March
1894
Arabic

16

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Ghançan
Sorfait
Delebn
Reeyedat
alfiyr
almaadr
Sleter

Fruit Syrups
Sainsbury
177 Strand —

Abdul abeed bin Abdullah
New Lanewg St.
Bombay —

Boy with arm plugged not allowed to smell anything sweet on account of wound in his leg favourite remedy is iron pounded & blacksmith & spittoon on a plaster -

Pretty mosque at Shalee with white domes & white minaret palm trees & well.

Gateway also imposing but hints in a manner

Style which does not suit arabic & long grand houses on either side before gateway hung with grand guns, powder flasks &c look well -

Nearly a house is a miniature mosque a sort of dolls house for children put up by a well to do man for children to play at prayers &c - hung with lamps - about 3 feet high & 3 square that they can crawl in & Especially during month of Ramazan they are encouraged to play at mosque - it has its dome & border like a regular mosque - & in evening is hung with lamps - children make much fuss of it.

are busy learning their prayers outside on room. - Shelen people very pious no work at all done after 2 o'clock [illegible] city of dead until sunset. - Dry air not feverish but horrible skin diseases prevalent, bad food & lots of fish -

Summer from Yafi mountain.

Pedigree of Yafi family

Abdullah Al Kaiti came from Yafi

Áod

Omar

Mohamed	abdullah	nowasjim
Sallal	manasseh Houssin	Ghalib
		Basha

up inlets and there may have been a decent harbour here for small crafts. Two forts guard the way from Kossie to this port & near the landing place are two wells & shaikhs graves which serve as perfect store houses for the fishermen they put around them all their gear anchors wipes sails wood & pots & no one will dare to touch a thing.

Voyage from Kossie to Steher in a small Sambuca. Luggage put in the bottom themselves on top & sail in all wonderful how we all packed in. but sometimes they say 30 men get in.

At this season of year S. monsoon sets in a certain number of hours

At Steher flies & mosquitos are so bad that people go down & sleep on the shore.

Drug stuffs -

Ramazan - Indian convicts have been operated upon & want vaseline. they

Palace at Sherwan inhabited by ghins. no one had been in before we went. Stone on road which they say a ghin was bringing to help build fort when another nothing & said why this fuss & he threw it down in disgust - Maaba nestles beneath big pointed rock on plateau called Merwan wh. climbs up along to which they say the Kaffirs used to tie their horses.

Bottle engraved & stuck in at top of buildings :-

Bowstring with cornelian stone, pretty pattern & 2 siderings attached.

Sheikhans valley is end of Manik valley runs parallel to it is almost as large as Hadramaut full of villages & old ruins - Ghail Benjamin is principal town -

Harbour of Kooria is made by a jutting block of basalt going out to the sea about a mile from the town. Probably beyond the intersection of black rock were silted

March 16. Returned from Rackmat to Korsire, 21 miles via Raida nothing of any moment -

Korsire is a little harbour or rather a projecting rock on either side of which small craft can anchor -

Expedition to Sherwan valley 6 miles inland from Korsire where there is a running stream of delicious water, many dates & village of Maaba with Humaunis buy spear and arrow head. At entrance to Sherwan valley are ruins of large fort, circular on one side & about 40 ft in diameter built of round water worn stones set in a very strong cement: dating from same period as the ruins at Ghut Barbaz are evidently Arabian inhabs of mid dle ages chose these 2 points for good water tobacco grown too. No Sabeean ruins along coast from Mocalla to Sochut

Fishing boats. planks sewn together with cords -

15 miles from Kosair to Raida a large coast village of Shumoomi tribe. Pass Sharam the way a village with 3 large mud houses & lots of bamboo shanties. Just past Sharam a very bad smell catches us. we think it's a dead animal but find it's from a newly made grave in cemetery to the windward of which we unfortunately have to pass.

Long stretch of black basalt runs along coast for fully 15 miles into centre at Kosair same as stone peppered over plateau.

