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Arabia I

Sat 15th Dec. 1894 The Residency. Muskat.

As it is now nearly a fortnight since I have seen a white woman. I think it time to start my writing.

We left England Nov. 9th & after 2 nights at Boulogne embarked at Marseilles on the 12th on board the P. & O. S.S. Ava. We had a good passage & warm seeing Etna smoking on the way & about 2 days after had a great white squall I daresay in connection with the earth quakes. We transshipped at Aden to La Seyne & I, going ashore to see about the Camp furniture left there 7 months ago. We reached Karachi on the morning of the 29th & a letter came on board from Mr. James the Commissioner, asking us

to stay at Govt House. Saying he was gone to the Durbar at Lahore, but his sister Mrs Pottinger would entertain us. Which she did most kindly. She is so pretty & charming, I do not know which of us was most in love with her.

Imam Sheriff, Khan Bahadur came on board to meet us. He has two of the men he had last year Kerna & Noora & 2 new ones Abdul Lak & Saga whose real name is Ramzankah. We also engaged servants to replace Manthaw's who is afraid to accompany us any more. Diogo St. Anna Lobo a little thin old man is our "butler" & Domingo de Silva our cook. Both are Goanese half Portuguese with excellent characters Lobo can speak English & de Silva only Hindustani & not even Portuguese Then there is Mahomet bin Hussein tent pitcher & botanist. ie he is to gather all he sees & bring to Theodore. This leaves only the interpreter & none is to be found in Karachi willing to venture into the interior.

We remained at Karachi till Monday night after dinner. We drove out every evening & one morning went to the bazaar. I bought a lot of toe rings of various shapes silver with blue & green enamel They were weighed against rupees & 2 annas added to each rupee.

One day we went to call on 2 brides & bridegrooms Mr & Mrs Mc Iver Campbell & Mr & Mrs Thornton. The ladies Miss Grimes & Miss Moody had come out on our steamer. Been married that day & were passing their honeymoon together at Reynolds's Hotel amid the pity of all beholders.

We embarked on the B.I.S.N. S.S. Chanda.

with a little plum pudding Mrs Pottenger had had made & mixed & stoned by herself & us & Mr. Ireland a very invalid officer who was being taken care of at Govt. House. & her youngnephew Mr. A. James.

We were 3 days on the Chanda a clean little ship with a very clever nice Capt. Whitehead and on Thursday morng we reached Muskat. We had a calm voyage, the last day oily but when we awoke near Muskat we found it had become rough & we really were only in time to escape a great storm which went on for days making the weather very cool There was a great deal of rain too.

The Political Agent Major Sadler was away on H.M.S. Sphinx but had left word with his assistant Lieut. Col Dr. Jayakar to install us in his house which he accordingly did. It was too rough to land at the usual place so we had to go round a little promontory.

Major Sadler & the Sphinx arrived on Saturday morning & the Sphinx remained till Monday & Capt Pelly Lieut Yate & Bradon & Dr Woodward had meals with us from time to time.

Imam Sheriff was very ill for some days with Malarial fever & there was a good deal of it about. 2 of his men had it.

No one could give us any advice as to our journey as it seems not to be the fashion to go inland.

First we decided to go to Jebel Akdar the green mountain & have a boat at Ghubbet el Hadhish to take us to Merbat & round the desert which comes down to the sea & is called Rub al Khali or the Abode of Emptiness & all arrangements were made abt camels & for the encountering of great cold. Then we abandoned

that plan in consideration of the fever & the too sudden change of climate for the patients & knowing if we went there we could not go elsewhere, we next determined to go by sea to Merbat in the Sultan's batil (a word from whence our boat has rowed & ies) The batil was going to Zenghebar as they say here.

We inspected her. She is a small boat decked & with an upper shelf at the stern supported by posts round which matting was put & they are now smearing the ship with fish oil. It was thought that by Wednesday it might be ready & we should at least be 7 days or more over the voyage.

Monday 17th Yesterday morn: we were looking out for the Telegraph steamer but behold instead of a white ship with the Eng Flag a black with Turkish flag came & soon after came the white one. Dressed hurriedly, rushed out & commenced parleying with the black ship Bodeida. Abd el kader & finally it was prevailed on to take us all to Merbat for 500 Rupees. We carefully ascertained that the Capn was not a Turk but an Armenian & there would be no danger of our being cast away & robbed & he went on board & saw that the accomodation is very bearable. The Capn has a smattering of Italian & the 2d Capt is Greek & the steward speaks Greek. He is an armenian. We were delighted to escape from the little batil.

In the mean time the Telegraph boat disgorged part of its contents Mrs Posstmann the German wife of the German chief & Mr James our host of Karachi to whose ac-

quaintance we were delighted to make + a young Mr. Lorondos They had come to fetch Major Sadler to pass Christmas at Bushire. He is dreadfully dull here + passes his entire time playing chess by himself or with anyone he can get to come in very useful.

As soon as they were gone we packed + went on board Monday at 2 but did not get off till 6.

We are having a very calm voyage on this our 5th steamer since leaving home but we are all weary of the sea + longing for dry land.

