

Hochmann-
no 2. A.
1894-

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Archie 2

Continuation of My Chronicle

in

The only very moderately P. Pest Arabia
1894.

March 10th Harri, on the Indian Ocean.

We stayed a week at Shaker Bunder
& endured much misery in our palaces
from fleas & mosquitos. From the first
pests we had no peace day or night & our
average catch was 20 in 12 hours. The latter
were of that kind which sleep by day.
At Khottan they sleep by night & at Aden
they rest neither night nor day. The house
by night resounds with groans & shakings
of bedclothes & our appearance is such
that no steamer would take us on board
without severe questioning.

Our only pleasure was our quiet walks
by the sea shore at sunset, if we can only
smoke off without a soldier.

During all this time negotiations have been going on as to whether we could go next. Saibut was impossible & no further than Kossair could we go at first but Imam Sheriff went constantly to the Sultan & finally it was quite settled that we should safely go to Bir Briket.

Great was our delight & fear broke out badly again among the servants who dread the very sound of the name. Maathais gladly took permission to remain behind. Mahmoud, Ismet & Saleh were also not to come.

All arrangements were made about sea we were never to stop more than one night anywhere, to come back a different way & to start on Friday.

However on Thursday it appeared that not only could we Christians by no means go to Kabr Had, a tomb on the way, but the journey would take 30 days. Not being able

to see the principal place, & not having so much time to spare we gave it up.

It would have cost 670 dollars. 7 to 12. We then arranged to go to Mosaina along the Coast & still to start on Friday.

On Friday therefore we arose betimes packed our beds & not till 4 p.m. was it ascertained that the camels were not coming.

No one can do anything as the Sultan has no power beyond his own dominions & the camel men are all foreigners.

However this morning early Sat^d the 7 camels came early & we were quickly travelling along the sands picking our way among the shells & the crabs on the way to Hami (hot). We

We have the chief Sultan of all the Hamouris with us, a very old rich & dirty man but most precious to us as a safeguard. Two of his sons are hostages kept at Shaker till we return in peace.

The Gov^r of Kossair is with us too. Had men

of the different tribes we pass through
as siara. These camels are paid for
by the trip, for 12 days so it will not pay
them to dawdle. Camels + siara 18 dollars
which here are called reals.

We had a delightful journey nearly all
by the sea. We were obliged half way to go
up + round a creek + the last mile we
were above a low cliff with great smashes
of large shells. It must be a furious place
in a storm. We passed a wretched village
consisting of a few arbores + a well whose
waters are both bitter + salt.

Here at Hami we are delightfully
encamped in a grove of palms, both coconuts
+ date. with little channels of sulphur
reous water running about. Too hot to put our
hand in. I had a delicious bath in the
tent as soon as the water got cool enough.

We had, as we always do brought some
water with us. enough for the tea.

As we rode in we came upon a large tank

with about 40 women + girls bathing.
Such a flutter of clothes! + heels for
these ladies their dresses are easy to get
on.

Theodore now rides a donkey. He has sent
the gray horse Lubda back to Khotton.

March 11th Dies - E + I were so lucky as
to have none of the travelled fleas in our
tent + a very good night. We started at
7:20 without any rows or beads on the
way hither + got here about 1. We did not
go down to the sea at all.

We nearly got stuck in a creek. There
was most sticky deep mud at the edge
+ an attempt was made to ford in vain
so we had to go up higher where it was
narrower + in the end the camels which
could not face the mud + had gone all
the way round were as forward as we.

The Bedou who is now supposed to act
as groom to the 3 beasts put in Bashai bit
so doddly that I discovered his mouth to

be full of blood so I put his nose through the part of the bridle meant for his ears & rode him with the bit under his throat. The great ring for putting his chin through clapping like a bell.

All along abt. 20 or 30 feet above the sea & half a mile in we see many shells, some in an ordinary state, some half petrified some quite, but not imbedded in stone.

Abt. 12 we passed over & amongst a range of low hills of volcanic jumble there were earths of all colours & seams of gypsum stuck up edgeways & many other things.

I used at one time to wish we had brought a geologist with us, but I know better now. I have but to think of his specimens and their transport, besides the responsibility for his safety.

There is nothing to see at this village but there was a report of an inscription

to which I was led a wild goose chase this afternoon.

Our camp would have been nice but we were besieged & nearly deafened by the crowd, all shouting they wished to "shouf (see) Firenghi".

March 12th Bagashewa - A damp night the crops around much damaged by the starers who trampled about every where.

