

APPENDIX.

No. 1.

Memoir on the Western or Edoor Tribes, inhabiting the Somali Coast of N.-E. Africa, with the Southern branches of the family of Darrood, resident on the banks of the Webbe Shebeyli, commonly called the River Webbe.* By Lieut. C. J. CRUTTENDEN, Indian Navy, Assistant Political Agent at Aden. Dated Aden, 12th May, 1848. (Communicated by Sir Charles Malcolm.)

[Read Nov. 13, 1848.]

DURING the time that I was employed at the wreck of the East India Company's steam-frigate Memnon, at Ras Assair, on the N.E. coast of Africa, I employed myself in obtaining what information I could, relative to the tribes on the coast, which I had the honour to forward to Government on my return. As, however, I have since that time had further opportunities of visiting the different branches of the Somali tribes, I now beg to offer a few remarks in addition, relative chiefly to those tribes inhabiting the African coast westward from Burnt Island, and distinguished among the windward tribes as the "Edoor."

From Ras Hafoon on the eastern coast to Zeyla, the country is known by the name of the Bur e Somal; and it is divided between two great nations, who both tracing their origin from the Arab province of Hadramaut, are yet at bitter and endless feud with each other. The principal of these two great families is that to the eastward, or windward of Burnt Island. The other extends from Burnt Island or Bunder Jedid to Zeyla, and is divided into three great tribes, namely, the Haber Gerhajis, the Haber Awal, and the Haber el Jahleh (Haber meaning the sons of), who were the children of Isaakh by three wives—the said Isaakh having crossed over from Hadramaut some time after his countrymen had founded the nation to the eastward, and settled at the town of Meyet near Burnt Island, where his tomb exists to this day. The eldest branch, the Haber Gerhajis, was put in possession of the frontier mountains of Kooleis and Woohur to the southward, and the other two brothers were placed on either side of them:—the Haber Awal establishing themselves on the low lands from Berbera to Zeyla and the Haber el Jahleh locating themselves

* For the Map of the Somali country *vide* the last volume of this Journal.—Ed.
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at Kurrum, Enterad, Unkor, and Heis, four small ports to the eastward of Berbera.

The tract of country thus subdued, yet remains in the hands of the posterity of Isaakh. The Galla tribes of the Esa Somal, and Gidr Beersi to the westward, professed the faith of Islam and were permitted to retain their possessions. Of these tribes, the Gidr Beersi limit the Haber Awal to the westward, and are bounded by the Esa Somal, a very numerous horde, nominal Mohammedans, extending as far as Hurrur to the S.S.W., and to the borders of the Weema and Dunkali country to the westward. The remaining Galla tribes either became mixed up with their semi-Arab conquerors, or were driven across the Webbe river. I ought to say, one of the Webbe rivers, for there appear to be three or four, though the principal branch, and that to which I allude, is doubtless the Shebeyli, a river* taking its rise in the province of Guragi, and which, making a considerable curve to the N. and E., finally loses itself in the sand below Mukdesha, not far from the sea.

Meanwhile the nation to the eastward had not been idle. The Mijjerthaine and Ahl Oor Singally secured the whole seaboard from Hafoon to Bunder Jedid. The Dulbahantah established themselves on the prairie land south of the lofty range of the Oor Singally mountains. The tribe of Murreyhan took possession of the country of Nogal, abounding in myrrh of the finest quality, whilst the Ahl Ogahden, Girrhi and Burtirri, occupied the country to the westward until they reached to the south of Berbera. The southern boundary of the four last-named tribes of Darrood was the river Webbe or Shebeyli, which thus defines the Somali country from near Mukdesha on the eastern coast, to twelve days' journey S.S.W. from Zeyla.

I have been assured by many of the Gidr Beersi that in the mountains forming the southern barrier of their country there are many wonderful ruins of stone and chunam, the work of former ages, and abounding in inscriptions which no one can read. However tempting this description may appear, it must be received "cum grano," for after a careful search along the coast from Cape Assair to Zeyla, I have not succeeded in finding any remains of antiquity, save the aqueduct at Berbera, elsewhere mentioned in this memoir, nor is it likely that an illiterate savage would be able to distinguish an inscription from an ornamental border on a stone. It is, however, to be hoped that an opportunity will be afforded of examining this very

* Called by Lieut. Christopher the Haines's River. I am assured by many of the Somalis who have traded beyond Hurrur, that the three rivers, the Juh, or Webbe Ganaeh, the Shebeyli, and the Hawash, all take their rise in the mountains of Bugama.

interesting country. Interesting it must be for many reasons; the possibility of inscriptions—the extensive coffee districts—the probability of the more northerly rivers, that reach the sea, either flowing close round or taking their rise in the mountains—and the certainty that no European foot has hitherto traversed this part of the country.

In February last year, a feud between two tribes near Berbera induced one—the Aial Yunus—to settle inland from a small roadstead called Bou'l Harr. Here a few traders joined them, and having left their women with the old men and children at the encampment inland, the men descended to the beach, to carry on their trade; whilst thus employed, and unsuspecting of any danger, a foraging party or “Ghuzoo” of about 2500 Esa Somals attacked the camp inland and put every one to the sword; men, women, and children were indiscriminately massacred. The Aial Yunus, paralysed by this catastrophe, were fain to send for assistance to their brethren at Berbera, and marching shortly after inland, met with a fresh body of the Esa, preparing to make a second descent, of whom they slew above 650 men.

The city of Hurrur, in the province of that name, though hardly in the Somali country, is closely connected with it by its commerce, especially by its slave-trade. Mr. M'Queen, in his valuable ‘Geographical Survey of Africa,’ places it, in my opinion, too far to the southward and westward. It is 8 days’ journey for a kafilâ of camels from Zeyla to Hurrur, and 9 days’ from Berbera, and this would place it in about latitude $9^{\circ} 22'$ N. and longitude $42^{\circ} 35'$ E.

A tradition exists amongst the people of Hurrur, that the prosperity of their city depends upon the exclusion of all strangers not of the Moslem faith, and Christians are especially interdicted. From what I have been able to gather, the traveller would hardly be repaid the risk and fatigue that he would have to undergo, and if he travelled as an European, he would be exposed to much insult and ill-feeling from the bigoted ruler and inhabitants of the place, who, sunk in the lowest ignorance, still plume themselves upon their superior sanctity, as followers of the true faith.

The government, founded in all probability during the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent, when the Turks held possession of Aden, is hereditary, and held by an Emir, all of whose male relatives, as was formerly the case in Shôa, are closely imprisoned, as a guard against domestic treachery. The Emir's house is perpetually surrounded with guards, and no one dares to pass the gate of the court-yard mounted, or at a walk. He must cover his face and run. The Emir's guard is composed of

perhaps 60 matchlock-men, and he has also a body of native spearmen in his pay; a few rusty old iron guns lying *outside* the walls, with their muzzles pointed towards the Galla country, are quite sufficient to keep these unruly savages from entering the city, but the flocks and herds are frequently carried off close to the walls. The city is described as larger than Mokha, and situated in a fertile country, but is fast decaying. Though many large and well-built houses of mud and stone are still to be found, the majority of the people live in huts made of mats and reeds, with a thorn fence round them. There are five gates to the town, the whole of which are locked nightly with the most jealous care, and the keys carried to the Emir's house, a precaution which, seeing that about 20 yards of the wall are knocked down, appears rather excessive. The "Ashraffi," stamped at the Hurrur mint, is a coin peculiar to the place. It is of silver and is in value the 22nd part of a dollar. The only specimen that I have been able to procure bore the date of 910 of the Hegira, with the name of the Emir on one side, and on its reverse "La Illahi il Ullah."

