid of his hands and feet works his

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way on the stream. He carries in his girdle a small spear, and in his right hand a fork nearly fifteen feet long, to which a wide net with a running knot is fastened, and which closes as soon as the fish is caught: the fish is then killed with the spear and thrown into the vessel. We likewise saw some fishermen with a large net thrown over their left shoulder. Before the Meannee goes into the river, he will wander for miles along the banks, and then let himself be driven by the current, because the Pula swims against it.

Excursions on the Indus in the cool of the evening are very delightful, for in no country are the mornings and evenings so pleasant, or the sunsets so beautiful and sublime, as here. Captain Nott sends me his boat daily, and I need not say that I diligently avail myself of his kindness. One evening when the sun was setting behind dark thunder-clouds, and flashes of lightning illumined the landscape on every side, we visited the Island of Tombs. These monuments, which are supposed to be 800 years old, are under the charge of fakirs. When they saw us approach they lighted the lamps in the dirty sanctuary, but were very much displeased that we contented ourselves with looking at them from the entrance, and did not make them any present. "You will split upon the rocks," cried they menacingly. We smiled at their prophecy, and proceeded to the seven sepulchral towers, built of coloured porcelain tiles. Here, under the shade of poplar-fig and tamarind trees, are said to repose seven daughters of one of the ancient princes, who are regarded as saints, on account of their beauty and virtues; indeed they are so venerated that the Indians affirm that even the fish, as they swim past the spot, invariably turn their heads, and never their tail towards

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them. Next to these tombs, the lofty vaulted sepulchre, situated at the entrance of the old town, in which the sister of the saint at Sehwan is buried, is the most remarkable. Small bells, feathers, and ribbons, deck the gaily-painted sarcophagus or tombstone. Several persons were praying before it as I entered, and in the piazzas of the court-yard, children, under the direction of a priest, were singing religious songs. An uncommonly large tiger is maintained here by the people in honour of the saint.

Three days before my departure, Sir Charles Napier arrived, not indeed recovered from the effects of his accident, but with the prospect of being so very shortly. He gave me no hopes of witnessing here any military events; and likewise doubted whether any thing decisive would take place on the Sutlej, though he thought it more probable, and advised me to proceed thither. The people in the country are persuaded that the assembling of the army of reserve, is intended for the occupation of the Punjab, and whatever a man wishes, that he hopes to see realised. Thus, encouraged by a letter from the Governor-General Lord Ellenborough, and by the advice of my friends, I have resolved to join the officers, who are ordered to the army in that quarter. Three of my companions proceed to Bhawulpoor by water. Lord Altamont, Captains West and Bennett, and myself, prefer going by land.

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LETTER IV.

TO ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT.

Preparations for the journey to Ferozpoor.— Departure for Roree.— Ruins of Allore.— Wedding fête near Sangeram.— March through the desert.— Celebration of the 15th October in the village of Retee.— Passing the boundary of Bhawulpoor.— Ahmedpoor. — Hospitality of the inhabitants. — Khaunpoor.— Welcome of the Khan by an escort. — Entry into Ahmedpoor.— Audience of Bhawulkhan at his country-seat in the desert.— Bhawulpoor.— Journey to Memdot.— The Khan of Memdot.— Dangerous illness of one of our party.— Arrival at Ferozpoor.

Ferozpoor, November 13. 1842.

I ARRIVED here safely yesterday at sunrise; and make use of this day to describe to you my fatiguing, but most interesting journey of 440 miles.

Our little caravan consisted of twenty-four camels, five horses, twenty-eight servants, one camel-leader, four camel-drivers, and an escort of one subaltern officer and twelve sepoys. Each of my companions had a large tent; I had only two small ones, such as are used by the servants. We had to pay forty rupees for the hire of each camel, by which we are relieved from all care, because it too often happens that the drivers neglect the animals, or that they are stolen. The British authorities at Sukkur had given us an open Perwannah *, bearing the official seal, and

* Notice is hereby given to the chiefs of the towns and the guards along the river, from Sukkur to Ferozpoor, that four

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two Belooches to the frontiers of Bhawulpoor. On the morning of the 9th of October, our camels, horses, and effects were sent across the river Roree, and in the afternoon we went thither ourselves in a gondola. Our arrangement is always to send on two tents, with the culinary department, and an escort, under Werner's superintendence, to the new station, on the preceding evening, so that, on our arrival, we may have protection against the sun, and find breakfast ready. We encamped here for the night, by the side of a brick wall, under tamarinds and acacias: the owner of the camels took leave of us, cordially shaking hands, commending us and his camels to the protection of Rama.

The manner in which the European is obliged to travel in India very much resembles a nomadic life. As the climate does not allow him to expose himself to the sun by day, or to the open air by night, and as he cannot find in the villages either a lodging or the necessaries of life to which he has been accustomed, he must carry every thing with him. Even our caravan, though we were but a small party, looked like a little wandering village. The time of our setting out, was regulated according to the distance we had to go. As soon as the signal was given every thing was made ready for the journey; the tents pack edup; the confused talking of the people, and the moaning of the camels, announced the moment

English gentlemen of rank are going by the high road from this place to Ferozpoor. It is expected that no one will molest them, but, on the contrary, to the utmost of their power, to provide for their progress, convenience, and security, and will most strictly conform to this order. Dated Sukkur, October 7. In the year of our Lord Jesus Christ 1842.

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of loading them, and in half an hour we were already on our way.

Our Belooches informed us that we could not take the usual road by Subzulkote, as the bridges had been destroyed by the inundations, and that we must therefore go along the edge of the desert, through its whole length. At four o'clock on the morning of the 10th, we set out for the village of Barra, a distance of thirteen miles. The first few miles lay along a steep, stony road, through a bare and desert tract. We then passed two handsome sepulchral, vaulted towers, forty feet high. From this eminence is a view of the ruins of Allore, formerly the capital of the Musikanus; few traces of it remain, but the ground is every where covered with hewn stones and fragments. In the valley, through which a branch of the Indus once flowed, is now a pond, and on the side of an eminence declining towards it, is a small village. An arched bridge is thrown over a canal above fifteen paces broad, which runs from this pond, in a north-west direction to the Indus. The form of the stones and the excellency of the workmanship, seem to indicate, that this bridge belongs to a very remote period. It is however in such a decayed state, and so full of holes, that we were obliged to be very careful in crossing it. From this spot the country is level, intersected by ditches and small canals, with plantations of millet and cotton.

We pitched our tents in the midst of tombs, under some fine tamarind trees behind the village. Two fakirs, who dwelt here in clay huts, offered their services; but their civility degenerated into importunity, when one of our party gave them some arrack, and we had much difficulty in getting rid of them. Soon

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afterwards several musicians came to amuse us, and celebrated the power of the Queen of England, and the deeds of her ancestors, accompanied by a guitar made of a dry gourd. We sent the Belooches into the village to buy fowls, which our servants dressed for dinner, with which we had shipatos or aaps instead of bread.*

On the following day we were only six miles from the little town of Sangeram; this place is enclosed with clay walls, has 2000 inhabitants, and lies on the border of the desert; the road to it led through a richly-watered and cultivated low tract of land. A little beyond the town, where we pitched our tents, we found an encampment of several hundred persons, who had come from a great distance to be present at the celebration of a marriage. We were told that a little girl, only six years old, a near relation of the Ameers of Khyrpoor, was to be betrothed to a boy fourteen years of age, the son of an eminent Belooche chief. The father of the bridegroom, a handsome, elderly man, was seated smoking his pipe under a large tent, surrounded by his attendants, while dancing girls and musicians, were exhibiting their performances before him; and outside the tents the people likewise amused themselves with dancing. Above twenty men, with wooden staves in their hands, went round in a circle, jumped and leaped in the air, and when they met in the centre, turned backwards and forwards, both parties touching their staves, and beating time to the music with their feet. There was something wild and original in this dance, which was continued for nearly an hour, under the

* The flour is kneaded with water, and the dough pressed into a flat cake between the hands, and roasted in an iron pan.