Strange eaters by coast regular ichthyophagi generally preferred in decayed state. One of our native soldiers has a treat of lizards which he pops into fire & roasts & eats whole. People bring a bit of tin wrapped up in cloth with idea of trading -

string onto a mussel & each little neck.
One old woman boils a pot of porridge another grinds grain on a stone, another strings little fish on a stick to fry. from a hut & dressed from which cat & cocks & hens also obstruct their passage to & from the sea. They are all busy & have little to carry but their cooking pots — young camels reared here 11 miles on to Rossair by coast. — large stretches of black basalt here run down into sea.

K. Large fishing village with fort & a mud wall 2 2 whitewashed palace inhabited by governor who travelled with an apparitor at regular intervals after 5 years unsuccessful governors. He had been here 5 yrs before so firings & acclamations were immense he is a thin pleasant old man with henna painted hair.

One horse has 3 teeches in his mouth one stuck into his side but pins out not take

them. Here appeared plain turbans & varied clothes a decided relief after the perpetual indigo. So to see a stone with writing which means nothing & makes me very cross –

March 12. Uninteresting march across desert from Dir to Bagshwa. past a village (Chande) & a wadi which had a vein of asphalte (bitumen) in it. might be valuable. Encamped at 15 miles near a pool of water made by late rains into which our camels horses & men all plunged before we could secure any for culinary purposes consequently our water was turbid & of mingled flavours. Later on I bathed in spite of it & found it like warm oil.

Village of pastoral Bedouins near. Houses simplest I have ever seen. four posts with roof made of mats & family mine under shade of them. their bottles &c hung from the sides. some have mats at the side but most are open to the air. Kids all picquetted to long

then they fall to evening prayers mollah in front leading them & 10 others behind. Then they give us coffee with sugar, followed by tea with far too much they press us to stay for their evening prayers but we withdraw -

March 11. 15 miles from Kamis to Dis over a barren undulating country leaving the sea wh. runs out to Ras Baysha hills & valleys with scarce a scrap of vegetation until stream wh. fertilises Dis & one or two other villages is reached & here we found a great quantity of palms, date & cocoa & fertile crops beneath them. District very populous & old forts near Evidently it has been a very prosperous point. People Dis almost drive us wild with staring Some very light skinned Arabs here with long dark hair which they dress with grease & wear rows their necks a cocoanut filled with grease for the purpose - Most of

& stinks impregnated with sulphur. This spring water evaporates prodigiously we pass thro' fields of prickly pear & more wire as high as our heads. Large tanks made where water cools & women bathing were surprised at our advent & scuttled away. Date palms, cocoanut palms flourish here under these we camp into declivities on breeze an ideal spot & an ideal camp. We have with us as protector the head Sheikh of the Hamoumi tribe whose rule is paramount over the valleys & plateaux from the sea to the Hadramaut he is a dirty withered old Bedouin but he possesses many horses & the principal one at Ghail Ben in Masila valley Zamrim at Shibam of Wadi Zamrim & he has 12 wives. Very busy making fish oil at Hami they boil down small fish in tanks & use it for lamps & cooking. We get occasional whiffs of this abominable stuff. Every visit to Governor of Hami receive us on roof where many are assembled & scarcely have they greeted us

3 Sultans, Shihan, Mourilla & Sheher are calling the representatives of Nowasjin whom I cannot do anything without his advice.

Journey along coast Eastwards

For some miles caravan road is by the edge of the sea very pleasant, endless lumpy actives crabs live in holes they excavate in sand & run down to water edge to scavenge almost under feet of horses.

Seaweeds lovely - water at mouth of Aufa river marshes are tanks where they make fish oil horrible smell.