The coffee districts are described as lying amongst a low range of mountains near Hurrur, and to the southward. The quantity exported is very large, and the quality fully equal to that commonly sold as Mokha. Besides coffee, Hurrur exports white cotton-cloths, used as dresses by the wealthier classes. They are known by the name of "Tobe Hurruri," and consist of a double length of 11 cubits by 2 in breadth. They have a deep border of various colours, of which some are very good, especially the scarlet.* The cotton of which they are made is grown at Hurrur, and the price of a really good dress is from five to eight dollars: on the windward coast, one of these dresses is considered a handsome present for a chief, and I have been offered a horse in exchange for one of moderate quality. A few silk Loonges are also manufactured at Hurrur, and I was assured that the silk is brought from the countries south of Shôa: cardamoms, gum-mastic, myrrh, a small quantity of manna, saffron, and safflower, with the articles above mentioned, comprise the extent of the Hurrur trade, so far as regards produce; but the most valuable branch of commerce is the export of slaves from Guragi and Habeska.

The duties levied at Hurrur are 10 per cent. on import and export, and a further tax of 6 pounds of brass or 2½ dollars is laid on slaves of both sexes. The country in the vicinity is described as well watered and fertile, and between the city and the port of Zeyla the traveller crosses six small mountain-

* The Hurrur cloth is considered fully equal to that manufactured in Shôa.

streams flowing to the south-east, viz., Nahr Nugush, Nahr Shuktheyeh, Nahr Subbiti, Nahr Shefer Annan, Nahr Billoo, Nahr Hamer.

Zeyla, the sea-port of Hurrur, but under the dominion of the Sheriff of Mokha for the time being, is a miserable mud-walled town, containing some 12 to 15 stone houses, 180 huts, and 750 souls. It is situated on a low sandy point, nearly level with the sea, and its nearest well of drinkable water lies at a distance of 7 miles. A vessel of 250 tons cannot approach within a mile of the town, and the anchorage is shallow and difficult of entrance after sunset, on account of several reefs. Zeyla, no doubt, originally was intended to serve as a sea-port for Hurrur, for of itself it appears to be worth little. There are no remains of antiquity to be found either in the town or neighbourhood, and I should not assign an earlier date to the settlement than A.D. 1500, or shortly after the occupation of Yemen by the Turks.

The kingdom of the Imâm, like most other native principalities, having fallen into decay, the town is now under the authority of the Sheriff of Mokha, who has the power of displacing the governor, should he think fit, but who yet receives no part of the revenue;—this is farmed out, and the present chief, Hadj Shermarkhi Ali Saleh, pays annually to Synd Mahomed el Bhor at Mokha the sum of 750 German crowns, and reserves all that he can collect above that sum for himself.

Zeyla levies a tax of one dollar upon each slave exported from Tajoura, or imported from Hurrur, and afterwards sold at Berbera. Formerly Zeyla obtained but three-quarters of a dollar per head, the Sultan of Tajoura receiving the remainder; but this has of late fallen into disuse.

With reference to the slave-trade, the position of Zeyla is important. It is the sea-port of Hurrur, and it commands Tajoura and Berbera, the only available places of export: and when the time arrives for the final suppression of the slave-trade on the north-eastern coast of Africa, the numerous advantages held out by Zeyla will be duly appreciated. Hurrur depends for its foreign supplies solely on Berbera and Zeyla, and were these two ports cut off from the merchants, so far as regards the sale of slaves, it must prove a death-blow to the slave-commerce through that province from Abyssinia and Guragi. Berbera once forbidden, Tajoura is the only remaining outlet, and that outlet, thanks to the marauding habits of the Esa Somal and others, is much more frequently closed than open.

The Haber Awal, as I have before stated, occupied the lowlands between Berbera and Zeyla, a fertile tract of coun-

try with several low ranges of hills, and averaging perhaps 40 miles in depth, to 90 in length. The number of sheep, goats, she-camels, &c., found on these plains, is perfectly incredible, fully realizing the account given of the flocks and herds of the patriarchs of old, for many of the elders of these tribes own each more than 1500 she-camels, and their sheep are innumerable; asses are very numerous, and most admirably adapted to the country. The camels are small and weak, and are never used for riding, except in a case of sickness or a wound. The Haber Awal have no chief. The customs of their forefathers are the laws of the country, and appear to be based upon the simple principle that might gives right. Theft is punishable with the loss of the right hand, and fortunate it is for the Haber Awal, that this is not insisted upon, for they are the most inveterate thieves that I ever found on the coast. They wear the "Reesh" or ostrich feather after slaying a man, but speak with abhorrence of the Esa custom of mutilation after (and sometimes before) death.

That Berbera has existed as a port of great trade for several centuries, I conceive to be almost sufficiently proved by the fact of its being an annual rendezvous for so many nations, and from the time for this great meeting having been chosen so as to suit the set of the Red Sea and Indian monsoons. But, with the exception of an aqueduct of stone and chunam, some nine miles in length, Berbera exhibits no proofs of antiquity; and the extraordinary remains of buildings, castles, reservoirs, &c., still found at Aden, Hisn Ghirab, and Nukab el Hajar, have no place on the sandy shores of North-East Africa.

The annual fair is one of the most interesting sights on the coast, if only from the fact of so many different and distant tribes being drawn together for a short time, to be again scattered in all directions. Before the Towers of Berbera were built, the place, from April to the early part of October, was utterly deserted, not even a fisherman being found there; but no sooner did the season change, than the inland tribes commenced moving down towards the coast, and preparing their huts for their expected visitors. Small craft from the ports of Yemen, anxious to have an opportunity of purchasing before vessels from the Gulf could arrive, hastened across; followed, about a fortnight to three weeks later, by their larger brethren from Muscat, Soor, and Ras el Khyma, and the valuably freighted bugalas from Bahrein, Bussorah, and Graen. Lastly, the fat and wealthy Banian traders from Porebunder, Mandavie, and Bombay rolled across in their clumsy kotias, and, with a formidable row of empty ghee-jars slung over the

quarters of their vessels, elbowed themselves into a prominent position in the front tier of craft in the harbour, and, by their superior capital, cunning, and influence, soon distanced all competitors.

During the height of the fair, Berbera is a perfect Babel in confusion, as in languages; no chief is acknowledged, and the customs of bygone years are the laws of the place. Disputes between the inland tribes daily arise, and are settled by the spear and dagger, the combatants retiring to the beach at a short distance from the town, in order that they may not disturb the trade. Long strings of camels are arriving and departing day and night, escorted generally by women alone, until at a distance from the town; or an occasional group of dusky and travel-worn children marks the arrival of the slave-kafila from Hurrur and Efât.

At Berbera the Guragi and Hurrur slave-merchant meets his correspondent from Bussorah, Baghdad, or Bunder Abbas; and the savage Gidr Beersi, with his head tastefully ornamented with a scarlet sheepskin in lieu of a wig, is seen peacefully bartering his ostrich-feathers and gums with the smooth-spoken Banian from Forebunder, who, prudently living on board his ark, and locking up his puggree, which would infallibly be knocked off the instant he was seen wearing it, exhibits but a small portion of his wares at a time, under a miserable mat-shed on the beach.

By the end of March the fair is nearly at a close, and craft of all kinds, deeply laden, and sailing generally in parties of three or four, commence their homeward journey. The Soori boats are generally the last to leave, and by the first week in April Berbera is again deserted, nothing being left to mark the site of a town lately containing 20,000 inhabitants, beyond bones of slaughtered camels and sheep, and the frame-work of a few huts carefully piled on the beach in readiness for the ensuing year. Beasts of prey now take the opportunity to approach the sea. Lions are commonly seen at the town-well during the hot weather; and in April last year, but a week after the fair had ended, I observed three ostriches quietly walking on the beach.