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scorching rays of the sun, till they were quite exhausted. In the afternoon the bride, closely veiled, appeared, seated on a camel under a red palanquin, which was completely covered, in order to thank the company and to take leave. As soon as she retired, the chief made an address to the persons assembled, mounted his horse, and all hastened homewards. Our tents were surrounded the whole day by people, who assured us that they had never seen white men before, and gazed with wonder and amazement at our watches, arms, and other things.

On the 12th, we had to travel eighteen miles to Moobarekpoor; a very fatiguing journey indeed. Our way led through a tract mostly covered with tamarisk jungle, and intersected with numerous ditches and channels; we had to cross the river Narra, which is eighty paces broad, and, in one place, so deep that my horse was obliged to swim across. After a ride of five hours, we reached the place of destination; but our camels did not arrive till several hours later. Some had fallen into the water, with our luggage, and others were so weary that the drivers were obliged to pack them afresh. Moobarekpoor is a large village, at the eastern entrance of which is a square fort, built of clay. Close to our encampment was a band of gypsies: I was quite surprised to find them sheltered under moveable huts made of reeds, as in Europe, and that they gained their livelihood by basket-making. All day long we were pestered by hawkers, beggars, and musicians, and at night we were disturbed, as usual, by the howling of dogs, jackals, and hyenas. On the 13th, the Belooches conducted us through unbeaten paths along the borders of the desert; we every where

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saw traces of former civilisation, abandoned villages, dry ditches, and decayed walls. An hour after sunset, we met several Belooches armed to the teeth, with their servants, mounted on camels and horses; our guides told us that they were hastening to Khyrpoor to assist the youngest of the Ameers.

A BELOOCHE ON A CAMEL.

We did not reach the village of Ghara-Kakote, which was nineteen miles distant, till nine o'clock. It lies on the edge of the desert, consists of wooden and reed huts, and was first inhabited, only a few years ago, by some Belooches who preferred agricultural pursuits, to their former predatory habits. We had

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pitched our tents under a shady plane-tree, close to a channel full of good water. Towards evening, when our camels were about to be sent on, the leader of the camels came running up in great alarm, and informed us that our Belooches having been affronted by the subaltern officer, had inflamed the inhabitants of the village, and that there was every prospect of our being attacked. Soon afterwards we heard a great noise in the village, upon which we ordered our guard to load their pieces, and made every preparation to defend ourselves. We were told that we should have to encounter more than a hundred well-armed men; but happily for us, just at this juncture, the news of the taking and destruction of Cabool reached the village, and the chief succeeded in quieting the people, by prophesying that they might expect the same fate. He subsequently came to us, with several of the oldest inhabitants, and promised to furnish us with a guide the next morning, as the Belooches had deserted us. For the sake of security, we deferred our journey through the desert, till after sunrise on the following day. It was ten o'clock when we reached the twelve huts of Heyet-Kekote. The village, which is built on a sandy eminence, is separated by a pond from a marshy jungle, near to which we encamped. In the evening, on entering my tent, such a sudden weakness overcame me, that I sunk down on the carpet. Werner covered me with my cloak and blankets, and I soon fell into a sound sleep. A profuse perspiration relieved me from this attack of fever, and on the following day I felt quite vigorous.

On the 15th of October we started for the village of Retee, sixteen miles distant; our way led through

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thick and luxuriant tamarisk bushes, and a country abounding in antelopes, hares, and black and grey partridges. We found our tents pitched in an open field near the village. This being the birthday of our sovereign, I invited my fellow-travellers to dinner, and gave a goat to my servants. A sheep and two fowls were prepared for the festivity, and a few bottles of hock and champagne, which I had carefully brought from Kurrachee for this purpose, gave a zest to the repast. It was certainly the first time that a Prussian kept the birthday of his king between the Indus and the great Indian desert. My companions participated in my pleasure, and cordially joined in the toasts proposed.

The village of Dandee, for which we set out on the following day, was only twelve miles distant. The scenery became more variegated and luxuriant; we passed through three pretty large villages and several fields of holcus sorghum, which were so flourishing that some stems were fifteen and sixteen feet high. The stalks are almost as thick as the sugar-cane; the sap has a juicy, sweet taste; it is eaten by the inhabitants, and is a nourishing and wholesome food for horses and oxen. Dandee is a large village, but is built of clay, and the walls of the houses are disgustingly covered with cakes of dung of the cow or camel, to harden in the sun for fuel. Our guide, a handsome young Belooche, was the first who, on our giving him two rupees, pronounced the blessing of Allah upon us.

Favoured by the finest weather, the thermometer being only at 73° Fahrenheit (whereas yesterday before sunset it was at 82°), we crossed on the 17th the frontiers of Bhawulpoor. The territory of the

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Khan begins three miles beyond Dandee. The soil is better cultivated; the villages, though built in a similar manner, more cleanly, and the inhabitants more friendly and hospitable. We here, for the first time, met a letter carrier; he bore the letters in a leathern bag on his head, and in his right hand carried a long stick, painted yellow and black, with an iron head, to which coloured ribbons and bells were fastened, by means of which he not only announces his approach from a distance, but frightens away the wild beasts by the sound of his bells. The stations are seldom more than six miles apart, a distance which these people accomplish, in a constant trot, in an hour and a half. At seven o'clock in the morning we reached the town of Ahmedpoor-Barra, which is surrounded with a clay rampart and rude towers, as a means of defence; but the rampart is decayed in many places, and would ill stand a siege. On the platform of each of the towers was a gun. An officer, with a guard of fifty men, was stationed at the entrance gate; as soon as he saw us approach, he rose and gave us a friendly salam. A citadel, with projecting towers, stands at the north-eastern end of the town, which contains some large brick buildings, and is said to have a population of 6000 inhabitants, and a garrison of one thousand men. It is situated in a very fertile, low valley, planted with corn, cotton, indigo, and sugar-cane; a few lofty tamarinds, acacias, and poplar figs flourished in the greatest luxuriance; but the landscape was otherwise entirely destitute of trees. Towards nine o'clock we completed our day's journey of eighteen miles, at the village of Katta-Ke-Basta.

We had scarcely alighted, when the Kemda (the

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chief of the village), with the principal inhabitants dressed in their best costume, came to welcome us. Our perwannah was read by the barber, a handsome man with a long beard, to his companions; and when they had assured themselves by its contents, and a few questions which they addressed to us, that we were the parties whom they expected, the Kemda told us that his Highness had given orders that we should be treated with the greatest attention; that nine men should keep guard at night before our encampment, and that six horsemen should accompany us from place to place. They supplied us with fowls, eggs, milk, and butter, and did their utmost to comply with our wishes. A village watch is the surest safeguard for a traveller in the East against robbery, for the village thereby engages to pay in money the value of the stolen goods. It is, however, very singular, that if a traveller is robbed in countries governed by Indian princes, the British government insists on an indemnity, which must be paid by the place near which the robbery was committed, or by the government interested; but that if a robbery is committed in the British territory, the person robbed obtains no indemnity.