20 women groaning under weight of brushwood make a detour of 2 miles inland to cross estuary of Wadi Shereb. Then by sea again 16 miles from Sheher to Hami. Hami is most picturesquely situated at foot of some low spurs of Jebel Samhan & is fertilized by a very hot spring so hot that you can hardly bear your hand in it

ding at anchor a short way from shore. Hon Anybody C. Ever chose it as a place for a town or continue to live in it is mysterious —

Carved wooden cupboards & beds of Koran carved over lintels. but which wont last with them for few we should make enquiries. walks & rides give a mile first evening when soldiers run after us waving us off our friends the Hamoumis. shells & crabs interest us & lovely seaweeds —

Sultan Hussein married to daughter of Sultan Salah of Shibam she is only 13 & has been married 2 years a mere girl with dolls. The Yafai family very rich one brother prefers his share paid off & has 22 lacs of rupees about £150,000. They have brought up property allowance & title of Emir, Sheet & bringing water to Shehr. Quite richest family in Arabia. —

Jebel Sherban. 4 miles beyond Kosaier are 3 lines

2 miles beyond Dis. another stone written Amad bin Jabar. at Dis —

on road to Shehr Bunder —

Shehr is an abominable place of the sea, setin a wilderness of sand, mostly in ruin & has given place to Mowalla since the Katiri tribe were driven from here. Hussein Mir the Sultan lives in a large whitewashed house in the middle & in the outskirts Shahib son of Sultan Nowasjin (the heir of the Yafai family & colonel of Arab regiments in Hyderabad) is building a house wh. he put at our disposal. Sultan himself is upset to go far from town in duration of monsoon for fear of Humoonie. Its Eastern boundary is Kosseir. The Yafai family dress very smart Shahib is quite an Oriental Dandy with his dagger covered with gold mohrs, damask silk waist & beautifully lined trowsers. He has his washing done at Bombay. Water of Shehr is so hard we could with difficulty get anything washed & on tea would not draw. Shehr is an open roadstead with one or two dhows belonging to the Yafai family

with rings her arms a mass of bracelets up to her elbows & her breast a mass of necklaces red & yellow embroidered cloths & her face painted yellow with black lines over the eyes & mouth like a heavy moustache & a thing which looked like a gold coin hanging from her nose; She did not look at all like a blushing bride & Standard was composed. They brought their drums with them & prepared for the evening entertainment wh. Arabs love.

Road from Ghil to Sheher and 2 miles over some low hills streaked with gypsum here 4 years ago Humoumi attacked a caravan killed nine men & took 80 camels & 2000 Rupees.

System of escort for travelling in Arabia is simple enough everybody has his train. Humoumi 27 dollars Jabberi 20 Tamimi 100 &c &c when you pay them & have one of them with you you are quite safe.

Zarafa boys villages with dates &c

Spring wh. fertilizes Shil Barbazi rises under a hill to the East where they have dug out a big reservoir, the water here is quite warm & of a strong bitter taste above on the hill are some Arab ruins & a road up & places where things were stored canals cut some 20 ft. deep like canals of Persia conduct water to the fields -

Many weddings going on at Shil B.Z. they cover up the yard with mats like Algerian days & there the men feed & dance, the women retire to the balcony & drink coffee we surprise one of these parties next door & look down on them to the great disruption of the ladies the order keeper with a long stick storms upon us but we have a good stare at the bride with her veil which is a sight few men see. She had on her head large silver boxes which looked like milk tins, her ears weighed down with jewelry. Her fingers straight into

stone cabin of a saintly lady named Sheika where our soldiers & camel men do their devotions —

Two more camps up in the mountains & further difficulties with muleteers & our leader, dear that they want to stop us at their own village of Ait Nadi so we turn them & go by Ghut Barbazir —

Descent of 4000 feet with interesting vegetation Ghut Barbazir is a curious oasis or series of oases of ranks fertility caused by a stream the water of which is warm & which is conducted by various channels into the rich acres & acres of tobacco cotton Indian corn banana & other products are thus produced in the wilderness & the large village of Ghut Barbazir was produced. stream was discovered about 500 years ago by Sheik Omar the Sultan told us before us. time it was all waste ground.