The great drawback to Berbera as a port is the scarcity of good water—that in the two wells belonging to the town being brackish; and the wealthier portion of the merchants are therefore compelled to send to Seyareh, a small harbour 18 miles to the eastward, for a supply. I had frequently been told by the Somalis at Berbera that the remains of an ancient aqueduct were still to be seen; and, taking advantage of an unavoidable detention at that port, I visited the ruins, and

satisfied myself that in former times water had been conveyed to the port by an aqueduct of nearly nine miles in length.

At the distance of half a mile from the beach I found the remains of a small building, apparently a mosque; and close to it a shallow reservoir, built of stone and chunam, having a channel leading into it of about 20 inches in diameter, and 12 in depth. I opened this channel in two or three places, and found it of an uniform size and structure. At about seven yards from the reservoir it was lost for some distance, but by walking in the direction of the nearest range of hills, known as Dthubar, slabs of limestone and fragments of chunam served to show the general course of the aqueduct; and at about a mile from the hill of Dthubar it was again found entire for several yards. The cement used was as hard as the stone itself, and, as usual in all ancient remains in this part of the world, mixed with large pebbles. Many graves were observed in the neighbourhood, and the stones of the aqueduct had been used to form the tombs.

Half a mile from these remains I arrived at a swamp, having at the upper end a spring of water, which showed a temperature of 107° Fahrenheit, whilst the thermometer in the open air stood at 76°. The water was slightly bitter, and in quality highly astringent.

The remains of a small fort or tower of chunam and stone were found on the hill-side immediately over the spring. In style it was different to any houses now found on the Somali coast. It would not contain more than ten or twelve men, and, I imagine, must have been intended as a kind of guard-house over the spring. On a hill to the N.E. of this, several small houses were found, each having a semicircular niche on the north side, similar to the prayer-niche of the Mussulmans; but these again were built of loose stones, and I have seen others like them on the coast to the eastward of Berbera. Crossing the shoulder of the hill, another spring was found, apparently of rather better quality than the former, and which was the nightly resort of the wild ass, the ostrich, and other animals, numbers of which were seen on the plains.

In the neighbourhood of the fort above mentioned abundance of broken glass and pottery was found, from which I infer that it was a place of considerable antiquity; but, though diligent search was made, no traces of inscriptions could be discovered.

The hill immediately over the spring is of moderate height, and of limestone formation, having many shells imbedded. Gypsum is found in large quantities, and, from its unusual hardness, I imagine that it has been used as cement for the

aqueduct. There is no doubt but that the water from this spring was carried down by this channel to the town, inasmuch as no other water could be found at the termination of the ruins. The nearest part of the aqueduct yet remaining is fully one-third of a mile from the swamp, and at a higher level. I am not certain if the spring is likewise below the level of the ruins, but no traces of chunam or of any channel could be found near it. The nation, however, who could construct an aqueduct of so great a magnitude, would not find much difficulty in raising water to a higher level. The fact of the aqueduct being thus established, it remains now to discover what nation could have constructed, and at what time the commerce of Berbera was sufficiently important to warrant so costly an undertaking.

In the size of its channel, and in its mode of construction, the Berbera aqueduct is similar to that near Aden, excepting that in the former case stone is used, and in the latter brick.

During a short journey in 1847, I found the country inland from the hill of Dthubar consisting of low and undulating limestone ranges, thickly covered with tamarisk and acacia trees, and on the sides of the hills with the gum-arabic. At the distance of 2 hours from Dthubar I reached the pass of "Gudh Harrirch," in which is to be seen a large cave, said to have been in former times the residence of the Galla chief Harrirch, who was expelled from the country by the descendants of Isaakh. The rock at this part is an exceedingly pure white limestone, and would be invaluable in Aden, were it not for the expense of carriage. In the valley, close to the pass, red granite, porphyry, white marble, and large fragments of gypsum are common. It is worthy of remark that the gum-arabic tree at Berbera differs in every way from that exported from the windward coast, the leaf and the tree both being smaller and of a different shape. The plain beyond this valley, extending 1 hour's journey S.S.W., is infested with lions, hyenas, and leopards; and it is considered unsafe for a single individual to cross it at night.

At the southern extremity of this plain I reached the valley of Dunanjer, a steep ravine, having in its bed a few pools of very bad and stinking water, almost unfit for man to drink, but which, nevertheless, proved most acceptable to us after a hot and fatiguing march. Passing over several low ranges of limestone, through which in many places red granite had been thrust, I reached another watercourse, having very steep banks of 30 to 40 feet high, thickly wooded and having a most picturesque appearance. The bed of the watercourse was of soft white sand, in any part of which water was procurable by

scooping a hole a foot in depth. On the range of mountains between Dunanjer and this valley I observed many large blocks of very pure white marble, with an abundance of obsidian, gypsum, and large masses of basalt. The geological formation of the country appeared to be entirely without order, and led to the idea that by some extraordinary convulsion of nature rocks of all kinds had been thrown together in one large confused heap. A huge natural cairn might be observed 30 to 40 feet high, composed of six or seven different species of stone—a block of marble lying over or under an equally large boulder of red granite, and flanked, perhaps, by a fragment of conglomerate or black basalt.

This valley is much infested with lions, leopards, &c., and the traces of elephants were numerous. The diameter of the lion's foot was $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and of the elephant, after several measurements, 22 inches, which would give a height of upwards of 10 feet at the shoulders. This watercourse passes round the western flank of the Dunanjer range, and can be traced down to the sea, close to the town of Berbera: after heavy rains it discharges a large body of water into the bay.

From this valley my course lay over a rough and stony tract of country, in many places well wooded and watered, but, so far as regards formation, exhibiting if possible a still stranger appearance than the valley above mentioned. Thousands of ant-hills, rising like slender sandstone pillars, in many cases 14 feet high, were scattered in every direction, giving the country the appearance of an immense Turkish cemetery—many were hollowed out entirely, others were pierced with smaller channels longitudinally, and a current of hot air could be detected rushing through.

On first seeing these columns, I fancied that I had reached some ancient ruins, so numerous were they. In one instance I observed a huge block of marble, weighing many tons, having three or four of these sand pillars round it, and bearing the exact appearance of a tomb. On the brink of a cliff close by, an enormous rock of perhaps 18 or 20 feet in diameter, and diamond-shaped, stood exactly balanced on its point, and to all appearance required but a push to send it down into the ravine below. The number of graves found in every direction excited my surprise. They were well built and bore marks of great antiquity, but no inscriptions were found on them. Night closed in before we reached the plain of Shimberali, and we were glad to find an empty sheepfold to shelter us for the night, after a march of 17 hours on foot, of which 3 only could be spared for a halt during the greatest heat of the day.

Shimberali is part of an extensive plain, reaching from a

solitary hill called Deimoli to the southern mountain-range of Koolies, and Woohur, the frontier of the Haber Gerhajis tribe. It is inhabited by the Esa Moosee, a branch of the Haber Awal, who are looked upon by the elder branches of the tribe as a treacherous race, with whom it is advisable to keep on good terms, and who in their turn are at deadly feud with a branch of the Haber Gerhajis, residing on the mountains above them, and known as the Sulhehgiddeb.

The plain is tolerably well wooded in some parts. Several varieties of gum-trees are found. The mimosa, tamarisk, wild fig, and several species of the cactus and aloe, are abundant; and in the deep fissures and rents made in the plain by the fury of the mountain-torrents, a few date-trees are found. Elephants, lions, leopards, hyenas, wolves, and jackals are to be seen on the plain, and occasionally a troop of ostriches. Salt's white antelope, the "sagarro" of the Somali, the koodoo, the kevel or scimitar-horned antelope, and the oryx, were the varieties of the deer species observed; the small antelope or gazelle was very common. Jerboas and squirrels were numerous, and a species of toucan. The white vulture, of enormous size, and the common osprey, were the principal birds observed. In the hot season much inconvenience is occasioned by a species of hornet, the "dibber" of the Somali and the zimib (?) of Bruce, who justly styles them a curse. The same evil extends along the whole coast during the S.W. monsoon, where the slaughtering a sheep brings the hornets round in myriads, and very shortly compels the unlucky traveller to shift his position as fast as possible from the neighbourhood of his Somali butcher.