We believe ourselves to have an excellent + most reliable interpreter Hassan the son of a certain Hadji a confidential man of Major Sadlers. He seems quite anxious to make the journey. He has been at Merbat before. We hope to land on Thursday

Wd. 19th We have been able to see the coast most of the way but now have seen nothing since morn. We shall pass through the Kouria Mouria islands in the night.

Thursday 20th We are passing most curious coast this morning. The "high plateau" behind is just like the Hadhramaut + in front there is a volcanic mass of peaks + crags of many hues for ab. a mile between the cliffs + sea. How amazed the inhabitants of Merbat will be! Never yet has a steamer been there. Dhofar is the "town" of which Merbat is the port + fortunately Hassan our Interpreter has been there + will explain that we are not white devils.

We are all looking forward to our tents

which will seem spacious & our soft beds after the thin hay mattresses on boards here

After luncheon at 12 we landed abt. 1 of in 3 of the ship's boats, one being known as the "el Liebot".

Our difficulties at once began.

We afterwards heard that they feared we should take their fort so they hit on a curious plan for preventing its doing us much good.

They offered to provide a lodging as they pointed out the finest building in the place we ca. T & J & J.S. & Hassan joyfully hastened thither. First we entered a guardroom with high stone built benches to sleep on it & then led the way to the right into the very pitchiest black darkness. We stretched out our hands like blind men & had each to be taken by the shoulders & led a round about way into an inner staircase which emerged into the light on some roofs. No enemies could penetrate here unguided. We surveyed a room abt. 60 ft. by 10 & said it would do & now we told them to send up the baggage This they absolutely refused though we asked what we could do with no beds food or clothes. We were to stay in the fort & the baggage outside

There was nothing for it but to put on a very bold face so we came down saying we would encamp on the shore, that we would go in a boat to Dhofar & send one of them to complain of themselves to the Wali to whom had a letter from his master Seyid Feysul Sultan of Maskat.

Then many councils were held by old

& we did not know what would happ
but after some conciliatory language
the head man said if the letter had
been to him he should have understood
& so finally we were reinstated in the
fort.

The room we are in has rough bare
stone walls & sand floor & windows
& peepholes & loopholes for guns even
whose. There are quantities of fleas
but already these are better after 24
hours. The people now seem quite
friendly but extortionate as. camels
& dhows.

It is now settled that we start tomorrow
night in a dhow to Dhofar.

Sat 22nd Dec. Once more at sea in a
sailing boat. 70 Roupees to Dhofar.

After our tea & when we were just
preparing to take a walk we were told
the ship could be ready at once & we
of course we decided to go at night.
I have difficulty in writing as I sit
squatting in the middle of my
hammock which is pitching & rolling
gaily & the big tiller swinging over
my head has to be avoided.
Many people came to see us off. They
have swords a yard high. mostly bare
& carried by the handle grasped with
a stick the same length as. 2 inches
round the middle & tapering off. This
they fling in such a way that it
turns over & over in the air & pierces
the foe. Very tiresome always to have
these in the hand.
We sent our baggage off & followed
at 9. Sat on the gunwale of a very
dirty smelly wet boat & holding on to
my arm & we had a long row to our dhow
It is a good big ship with a cabin in
the stern, partitioned off & with a sliding

door at one side. We can nearly stand up. The tiller swing about may brain us if not careful. We have our beds each our own camel chest & the floor & all the deck is most filthy. a mop at least & scraping with a spade w^d be needed to clean it. Our shoes stick &c

There is a most stifling smell of bilgewater so sulphureous that Cs watch & any little silver things we have are black. And here we have to stay. Just outside is a little shade full of sailors & Moors with fever. Our 2 beds have the best possible view of eachother for of course we cant shut our door on account of smell & heat. We have light from stern windows. J.S & Hassan lie above us. Single & very thin awning. J.S. a little fever. No one is dressed for it is not safe to face the sun. We lie in bed & sometimes sit on a chest to rest from the shaking hammock. It is far nicer on land than sea but it is tied for fear if the ship goes over my centre of gravity may not suit that of the 4 legs & over I sh^d go.

It is now 2.15 & we are anchored wind gone & 2 hours more at least if we get wind. Another boat came to underbid this boat we stuck to our word as we had given it. The Cap^n can speak Persian.

Hassan the Interpreter is a most respectable looking personage well dressed. & wearing very large round gold spectacles. He has a long chair with him so in all we have 8 & 3 stables

Dec^r 23^d Next morn^g Becalmed again shaking away & only seemingly att 2 miles from Dhofar. Yesterday I believe we were the victims of a scheme. We stopped, with C's consent being told

we must anchor or the tide W. take us out. Of course we sh^d not have been so near land if the Cap^n had not wanted to land a cargo of dates. Boats came for shore. They then supped & we were told wind w^d not be good till 1. This meant after their sleep. However ab^t 8 o'c we got off when a letter from the Sheikh of Thakar with a request to us to land & he w^d get us camels for Dhofar had been answered with a polite refusal to leave the ship. I suppose he & the Cap^n would have devided the profits & finding the plan did not succeed we set sail. I should certainly have gone completely over if it had not been for being lashed up we went down & port so much.