The promised watch appeared in the evening—miserable-looking men, some armed with sabres, some with sticks. A guard was placed at each corner of the camp, who, according to the custom of the natives, crouched upon the ground; to keep themselves awake and to frighten the thieves they called to each other by name all night long, adding, "Are you not happy?" "What an honour!" &c. &c. You may easily suppose that with all this noise and the howling of the jackals, sleep was out of the question. Our escort arrived early on the following morning. Two

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of the horsemen armed with shield, sword, and a long gun formed the vanguard; the others armed partly in the same manner, partly with long spears, bows, and arrows, followed at some distance. These long-bearded men in turbans and ample upper garments were extremely attentive to us. Travellers whom we met were informed in a few words of the rank of the strangers, and a respectful salam was offered us by everybody. We were received in the same hospitable manner at Nowshuhur (14 miles and a half), a large, neat village, which contained some houses of two stories, with glass windows, the first we had met with since we had left Sukkur.

Throughout the whole of our journey, we were struck with the large number of dogs, and here we were equally astonished at the immense number of asses, which the inhabitants use, both for carrying burdens and for riding. Our tents were pitched under tamarisk trees to the east of the village; the people brought us the customary provisions at reasonable prices, such as fowls, eggs, milk, and a goat; but we refused the latter, having observed that these animals were excessively dirty feeders. The weather was, as usual, bright and clear; the heat before sunrise was 65°, at noon 92°, but in my tent 106°. The beautiful moonlight night invited a pious priest to watch, and he broke the profound silence, by crying in a shrill tone of voice without intermission till the morning dawned, "Allah is great!"

On the 19th we travelled along a broad road to Sumaboo-Kote (13 miles and a half). This village is distinguished by a far better style of building, and greater cleanliness. Surrounded by flourishing fields of millet, and under the shade of poplar figs and tama-

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rinds, it has a comfortable rural appearance. On the following day we proceeded to Khaunpoor (14 miles and a half). The road thither lay through a more cultivated country; the corn fields were surrounded by small woods abounding in game; but the villages were hid in a complete mist, occasioned by the smoke of the morning fires, for when the cool season sets in (we had 55° Fahr. before sunrise) the inhabitants kindle a fire in their houses very early in the morning, round which they sit, the women grinding corn between two stones, while the men are idly smoking their pipe. These handmills are used every where in India, and are unquestionably of the most remote origin. Of equal antiquity are the oil-mills worked by oxen; a large rammer crushes the seed, which is placed in a stone vessel, or in the hollow trunk of a tree. Coffee, spices, &c. are pounded in a mortar made of stone or metal, generally the former.

At seven o'clock we skirted the north end of the town to our tents, which were pitched beyond it. Khaunpoor is a town containing 8000* inhabitants, but, with the exception of a few brick buildings two stories high, all the houses are built of clay; the streets narrow, unpaved, and very dirty. The most remarkable building is a lofty and beautiful mosque in the centre of the town. A channel fifteen paces broad, the last which issues from the Indus, waters the ground, which produces various kinds of corn, cotton, indigo, sugar cane, melons, and some culinary vegetables. Towards the south, not far from our encampment, is a vaulted powder magazine, with two brass six-pounders in front of it. Nearly opposite is a

* Mr. Edward Thornton says 20,000.

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mosque, lately built by the Khans, and behind it a hunting-seat of his Highness, lying in a small garden. Immediately after our arrival, the postmaster came with his messengers to receive our commands, and to request our names, which he had orders to send to the Khan. In the afternoon we took a walk in the environs, and he accompanied us to his Highness's country-seat, a small brick building two stories high, with a verandah. We, however, saw only the outside, for the keeper refused to show us the interior, because a favourite lady of the Khan resides in it. The garden is very prettily laid out in flower beds, interspersed with bananas, figs, and oranges. The Khan resides here several days in every year, when he enjoys the pleasures of the chase in the neighbouring jungles, which abound in game, and receives the petitions and complaints of the people.

In the town we remarked some traces of an illumination which had taken place the preceding evening by order of the Khan, to celebrate the storming of Cabool; for his Highness, who is a faithful adherent and admirer of the English, neglects no opportunity of manifesting his amicable sentiments. We were every where saluted with a respectful salam by the people, who touch their forehead with the right hand. In the evening some Bayaderes and musicians came to our tents, to amuse us with singing and dancing. Their movements were graceful and animated, and their fine bright eyes, and expressive countenances, corresponded with the feelings expressed by the dance.

From Khaunpoor the road leads along the desert, through tamarisk bushes, to the desolate village of Mamoo-Kote (fifteen miles). It was formerly a

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considerable village, but it now consists of only a few wretched huts; the ground is covered with an incrustation of salt, and is but little cultivated. We could obtain neither provisions for ourselves, nor fodder for the horses, and were obliged to send our servants to a considerable distance to purchase some. On the twenty-second we passed through a fine hunting ground to the village of Choudurree (eleven miles). Nothing remains of the once large town but some clay huts, and the ruins of deserted houses; a former hunting seat of the Khan, built of clay, surrounded by a wall, with circular towers, lies completely in ruins, and is covered in part with the sand of the desert. The very simple apartments of the Khan, the harem, the audience chamber, in which he received the people, the apartments for his servants, and his attendants, and the stabling, may be easily distinguished. While all around spoke of ruin and decay, some lofty tamarisks and poplars were growing in the court yard in the greatest luxuriance. We had an extensive view from one of the towers which is twenty feet high: on the one side lay the rich verdant valley of the Indus and the Sutlej, while on the other was stretched the boundless desert. These decided contrasts of contiguous barrenness and fertility produce a strange effect on the mind.

The following day, which was particularly fine, we continued our route to Chan-Khan-Digot (thirteen miles): we were within a mile of that place when we met an officer of the Khan accompanied by twenty-five horsemen, who greeted us in the name of his prince, by whom he had been sent to meet us and to conduct us to his residence. He assured us that his Highness was much rejoiced at our arrival, and at the prospect

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of seeing us. He was mounted on a fine chestnut stallion, whose bridle was richly ornamented with silver. His upper garment bordered with gold lace, and his coloured silk turban distinguished him from his attendants, who were dressed in very gay apparel, and were armed with guns, spears, shields, and bows and arrows, and showed much dexterity in discharging their arrows, firing their guns at full gallop, and throwing their spears.

Channi-Khan-Digot is bounded by the desert on one side, and on the other by the richly cultivated valley of the Sutlej, and is a large village; the houses are of brick, and many are two stories high. When we arrived at our tents we found ten dishes of confectionery, which his Highness had sent us from his harem, together with a present of sheep, fowls, eggs, and milk. It was his Highness's desire that we and our servants, should consider ourselves his guests.