The hill of Deimoli is a lofty conical mountain, in many parts inaccessible. It is a great resort for beasts of prey, especially for lions, and is therefore avoided by the shepherds. It is apparently of limestone, and thickly wooded. At its base stands a smaller hill, bare and barren, and bearing a most extraordinary appearance, from its being indented in regular furrows by the action of the rain from top to bottom. On every side of Deimoli huge masses of rock lie piled on each other, and in many of these Nature appears to have indulged in the wildest vagaries. Several of these masses formed perfect funnels, and others exhibited a smooth round basin on their upper surface, capable of containing many hundred gallons of water.

From the top of Deimoli I was able to sketch the course of the valley and watercourse above mentioned. For some distance on the plain (200 to 300 yards) it exhibits a running stream—when it is lost in the sand for perhaps the same dis-

tance; and then re-appears as before. In almost every part of its bed water is procurable by digging a foot deep. Large bullrushes and tall wiry grass grow in rank luxuriance on its banks, affording a good retreat for the wild pig, one long-legged specimen of which was seen, and missed by me on my return. Snakes are reported to be numerous, but I saw none.

After a long and fruitless search after the elephants, a herd of which, seven in number, had passed a few hours before, and after spending the night in the bed of a dry mountain-torrent, I crossed over in a N.E. direction to examine another running stream, where I found excellent water falling down shelving limestone rock, forming pretty cascades, and collected into a tolerably large stone basin, the overflowings of which were lost in the sand. On my return to Dthubar I crossed over the Duanjer range more to the eastward, and found them of the same formation as the hills I had observed on my way to Shimberari. The distance travelled over in this walk I compute at about 70 miles.

At a later period, accompanied by Commander C. D. Campbell, of the Indian navy, I left Dthubar, and after walking in a north-westerly direction, across a broad plain, covered with ostriches, oryxes, koodoos, and quaggas, but all of whom, save the latter, were too shy to admit our approaching within shot, we reached the bed of a broad watercourse, having in its centre a stream of perhaps 8 to 10 feet in breadth, which at the distance of a mile below is absorbed in the sand. The native tradition says that the stream runs only by night, and from this it takes its name "Bheeyeh Ghora," "Night running water." The actual increase in the distance, occasioned doubtless by the evaporation being so great during the day, we found, by measurement, to be 135 yards, but the stream had then dwindled down to a mere thread. The temperature of the stream at 7 A.M. was 69°, in the open air 71°. Following up the bed of this stream towards the hills, we observed in many spots the ground white with the efflorescence of nitre; the bitter taste of the water was thus accounted for. As we approached the narrow defile in the hills, through which the stream passed, pure salt was found adhering to the smooth sandstone rocks, generally encrusted on a dark-coloured vein from which water exuded, and shortly after we reached a powerful hot spring showing a temperature of 125°, the thermometer in the open air standing at 76°.

Above this hot spring, the valley became narrower, and from the sandstone and limestone sides of the ravine water was observed, at almost every yard, dropping and forming large and beautiful stalactites. But what was most singular,

though the rock throughout was the same, a hot spring of water would be found within a yard or two of another of cold water, and though the hot springs were disagreeable to the taste, the water obtained from those that were cold was sweet and good.

Fully a hundred of these springs exist in this valley, and the temperature of the main stream varied from 91° to 105° , the highest temperature found in any of the hot springs being 125° , and the water appearing to be strongly impregnated with iron.

A peculiar kind of creeper grows in great luxuriance in the neighbourhood of the springs, which everywhere ooze through the rocks. The dragon's-blood tree was observed on the hills above, and an ibis and a coney were seen, whilst a flock of large apes noisily resented our intrusion upon their retirement. The head of the stream, I was assured, was to be found in the mountain-range of Waghur, which I have since personally ascertained to be the fact. Near where the stream is lost in the sand, we found an extensive burial-ground, and the remains of several old buildings, of small dimensions and of no great antiquity. The distance of Bheeyeh Ghora from the sea is not great, perhaps six miles; and I have been assured by several respectable natives that on the sea-shore north of Bheeyeh Ghora, and at the spot where its waters are discharged into the ocean after heavy rains, the remains of an ancient reservoir and aqueduct are to be found, similar to that previously described as extending from Dthubar to Berbera.

It is worthy of remark that the majority of the streams running from the mountain ranges of Waghur and Koolies are bitter, and in quality highly astringent. There are, however, others that afford most delicious and pure water, to be properly appreciated only after a seven years' residence at Aden. The country to the south is described as an inclined plain without hill or rock for seven days' journey; and on arrival at the province of Ogahden, we were told that stones sufficient to make a fire-place were not to be found, whilst the country was one immense prairie of some 20 days' extent.

The Haber Gerhajis, the eldest branch of the three tribes of Edoor, reside chiefly in the mountains to the south of Berbera, whence they extend to the country of Ogahden. They are a powerful and warlike tribe, numbering many horses, in addition to their flocks and herds, and have a nominal suldaun, who possesses, however, but little influence or power over his savage subjects. From this branch of the family of Isaakh sprung the venerable saint Aber Khudle, whose tomb, southwest from Berbera two days' journey, is yet the rendezvous.

when any grave question arises affecting the interests of the Edoor tribes in general. On a paper yet carefully preserved in the tomb, and bearing the sign-manual of Belat, the slave of one of the early Khaleefehs, fresh oaths of lasting friendship and fresh alliances are made, to be broken again, as usual, without a shadow of provocation. In the season of 1846 this holy relic was brought to Berbera in charge of the Haber Gerhajis, and on it the rival tribes of Aial Ahmed and Aial Yunus swore to bury all animosity, and live as brethren in future—with how much sincerity, the events of the two succeeding seasons amply show, some scores of lives having been lost on both sides.

In the country of the Haber Gerhajis the principal articles of trade or produce are—ghee, myrrh, in small quantities and of quality inferior to that produced in Ogahden and Murreyhan, luban of the first quality, ivory, ostrich feathers, and gum-arabic, with a small quantity of “sheima” or orchilla weed, and a still smaller supply of “warus,” a kind of saffron, used by the natives in Yemen to rub over their bodies.

The kafilas from the banks of the “Webbe” Shebeyli, from the small province of Gananeh to the south of the above river, and from Ogahden, pass through the country of the Haber Gerhajis on their way to Berbera. Excepting the slave-kafila from Abyssinia, these are the most valuable caravans of the season, bringing ivory from the Galla tribes of Sidama, south of the Webbe Gananeh, ostrich feathers, myrrh, and frankincense. They frequently exceed 2000 camels in number, and are well guarded by the men of Ogahden, who may always be recognised amidst the crowd at Berbera, by the red colour of their robes, produced, as they all declare, by the fine red dust peculiar to their country.

From Gananeh to Berbera is 24 days for a kafila. From the Webbe Shebeyli 19 days, and from Ogahden 9 days. I consider the journey fully practicable for a European, if at all known to the Somali tribes on the coast, and in the more distant province of Ogahden, his reception would be kind, and his person and property safe. In the map of N.E. Africa * appended to this memoir, will be seen the position of the different tribes north of the Webbe Shebeyli, and my idea of the course of that river from Zeyla down to below Mukdesha. My information has been obtained from many natives of different tribes, and by comparing one with the other, no very serious error can arise in a journey of 20 days, since the country, after the first ranges are surmounted, presents a level for several days.