We took our white persons out at sunset but the bulwarks being breast high & 25 souls on board you do not get free of the smell. We are afraid to be out by day. I have had 3 attacks of sun since I left home. Dr. Jayakar said it was more prevalent when there was malaria about & I shd otherwise have had fever. We are getting sodden with sea damp.

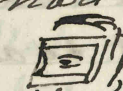
Well after much fear & despair of getting a boat over the surf we landed ab^t mid day with much difficulty.

The Wali in his best clothes & with his little 5 & 10 year old sons begirt with silver & gilt daggers & bells came to meet us & we were given a lodging in the castle. The court yard has half a dozen or more of prisoners in fetters & manacles. The fetters have a great stiff piece of iron between the ancles so they have a difficulty in waddling about

They live in this court, draw water from the well if they want to drink & lie on mats at night. The murderers have 2 years imprisonment. We went up to a large rather dirty matted room & there I mean Sheriff, Hassan Abdulleh, Noura & Faga & Kiena all abide. We are up a ladder in a small & well carpeted clean room opening into another with an open end & there Lobo de Silva & Mahomad Hussein sleep. We cook on the roof & the whole place is festooned with meat for a cow was killed & some is being dried in long strips in the sun & some salted for the road. Much fruit has come up, cocoa nuts, pahpas, a delicious kind of melon more solid & sweeter than others, water melons limes: 2 bottles of Sherbet i.e. Break. a loaf of sugar & a dish of fine macaroni boiled in honey & ghee. & in fact we are in great comfort except for flies by day & mosquitos by night.

Our bed clothes & all we had on board that ship smelt so abominably from that nephilic air that they had to be spread on the roof a long time. I was so tired I went to bed directly after dinner & just as I was undressed the ladies sent to say they were coming so I had to put this pleasure off till morning.

Christmas eve. On waking the smallest boy came to kiss my hand & before I was up the ladies said they were coming. I was afraid to put them off. First I sat up & put on a jacket

& finding time allowed I put on a skirt & got up. Combed down my hair & feeling sure that stocking would not be missed I sat with bare feet refreshing my memory with civil speeches. Ab: b came very smart, with Bowkers on their faces  a sort of square frame of gold braid & spangles with a blue tuck down the middle. They had a great deal of coarse jewellery on with mock pearls & very bad turquoises. I had rushed out of his bed & taken refuge with I.S

They stayed a long time & at last they all said we should pass the evening together but I do not understand where.

We must be here at least 3 more days till arrangements are made with the tribes. This is the Gara tribe.

Christmas Day. We rose with the sun & walked off to a mass of ruins about a mile off. There was a great deal of vegetation & shoots of a most lovely creeper with a large flower white when new pink when older & then there comes a red pear shaped fruit. with hot seeds in it. The ruins are Sal Himyaritic & reminded us of Adulis & Koloe in Abyssinia

Imam Sheriff & Plane table were there too & returned we sat in a grove of Cocoa nut palms & drank much water from the nuts which were showered from the trees in rather a terrific way. The men stuck their throwing sticks in the ground & by banging the nuts down on the points skinned them.

Dec. 26th I was asked to go down to the Harem early. The ladies had not so

much finery on. They were most kind. + gave me many things to eat. Coffee. awfully sweet + sherbet of great dilly. halweh + papa + nutmegs broken up + some seeds + some leaves called tamboul + Cheenam + things I did not eat for I do not want my teeth to become red.

Here we sit + wait 5 Sheikhs have been sent for. one has come + of course we cannot go till all is made safe for us.

I think they call Siara. Kefer here. Yes. two days + day shower instead of four.

We had 2 more days of waiting + at last were told we should positively start on Fri. Sat 28th + were expecting at least to start in the evening. but when at length all the camels were got together there were no ropes, sticks to

tie the loads to or any other things so we had to wait till next day.

Sunday 29th Dec. we set off at 12. There was the greatest confusion over the loading, neither men nor beasts were accustomed to deal with anything but sacks of frankincense. The camels roared incessantly got up before they were finished + shook off their loads. or would not kneel or ran away loaded + then there was a great deal of unloading + abandoning everything + shouting + quarrelling + much difficulty about making up saddles for us T + J.S. + Hassan + I each have a separate Camel + 6 of the servants ride in pairs while one walks.

We went ab. 8 miles the first day + a very good journey we thought it. We never thought to get so far + soon

none of us stiff when having gone along at ½ a mile from the sea we stopped at the edge of the plain where some very dirty water was to be had under a rock.

New Years Eve. Did not get off till 8 though we breakfasted before sunrise every rope we had round our boxes is taken off + in use + every bit of raw hide rope we possess is in use + great famine prevails in this respect. Theodore's camel was a very horrid one + sat down occasionally + as you first get a violent pitch forward, then an equally violent one back + a 2d forward this is not a pleasant thing to happen unexpectedly. This caused a stoppage then 2 possible enemies were descried + it was decided to wait till some camels came that were far behind + finally we waited so long after that we rose up in great fury + there was a fierce row. We said we did not wish to be kept all day on the road + they said they were not our slaves but 14 Sheikhs who were taking us out of charity but we said we were giving money for all we asked + if this was the way the journey began we'd go back to the Wali at Dofar + began to mount our camels so at last they quarrelled together + made peace with us + we set off + got to a place further north than they had intended first, with good water in a small amphitheatre of mountains. We were all most dreadfully stiff + tired + again too late to do anything in the way of unpacking more than just enough for the nights. The quantities of flowers C has already

got most I think already exceeds all the 15 cs of last year. There a great many Lobân trees or rather shrubs (frankincense) to my great surprise a letter pkt locked (3 letters) fell off on the way.