We went out of our way to see a place where bitumen is oozing out of the rock & brought away a bit.

We have had a most peaceful day. All the baggage is on five camels, which shows we need not have paid for y. & the father of all the Hamouris is on the sixth.

All the men are most civil to us.

We had a very very hot journey up hill down dale & over many stones. We are encamped round a large & pretty pool of rain water.

At once on arrival the camels went in then the men. Then Bascha joined them & after that water was got to drink while the soldiers washed their few clothes. Theodore subsequently bathed in it & said it was like sitting in warm oil.

There are shepherd Bedouin living here. Their village consists of 2 harbours 6000 feet square & 2 roofs each on 21 posts with the household utensils on & round them. They have a picket rope pegged down in a square with large loops all along into which a full grown sheep's head could easily go. In this they put the heads of the little kids until their turn for supper. They stand or lie without trying to take them out. A scorpion 2 inches long had travelled in our tent from Dies. One of the ^{Bedouin} soldiers said to me in a confidential whisper: "Are you a man or a woman?"

March 13th Kossair. We were 5 hours on the journey partly over stones and at last reached the sea shore over very heavy sand. Bascha's mouth was still bleeding very much, we thought from some unhealed wound but later 3 fine leeches were found under his tongue.

The shore was not so full of shells & seaweeds, corals, madrepores & sponges but there were hundreds of sea gulls sitting in the shallow water & porpoises.

Before we reached Kossair the shore became shelving, so we had to go up above, & when we got quite near sat on a rocky hillock waiting for our kafila to come up with the governor, and contemplating the town, apparently "lying four square" with its yette its cas-tells & a. It is on a point & has 2 sides to the sea S & E, & there are many castles along the walls.

The God: a very thin old man whose scanty

beard is dyed with henna. He was governor abt. 6 years ago & is now appointed govt. again in answer to the request of the inhabitants.

Great joy was felt therefore & manifested by firing many guns. Some came to meet him, some stayed in the town some came out on the towers & those who came with him one & all joined in shooting whenever they liked, under our noses & in from every direction. The govt. & all the foot-passengers arrived with their feet twice their natural size from the ready clinging mud necessitating scraping picking out between the toes with daggers.

We were taken upstairs in the govt. house to a room partly roofless, but with what may be likened to a shed at one side - where we subsided on to the matting & the govt. came often to see that we were attended to & given most powerfully strong tea with much sugar, cinnamon

and ginger. I began to feel uncomfortable thereby so retired down to my green home which was by this time ready in the yard & was so well when I reached it that I could give to the delightful surprise of finding his bed made to unpack on. We had very comfortable room for our camp in the yard & in the evening went down on the shore.

We had ridden round to the principal gate on the N. & were surprised to find the S. side open to the sea, though there are four detached castles on that side.

March 14th Raïda. All along the top of the cliff 3 hours. The old Sultan of the Hamouris with us otherwise no safety beyond Kossair for us. We met a man alone who was much alarmed at us. He lit his match, got his gun ready, left the path but our people should:

"What good can you do? you are only one & we are many & besides we mean you

no harm." So there was great laughter at + with him.

We are encamped in a field + have been much stared at + tied up in the tent all day.

March 15th Rahmet. Here we are at the end of our tether to Eastward. Our journey hither took 2 hours, passing nothing interesting on the way, but buoyed up with hopes of some delightful inscriptions. One that we were to visit on the way to Mosaina, our today's supposed destination, + one on a cave quite near Mosaina.

When we reached this river bed, a spot in the mountains abt. 5 miles off was pointed out so we decided to stay here today, after very much consultation with the aged Sultan, + to go next day to Mosaina, see the cave, + return to this camp.

When Theodore was ready to start for the

5 miles, it appeared that it might be dangerous, it being the country of no one then present, + the old Sultan said it would be bad for his son, the hos. Tages so going had to be abandoned.

Afterwards it was revealed that the cave is 20 miles from Mosaina up on the akaba (plateau), that there was no water, no village at Mosaina + no means of getting forage: so in that case it is useless as well as impossible + we propose to return to Kossair tomorrow, helping ourselves, if possible with a boat from Raïda. It looks like rain but we hope it won't as in this river bed we should be in danger.

March 16th. We started at the usual time about 7, + about 10.30 were at Raïda, where an old. Seyid. took us into a little room 6x12 with matting in it + we settled down there to rest + have our luncheon till 1, when we

started leaving the camels to follow.