Amongst the Edoor tribes, as with the descendants of Dar-

* *Vide* Map of Somali coast, in the last volume.—Ed.

road, there exists a class of men who never carry the spear and shield, but whose sole arms are the bow and poisoned arrow. With a couple of arrows in his mouth, and half a dozen more dangling from his long tangled hair, the "Rahnu" is feared alike by man and beast, and in all forays is looked upon as an invaluable ally. Inferior in caste, and not ranking with the gentle blood of the Somali aristocracy, the "Rahnu" approaches in every respect to the freedman of the Roman. They are expert and daring hunters, crippling the elephant by a blow on the back sinew with a heavy knife,* and attacking even the stately African lion with no better arms than the tiny, though unerring, "nishab" or arrow.

The tree from which the poison is made, I found in the mountains of the Ahl-Oor Singally, and at Aden I had a small quantity of poison prepared by a cunning Rahnu, in my own house. Its effects on an animal are instantaneously fatal, and I have been repeatedly assured that on a human being the poison has equal power, causing the hair and nails to drop off, and the sufferer to die in less than half an hour. The only cure is immediate excision of the part wounded, and the number of ghastly scars visible on the bodies of the Somalis amply testify to the dread in which the poisoned barb of the arrow is held amongst them.

This poison I imagine to be the same as that described by Major Sir W. Cornwallis Harris, in his work on South Africa, when speaking of the arms of "Burhman," except that amongst the Rahnus the juice of the euphorbium is not made use of.

The last branch of the Western tribes is the Haber el Jahleh, who possess the sea-ports from Seyareh to the ruined village of Rukudah, and as far as the town of Heis. Of these towns, Kurrum is the most important, from its possessing a tolerable harbour, and from its being the nearest point from Aden, the course to which place is N.N.W., consequently the wind is fair, and the boats laden with sheep for the Aden market pass but one night at sea, whilst those from Berbera are generally three. What greatly enhances the value of Kurrum however is its proximity to the country of the Dulbahanta, who approach within four days of Kurrum, and who therefore naturally have their chief trade through that port. The Ahl Yusuf, a branch of the Haber el Jahleh, at present hold possession of Kurrum, and between them and the tribes to windward there exists a most bitter and irreconcilable feud, the consequence of sundry murders perpetrated about five

* This was seen by Commander Campbell and myself, when inland from Berbera, and Bruce again has spoken only the truth.

years since at Kurrum, and which hitherto have not been avenged.

The small ports of Enterad, Unkor, Heis, and Rukudah are not worthy of mention, with the exception of the first named place, which has a trade with Aden in sheep; and, leaving the Haber el Jahleh at Heis, therefore, it remains but to notice the ancient settlement of Meyet, the burial-place of the founder of the Edoor nation, and their present limit to the eastward. Meyet is situated on a small plain bounded on the south and south-west by the western extreme of the lofty mountains of the Ahl Oor Singally, which here approach within two hours of the sea. From Meyet a large quantity of white ebony is exported, as also a long and thin rafter used both at Aden and on the coast, in the construction of native houses. The hills immediately over the town afford a large supply of very fine gums, and the place carries on a considerable trade with both Aden and Maculla.

The stranger is at once struck with the magnitude of the burial-ground at Meyet, which extends for fully a mile each way. Attachment to the memory of their forefather Isaakh yet induces many aged men of the western tribes to pass the close of their lives at Meyet, in order that their tombs may be found near that of their chief, and this will account for the unusual size of this cemetery. Many of the graves have head-stones of madreporé, on which is cut in relief the name of the tenant below, and of these many are to be found 250 years old.

In my notice of the western tribes, I have made use of the word Edoor to distinguish the descendants of Isaakh from those of his fellow-countryman Darrood, but it may be as well to observe that the western tribes are averse to the appellation, and invariably correct the person who styles them Edoor, by telling him that the Edoor are the Galla tribes. The Mijjerthaine told me that the Galla family into which Sheikh Isaakh married was called "Durr," and from that is derived the name of "Edoor;" and the Haber Gerhajis, on the other hand, retaliate by quoting "Darrood" as an offshoot from the same Pagan source.

I found it impossible to obtain any estimate of the number of their tribes, but the population in the interior is doubtless very great. The advantage almost universally taken of the liberal allowance of wives sanctioned by the Prophet, and the prolific nature of the Somali females, are strong arguments to that effect, but it would be idle to attempt to put down any fixed number for the population of this part of N.E. Africa, and I much doubt, if all the tribes were computed

separately, from report, whether we should even then obtain an approximate estimate of the truth.

To the South and S.S.W. of Berbera, on the road to Hurrur, the kafilas pass through the country of the Burtirrihi, and Girrihi, the two most western branches of the family of Darrood. Of these two tribes little is known. The Emirs of Hurrur have for many years intermarried with the Burtirrihi, and this gives them a certain degree of influence, but they do not visit the sea-coast so commonly as the other tribes, and appear to be a pastoral race, occupied solely in tending their flocks and herds, and in planting the coffee-tree on the low ranges S.E. of Hurrur.

They are bordered on the S.E. and E. by the province of Ogahden, a country of considerable extent, bounded on the S. by the Webbe and on the E. by Murreyhan. From Berbera to Ogahden is nine days, of which I am assured that four are without water. The fertile valley of the Nogal passes Ogahden on its northern side, and throughout the province generally the ground is cultivated, and a large quantity of white Jowari is grown, forming the common food of the people.

Ogahden is stated to be a level country, possessing excellent pasturage for cattle, with abundance of water, which is procured by digging wells 6 to 8 feet in depth. The soil is remarkable for its redness, but the purity of the air is highly extolled. From the number of their flocks and herds, the inhabitants, as might be expected, export large quantities of ghee from Berbera, and carry on a regular trade with the Galla tribes to the southward of the Webbe Shebeyli, through the intervention of the people resident at Gananeh, who act as brokers on the occasion. The goods carried down for barter are white and blue cloth, cowries and beads, on which last an enormous profit is realised. The gums are purchased by the skin of 60 lbs., ostrich feathers by the pound, and ivory by the frasila of 20 lbs., if of large quality and good of its kind.

The Galla tribes are described as a nation to be trusted if once an acquaintance is formed. They appear to understand cultivation of the soil, and produce immense quantities of jowari, which is retailed at a cheap rate on the east coast of Africa, at the ports of Mukdesha Juba, Patta, Lamoo, &c. and thence exported to Hadramaut. Bruce mentions the river Webbe Gananeh, or Jub, as the Yas, or Webbe; and, as an additional instance of his general veracity as a traveller, I may mention that on my inquiring about this name from the Somali who recently had returned from the river, he told me that it was

occasionally termed so from the stream being full of yahass, or alligators, rendering its navigation on a raft highly dangerous. From the word "Yahass" Bruce doubtless derives his name. It is now well known that Webbe in the Somali language means a river, whilst Kehbei or Kibbee signifies the bed of a river in which pools of water are found. After a long search after it, I found by accident that the river Durdur, said to exist four days inland from Burnt Island, meant in the language of the country a running stream, but no river; and doubtless, as our acquaintance with this part of the country increases, we shall find that the confusion now existing relative to the Webbe will be satisfactorily cleared up, and the number of rivers laid down in Mr. M^cQueen's map reduced to two only—the Jub or the Webbe Gananeh, and its northern brother the Webbe Shebeyli, the three smaller streams running between them not being worthy of mention.

Ogahden is governed by a chief who takes the title of Oghass, but who, like all other Somali chiefs, can boast of little save the name. Horses are described as being abundant and very cheap; camels equally so. The country, from all accounts, is safe, and the climate healthy; and a journey through Ogahden down to Gananeh, or down the Wady Nogal, would amply repay the traveller. Amongst the families of Darrood, Ogahden ranks as second, but in numerical strength and extent of country it would probably take the first place.