Surrounded by the escort provided by the Khan, we made our entrance next day into Ahmedpoor, the residence of Bhawulpoor Khan. We set out by moonlight under a temperature of 64°, first along the borders of the desert, then, as we approached Ahmedpoor, through a more and more cultivated country, till we at length reached the fertile plain which surrounds the capital. The town was veiled in a transparent mist, environed by gardens, in which poplar figs, tamarinds, bananas, and vegetables flourished in luxuriance. The first object that struck us was the stone house of the former British resident, but it is quite dilapidated: of the garden nothing remains but the ruins of the outer walls; and the house itself is in a state of decay and uninhabited. Our tents were pitched just at the outskirts of the

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town in a plantation of indigo : a crowd of people were here assembled to see us arrive. We had scarcely entered the tents, when Moossa Khan, one of the chief nobles of his Highness, arrived, escorted by several soldiers in scarlet uniforms, to bid us welcome in the name of the Khan. Moossa is a corpulent man, and has the most good-natured countenance in the world: he was dressed in a red tunic embroidered with flowers of gold, wore a crimson turban, and red and white striped pantaloons, and a sabre at his side. He addressed us in the highly poetical language of the East. On our invitation that he would enter our tent he did not omit taking off his shoes, in acknowledgment of his inferiority. His first questions concerned our health, he next congratulated us on having made so rapid and safe a journey, and then very dexterously turned the conversation on politics and news, making inquiries respecting my king, my country, and myself. After we had amply satisfied his curiosity, I asked him what was the strength of his Highness's army. "His warriors," said he, "are more numerous than the grains of sand in the desert."— "And how many guns ?" continued I.—"Oh, they cannot be counted: the power of the Khan obscures the sun." Meantime, more presents arrived from the Khan, consisting of five bottles of rosewater, twenty large dishes of confectionary, goats, sheep, fowls, &c., which were laid at our feet. This was a glorious feast day for our servants ! On taking leave, Moossa repeatedly expressed the wish of the Khan to receive us at his palace in the desert : this we gratefully accepted, leaving it to the pleasure of the Khan to fix the hour.

Our tents were surrounded the whole day by visiters from the town; most of them attired in their

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gala dresses, and all conducted themselves with the greatest respect. An aged man expressed his gratitude that we permitted them to approach us, as former travellers would never allow it. After breakfast, Lord Altamont and I rode into the town: it is pretty large, containing above 15,000 inhabitants; but it is confined and dirty, and nearly all the houses are built of clay. The bazars are very extensive and exceedingly animated, though but poorly supplied. The most considerable buildings are a fort with round towers at the west end of the town, within which the residence of the Khan is situated, and likewise a mosque with four small minarets. On the south of the town we passed a large court yard, surrounded with a wall, where we saw several carriages and some handsome horses and oxen. On our riding into it, the people met us, crying out that we must instantly turn back, and we subsequently heard that the wives of the Khans alighted at this place, and that some of them had just arrived, to make purchases in the town.

On our return we found Bayaderes and musicians; but their external appearance was so very unpleasant that we declined their performance. At two o'clock the moonshee of his Highness brought us word that two of the Khan's carriages should be in waiting at about four o'clock, to convey us to his palace. Accordingly, at the appointed time, Moossa appeared at the head of thirty horsemen and the carriages: one of them was drawn by horses, and the other by two uncommonly large snow-white bulls. The carriage rested on two wheels, and was covered with a vaulted canopy of red cloth, and profusely adorned with fringes and little bells. The horses and bulls were likewise

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CARRIAGE OF BHAWULKHAN.

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hung with scarlet trappings, and were guided by a coachman, who sat on the pole. The equipages were of a very antique form, and so contrived, that it was only possible to lie down in them. Captain West and myself chose the carriage drawn by bulls. When we set out, Moossa with a part of the escort rode before, while the others followed or surrounded the carriages; two men ran by the side of each carriage to guide the beasts or to support the vehicle, where the road was rough.

The palace of his Highness is situated seven miles to the south of Ahmedpoor, in a fertile, pleasant Oasis of the desert, which is planted with corn, cotton, and sugar-cane. We rode at a very brisk trot around the town, on a very bad road, which was sometimes rugged, sometimes deeply covered with sand, and generally intersected with ditches, and then crossed a handsome arched bridge across a small channel. Here we passed the stabling for the Khan's camels, which consists of several plain buildings and a spacious court-yard surrounded by a high clay wall. The palace of his Highness now came in sight; for its situation was pointed out at a great distance by lofty tamarinds, acacias, and poplar figs. The approach is by a drawbridge about 10 paces broad: this leads into a forecourt 100 paces long and 50 broad, surrounded by a wall, at the four corners of which rise very neat wooden towers. Crossing this court-yard we entered a quadrangle 300 paces long and nearly as broad, at the north end of which stands the palace. A wooden building raised above the platform, with a projecting roof, and an elegantly carved verandah, appears to be the residence of the women, because I perceived several female figures in white veils behind

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the lattice. A verandah runs round the palace, which on the side towards the east is 30 paces broad. The lodgings for the domestics and the stabling, which are made of clay, lay on one side, and had red curtains. The whole is surrounded by a high wall and a moat.

Three of the Khan's regular regiments, about 1800 strong, were drawn up along both sides from the entrance into the quadrangle to the verandah; they were clothed in white, brown, and red, and armed with old unserviceable guns of the East India Company. On our approach they fired a salute, and the music struck up. The red regiment was commanded by a youth not more than sixteen years of age, a favourite of his Highness. We were received at the steps of the verandah, by three of the principal ministers, who conducted us to the Khan. As we turned the corner of the verandah, to the east side, the most striking image of an Indian Court presented itself to our view. The Khan was seated in the centre of the verandah, on a pure white, silk carpet, supported by large cushions, and surrounded by a semicircle of more than 200 of his chiefs and officers, whose picturesque costume and various groupings and different arms realised a scene of the Arabian Nights. His sword, guns, and pistols lay before him. On our approach he rose, with his attendants, embraced us, shook hands, and invited us to sit down by him. His Highness is a tall, handsome man, between forty and fifty years of age; but the expression of his large dark eye is faint and languid in consequence, it is said, of his free indulgence in the harem. He had a long, dark brown, silky beard, and his hair fell partially curled upon his shoulders. He was dressed in a white muslin garment trimmed with

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gold lace, wide silk pantaloons, and a rose-coloured turban, with a handsome dagger in his red silk scarf. He wore no jewels except a few rings, and a necklace of large pearls which were fastened by a diamond clasp.

As soon as we were seated, a servant with an immensely large fan approached to cool us. The conversation commenced with inquiries respecting our journey, its object, and my country; we next spoke of the chase: his Highness regretted that he could not get up a hunting party for us, but gave us permission to hunt at pleasure in his territory, adding that we should find lions and tigers in the jungles beyond Bhawulpoor, but that the first were merely a small race, and not numerous. Politics too were touched upon, but only slightly; we then spoke of the troops of his Highness, which seemed to give him pleasure, for he smiled with much complacency when I told him that I had been greatly surprised at the good appearance and discipline of the regiments we had just seen. After having conversed about half an hour we rose to depart, but his Highness requested us to prolong our visit, and probably another hour elapsed ere we took leave, when we repeatedly expressed our gratitude to the hospitable prince, who embraced us and cordially pressed our hands. The ministers accompanied us to the first gate, while the troops saluted as before. Moossa conducted us to the carriages, and escorted us back to our encampment with his cavalry.

At a short distance from the town we saw a number of Syedees (religious women) standing by the road side; these females pretend to be descendants of the Prophet, and were closely veiled in dirty white gar-

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ments, with no other aperture than a net-work inserted in it over the eyes. They approached us, importunately demanding alms, but we had no money about us to entitle us to receive the benefit of their benedictions.