When we reached Sarrir we tried to go to the sea side & to get to windward of it as we had had a severe lesson in passing the cemetery 2 days before. Even the Bedouins had to hold their noses. We got some water & according to request I stopped to let a crowd of women look at me & then Basha by desire of the soldiers was made to prance for them & then they made me gallop away amid screams of delight.

The soldiers always shout 'Shilloh!' to make to set off if any one is there to see the wondrous sight -

We went over half a mile of sand but, when we got to the sea, we found the tide nearly high & rising & after a little time found it impossible to plough our way along as we went further up by an intermediate track & through much heavy sand.

We reached Kossair 5.30 & were soon warmly welcomed by the kind old Governor, & taken upstairs & put on the floor to drink coffee & await our kafilah.

How pleasant it is to be treated like a human being again after all the hatred we have encountered!

No one seems to know or care about our being Gavers. Saleh not being here to point it out to them.

To our surprise the camels were little more than half an hour behind us. They had not been fighting with the sand. Our camp was pitched in the same yard, fish, wood, water, eggs, forage & a little milk having been got ready beforehand.

March 17th Kossair. I was much disturbed by the Sultan of the Hamoamis saying his prayers in my ears as I lay in bed. This is a time for disturbed nights, being what they call the Fast of Ramazane.

but they eat plenty by night. It is hard however on those who work by day.

We started at 8 with the old gentlemen on a camel & went up the Wady Sirwan, 2 hours to reach a ruin at the village of Maaber. It is an old Arab fort, very disappointing to us. People were surprised at our temerity in entering it. It is the abode of Jinn - no one who goes in at one door can come out at the same.

We rested under a dom-tree, chomping its little fruits on us & our camels had a little grass to eat & there is a real stream of good water. We were well stared at but people were perfectly pleasant. Theodore bought a spear.

About 1 o'clock, feeling that our work & researches were as thoroughly done as in our power lay, we set out to return to England.

March 18th We rose very early, but not

so early as Imam Sheriff who caused his followers to get up at mid night & made them light their fire. He was very sleepy & misled by a light in our tent. We dressed by candle light & the tent was struck almost before we clear out the last things.

I rode & every one else walked a mile to Ras Dis where we embarked in a Sam boat for Shaker. Don Livoli came to see us off & the camels, donkeys, Basha the soldiers & the siara people all went on by land. We were carried into a most filthy boat from which we screamed as best we might into our own stuffed with baggage over which we clambered & squeezed ourselves down 8 passengers including Ali the Afghan interpreter & 4 sailors.

The 1st class stern was 3 ft x 5 x 4. Here G. Imam Sheriffe, & I settled down with the steersman sitting in the angle ^{at} of my

side leaning against the backs of my
quarters. I soon abandoned us for a
hole amid the luggage. Not one had room
for his legs to stretch out. I soon became
a wretched heap. We had got under
weigh about 7.30 + at 10 Mauthais
made some tea but had to abandon
his task + seek his perch in the bow very
bad. We had a small meal but
after this people expanded all over
the baggage, stretching their legs in the
air so we could get nothing more in the
way of meals, a little kakuwa, a sweetmy,
+ no drink so we landed very much
exhausted after 18 hours. It was very
hot indeed also.

The wind was fair, what there was of
it but that was little. At sunset we
feared the wind would go down so we
planned to land, only taking blankets
+ food + to lie on the sand. Great
exertions were made to effect a landing

but this proved impossible, so on we
went. We got out a blanket each, not
knowing how long our voyage might
last. The distance is 50 miles. We
had a splendid moon.

At one time we thought we were going
to tack but to our dismay perceived the
Captain just hovering over his blanket
that he had spread + found that
he had put the ship to bed + we were
~~to be~~ to be rocked in the cradle
of the deep till morning, for there was a
great swell. He was reasoned into
going on + so on we did till 2 a.m. next
morning, when once more, worn +
weary we were carried on shore at
Shaker Bunder.

We all ached from the constraint
our limbs had suffered.

As it is Ramazan we easily got the
cook of the house, an Indian + asked
for boiled eggs + not till abt. 4 did we

get some very nasty fried ones. with tea
Then we all lay down anyhow to fight
with the fleas + mosquitos. All our baggage
left on the ship.

I felt much too weak to stir much
till I had had a good luncheon at 12
as there was some difficulty at break
fast.