at Jebel Gahain ~~4900~~ 5300 ft -

Near Thisba highest point ~~5200~~ 4900 ft.
water at this place. Many tombs by the road
side one of wh camel man touches three
upright stones & kisses his fingers -
Camelmen cheerfully tell us, that many
men have been murdered here & caravans
robbed Cheerful news for us -

Night at Thisba rather disturbed our camel
men try to alarm us by threatening danger
in order to get money for watching -

Night very cold. In morning one of our soldiers
very ill with chill on his stomach we give him
tea & hang hot he vomits this & is eventually
cured by his comrades who burn his stomach
with a hot iron in little dots. This species of
firing is a common remedy here -

Pass on very high ground 4300 ft ~~ob~~
wind from sea very refreshing healthy climate
in a narrow col is rude tomb in crude

Sofaita town on plateau 3150 ft above sea level with excellent air, excellent water, palm groves, &c & wd make a first class sanatorium for Aden. 18 miles inland from Sheker. & easy of access but of course everything wd have to be brought.

Sofaita has a wicked little stitch & tremendous difficulty to get up. 2 hours after starting were first upon but recognised plot of cantonments to stop for water & let soldiers come on. Alarm in night & give 8 annas. Native plants to get money out of pass.

Follow for mile bed of stream which collects all the water from this part of plateau & gradually develops into the Wadi Adim & makes the great approach to Hadramaut

Encamp for water at Bir ba Ackar
Feb 24
with a stone fortress on hill 3500 ft above sea level. Highest on plateau

longest & narrowest of branches of Hadramaut
it is the greenest we have seen timber
acacias, figs, doums &c. finer than any
we have yet seen, but it is most sparsely
inhabited only by Bedouins with flocks
water must be more abundant & near
the surface, & cultivation more extensive
than ordinary rather in gentle slope up
to the plateau. Wadi Asim is the
natural approach to the Hadramaut
Rocky mountain plateau 3100 ft high
Sheikh Salem bin Abdallah Mollah el
Mahageb is buried here ~~4~~ 3 tombs.
Mahra; Yafa & Saihani tribes live
about here - latest way of getting money is to
ask for coffee for the tomb of Sheikh Salem.
Big tribes here appear to be Humoumi, Jabeli
Yafai with many subsidiary tribes or rather
families forming little independent centres
of their own —

fire on our caravan & then & the tower obliged us to stop. Soldiers & Jabbers went to parley, they wanted money they said, they wanted to take us to the coast but & these wicked Hamoumi Sh. had stolen their camels, should not have all we kept, after tremendous wrangling we passed a day & a mile another village opened fire on us before we did not stop. another half mile & another village did the same this time & bullets struck the ground within a yard of us & bullets made very unsure. No more firing that day & we peacefully slept at Nauda, where inhabs were kind & hospitable all we wanted.

Nervous about next day, & sent on a man of Hamoumi tribe to see if there were any people lurking behind rocks to shoot us, but we passed safely to Rachba Hamoumi 3 tribes Sheikh Selim with a fine white Comb of a Wali & a mosque & tanks where we got fresh water.

Wadi Adrin & interesting ins. the

of the Wady Wadi Adeim they let out camels to caravans & do a great deal of carrying trade. Their villages are miserable little hovels gathered round mud forts placed at intervals down the valley so that they can see one another. Many flocks & herds here for there is actually pasturage & many of the Shepherds live in caves as the rocks for the nature of the ground has now altered a good deal since which they wall up & dwell inside.

Bir Abundoom is larger than most of the Hamamma villages & has palm trees many large dom trees & 2 wells with good water.