A SYEDEE.

When we reached our tents I found a bay horse, caparisoned with a bridle and saddle richly studded with silver, and its feet and tail partly painted red, which his Highness sent to me as a token of remembrance; however, as there is a law which forbids English officers from accepting gifts from the native princes, I thought myself bound to decline this handsome present.

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Bhawulpoor is bounded on the east and west by Sinde and the territory of the Sikhs, on the north by the Indus and the Sutlej, and on the south by the desert, and contains a population of scarcely half a million of inhabitants. The soil is fertile in the vicinity of the river, but in the interior of the country it is sandy and incrusted with salt. Its productiveness depends on the inundations and on irrigation, as there is often no rain for two years together. As soon as the snow melts in the Himalaya mountains in May and June, the water of the river flows into many canals, and from these into smaller channels, whence it is conducted, by means of water-wheels, over the fields and pastures. At this season of the year the country is nearly impassable. There are two harvests in this part; wheat and barley are sown in November; and rice, jowary, bajree, cotton, indigo, sugar-cane, melons, and vegetables, are planted in March. Besides tamarisks, tamarinds, and figs, bananas and oranges flourish; and the date palm, the fruit, wood, foliage, and fibres of which are invaluable to the inhabitants, begins to spread its bounties over the neighbourhood of Bhawulpoor. The climate is dry; in December the thermometer falls before day-break to freezing point. On the other hand, the hot season is beyond all conception oppressive; clouds of dust fill the air, and the eyes are dazzled by the white sand of the desert.

The Bhawulkhan has two wives and six sons; but he is said to have above a hundred concubines and their forty sons lodged in his harem. Though his revenue does not exceed twelve lacs per annum, he maintains an army of 5000 men, under the command of Captain M——, an Englishman, a fugitive from his native land, who took up his residence here. His

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treasure is said to consist of above thirty lacs, and his jewels to be of immense value; but he is tenacious of being seen in them. Since Rundjeet Sing deprived him of the fertile Mooltan, he adheres more and more closely to the English. He spends much of his time in his harem and on the chase, without however being neglectful of the government of his kingdom; and he may be classed among the best of the Indian princes.

The inhabitants of Bhawulpoor are chiefly Mussulmans; they are superstitious and immoral; they revere the Khan because he does not oppress them, reserves to himself only twenty-five per cent. of their produce, and exercises a patriarchal authority over them. Many of them are persons of considerable affluence, and I frequently saw the chief magistrate of the villages decked with costly jewels. In saluting their friends they touch first, the right shoulder, then the left, cover their brow with their right hand, and stretching out their hands repeat the usual salam. While the Mussulman, after the first salute, examines the weapons of his friends, the Hindoo, on the other hand, invariably inquires the price of provisions, especially of ghee, his favourite dish. Besides being occupied with agriculture they pay much attention to the breeding of camels, horses, and asses: large flocks of goats and sheep abound here.

On the 25th of October, we rode to the villages of Khyrpoor and Noorpoor, through a narrow road intersected by ditches and running between cornfields. We pitched our tents on the outskirts of the villages; and immediately on our arrival, the 9th Bengal Cavalry regiment entered, on its route to Sukkur. It consisted of 590 horse, in admirable discipline. According to the custom of the natives, one of their

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trumpeters had gone on before, to station himself at the place of encampment, and, by the sound of his little trumpet, to intimate their halting-place to his comrades.

Our own Hindoos had hitherto been rather remiss in the performance of their various rigorous observances; but after they had encountered so many of their co-religionists to-day, and among them several Brahmins, each one drew a circle round his fireplace, and incessantly rang a little bell, while he was cooking his victuals, to scare away the evil spirit. If an uninitiated person happens accidentally to cross the circle, the food is considered to be unclean, and the Hindoo, be he ever so hungry, throws it all away. Above 1200 persons were attached to this regiment —servants, grass-cutters, water-carriers, and camel-drivers; besides 138 camels, 50 ponies, and 12 carts for transporting the tents and baggage; the greater part of their things having been sent by water. Colonel William Pattle, the commander of the regiment, had an elephant, the first animal of the kind which I saw in active employ in India.

We spent the evening with the officers of the corps, who had every comfort around them; even bread, which we had not tasted since we left Sukkur, was served at table. It was rather singular that the Colonel spoke to us in the highest terms of the faithfulness and integrity of his confidential domestic, who had been in his service above sixteen years;—but experience unhappily proves that the natives are not to be depended upon, and this sad lesson the Colonel too was taught, for, that very same night, the man decamped, carrying off with him several hundred rupees, the property of his master.

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On the following morning we were on the wing as early as three o'clock, as we were anxious to reach Bhawulpoor, a distance of 15 miles, without loss of time. At first, the country was barren and sandy, but, as we approached the town, it became more fruitful and cultivated. Three miles before reaching Bhawulpoor we saw, on our left hand, a very handsome stone monument, erected by his brother officers to the memory of an English colonel, who had died here of fever. Immediately behind it is a dry stream twenty feet in width, with some deserted villages lying along its banks. From this point commences the richest and most luxuriant tract, cultivated with various kinds of corn, indigo, cotton and sugar, above which rises the date palm in graceful pride, imparting to the whole scene the character of a tropical landscape.

The town, which contains 40,000 inhabitants, is surrounded by an immense wall, nearly four miles in length, and has six gates: the streets are narrow and dirty, and very few of the houses are built of brick; but, in every place, in every street, as well as in every garden, the palm spreads her beauteous branches, and flocks of pigeons build in the turrets of the minarets and the old walls. Bhawulpoor carries on a trade in silk and cotton stuffs, which, like those of Mooltan, are distinguished by the richness of their colours and the beauty of the patterns.

As our tents were pitched on the other side of the gate, we were obliged to traverse the city in its entire extent. Soon after our arrival we were welcomed by Meer Ibrahim Khan, the political agent of the British government; a very handsome Mahometan, who, besides being conversant with the Persian and Arabic

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languages, is likewise master of the Hindostanee. On our interrogating him respecting the news of the day, and especially the reserve army, he assumed the character of a cunning diplomatist, who is acquainted with every circumstance, but is not at liberty to converse of any. Ibrahim is one of the very few natives who has some knowledge of Europe; yet he could not form any conception of Prussia, till my companion, Captain Bennet, informed him that I belonged to that kingdom which, under Blucher, had contributed to the downfal of the great Napoleon. He had heard of both, and his interest was so strongly excited in what he heard, that he seized pen and paper, in order at once to take down the replies to some of his many questions. From the ardour and the manner in which Ibrahim sought to obtain instruction, it was evident that he was a very uncommon specimen of his countrymen. We thankfully availed ourselves of his proffered services; for we had lost three camels on our march, and were obliged to let our servants and cattle have a complete day's rest. We learnt from him that our comrades, who had come by water, had preceded us by three days, and were already on their march to Ferozpoor.