Of Murreyhan but little is known, bordering as it does on the Haweea tribe, who are a different caste of people to the Somalis; they are not looked upon with much consideration, but their country must abound in gums, myrrh, and ivory. The valley of the Nogal borders upon them, and they are separated from the sea by a belt of country occupied by the tribe of the Haweea; the Somali and the Seedee of the coast of Suwahhil.

Murreyhan cultivates no grain, and is separated from the Shebeyli river by Haweea again. Kafilas from this province annually arrive at Berbera, bringing the best of myrrh, and the finest ostrich feathers and ivory. Their breed of horses is highly esteemed; and I believe that a traveller might penetrate the country with ease, provided he took the precaution of being passed from tribe to tribe, a measure indispensable amongst the Arabs, and highly desirable amongst the more savage inhabitants of N.E. Africa.

Between Murreyhan and the country of the Ahl Oor Singally the great pasture-ranges of the Dulbahanta, a level country abounding in grass, water, and timber, and without a stone. Unlike their other brethren, the Dulbahanta are a nation who

fight chiefly on horseback, their arms being two spears and a shield. Their horses are powerful and courageous; the breed descended, according to Somali tradition, from the stud of Suleiman, the son of David, and consequently is highly valued. The Dulbahanta, as far as I have seen of them, are a fine martial race of men, second to none of the branches of Darrood either in conduct or appearance, and they are described as being courteous and hospitable to the stranger who visits them. They have generally two Sultauns, or Gerads; the elder of whom, Mohammed Ali Harran, governs the eastern limits of the province, whilst his colleague, Ali Gerad, recently deceased, guards the N.W. frontier from the thieving Haber el Jahleh in the neighbourhood of Kurrum and from the Ogahden family of Noh Ahmar.

The Dulbahanta have no grain whatever, and subsist chiefly on milk, save when want of rain renders it necessary to thin the countless flocks and herds that roam over their boundless prairies. They have but few gums, but they bring down ivory, ostrich feathers, and ghee in abundance. Wild beasts are numerous, the lion especially so. The cameleopard is found on the grassy plains bending down to the southward from the stupendous mountain-chain of the Jebel Ahl Oor Singally; and the koodoo, the oryx, and the black rhinoceros are also common in the same neighbourhood.

North of the Dulbahanta the country, for so great a distance level, begins to rise gradually. The grassy plains become more rocky, small limestone ranges are passed, until at last the level plateau of the Jebel Ahl Oor Singally is attained; when the traveller, from the dizzy brink of Eyransid (the Cloud-bearer) looks down a sheer precipice of 1500 to 2000 feet, and sees the villages of the Ahl Oor Singally dotted along the sandy sea-coast 6500 feet below him.

This magnificent range, so aptly named, and rising in solemn grandeur about 25 miles from the sea, had long been looked at from a distance by me; and a visit to the Gerad, or chief, of the Ahl Oor Singally, in February, 1848, afforded me the opportunity, so long coveted, of visiting them. Between Mohamed Ali Gerad and myself frequent friendly letters and messages had passed by means of the boats that touched at his ports on their way to Aden; and during this my first interview with him, he appeared anxious to get "his name written in the books of the English," as his Mijjerthaine brothers had done. An assurance that I might go anywhere I pleased over his country, was caught at on my part with a readiness that appeared rather to alarm him; but seeing that my tent and travelling kit was already on its way to the shore, he appa-

rently thought it useless to argue the matter or magnify the perils of the road. By the following afternoon we had left the town of Ras Goree, and, taking a small guard of elders from his own tribe, we bid his Majesty an affectionate farewell, and turned our steps in the direction of the lofty barrier range of Eyransid.

An hour's sharp walking took us some distance up the bed of a watercourse, having a general southerly direction, and the night was passed in a small clearing under the cliff. At sunrise the march was resumed, and, passing some three to four miles up the same watercourse, in which we observed several large monkeys and some remarkably fine antelopes, we crossed a low shoulder, covered with gum-trees, amongst which we found the myrrh, and had an opportunity of collecting a small portion of its gum. It was the same tree as that sent down by me to Bombay some years ago, and the only one, as I was assured, affording the myrrh of commerce. Entering the bed of the mountain-torrent a second time, we observed the broad-leaved luban-tree (Meyti), the Wadi and Adadi species of the gum-arabic, and large specimens of the Harraz, or baubul-tree. The sides of the watercourse were regularly-disposed strata of fine and coarse gravel interspersed with huge boulders of limestone. Fragments of porphyry were frequently picked up, and small quantities of pure white marble. Shortly before nine we reached a pool of water in the bed of the mountain-torrent, which had a decidedly bitter taste, similar to that before described at Bheyeh Ghora. The temperature was pleasant, not exceeding 81° under a tent at 11 A.M. The general direction of the watercourse during this march was N. and S. By three in the afternoon we were once more on our way. The ascent became very steep, and we now came upon large fragments of ironstone interspersed with lava and black basalt, small masses of red ochre were common, as also hardened clay; and the frankincense-tree now began to be very abundant. A most fatiguing ascent of two hours exhausted man and beast; and, too tired to trouble ourselves about the tent, we lay down on the mountain side, and, with the thermometer at 65° , and the clouds rolling round us, we were soon drenched to the skin with the dew.

The hour for morning prayer found us packed up and on our road. For three hours we crossed over undulating hills, every mile rapidly increasing the elevation. The dragon's-blood tree now appeared in abundance, and, from my former experience amongst the Mijjerthaine, I was not surprised to find that its value was unknown in the Oor Singally country. The "bo-chain" of Socotra, a peculiar tree found also in Aden, but I

believe possessing no generic name, was seen on every side ; and another extraordinary specimen, like a gigantic bulb of 3 to 4 feet in diameter, with a few small sprouts, not worthy of the name of branches, springing from its top, attracted our attention. At an estimated height of 4000 feet we halted during the heat of the day, with the thermometer 76° at noon. The country now began to assume the general character of a limestone range. The watercourse that we had left the day previous was to be seen winding its way into the ravines of the high range, and here and there a cluster of white limestone slabs pointed out the site of an ancient graveyard.

At 3 P.M. the ascent was resumed. The country became more thickly wooded and more beautiful as we advanced. The track of the rhinoceros warned us to have our rifles in readiness, and before sunset we pitched in a small level spot of ground about 1000 feet below the Peak of Eyransid. A stream of delicious water was found within half a mile of the tent, the only drawback upon which was that it abounded in small leeches, which rendered it necessary to be cautious in drinking without due examination. The tree from the root of which is made the poison for the Somali arrow, was here pointed out to us, and I have now with me a piece of it. Here, as in other places, extensive burial-grounds were observed, but owing to the long drought the people had retired to the mountains farther inland, and had we not taken the precaution of driving a few sheep with us from the sea, we should have been on very short commons indeed.

Sunday morning afforded us a rest, but in the afternoon we pushed on for an hour, passing on our road many places where the track of the rhinoceros was recent. The cactus appears to be the favourite food of this animal, for we found many trees torn down and half eaten also. A beautiful red flower, too delicate to preserve, was here first observed. Specimens of red ochre, and fossil shells filled with the same, were to be picked up at every step, and the gum-arabic had now replaced the luban or frankincense-tree. Before sunset we halted on a plain immediately below the summit of the mountains, and were honoured with the presence of the sister of Mahomed Ali Gerád, who, in company with a relation, was travelling to her home in the Wady Nogál. The night was bitterly cold, the thermometer showing a temperature of 48° , and the dew falling like soft rain. An occasional howl from the jungle warned us that leopards were to be found in the neighbourhood, and kept our Somali conductors on the *qui vive*, and we were not sorry to recommence our journey at sunrise.

Sending the tent round by a more practicable road, we

scaled the almost perpendicular cliff rising some 750 feet above us, and by eight o'clock found ourselves on the summit of Eyransid, 6500 feet above the sea, and the first Europeans that had ever placed foot on the soil.