1st. Kootna Shiekh. Abullah bal Jabbeli Tribe Obathany.
2nd. Zedeem. Shiekh Ebn adom
3rd. Shiebeem. Shiekh Bengadeim

One hour after leaving Bir Abundoom they fired as us from a fort & swore we should not pass. 6 men ran towards & opened

Wadi Adan 100 ft. higher than Beni Al. mountains lower & slope gentler. after Sbat it becomes barren & stony & generally uninteresting. Met a caravan of 180 camels of Sayyids of Terim & merchants returning from Sheher. two Takhtirwans with the families. so sorry beds tied on to camels on either side with covered domes women & children peep from behind curtains. Halt for lunch at Eastwell Bir Rhos with lots of flocks about -

During height of dry season Wadi Adan is regular caravan route to Hadramut as wells on plateau are then dry -

Feb. 19th { Bir Rhos to Bir Abondom - at 9 hrs

Kept with camelmen: change camels at 1st Hamoumi village have to pay 57 dollars 2 cars. to 6 Hamoumi families or tribes. The Hamoumi is a poor small tribe of Bedouins who occupy the upper Wad

Spite of it large population scattered in small homsteads Largest place Stark where the Sheikh lives a little crooked man. They have slaves here & small huts made of palm branches with mud filling up the spaces.

Large square ruin on height commanding this fertile valley. We start to go & see it & find 14 armed men there who refuse to let us see it unless we pay largely so we ride back through the palm groves.

Difficulties & impositions meet us always & everywhere.

Feb 9th. Refuse to take us to ruins with[out] guard. I promise if we capture Dinitt pay if not I would & pay. They won't take me with[out] guard. I argued we must & we won't go. Day nearly gone only just enough light for photographs. Thunder crack.

Feb 18th Start for Sheikh at Tamrimm do not come. Change to camels

great advantage has been taken of this & the valley is a mass of cultivation Here there is a Qiaret or telegraph tower of A Sayid Umar called after one of 4 successors of Mahomed.

Jabbers have bad reputation as robbers. & the part of the plateau here is considered very dangerous but we were told we need not fear as we have the chief of robbers with us. Long caravan of 50 camels frightened at us & hides behind a hillock fire a gun & looks very alarmed at us.

Row with camel men who wish to stop also relations have a mile from Wadi Adem constantly playing tricks of this kind on us —

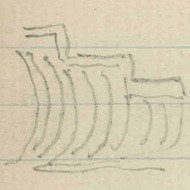
Shib Amr is a fertilizing canal supplied by the 1st running stream we have seen in the district. miles and acres covered with palms & stream running into Wadi A 2 miles from Small Wadi Leban is very considerable all green & rich quite the scene of the valleys we have seen. Jabbers seem however poor in

at Farrash with water beg a cave
Camp on plateau ; fully 60 men in our service
joined by old relative of Sultan as head man
Names always repeating themselves. We have
I think 6 Saleks several Umbarrahs
& when you want one in particular it is very
tiresome to have to scream Salek bin Hassan
or bin Omar "come here". Cold wind on
plateau but no one except ourselves have tent
Even Sultan & his family when they travel sleep
out in the open at night no matter what the
weather may be.-
Feb. 16th The Jabben tribe possess both the 2
parallel valleys of Ben Ali & Adem. & the
road between is much traversed & is apparently
an ancient road. Two women casually join our
caravan with[illegible] any body else setting to their
homes in the other valley. across level plateau for
8 miles & then descend into a narrow valley lead
into Wadi Adem. Ghul or Rhul Amr is
a village where there is a stream or rill

portion of
Ghol al Herma - for plateau. The
extent of plateau is called Akabat or Akabas
vast extent of uninhabited desert. not a human
village on it. occasionally Bedouins go with
flocks -