Ibrahim invited us to visit him in the afternoon at his own house, which lay in the middle of the town. Passing through a lofty gate, we first entered the court for the caravans, then into a smaller one surrounded by a wall, which led to his dwelling. In front of this were several flower beds, a fountain, and a basin for bathing. His dwelling consisted of only four apartments, furnished with carpets, a table, and a few chairs, but no other furniture of any kind whatever. Carpets were spread in the court, and chairs placed

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for us and a few other guests, the most respectable persons in the town, and three Persian merchants, who had just arrived from Lahore and Mooltan, and intended returning to their own country by way of Herat. Tea and sherbet were handed round, and the merchants showed us carpets and silks of Mooltan; the former were made of cotton, woven in the most beautiful patterns and colours, and seemed almost imperishable; the silks had for the most part only a slight mixture of cotton, and were wrought with gold and silver, but they are neither as beautiful nor as durable, and are used by the natives for tunics and turbans. We returned to our tents through the bazar of the town in the evening: this is the time when the activity and trade of the inhabitants is the greatest: the sellers light up their booths, the Bayaderes appear in their gayest dress, music is heard, and the crowd presses forward in quest of barter or amusement.

During the night the thermometer fell to 52° F.; and my porous water-vessels were covered with a hoar frost in the morning: we felt these changes in the temperature the more sensibly, as we still had a heat of 90° in the morning. In the evening the sky was overcast, heavy clouds of dust were carried through the air, and single drops of rain began to fall. Ibrahim, however, came to take leave of us, and requested us to give him a certificate of his readiness to serve us, a request with which we had much pleasure in complying.

On Friday the 28th we continued our march through a very sandy country to Bakkedera, about 13½ miles distant. An envoy from Bhawulpoor entered it at the same time; he was seated on an elephant, and was surrounded by about twenty

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horsemen, falconers, and many servants on foot. He was the bearer of presents to the Governor-General then at Ferozpoor, and was deputed to investigate the state of the country on his route thither. About three o'clock in the afternoon the sky suddenly became obscure, and a fearful storm arose above the Sutlej, clouds of dust, as dense as masses of earth, were carried through the air, and such Egyptian darkness succeeded, that we could not see four steps before us: at the same time a violent rushing and roaring sounded in the air, and the masses of dust were as thick and continued as if the whole desert were in motion. This storm, unaccompanied by rain, continued till an hour after sunset, and appeared to have been confined to a narrow slip of land, inasmuch as the servants, who had been despatched an hour before it arose, had entirely escaped it. As it was, we were thankful that our tent was not overthrown by it.

From this time the heat abated during the day: at night the thermometer sank to 54°; and at midday, on the 29th, it was only 82° F. Got-Nur-Mahomed is very prettily situated, surrounded by date palms, tamarinds, and tamarisks. On our road thither, we met a man coming from the village howling and screaming; we inquired the cause of his distress. "Ah!" exclaimed he, "my brother has just died, and I must bemoan him to-day." In the evening the funeral obsequies were celebrated in the wildest manner, with dancing and singing; old as well as young were intoxicated with liquor, and rioted till break of day round a fire, near the corpse.

On a lovely morning we wandered through the fertile, richly cultivated valley of the Sutlej to Khyrpoor. This town, which contains about 8000 inhabitants,

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lies embosomed in a forest of palms, tamarinds, pipala, and plums, about three miles from the Sutlej. To judge by the ruins of deserted dwellings, it must formerly have been a considerable place; indeed, there are even now many handsome, though dirty, mosques with cupolas, and several lofty structures. The road to the village Kemry-Kekote (fourteen miles), whither we marched on the 31st, leads through steppes rather than through cultivated land; every thing indicated our near approach to the desert. After traversing eleven miles, we reached the village of Khanghurh, where a number of priests have shut themselves up within four walls, and lead a sort of monastic life, and stand high in the estimation of the people for their sanctity. The Bhawulkhan has a residence within the citadel of this enclosure, where he annually spends several days to perform his devotions and to follow the chase; and at that season many valuable presents are made to the monastery by the wealthy. In the village of Kekote, I saw the remains of an ancient castle, constructed of bricks, and surrounded by high walls, but it is completely in ruins. The village itself is extensive, and contains a mosque, with three cupolas and two minarets.

On the 1st of November we made a march of twenty-one miles from Hajeepoor to Bhauda, and although we were only four miles from the Sutlej, the ground was covered with jungle and steppes; and the fruitful, cultivated fields gradually disappeared. A gypsy band had encamped under their reed huts in the outskirts of the village; they busied themselves during the day with platting, but were playing the livelong night on their wretched musical instruments, to the great enjoyment of the villagers,

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who were all up, dancing and singing. The next night, which we spent in Kassimkee, was an equally turbulent one. As usual, we entered the jungle in the afternoon, gun in hand, but we shot only some hares, partridges, and parrots.

Our Mussulmans celebrated the feast of the new moon with dance and song, in the village of Macdoom. Here we were forcibly reminded of the state of our country in the middle ages, by the appearance of a nobleman and his suite, who seemed to be a knight of those days of bygone chivalry. He was seated on horseback in a coat of mail; his son, riding on a pony at his side, bore a shield and sword, while before and around him were servants and attendants carrying falcons and guns; his lady, closely veiled, was seated on a camel with her child, followed by camels laden with tents and baggage. On the following day, the 5th of November, we reached the village Sczacki-Ky (*Sikunka?*), the hospitable inhabitants of which were most anxious to forward our wishes; nay, an aged man approached me as I was walking in his *jowary* fields, and begged me to pluck as much corn as I liked, adding that he should esteem it a real pleasure to show kindness to the stranger! Next day we pitched at Remmuk, about 400 paces from the Sutlej. The chief of this village brought his son, a fine boy about ten years of age, and begged that we would cure him of a wound, caused by the bite of a horse; we sent him to Dr. Christie, who, with two officers, was a day's march in advance, assuring the distressed parent that we thought his child would soon be restored. The district lying between this village, Tuwukkul and Lukeeke, is the favourite resort of lions and tigers: a few days previous to our arrival

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the inhabitants killed a very large tiger; and on the 7th we saw the recent traces of a lion, in a tamarisk jungle, on our way to Lukeeke, but we soon lost sight of it. This village consists of only a few mud huts, and lies close to the Sutlej. Here we had the pleasure of rejoining our comrades: we partook of a cheerful repast in Dr. Christie's tent, and drank our last bottle of wine to the weal of our country. Towards evening we went to the Sutlej on an alligator hunt, and saw many of these animals on the sandy downs, but our aim took effect on only two of them: they turned over several times, and then plunged into the water.

On Tuesday, the 8th of November, we had crossed the boundary of Bhawulpoor, and, after proceeding five miles, entered the little territory of the Khan of Memdot, which is under the protection of the English. Issuing from a thick tamarind jungle, we entered a cultivated country, where we for the first time saw corn magazines belonging to the natives: they are built of clay, and their shape is like those of the Kirghis, from 10 to 15 feet in height, and 4 to 6 in diameter; they have an opening on one side towards the top, which is closed with clay, so soon as the magazine is filled; others look like a large clay chest, either round or square, furnished with a lid or cover.

About half way, we passed the extensive village of Bahee, which lies on the highest point of the valley of the Sutlej, and from the plateau, which is 80 feet in height, the eye ranged over boundless tracts of jungle spread before it on every side. At the village of Bodlah we were received by the brother of the Khan, who said that information of our expected arrival had reached him some days previously; that

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the Khan was delighted to hear we had had a safe journey; that he was to provide for our accommodation, and attend us to Memdot. But the Khan's professions and promises did not correspond with their performance, and we had much difficulty in procuring food for ourselves or provender for our horses, for either love or money.