To describe the grandeur of the prospect before us is impossible. Range after range lay stretched like a map at our feet, and the view was bounded only by the ocean. The towns of Ras Goree and Gahm were to be seen dotted on the glaring sandy shore, and the Euphrates brig-of-war lay like a speck on the water. At noon the thermometer stood at 64°, and the scud driving past and below us, warned us to prepare for a cold night. As the afternoon advanced, the clouds packed heavy and thick below us, and the rocket and blue-light fired to notify our safety to our friends on board, were consequently not seen at the ship.

To our surprise the temperature during the night was not so low as on the plain 800 feet beneath us; the thermometer standing at 52°. Warm clothing was, however, indispensable; and our Somali guards peevishly remarked, that though we were always wishing for cold weather, we did not appear inclined to benefit by it, judging from the blankets, &c. that we were glad to creep under: as they had but a single cotton-cloth themselves, some little excuse might be made for them; and a venerable old ram, purchased the next morning from a passing Dulbahanta Somali, restored them to their good humour. We spent the following day in wandering over the level plateau forming the summit of the range. The wild fig, 25 to 30 feet in height, was thinly scattered along the ridge. The dragon's-blood was observed 26 inches in diameter and 18 feet in height. The ebony-tree was plentiful, but of small size; a tree similar to, and possibly the *lignumvitæ*, attracted our notice; and cedar-trees, some of them 24 inches in diameter and 25 feet high, were common. In cutting the cedar we observed that the wood which appeared to be growing had no scent, and was nearly white; whilst the more aged branches, that apparently bore no leaf, were of a very deep colour, and had a very strong perfume. The wood is neither prized nor used by the Somalis.

Various and very beautiful wild flowers were scattered over the plain. The aloe was abundant and of good quality, but not used or known by the people. Many species of euphorbium and milk-bushes were seen, but no frankincense or gum-arabic.

The summit of the range is composed of tabular masses of limestone, covered with small nodules, and very cellular, thereby rendering walking most uncomfortable from the sharp-

ness of the rock. At one point that we visited, a most magnificent natural wonder presented itself to us—a column of rock, perhaps 50 feet square, had by some convulsion of nature been separated from the mountain side, and stood alone, a mighty pillar of 1500 feet in height, with hardly a break or irregularity in its sides, so straight had been the fracture. Trees and the grass of years remained on its summit untouched; the intervening 50 feet forming an impassable gulf, and at its foot deep caverns went in far beneath the parent mountain, through whose windings a stone thrown down from above could be heard to reverberate long after it had passed from sight.

A second night of cloud and fog prevented again our communication with the brig by rocket or blue-light, but the “*seraj*” or light of the English will long be held in remembrance by the Ahl Oor Singally, who could not sufficiently admire the one or the other. You are the kings of this world in wisdom, said the solemn Mahamonood Abdi, “And what are we in comparison! Thank heaven, our world is to come!”

After a two days’ stay in this delightful climate, we commenced the descent by the former route, intending to spend a day at the water 1000 feet below, and examine the frankincense trees in the neighbourhood. Scrambling down the rock, we passed many beautiful aloe-trees of 20 feet in height, having several branches and bearing a beautiful scarlet bell-flower of the size and shape of the fox-glove. The aloe plant (the Socotra species) observed on the summit bore a yellow flower and of a different shape altogether. The camels that had been sent round, as before, joined us with the melancholy tale of two of our sheep having been wounded by a leopard on their way down, and their having been obliged to cut their throats in consequence. Time unfortunately was too valuable to be lost, and we were compelled, though very unwillingly, to leave the culprit unpunished.

We halted at the water under the shade of some gigantic fig-trees, laced together by an enormous creeper of some hundred feet in length, and probably the caoutchouc-tree. Rock partridges were here found, but no animals, save Salt’s white antelope, and hungry hyenas, who during the night made a meal of one of our water-skins. The frankincense found on the rocks over this spring was of the large leaf kind, known by the name of *meyeti*, and not much prized; but, independently of gum-arabic and frankincense, there were many other gum-trees, for which I could find no name. Of these, one, a specimen of which I brought to Aden, is, I feel sure, gum-*elemi*; and another variety was shown to us, the gum from which was

used by the Somalis to cleanse the hair. To a botanist these mountains would afford an inexhaustible field for research, and it is much to be hoped that the Flora of the Somali coast may ere long be described in the manner that its beautiful varieties deserve.

On our return to Ras Goree, the chief town of the Ahl Oor Singally, we found that our unaccountable proceedings in the mountain-range had excited much alarm. Amongst the wonderful stories, our having found the gold-tree was confidently asserted; and it was significantly remarked that the English, by carrying away stones and trees from Aden when they surveyed the harbour, were enabled to capture the place afterwards with ease. Fearful however, apparently, of giving offence, the chief refrained from questioning us, and allowed us to repair on board, without the slightest demur at the prices or presents that we thought sufficient recompense for his trouble.

The country of the Oor Singally may be described as a lofty plateau of limestone mountains, precipitous to the north, and gradually sloping to the south. Between the mountains and the sea undulating ranges occur, intersected by ravines, and thickly wooded; whilst the belt of level ground near the sea is thinly sprinkled with bushes, and exhibiting a plain of white sand. The Oor Singally country extends from Bunder Zeeahdeh to Bunder Jedid.

The tribe is powerful and warlike. Brothers of the Mijjerthaine by the same mother, they generally coalesce should war break out; but petty feuds and plunder are of frequent occurrence.

The Oor Singally* are divided into several clans, of whom the following are the most important:—1st, Gerad Abdullah, the royal branch, from which the title of Gerad or chief descends by hereditary right. They reside on the sloping southern side of the great mountain-range of Eyransid, or the "Cloud-bearer." 2nd, the Noh Ahmar, who are found at Bunder Jedid. 3rd, Ogeiss Lubbah, to whom belong two out of the three villages of Ras Goree. 4th, Aden Seyd, at the village of Gahm, and the mountains above. 5th, Mayedth, resident at Door Deree. And, lastly, the numerous clan of Dubeiss, who occupy the towns of Elayah, and extend to Bunder Zeeahdeh, where they join the Mijjerthaine.

The Oor Singally have numbers of horses, and of a good breed. With the exception of the tribe of Dubeiss, the arms used by them are the two spears and shield. The Dubeiss

* "Bringer of good news."

are nearly 5000 strong, and fight with the bow and poisoned arrow alone. It is worthy of remark that in this tribe theft is looked upon with abhorrence; and though, in the event of a wreck, the natives would doubtless consider it fair to plunder, still during my stay amongst them, though many a tempting opportunity of pilfering occurred, not an article was lost. To call a man a thief is a deadly insult, to be washed out by blood alone. Pity it is that the Somali tribes of the Edoor have not the same prejudice in favour of honesty.

It is a mistake to suppose that the high ranges produce the best frankincense. As before stated, we found no luban-trees on the summit of Eyransid, though at the elevation of 2000 to 3000 feet they were abundant. The traveller in crossing the Somali country generally is struck with the appearance of boundary-lines dividing the hills into portions. These landmarks have existed probably for centuries, and serve to denote the limits of each family's gum-trees. In the Oor Singally tribes we were assured that the gum-trees were never planted, but that they increased in course of nature. In the Mijjerthaine country we observed several young trees that had been transplanted, and we were then told that in some districts the trees were regularly cultivated like the coffee, and, naturally, the produce was increased seven-fold,

Frankincense, myrrh, sumuk or gum arabic, shenneh (orchil), and ghee, form the export of this tribe; and a peculiar kind of gum, called "felleh-felleh." I could not find the tree producing this gum, and I can hardly fancy, from the specimens in my possession, that it is the Persian fulay fulah, the fruit of the aloe-tree, as Richardson gives it in his Dictionary. It is imported into Aden in large quantities from the coast, but the merchants cannot tell me the use made of it.