New Years Day 1895. Got away 7.30 The camels much quieter. + all the Bedouin most friendly. We only travelled 1½ + having gone round some spurs found ourselves in a round valley surrounded by some very high steep + some lower hills just back to back ab. ¼ a mile from our last camp. good water.

Here we stopped because we had heard of a round ruin + Hassan was sent on to report. If it had been good we sh. have stayed here a second night to have worked at it but he reported it a few rough stones ab. a foot high±. However we were glad of a quiet + busy day to get ourselves square. The botany in particular needed attention to dry all the paper thoroughly from the sea damp. The scenery here is quite different from the Hadhramaut very picturesque + interesting + all the arrangements of travelling too.

We have sent 5 Dollars or Reals as they call them to the Wali to buy some rope. There are some flocks near so we can get milk. The 14 Sheikhs get ½ real a day for their food those of lower order get ¼. These camels are not used to be tied up in line but wander about + have to be caught + often shed their baggage.

Jan 2nd. A tiresome day nearly retracing our steps to both our last camps + one

did not seem to think our Bedouins would take us up on the high plateau ground on Akaba at all but evening found us nearly above Dofar Camped on high ground among ant hills + thorny trees, far more like Africa than anything we had yet seen in Arabia.

We had passed some flocks belonging to the Jeara tribe so in the evening great cooking went on. They first gathered quantities of stones + lighted a fire on them till they were red hot then they then reduced their goat to uncouth scraps which they scattered + spread over the stones. + for a couple of hours they patted + passed these bits in a way that would have burnt our fingers to see if there was a bit cooked that could be bitten off or cut with a dagger.

Jan 8th Friday. Over open ground nearly all our journey, constantly among huge ant hills, very extensive but not so fantastic in shape as what we have seen in Africa. We passed Dofar in the distance + at last turned up a very well beaten road into a wooded valley. There were evident remains of building to support this road + all the land we have seen seems most capable of cultivation.

We camped in the river bed. Gersid is the name of it. The water is excellent. This must be quite a lake at high water time. The place where we got water was most lovely pool under over hanging cliffs with little rocky wooded islets + long legged water birds. Some times there was a white stony bed with the

water looking clear blue + sometimes with a lot of green tea weeds amongst them. Under the rocks in several places we could hear the springs gushing forth among maidenhair + other ferns

We have been for the last 2 days quite away from Lobia trees.

Mas'ah, one of our bedouins had to be instructed in the art of pill taking. 5 Holloway's pills crushed had made him very sick.

Jan 2nd. A most enchanting journey We two at least enjoyed every minute of our 3 hours + a half. We went up the valley through a forest of lovely trees. Myrtles. ilex, figs, oleas + quantities of other trees with climbing cactus + many trailing Creepers + great bushes of white jasmine. Sometimes it was hard enough to get through the bushes + under the trees aloft on our camels. We were down in the river bed part of the time then up into the forest to get to the top of falls Above the forest rise tiers of cliffs + on the top there is a hairy look of trees on the plateau above.

Our tents are now pitched exactly across the road but we had to sit under trees full an hour before the servants arrived in safety for we have been in danger today from a Jinn who is supposed to live in a corner near this They all called out Alek Soubra! Alek Soubra! "Let us pass by here!" + as the spirit made no objection here we are. To spend our time changing the paper of the plants.

When we were settled there was a brisk rain

medicine chest. A very nice Bedow soldier Aman who is the head of the soldiers was given 5 pills in his hand by G. so as he grasped his weapons in his other hand. it was all he could do to put the pills in one by one + I had to hold a cup of water to his lips after each.

Friday 4th Beit al Khattan. We were only on our camels ab. 5 minutes when we had to get down + climb. I began by falling off my camel which got up suddenly before I was well on. The valley became more narrow as we went on + in the cliffs at the sides were long caverns with great stumpy stalactites + stalagmites making them look like huge mouths. The rocks we had to climb up were very rough + rugged but where millions of camels' feet in thousands of years had polished them they were quite smooth + slippery. It was hot work When we got above the woods we rode again + ab. 11.30 reached 2,600 ft. up in undulating grassy ground with 2 big fig trees + a lot of dry wood collected ready for the remains of a night shelter. It was windy + cloudy water not very near + muddy but dry. I think this a most healthy climate in winter at least. We had a dry night – now the sun is just up

Jan 5 + the camels just come. J.S. has not yet emerged from his tent He + Hassan are ill so they are staying at home till the last minute but we are uprooted some time.