Here we dismissed the escort that had accompanied us from Ahmedpoor, with thanks and presents; we gave the officer a very ample testimonial, and requested him to repeat to his prince, in our names, our most grateful thanks for his Highness's hospitality and friendship.

We passed the 10th of November in the village of Pajaike, where two of our party, Dr. Christie and Captain Nicholson, fell sick; the doctor, however, soon recovered, while the illness of Captain Nicholson assumed a very unsatisfactory character. Passing through Mohunke, we arrived, on the 11th, at the little town of Memdot. The country round is well cultivated; the town small and dirty; but the citadel is by far the best which we have seen throughout our journey. It is situated on the north side, and built of clay and brick, surrounded by a wall 40 feet high, with round projecting towers.

The Khan's residence, a simple dwelling with glass windows, lies within the walls of the citadel. My comrades here received bread and provisions, which had been sent by their friends at Ferozpoor. To our extreme regret, Captain Nicholson was now so severely ill from brain fever that we were obliged to have him carried next day to Ferozpoor.

Impatient to reach our destination, we set out the following morning, at 3 o'clock; at sunrise we came

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in sight of the fort and the cantonments lying three miles to the south of it, and in an hour after we arrived at our tents, which were pitched among the bungalows. Here have I been engaged since yesterday in writing to you. What may next take place is not known; many conjecture that the army of reserve, which is to be assembled here in the course of three weeks, is destined to enter the Punjab, and support the Maharaja Sheer Singh, against his rebellious minister, Dheean Singh. On this my hopes and wishes depend,—but "man proposes, God disposes!" Therefore I will fearlessly leave those things, which are concealed from my mortal sight, to the unerring guidance of that Almighty hand, which has hitherto so wonderfully led and protected me.

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LETTER V.

TO ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT.

The Punjab.— The Sikhs.— Runjeet Singh.— His government and position relative to the English.— Suttees.— Burning of the corpse of Runjeet Singh with eleven of his wives. —Dheean Singh and the Fakir Uzeezoodeen.—Maharaja Kurruck Singh and the Rani-Chand-Kour.— Sheer Singh. — Ferozpoor.— Entry of the commanding general into the camp.— Hospitality.— Elephants.— Arrival of the Governor General, Lord Ellenborough.— His camp and baggage.— The army of reserve.— General Sale passes the Sutlej.— Generals Pollock and Nott.— Present from the Indian government of one of the cannon taken at Kabool to the King of Prussia.— Camp at Ferozpoor.— Entrance of the Rajah Heera Singh, and on the 10th December of the crown prince, Perthaub Singh, accompanied by Dheean Singh.— Grand review and festivities.— Departure of an extraordinary embassage to Lahore under Mr. Maddock, Member of the Supreme Council. —Journey thither.— The city, and reception by the Maharaja.—Festivities in Lahore. —Mausoleum of Shah Dura.— Grand review of 60,000 men and 200 pieces of artillery.— Chase.— Farewell audience at Shahlimar.

Lahore, Jan. 12. 1843.

FROM the land of the ancient Cathays, the former Sangala, I will give you a description of reviews, military festivities, processions, elephants, and Indian tales. When the last few weeks, with their rich and ever-varying scenes, pass before my mind, it seems as though I had dwelt for months in another land: I feel as if just awakened from a lovely dream, which transported me into the early ages of the world, with all their golden fairy tales and legends.

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In no country on the globe, except in China, have the people retained their ancient usages and manners, their ancient customs and habits, so unaltered as in India. Here we behold a state of things which has been recorded by the history of the earliest ages; — living pictures so antique, that one might fancy they were the revivified images of the days of old. Before, however, giving you an account descriptive of my journey to Ferozpoor, I must conduct you into the Punjab, the land of the Sikhs, the dominions of the Maharaja Sheer Singh.

The Punjab, or country of "five waters" (*punj*, five; *ab*, waters), covering an area of 6000 geographical square miles, lies between the Indus, the Sutlej, and the Himalaya mountains. The four streams which rise in these mountains, intersect the country, and divide it with the Indus into four distinct doabs. The first district, lying between the Indus and the Jailum (Hydaspes), is 147 miles in breadth. The Jailum, a clear stream, from 300 to 400 yards across, flows in a sandy bed, at the rate of two miles an hour. Its temperature in December was 45° Fahrenheit at sunrise, and rose during the day to 51°. It is the most sterile, the least cultivated, and the least populous part of the country; it is covered with undulating, bare eminences, which rise considerably towards the centre, and is intersected by rugged declivities. The waters flow in deep beds, enclosed by high steep banks, and consequently cannot be employed in irrigation.

The numerous defiles and eminences present great obstacles to the traveller in this country, and we rarely find any large towns. The greater part of the ground is covered with thickets, and among the few

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fertile tracts is a most lovely valley, near the Indus, once the favourite abode of the emperors of Delhi. The splendid ruins of their palace lie towards the south, near several sources, which rush impetuously from the rocks, and flow into the little river Tombra. In December, when the temperature of the atmosphere was at 69° Fahrenheit, that of these springs was 71°, and of the Indus 63°. The most remarkable places in this doab, are Rotas, situated on gigantic rocks on the banks of a small affluent of the Jailum; it is a large, extensive fortress, with lofty walls and towers; Jailum, which is half a day's march from it, is still larger, and is situated on the river of the same name, across which there is a ford, above the town.

The rivers Jailum and Chenaub (Ascisines) enclose the second of these divisions, growing narrower till its breadth is only forty-six miles. This district is entirely level, with the exception of a low range of hills, the termination of the beds of rock salt, which run through the Jailum, and for a short distance are parallel with its left bank. It is, for the most part, covered with jungle of *Scirpus lacustris*, *Ziziphus Jujuba*, *Capparis aphylla*, and *Erogrostes cynosuroides*. Among these tracts of jungle lie dirty villages, under the shade of tamarinds and acacias, surrounded by fields of wheat, grain, jowary, cotton, and sugar-cane.

The soil is in general light and sandy, but so overgrown with grass and weeds, that numerous herds of oxen, camels, sheep, and goats subsist upon it. The inhabitants have bestowed much pains in the construction of the wells in the centre of this doab: they run to a depth of fifty feet; and, as the fertility of the soil depends mainly on them, Persian wheels are placed near them, for raising

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the water and irrigating the land. The country, in its entire extent, might be easily converted into a most fertile garden by means of large canals; but this is not to be expected from the present government. The Chenaub is a clear, gentle stream, attains the breadth of 100 yards, and a depth of 10 feet; in December, when the temperature of the air was 60° Fahrenheit, that of its water was 48°.

The third doab, which is enclosed between the Chenaub and the Ravee, or Hydraotes, is 76½ miles in breadth at its widest part; the Ravee is the smallest of these rivers, and is not navigable till within a short distance of Lahore: till it reaches that place it is only 200 feet broad, with a depth of 3½ feet, so that it is fordable at many places. This doab consists of an arid plain, of which only a third part is cultivated. The remainder is overgrown with wild indigo, sirky (*Saccharum munja*), tamarisks, and kedchra. This country, also, might be converted into a most fertile tract, if the mountain springs were conveyed in canals; but, unhappily, the land is cultivated only in the immediate vicinity of the towns and villages. The large neglected canal proves that cultivation was formerly more extensive than it now is. Besides the Mimosa, the poplar-leaved fig, and tamarind tree, the date palm flourishes here in all its luxuriance and beauty. There are several considerable towns on the main road from Lahore to Attock, the largest of which is Rhamneghur, on the left bank of the Chenaub, which is inhabited by Mussulmans.