Feb 15 - Go down Wadi Ben Ali, pass white
tower tomb of saint. fine palms & have a
row with camel men who wish to stop after
one hour's ride. tell usual lies of our water
but we start off with them beyond they do
not dare to stay behind. we climb to top of
plateau & hide behind a rock until we
see 8 camels start & come to a halt in
a cave at the summit of Wadi Ben Ali.
Near top of cliff are stone shelters where
hunters stop to shoot gazelles as they come
down the gullies. to us apparently inaccessible
Our horses are given dates. we are told that
if they do not have dates they will not be able
to do their journey -

circular lines & above a line of red paint also



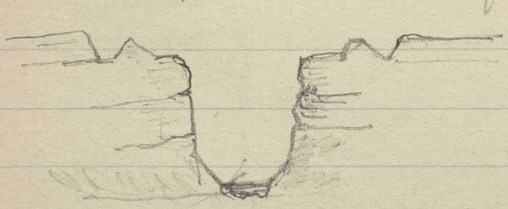
floors done with circular lines in raised mud. Coffee comes also slightly different from that of Yafi tribe. Shiekh comes to see us very much stained with indigo. Extremely hospitable. Excellent coffee.

House & fortress built on old Sabean fort used old stones for foundations but no trace of other ruins at Bazhaus -

Sheikh Abdullah Mareh bin Tahid bin Tayyib - Jabberi a very elastic naked sovereign who bends his fingers back in a horrible way when he wishes to be expressive as he did when complaining of the station & their dislike to receive us, always at war & constantly losing men. also always with Haymumi tribe. Tells me they are genuine descendants from Jabber of Nikla & all their predecessors are kept at Terim. Greatly in love with England & wants a letter for Aden

men have to scramble up on knees. not possible to go on further that night. —

Plateau offered new features to us. It is as it were in 2 storeys. Top storey about 100 feet high & isolated hillocks are parts of this not washed away. Top is level & with hardly any vegetation & in many parts scattered with small black volcanic stones as if from some gigantic pepper pot. In gullies of this upper storey leading to lower storey are trees & shrubs left of the myrrh & frankincense trees. On lower storey are cut the valleys of the Hadramaut



Steep cliffs are as it were also cut into 3 storeys with their separate strata. Tremendous steep descent into Wadi Baraki & Bedouin village of Bazhaul Bazhaulay. Entertained by sheikh in house decorations intensely dado of mud with semi

Owing to opposition of Kaltum we have to take the hill road to wadi Benchi as they hold the entrance

Feb. 13th Very tiresome day. we start with horses very early so as to do the climb up to plateau in the cool & take soldiers with us. we pass the valley we expect to have ascended & after 1½ hours find ourselves up a great wall of rock. very narrow very steep on all sides. vegetation figs wild date palms fan palms &c rather wonderful scenery cliffs on either side 700 or 800 hundred feet sheer, reddish white strata & fossils in lime. most curious & awe inspiring. want Sinbad not to get out of it. in despair we return & meet a messenger. get into right road & catch up our camels at a place called Micadeh where road goes through an arch of rocks a regular tunnel 20 yards long with Coveg water. [illegible] low they had to unload. extraordinary place but no guns. Terribly steep ascent one camel damaged. Each camel helps to the many & others were overheard praying to Allah that a camel might be killed that they might have meat last 50 ft like roof of house &

Theodore Bents diary
Gabr Hathab.

Monday Feb 12. Departure from Elphotton. Reasons of party. Tips to servants make usually known tips for ever easier.
Grand Vizier, Munshi or scribe. Porter, water carriers, attendants, all brought in in barefaced manner for their tips.
Tribe in Wadi Beni Ali come to take us called Jabberi. professes to be descendants of Jabber who was friend & confidant of Mahomed. Bedouin of a better class & cleaner than the Khuleleh of Khuleh Sultan gives us dates. Halvas honey fowls & camels laden with food for animals soldiers an old & confidential servant & a Hindostani interpreter.
2½ hours up short Wadi Hadira. Lime stone formation of sallies all abrupt at the end in form of a circus. not made by streams but like creeks & bays of a gigantic fiord. Much cultivation in this little valley. Road to Sheher 2 approaches to plateau