We ascended a great deal + could see the great central desert like the blue sea with yellow edge + then descended to the S + found ourselves among a quantity of wooded spurs + on the edge of a deep wooded wady. The water was in a hole trimmed with maidenhair + looked like a dropping well but it was a

a rising one. Very full + clear + pretty it looked when we arrived but even at the end of the first day it looked empty + muddy + we had to filter our drinking water.

We decided to stay two nights + enjoy a holiday but we had a most horrid cold time. The wind kept us awake both nights. The first we feared the downfall of the tent but in the morning we had the outer fly taken off + never missed it. We sat tightly tied in close to the sunniest wall of the tent to get warm. + in the evening when the wind was a trifle better sat within, with blankets round us + a good fire, for in this beautiful country we have plenty of fuel. The rocs the wind made was dreadful. + we feared not being able to get the camels to move away.

June 8th However we made a late start waiting for the late sun + had to walk as we were afraid of being blown away + indeed we had little riding as we were nearly constantly going down slippery slopes of self-made hay The 2 Goanese servants got a fall + de Silva's back had to be Jacobsoned On the journey before I had a bad fall. His camel was tied to another which pulled it on down hill too fast so I just turned + saw I in the air + his camel dancing with bundles of bedding dangling loosely to his legs. Fortunately I was flung on the high side + only bruised + grazed his knees + tore his trouser knees. + Nowra + Hamad Hussein soon came off near the same place.

We had a good deal of wind last night for the tents had to be pitched in

a clean + therefore airy place. There is a huge fig tree stuffed up with little bowers where the bedouins live sometimes + we feared ticks + fleas.

We shall not be off till at least 9 as they are so cold to leave the fires We have one now at the tent door

C + I walked forward + very pleasant it was at first while the feeling of taking a walk could be kept up looking for new plants by the way + sitting under groups of fine trees but when the camels came this pleasure ceased + where the path was steep or rocky or among thick trees one is always dodging + skurrying to let the camel behind pass or else to pass that in front or else slide down slippery grassy slopes. We were afoot most of the way. We wanted to see a large cavern we were told of thinking it might prove to be Diana Dactelum so we detached ourselves from the camels + servants + with J.S. Hassan Sheikh Said the Sheikh el Gara. Osman the chief soldier + one or two others went over the edge of the wadi + down such a dreadful path that I was sure if I had not been there Theodora would have said "I am glad you did not attempt it Mabel. It was quite beyond you, you never could have managed it." I asked him afterwards + he said it was exactly what he should have told me.

Imam Sheriff's discription was "We do not know how we got down that place when all of our feet was each 36 inches from the other foot" It was however not full of rolling stones + there were always places to

just over feet firmly even if they were very far apart & one much below the other. We had no need to use our hands often either. It was hard enough to get through the trees though & the sun being just behind & above us made the path very glaring.

We found the cavern very large & rather damp & much the shape of a large mouth with its teeth. It seems to be much used for cattle.

After cooling ourselves there for some time we continued our descent. It seemed as if we were never getting to the bottom of anything & when we did reach the bottom we had to begin going up again. But as I found the road improving I proposed that my camel should be sent for Sheikh Sayd said no camels had been there though we could see their steps so I lay down & said I could go no further & he went off. When we could descry him from a long distance coming we set off again & when he saw us he made the camel sit down on a hill top abt ½ a mile away so again I displayed a marked inactivity & lay down & he came. He now takes charge of me but is dreadfully careless where he drags the camels to. The others were so careful in going down steep places & round trees & in cutting on branches with their long swords. The other day he nearly swept me off. I remonstrated & told him to "Baraka" the Camel & let me off but he only said "Hold on & put down your head!" & rushed on.

I got into that thorny tree bowed down on the camel's neck & came out lying on its tail.

Our Camp was down in the Wady Rahist + as the Wady was shallow we had not far to go down. I had to drink 3 cups of tea before I could eat + we all were very tired.

At sunset C who had gone for a little walk came + called me to hurry out as fast as I could while light yet lingered + prepare for a great surprise.

"Diana Oraculum?" I asked

"Yes." he answered.

He had found a great natural room pit in the ground ab. 100 feet deep + ab. 50 broad + round it traces of building + a pillar like those at Robat. This hole reminded us of the Corycian Cave + Olbian ones in Cilicia.

Our morning's entertainment while they were striking the tents was to visit a cave close by where some of the Jara keep their cattle + cooking pots It was very dirty but the people were very civil + willing for us to see all there was to be seen. They in their turn examined us + being anxious to see more of me than I thought quite convenient, I loosed C's collar I tied + shouts of delight arose at his white chest.

Our way was very uninteresting due south to the sea at Rizat. C's camel required repacking so he + Jason managed to lose sight of the rest of the Kafila + lost their way, for there was no path + we had to wait an hour for him. J.S. went on not perceiving this. I got down + sat on the ground with 13 men in a circle round me. When each in the company wished to attract my attention he did it by tapping on my

knee with a stick or a sword on saying "Ya 'Mabel!".

They always call us Theodore + Mabel. They are unaccustomed to meeting with superiors & themselves + are always telling us they are Sheikhs i.e. gentlemen. They say they do not wish us & attempt & coerce them by means of the soldiers. "They are slaves & we are gentlemen + if we choose we can kill them. What is it to us? We shall have & pay 4000 reals but we can give a camel a piece & easily afford it."