On that Sambouk, not only had we
very fetid bilge-water, fish oil, +
Cockroach smells, but bugs - only a few
by day but at night they came in their
thousands with their remote ancestors
+ their descendants, consequently we
have great precautions to take with
our blanket baggage + especially those
blankets before admitting them.

Tonight March 19 we have our tent piled
on the roof hoping only to have
mosquitos.

March 20. As it turned out both were
far worse, goats having been kept up

there, but at least we have air being
able to keep the tent open at both ends
instead + tied up at the sides whereas
down stairs we have to keep doors +
windows, or rather shutters shut on
account of the sleepers all around.

Sunt has his feet most dreadfully
swollen + inflamed from bites + is
rather feverish. The horse + donkey
arrived this evening + were delighted
to see us all + get some bread + dates.

Basha has a sore back, to my rage.
I was so proud of his whole skin.

21st + 22^d. Waiting + hoping for a
ship to take us to Aden.

23rd March Waiting also. A boat considered
promising was gone to Hami + was expected
back on Thursday + many a look was sent
for that sail but still she came not.

Sat. 24th. Came + we rose from our beds
in desperation saying we must take any
little boat + get at least to Makalla.

even if we had to tranship. I said
"I shall not make my bed but just
have it to make or pack."

"I answered "I've had enough of
packing my bed prematurely."

I said he would go at once to boats & get
one but heard that J.S. had gone already
& soon I was summoned to see a ~~Brigade~~
& I occupied myself busily with the
packing. He returned hot & tired & say
"we shall start tomorrow morning. After
luncheon he was just gone to sleep when
the Nakhoda of the same boat was
announced at the same time we heard
the ^{Capt.} their (on board ship with) boat w.
not start till tomorrow night while
this w. go at once.

Off to set again & presently gave order
to pack at once & so we joyfully did.

We went to say goodbye to the Sultan
for so Hussein Mia & Ghalib Mia may
both be called. Mia is a title.

They are half brothers the sons of Sultan
Nawaz Jung of Hyderabad

Ghalib Mia is the younger & was
sent here in a sort of disgrace for
some wild conduct with a keeper
but his father is almost immediately
coming to take Hussein away & make
Ghalib Sultan.

They parted with us in a very friendly
way & with hopes of seeing us again
next year.

Then after tipping an army of
people not hitherto seen we set
out for the beach to resume our
seafaring life.

The Nakhoda was said to be gone
to the ship, for which we pay 200 R.
to receive the baggage when it was first
sent down but we found it spreading
over a large area on the sand with live
fens, dead fens, stuffed by Mahmood
& many strange things not looking like

luggage at all.

A bargain was made with much shouting, + in a great crowd that we + all belonging to us should be put on board our ship for 4 dollars.

One of the last things to go was an empty iron drum for spirits, belonging to the British Museum. Its bearer played a tune on it + he + all the crowd danced down to the water's edge.

I was staring guiltily looking about when a man came behind me + suddenly hoisted me on to his shoulder + away with me into the sea. They were all scrambling for me it seems on account of my lightness.

It required all my balance to keep safe till I was put into a large boat. I sat amidships + the men pushing it out jumped in suddenly + shed the contents of their drapery over me in a sheet of water + thoroughly drenched me.

Our ship was a good way out Tossing + there

was no ladder + it was hard to climb in. She is not a smart ship + is untidy looking that she has a woolly, mossy, licheny look. It was abt. 5.30 when we steered for the sunset. + we reached Makalla abt 6 am on Easter Sunday morning Mar 25.

The ship is all open but at the stern where it is decked like 2 shelves of a cupboard. We have the lower shelf abt. 5 ft high. I have borrowed J.S.'s bed as he has a stretcher of the ship at one side of the upper deck.

Theodore, who had been so busy all day worked hard with Kima ^{an Indian servant} to make my cabin nice before I went to it as I had a headache from the packing. but though the beds were made + a rug spread on the floor he could not kill the cockroaches, red ants, fleas + bugs nor remove the smell.

On reaching the upper deck I looked around at once with eagle eyes to see where

Salah had settled his things, for I knew his custom of always taking the best place. Sure enough there were his bedclothes on the 2^d. of the two stretchers one on each side of the deck. I at once ousted them & lay down & told Lunt to take it when I got up & so he did.

Afterwards Salah came & put himself in a place that I told him was rather inconvenient as no one could pass. He said:

"I shall only stay a little time. Mr. Lunt has got my place."

"Your place." I said. How did you get a place?"

"I told the Nakhoda to keep that place for me."