The graves found in the Somali country generally, and especially amongst the tribes of the Ahl Oor Singally, are remarkable for their neatness. They are built of white slabs of limestone, almost marble, and surrounded by a circle of stones, the space within being neatly gravelled; but at Bunder Goree, in the Mijjerthaine territory, and in the neighbourhood of Berbera, very ancient graves are found, consisting of a heap of stones, frequently 7 to 8 feet in height, and 15 to 18 feet in diameter at the base, hollowed in the centre, and with no headstone, similar in all respects to those described by Mr. Richardson in his travels in the great desert of the Sahara. They are, I fancy, relics of the Galla tribes, who once resided on the coast, but we could obtain no information regarding them.

To a traveller wishing to ascend the mountain-ranges of the Jebel Ahl Oor Singally, I should recommend the small port of Doorderee, to the eastward of Ras Goree, as the best starting-

point. The mountain-spurs there approach nearer the sea, and there is not the same scarcity of water. Moreover that part of the mountain-district called Minneh, on which the people throughout the year keep immense herds of horned cattle, lies in his way. I do not anticipate any difficulty being thrown in the way by the chiefs, nor would the journey be very expensive; whilst the bracing climate, pure air, and magnificent scenery must prove most advantageous to an invalid.

The Mijjerthaine tribe has already been described by me in a Memoir forwarded to Government in 1843; and, on looking over my notes, I do not find it requisite to make any alteration, excepting in one or two minor points. The luban meyeti is there described as being the most valuable species of frankincense, which I have since ascertained not to be the case. And again, where the Mijjerthaine tribe is spoken of as inferior to the western Somalis.—a few years' more experience has proved to me that the Mijjerthaine and Ahl Oor Singally tribes are unmeasurably superior to those of the Edoor; and, though given to plunder a wreck (a fault sometimes found in England), they will not rob the stranger of his own private property, and life is safe amongst them. With this very brief tribute to the manly character of the Mijjerthaine, I will now pass on to Ras Hafoon, the southern extreme of my wanderings on the Somali coast.

Ras Hafoon, or "The Surrounded," is in the Mijjerthaine territory, and tenanted by the Aial Fatha branch of the family of Othman. It consists of a nearly square headland of 600 to 700 feet in height, formed of sandstone and limestone. The outer edge of the peninsula is perfectly flat and tabular, and the interior consists of undulating hills deeply intersected by ravines and the courses of mountain torrents. It is connected with the mainland by a long narrow neck of white sand, shells, and mud, with a few stunted bushes thinly scattered along it; and from its being thus almost an island, I imagine it takes its name Hafoon.

The southern bay is of course best adapted for ships during the strength of the N.E. monsoon, but a change of two or three points in the direction of the wind to the eastward causes a swell to roll in, and a surf to break on the beach. On our arrival there we found a few miserable Somali huts, and a population of perhaps 50 people, who offered ivory, ostrich feathers, ambergris, and fish-teeth for sale. The bay is much frequented by the shark-fishers from the Arabian coast, many of whom reside here throughout the year, merely moving their fishing craft to the other side of the isthmus as the monsoon changes.

A walk of seven or eight miles brought us to the N.W. point

of the cape, whence we embarked in a very crazy boat for the mainland, The bay when we crossed was too shallow for anything but very small vessels, and I feel confident that a ship would not be able to ride in safety throughout the S.W. monsoon, owing to the heavy swell that must roll round the point and the violent gusts of wind blowing across the headland. This northern bay, or Khore Hardeah, I should imagine to be the most unhealthy spot on the Somali coast. Its shores, and the bottom of the bay, are covered with decomposed vegetable matter, which on being disturbed gives forth a noxious gas that is perfectly sickening, and in which the unfortunate traveller who longs for a bath sinks leg deep; and yet we found many fishermen living on the sea-shore, who from long habit had become accustomed to these exhalations, and wished for no better place.

We pursued our way for about nine miles to the lagoon of Hundah, passing over a flat country composed almost entirely of coral and limestone, and evidently at one time covered by the sea. At Hundah, to our great disappointment, we found the lagoon salt-water, except at its head, where it was barely drinkable; a well of good water was however found a few yards higher up, which shortly was crowded by the flocks and herds from the wooded plains inland of us. Our very uncommon appearance, the tent and our baggage, occasioned unbounded astonishment to the natives, who poured in on every side, but no incivility was offered, and no article of our baggage was missing when we prepared to start on the following day.

Milk was brought to us in abundance which was paid for in blue cotton cloth, and sheep were equally attainable. Hafoon, however, like the whole Somali coast during the early part of 1848, was suffering from long-continued drought, which had occasioned much misery amongst them.

During the time that the French surveying-vessels were anchored in the southern bay in 1846, their crews cleared out one of the few wells found there, and thus procured a supply of good water. The other wells were brackish and bitter, and had become deteriorated by constant use.

In the northern bay, or Khore Hardeah, we found no water at all, but at the bottom of the bay, at a place called Khor Hashera, we were told that a stream of water ran into the sea. It is possible that the river mentioned in old writers as existing in the neighbourhood of Hafoon may be this stream, and Khor Hashera the ancient Opone.

During the S.W. monsoon, a kind of fair, similar to that at Berbera, though much smaller, is annually observed at Khore Hardeah. The merchants from Maculla, Shahr, and from the Mijjerthaine Bunders to the northward and westward, attend

this meeting about the end of May, when their bugulas are hauled up on the beach, and a brisk trade is carried on throughout the S.W. monsoon, in gums, ostrich feathers, hides, ivory, and ghee. Large quantities of ambergris are also brought for sale, and the price demanded is very great. Elephant hunting is followed by those who have guns; and last year upwards of 35 were killed by a party of gun-men brought by a speculating Somali from Brava on the coast. A good trade might be carried on between Mauritius and Hafoon in asses. These could be procured at Hafoon in great numbers for five to six dollars each, and I should imagine, consequently, that the speculation would answer well, especially as the voyage would be so short in the N.E. monsoon.

2.—*Remarks on the Course of the Hurricane which occurred on the Malabar Coast, in April, 1847; and on the probable position of the Steam-Frigate Cleopatra at the time.* By Captain T. G. CARLESS, I.N. (Communicated by the Hon. the Court of Directors of the East India Company.)

[Read Jan. 8th, 1849.]

THE following attempt to trace the course of the hurricane which occurred on the Malabar coast in April, 1847, is drawn up from the information obtained from the log-books of the steam-frigate *Sesostriis*, steam-vessel *Victoria*, and ships *Buckinghamshire*, *Mermaid*, *Faiz Rubany*, and *Atiel Rahumon*. The investigation furnishes another proof to those already afforded of the rotatory nature of these violent storms.

At noon on the 16th of April, it appears by the *Buckinghamshire's* log that she was in lat. $8^{\circ} 45' N.$, and long $73^{\circ} 3' E.$, with the wind blowing a hard gale from N.E. b. N., and a very high sea. The *Faiz Rubany* at the same time was in lat. $11^{\circ} 16' N.$, and long. $75^{\circ} 27'$, with the gale moderate from E.S.E.; and the *Atiel Rahumon* at anchor off *Alipee*, in lat. $9^{\circ} 25' N.$, had squally weather, with the wind varying from E. and E.S.E.

The data afforded by the direction of the wind at these points, although not so complete as could be wished, from the vessels being all in the upper half of the circle described by the hurricane, are still sufficient to enable us to ascertain the vortex, or centre round which it revolved with tolerable accuracy; and I am therefore induced, after an attentive consideration of the facts, to place it in lat. $8^{\circ} 3' N.$, and long. $74^{\circ} 5' E.$, at the spot marked A in the chart. My belief in the correctness of this position is confirmed by observing that