One day I heard them consulting as to what my name might be & they decided Fatema so I was addressed as 'Ya 'Fatema. I said "Oh! My name is not Fatema." Well what is it then?" + so they learn our names.

They are all very kind to me + generally address me in a kind of speak suited to speak to a bird of the smallest size + come + nod at me + ask if I am quite comfortable.

When we reached Rizat a country farm of the Wali's we found him there himself + we camped close & his house in a dusty + fly infested place. He sent us fruit food milk + meat + sent 2 more soldiers with him us.

Taka Jan. Our journey today was long ish, 15 miles but interesting. We passed 2 sets of ruins + some old sarcophagi - rough ones which we suppose to be 300 B.C. + crossed a pretty river where some of the Bedous bathed + now we are encamped outside the village ab. 1/4 mile from the sea.

We had a much more interesting day than usual. After a little on the flat, going East we ran up + passed over the neck of the headland which forms one end of the gulf of which Ras Resout is the other. The rock in all the sheltered parts is white + also where the path is polished but the exposed parts are nearly black.

We were surprised by coming on an estuary nearly cut off from the sea by a bar of sand. The blue water + green glass + a peninsula of high rock beyond made a pretty picture.

There was a great difficulty in getting the Camels & I across this water + carry us across to the isthmus. We saw columns about + all round the top of these high rocky peninsula. It had originally been built in courses with roughly squared stones, as we could see near the doorway but most of the present wall is rough.

Having seen what must have been a good enough harbour for sailing boats, I was sure this was Abyssos-polis, a site not hitherto identified + when after coming straight up from the sea we found ourselves encamped near a great riverbed under a tremendous cliff at 500 feet high + quite straight + very wide he quite saw that we were at the bottom of the abyss from which this ancient town was named.

It is most remarkable. It is all formed of petrified water + down it are great white places where the river in rainy weather, rushes down. They + the bed are whitewashed. One or 2 streams fall in Stambbach

fashion. We are in a wood & near the bottom of the Abyss itself are plantain trees 20 feet high.

We were so pleased with the place that we settled to stay a day or two.

Today T & I. Hassan & Mansur Hussein, soldiers & sheikhs went to the top of the Abyss & Imam Sheriff & some others also went up & will be away the night. It was a steep climb through woods up a hill which rises higher & decides our part from a western continuation of the Abyss. When we reached the top we found ourselves in a flat & pleasant grassy meadow with many groups of trees & a great deal of cattle grazing. There is a long narrow lake with tall reeds & rushes & big fig trees on its banks & the outlet is quite a narrow rapid stream. The trees are loaded with a purple Convolvulus with large round leaves & climbing cactus. We saw herons water hens & ducks. There were little raised channels that the water had also made by petrifying its bed.

There were wooded hills all round & one had a great hole through it. In the deepest part of the lake a Jinni lives & no one dare put his feet in & there was some fuss about getting a water plant I wanted but it was hooked out with sticks. Having been to the edge we returned, crossed the stream on a bridge nearly in the water of loose sticks & stones & had our luncheon & I then rode my camel to the top of the descent. I took some photos.

Jan 14th We had rather a hard morn

with the photography scrambling up rocks & through thorny trees &c to good points. & also we went to a shepherd's family which lived in some low bowers under overhanging rocks. We had to bend more than double & creep in & prescribed medicine to 5 patients. We have already had 2 neuralgias a man & a woman & most dreadful deep ulcers filled with earth or tied up with rag & quantities of eyes. We are obliged sadly to state our impossibility to restore sight to the blind or to supply quite new eyes where none exist.

Imam Sheriff came back in the evening with very satisfactory results to the map. They say the whole of this night as well as the last & believe merely because Hassan made some bad attempt in asking them to leave off 2 nights ago. I believe he means well but he is not clever at English & when we tell him something to say he says "Yes" & does not say it. We are in a most perplexed & uneasy state about him for when we get back to Dofar, if in 2 days we shall be preparing for a more dangerous part of the journey among the fierce Makra tribe.

We hope to find an answer from them when we return. It would take 8 days to go to the Sheikh & 8 to come back & some time for him to send & consult so we may have some days more to wait. Jan 15th Today we left the Abeyes & had a great threat of stopping at Taika but I said at once he wd not pay for the day if we did not go on to some water we passed on our way from Rizat. So here we are & the water is very

brackish & its beauty we see not as health demands us to be on higher ground.

The Bedouins have got 6 or 7 new swords & are much excited over them. First they shake them perpendicularly then they measure them against every other sword, handling them about by the blade as safely as we might a paper knife. The next thing is to bend them round their naked shoulders till their elbows meet & look down the blade & see if it is straight. Then bend it the other way. The swords are used to cut down trees & split logs, scrape sticks & cut meat into joints.

They brought with them many sacks of hay to put under the loads on the Camels backs. They lie on them at night & in the mean time they are used in quite another way. When the rice is boiled they empty the pot on to one of these sacks & as soon as one has cleaned out the pot with his hands & the mess has drained enough they all take handsful & eat.