The narrowest and most neglected of these four doabs is only 44½ miles broad, and is bounded by the Ravee and the Sutlej, or Hyphasis. Here, too, nature

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has done all to produce the most luxuriant vegetation, with very little help from the hand of man; but, as in the two above-mentioned districts, this is wanting, and only small tracts are cultivated. Here are the largest towns — Lahore, Amritsir (Amritasara, *essence of Ambrosia*), and Kussoor. The Sutlej is the most considerable of the tributaries of the Indus. It is from 250 to 400 feet broad, and in the rainy season overflows its banks to a great distance, and fertilizes the surrounding country. In December, when the temperature was 74° Fahrenheit, that of its water was 55°.

Besides this country, so highly favoured by nature, but so neglected by man, the empire of the Sikhs extends over the fine and rich province of Mooltan, a tract seventy miles wide, along the right bank of the Indus, beyond Mettun-Kote and the province of Peshawar. The territory under the dominion of the Maharaja may be estimated at 8000 geographical square miles, with five million inhabitants and a revenue of between two and three millions sterling. It is divided into provinces and districts, the administration of which is committed to governors and sirdars, who pay a certain sum to the prince; and of course, each of them endeavours to extort as much more as he possibly can from the country under his charge. Mooltan, which is governed by a Hindoo, enjoys the best administration, and Kashmir is the most plundered and desolated.

At the end of the fifteenth century, there arose in the country of the Kingless tribe (as Arrian designates the inhabitants of the Punjab) a religious sect, that of the Sikhs, at the head of whom was Nanick, who was soon joined by thousands of fanatics and enthu-

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siasts. He was a scholar of Kahir, consequently a kind of Hindoo deist, who asserted the principle of universal toleration; for he affirmed that God was pleased when men worshipped Him, but that He was indifferent under what form they did so.

This tolerant religious spirit, was an abomination to the bigoted Mahometans; and after this sect had flourished during a century, their spiritual chief was killed by them in 1606. This tyrannical proceeding changed the peaceable Sikhs into fanatical warriors, and under Har-Govind, the son of their priest who had been so cruelly sacrificed, they took up arms, as declared enemies and avengers against their oppressors. Being however too weak to oppose the troops that were sent against them, and still more enfeebled by internal dissensions, the Sikhs were driven from the vicinity of Lahore, into the mountainous districts of the north.

In the year 1675, Ghooroo-Govind, their tenth spiritual chief, grandson of Har-Govind, succeeded, with the spirit of a Grecian lawgiver, in inspiring the adherents of the Sikhs to unite in a religious and military association. He abolished caste among his adherents, accorded equal rights to every convert, whatever might have been his previous profession, and, that there might be more harmony and uniformity among his followers, he commanded the adoption of a peculiar dress and manners. All were obliged to serve as warriors and to carry some weapon, to wear a blue garment, and suffer the hair and beard to grow. They despised tobacco because it defiled the body, and, like the Hindoos, they considered the bull sacred.

This spirit of moderation and tolerance, is however

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not possessed by the Ghooroos, their present priests, or by the Acalees, their fanatic fakirs, and the Mussulmans are compelled to perform their religious observances in secret and retirement. The Acalees acknowledge no superior governor, and merely tolerate their reigning prince, whom they traduce in every possible way, and even openly seek his life, if he opposes their views. They are generally provided with a round quoit, which they wear either round their pointed turban, or at their side. The quoit is a flat iron ring, from eight to fourteen inches in diameter, the outer edge of which is ground extremely sharp; they twirl this weapon round their finger, or on a stick, and throw it to a distance, with such dexterity and force, that the head of the person aimed at is often severed from the body. Many of these Acalees form a special troop in the army of the Maharaja.

From this nation, Runjeet Singh, the son of an obscure Sikh Sirdar, named Maha Singh, rose to be paramount chief, by means of his wisdom and valour. In India, a bold determined character, has less difficulty than in any other country to gather a host of military enthusiasts round his banner, and this is especially the case with so warlike a people as the Sikhs. Runjeet Singh was born in Gujuru Walla, a village twenty-five miles from Lahore, on the 2d November 1780 : at the age of twenty he obtained possession of the wealthy kingdom of Lahore, and successively expelled the three chiefs, Ischet Singh, Muhuc Singh, and Sahib Singh, who opposed him.

In the year 1805, he penetrated into the doab between the Chenaub and the Indus, to subject a Mussulman chief; and here, by means of the Maha-

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rattas, whom Lord Lake had driven beyond the Sutlej, he first came into contact with the English. Holkar, the Maharatta chief, expected to find an ally in Runjeet, but the crafty conqueror felt that it would be wiser to be a friend of the British.

In the year 1800 the news of an invasion by Napoleon, spread like wild-fire throughout India, which induced the British government to ascertain the sentiments of the independent princes. Among these, Runjeet Singh held an important rank, and Sir Charles Metcalfe was accordingly sent as British agent to Lahore. Runjeet Singh was at that time engaged in the subjection of the several petty independent Sikh princes; he indeed received the envoy at Kussoor, but broke off the negotiation, and penetrated to the left bank of the Sutlej. On this the British government declared to him, through Sir Charles Metcalfe, that the whole country, from the Jumna to the Sutlej, was under its protection, and that it would not tolerate any superior authority there. A corps under Colonel Ochterlony, and an army of reserve under General St. Leger, the first of whom advanced without opposition to the Sutlej, succeeded in inducing the valorous Runjeet Singh to conclude a treaty.

An accidental circumstance favoured the demand of the envoy, and convinced the Maharaja that he had to do with an adversary superior to himself in every respect, especially in the excellence and discipline of the troops. At the end of February, 1801, Sir Charles Metcalfe, with an escort of only two companies of native troops and sixteen cavalry, was in the camp of the Sikhs at Amritsir. His Mahometans celebrated the festival of Moharrem in honour of the

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death of Hussein and Hassan. The Acalees considered this an insult to their religion, and tumultuously collected a large body of Sikhs, who, led by the bigoted and fanatic Phula-Singh, attacked the camp of the envoy, with a fire of musketry. The small escort immediately seized their arms, and repulsed their tenfold more numerous adversaries, with great loss.

Runjeet Singh, attracted by the uproar, appeared just as the disciplined sepoys had obtained the victory. The bravery of this little band made a great impression on him: he expressed his admiration at the discipline and resolution of the British troops, offered an apology, and declared himself ready to conclude a treaty. It was signed on the 25th of April, 1809, in four articles, by which a permanent friendship was to exist between the English and the state of Lahore; and the Maharaja gave up the tract of country which he occupied on the left bank of the Sutlej. In order however fully to secure the position of the Sikh princes, it was agreed that the British government should renounce a tribute from these princes; and that they on the other hand, should engage to afford the British troops every facility on any expedition, or march which they might undertake, and in case of war should join their forces. Colonel Ochterlony, as superintendent of the affairs of the Sikhs, was only once obliged to act against the Rajah of Pattiallah, who oppressed his subjects most cruelly, and was consequently placed under strict guardianship.

From this time, till the year 1830, we find Runjeet Singh without any direct connection with the English, but unceasingly engaged in aggrandizing his dominions and increasing his army. He conquered Mooltan and Kashmir, sword in hand, and was con-

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