"But had you first asked Mr. Bent where he wished you to sleep? or where he wished you & Mr. Bent to sleep?"

"No."

"Well remember Mr. Bent is master on this ship & I am mistress & I have given

that bid to Mr. Bent & you can go there & I know you have a habit of spitting on carpets & mats but I beg you will now spit overboard as I wish the deck kept clean." & Salah then began to take a back seat.

After this we took a great interest in him & Mahmoud who were both fasting à la Ramadan. If they were sick during the day or fasting time their fast was broken & they need fast no more. Mahmoud soon broke down & thereafter rejoiced much but Salah reached sunset & food only just in safety however in the morning his fast came to a conclusion. Does it not seem a wildly funny idea that putting food in your mouth by the back door ^{involuntarily} should be as sinful as voluntarily putting it in at the front?

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bread &c + then we having announced ourselves + been sent for went to see the Sultan + his ugly sons. We also got him + halwa here + Saleh kept running about + trying to whisper with all the Wazirs + to make mischief - When we got out I tried to keep him in hand but had to leave him free a minute so he managed to slip back to the Sultan + beg a pot of honey + a carpet.

He only got the former + when in the boat going to the ship we laughed over this he became very abusive so I told him he might say or do what he liked at Aden but he had better keep quiet as long as he is on the sea with us.

Tues 26th We have now spent 3 nights on this ship. G has been a little feverish last night but is better. He went to sleep in the sun on a heap of damp sails which is the cause of the illness.

We two are the only ones well all the time.

It takes good climbing to get down to our shelf + it is quite open all across but a bit of sail is hung down in my corner which makes the air stagnate + I can only keep my feet ^{in the shade} there of my bed. It is too hot but with 20 men I must have some little screen.

I graciously gave permission to take a cargo of frankincense at Makulla + a cleaner sweeter lot of bales we could not have, we are glad of the ballast.

We expect + hope to reach Aden some time in the night.

We had great anxiety during the night being threatened with a calm but at last a fine wind sprung up + we whizzed along all sitting up in our beds loudly rejoicing to one another over our expected arrival at the haven where we would be. And there we arrived.

about sunrise.

We went to the same hotel as the Mantharios. Mahmoud & I went. Imam Sheriff & his followers camped near, on some waste land at the back of the Bunder. He came daily to make his tracing of the map every morning & we visited his tents in the evening. I gave a dinner party at the club to me & Mr. Gate & Mr. Harrington Assistant Resident. Capt. Donaldson & Surg. Capt. Burt were away.

One night we dined with them at their bungalow & met the Ceekies.

He is made minister of Zanzibar & was to give a farewell dinner of 36 on board a disabled Rubatino steamer & there was to be a dance afterwards. We were kindly bidden but eventually had to excuse our-

selves & embark on the P.O.S.S. Kaisari Hind as the M.M. steamers going a little later were telegraphed full.

In the mean time with the letters was one from my first-cousin Mrs. John Lee-Warner saying "my brother in law (d.k.) has written by this mail (not 30) to Gen. Jopp whose is his wife's cousin to be civil to Mabel & Theodore".

This letter was quite disregarded neither they nor Col. Seely called so of course they could get no information. Saleh was set on by Mohammed Saleh Jaffer the Native Political Agent, a horrid man to get a tracing of the map.

We kept the day of Imam Sheriff's departure dark from Saleh & a telegram was sent to know when he could be seen. So we ed-

vised him to go on board the
Austrian Lloyd just in & saw
him off, then sent to say he
had gone. So Mohamed Saleh
Jaffar came twice one day
to see how he could get the map
but I said

My information is private &
Confidential & I of course reserve
it for the India Office & the
Indian Government. I have
nothing to do with the Aden
gov^t. - so he went away dis-
comfited.

We left Manthawis & Mahmood
at Port Said & sent had to go
by the Britannia as there was no
2nd class in the Kaiser i Hind that
was not occupied

We stayed 2 days at Marseilles
at the Hotel du Louvre & de la Paix
(otherwise pay) & reached home

on the 20th April after a night
in Paris.

I am thankful to say the efforts
of the Expedition in all branches
seem to be approved of & an
extra meeting is appointed by
the R. Geog Society for Theodore
to give a lecture on the 21st
& fury rages at the India Office
over General Fopp's conduct &
There is every hope that he
may repent.

Thankful are we to be all
safely home from Hadhranouch
the Valley of Death -

and
If we possibly can will go back

Mabel & A. Bent



















































































































