The next day brought us to Hafir Rabat not without a feeling of gladness at the thoughts of a rest after 19 days journey. On the way we went to Hamrean or Hamerouen where there is a tobacco farm & stopped among the ruins of Robat & saw a capital of a column with patterns in relief on 3 sides & a very much destroyed Sabaean inscription on the 4th too much so to be able to decypher it.

We soon found ourselves installed in our old quarters, now invaded by fleas which however are decidedly

yielding to my great activity during a wretched day + night. There all the flies + mosquitoes are no better than before.

This morning the answer came from the Mahri tribe. That 2 Chiefs wanted 100 Reals each (ab. £2 in all) + they wd let us pass humbly through their country. No allusion to the request that the Sh. arrange with the Minhali Amri, Tamimi + Ketiri. As far as we can make out we sh. be let to go along the coast a few days w. uncertainty at the end of it. So now we are arranging for a Dhow to + to go ourselves to the Sultan of Kishin + with our letter from Col Saddler demand help from him. The weather is overcast + cool

We rose betimes + having borrowed a large white donkey + the saddle as being smaller than mine we set out to perform such elegiac-archæological duties as fell to us. I took a squeeze of some Sabean letters on the top of a column while I drew the patterns round, + then I took some photos of columns in another place.

After dinner we devoted ourselves to deeds of darkness + developed the negatives, leaving them to dry at 11.30 + deciding not to get up at sunrise as we were very tired.

Oh! what a terrible awakening next morn.g! To agonized voice. "I am sorry to wake you but you must come at once everything is smashing up."

One horrified glance + then I threw on the most needful clothing + sat down + never lifted fingers nor eyes for

over 7 hours. As we stood there we could hear the films tearing up of the celluloid ~~for~~ supports with the same sound as those big insects that rasp the wood all night. First they had to be put in water + they frilled dreadfully. Then slowly + they were fully 3/4' of an inch larger each way. I had no larger glasses to stretch them on + did not want to lose any part of my picture + at last by constant work till nearly 3 I got them down on to their own supports. I had to put my breakfast + luncheon into my mouth.

While I was working at one part waiting for it + dry I had to dip the whole thing in water to save it from breaking in bits from dryness in others.

I was nearly blear-eyed + back broken.

The following day the excitement was sending on baggage on the little ship where we followed Jan 23° it went [illegible] at 11. + are now shaking + swing + smacking down violently in an oily sea in front of the village of Rakhiout 4 miles in 30 hours. We came here to do a civility to the Wali + drop 2 soldiers + here we have been rolling 5 hours. Parties of inhabitants have been to stare + they speak of fetching wood + water + certainly we should not get on fast but the sail will steady us + there is more wind further out.

Theodore just asks if there is more wind how are we to get there. When we have more here

In the meantime the sun is in our cabin + we have to use our parasols as at Sunrise.

We are in the stern. I on his bed + he on the floor as the hammock is too

high + an odious sea bed besides.
The gunwale of the ship is 4 in above my bed so I can see out beautifully as mine is the land side. Some posts round support a low roof of stalks of cocoa nut palm leaves + a matting of the leaves on that + mud & dust of all through so I have arranged a canopy over my bed. I can sit up on the floor but I cannot quite.
There is a palm leaf matting loosely tied up most of the way + a sail just as a curtain in front of us which might keep out the sun, but we are drifted round the wrong way.
There is just room between our heads for my camel chest, sideways so that I can get at my things, + there would be room otherwise. + Ts is by the foot of my bed. He has the curtain tied up + Tobo creeps over his feet & feed us off the floor. J.S. is on our heads + the steersman. There is no deck + the servants are all laid in + out of boxes + baggage of all sorts. + who knows how long we are here for. Every now + then I have to stop + be nearly shaken off the bed.

Jan 26th. Another 24 hours gone by. We stayed off Rakhioot till dark. It is only a small village on a small flat space with high hills + cliffs all round. There we must have come at least 2 miles. We were awakened by a great gale + I was nearly blown out of bed. The sail was taken down + then we were in some danger for it was feared the mast would crack. We anchored + the wind seemed to blow from all sides at once. We remained tossing + rolling I know not how long + at last the boat began to bang against the rudder

which was to starboard very violently
I could see this from my bed & was much
afraid one or both wd be injured.
It was not dark for there was good
starlight.
We started again with the smell sad
& I do not think we have done more
than 3/4 of a mile all day. What little
wind there is is contrary. One of our peculiarities
is that when we tack we generally
go completely round.
All this time inspite of our airy
lodging the smells of bilgewater &
stockfish are ever present.
Jan 26th We are now towards evening
bounding about a good deal but
getting on. After or rather at sunset
last night we anchored & lay flopping
& banging about till at 3. I had to lie on my
back digging my elbows into my bed, not
to fall off. But in the early dawn it
was really delightful to open my still sleepy
eyes & without moving to see the lovely
pictures passing before me of beautiful
mountains with their foreground of water
every fold & distance filled up & separated
by soft vapours & then the sunrise began
& paint them red & black shadows came
& changed the shapes & presently all
became hard & stony. The wind died away
at 8 ab. 9 & after our deliberation while taking
we stopped a long time & the discomfort of our luncheon, forks & spoons
flying about. but all the afternoon
we have been going gaily.
It is quite like being ill & be bedridden
thus
Jan 28 my birthday Here we are bedridden still but
since I last wrote fair wind & such
shakings & tossings of all sorts.
Yest. at noon we reached Kastron
& Theodore attended by Hassan

went ashore which we rolled ab.
They had to walk 3 miles to the village
& the same back so were long enough
away to make me a little anxious
& found the Sultan a little
old man without much apparent
authority & after gaining some
useful information & extracting a
letter to Seiburt from him decided
that it would be impossible to
penetrate inland from there
So we set sail at once & this morn
found ourselves passing Country
we had ridden over. We had
a very cool cloudy day & in prep
aration for a very dirty night an
ab.r & anchor behind a head.
All the sailors & several
servants rattled & sang all night
& I hope we may have some
quiet tonight.

We anchored among the strange
stacks of rocks off Ras Dis, a most
picturesque place & the quiet of our
night was hardly disturbed at all
by 3 hours heavy rain, which of course
came through our matting roof.
It was becoming light & there were
no signs of departure, when I crept
out & roused them up. & well it was
for otherwise we might hardly have
got there that day.
We had some fears of the wind not
holding
We could all day recognize the
country over which we had ridden
On reaching Shaher a letter was
sent ashore with Hassan to the Sultan
& presently a messenger returned
with a satisfactory answer as to our
having quarters in the same unfinish
ed palace we were in 18 months ago.

We had to wait a long time for boats + it took 2 ★ get us + our belongings on shore + very hard it was to get through the surf + glad enough we were to be set down after being carried a long way.

Our legs seemed very weak after lying down a week.

One of the first people who greeted us was the Nakhoda of the ship in which we went to Aden last year.

We had anchored quite close to her + with her high stern she looked quite like a galleon by our boat.

Shaleb Mia, Sultan Hussein Mia's brother was here to meet us + as nothing was ready as we were quite unexpected it was 9.30 before we got our dinner. The house is but little advanced + no work going on. No carpets are to be seen, only matting and the furniture is spread further out + I am sure I would prefer less pretention + more cleanliness.

The room we had occupied had never been cleaned since our former occupation nor indeed long before, the carpets were gone + it was used as a lumber room. so it had to be intirely emptied + the thick earth having been pushed off the floor with little palmleaf brooms we declined anything but the matting so we have no fleas, only mosquitos + a rat.

The governors of every place are here ~~?~~ Cooling with their accounts. Hajeeran, Hawa Hossein + Dis we were very glad to see. + specially glad to hear of the cure of the latters daughter who had to be wicked in her bed.

It was a bad leg & cured quite by Holloway's ointment I think.

The next 2 days there were great negotiations & plannings as to our future course.

One plan was to go hence to Inat in the Wadi Hadhramout. down to Kabr Hud & Bir Borhut & thence to the Mocila Wadi Eastward & back by the coast to this place & there try to go westward. but the other is to us preferable to go along the coast first up Mocila & into the Hadhramout & then try to go West without coming here again. Of course there are so many delays of all sorts that we shall be here some days yet.

The one pleasure we can enjoy is a quiet walk along the shore covered with pretty shells & birds Khaleb Mia said Sch. have a horse but we are trying for a donkey. It can climb better & gives no trouble ab. forage.

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A good long time has elapsed since I wrote & I resume my Chronicle Sunday Feb 17th & hardly can I write for the shaking of the very empty Austrian Lloyd S.S. Imperator bound for Bombay.

After a good deal of Necessary delay the Sultan Hussein declared he could not answer in any way for our safety if we went any where else we at first thought of going to Mucalla in a dhow (though dhow is quite as good & going to the Jebel Akhdar as we had intended if it had not been for Imam Sharif's illness but with the wind blowing S S it would have taken fully a month.

We then must have gone round

by India to get home + all our steamer clothes were at Aden.

So as soon as we could we hired a dow + embarked there upon at abt 1 o'c for Aden.

The behaviour of the Sultan + his hospitality to us had been very different this time to last year. He had sent us no food nor ever invited Imam Sheriff to a meal.

A curious thing is that the Sultan told C that he believed a Consul had been murdered at Jedda. We were most excited about this + asked about it when we reached Aden but the murder had not taken place nor did it till May. This proves that it had long been planned + that the Sultan was aware of the plan + thought it had already been carried out in Feb. No doubt our bad reception was in connection with the disturbances all about Arabia.

To go back we embarked on a large dhow of Kutch where the Capt + sailors were Hindoos + we found the Mahometan party were now as unclean as ourselves. The crew would allow neither them nor us to touch water or fire but filled our vessels themselves very good humouredly + they made us up an extra galley by putting a sand in a box + Christians + Moslems had to cook together. The cabin in the stern was big enough for us to have our beds, or at least for

me to have Theodore's bed which he lent me, he lying on the ground, + for us to sit at over table but standing was quite impossible + the rudder swung about dangerously. However the smell of bilge water was so awful that we preferred sleeping in deck chairs on deck + very damp we got. We called at Makulla but did not land. I took some photos from on board.