

A COLLECTION OF PAPERS

including

A TRANSCRIPT OF THE JOURNALS
WRITTEN OR DICTATED BY

W.J.BANKES

DURING HIS JOURNEYS TO AND FROM
PETRA IN 1818

with a Foreword, Introduction and Notes,

a brief paper entitled THE END OF THE JOURNEY

and a Commentary on 'LETTER V' OF IRBY AND MANGLES'
TRAVELS IN EGYPT AND NUBIA, SYRIA, AND ASIA MINOR

NORMAN N.LEWIS

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Foreword

W. J. Bankes returned to England after his Eastern travels in 1820. It was generally expected that he would publish some of the material he had gathered in Egypt, Nubia, Syria and Asia Minor¹ and in 1830 he wrote that he hoped to be able to publish some of it 'in the course of the present year'.² Nothing was forthcoming, however, (except his editorial notes in Finati's book), and in 1841 he fled the country after his arrest for

¹ For examples of the hopes aroused by anticipation of Bankes' expected publications, see p. iv of W.M.Leake's preface to Burckhardt 1822; Legh in MacMichael 1819, p. 229; *The Gentleman's Magazine*, Vol. 8, 1819, pp. 159 - 160 and *The Monthly Magazine*, No. 327, July 1, 1819, pp 481 - 485.

² Finati, 1830, p. 148 (Bankes' footnote)

having committed homosexual acts, at that time rated as capital offences. He lived in Italy for the rest of his life. The papers he had brought or sent home from the East were left at Kingston Lacy, his Dorsetshire house, where they remained, forgotten or neglected, for the best part of two centuries.

In 1981 Mr Ralph Bankes bequeathed Kingston Lacy and its contents to the National Trust and a little later most of the papers dating from the period of W.J.Bankes' Eastern travels were transferred from the house to be given safe-keeping either at the British Museum (the Egyptian and Nubian papers) or at the Dorsetshire Record Office, now the Dorset History Centre, in Dorchester (those pertaining to Syria and Asia Minor). Amongst the latter are two notebooks containing the texts of the Journals written or dictated by Bankes in May and June, 1818, describing the journey he and his companions made to Petra, and their subsequent travels. This was, so far as we know, the first time since 1812, when Burckhardt discovered Petra, that Europeans had reached it and the Journals record an impressive amount of information about it and other places on their route. (It is of incidental interest that these Journals are the only lengthy, systematic account of a journey which Bankes ever made while he was in the East).

I have transcribed the text of the journals to the best of my ability; the transcript forms the principal paper in this collection. It is preceded by an Introduction which includes information which may be of interest to readers of the transcript or of the original text. It should be noted that the Introduction is no more than that; it is not a study or evaluation of the Journals.

Following the transcript (after the notes attached to it) is a brief paper entitled 'The End of the Journey'. This is included because the narrative written in the second notebook ends abruptly and for no apparent reason with only a one-sentence entry for June 11, 1818. There are no further entries although the journey did not end until June 25 when the party reached Acre. In the paper 'The End of the Journey' I have outlined the events of that period, using information given in some notes made by Bankes and in accounts

written by his companions of which the most informative is 'Letter V' of Irby and Mangles' *Travels*. This outline leads naturally to the final paper in this collection which is a commentary on 'Letter V' of that book.

Introduction to the Journals and the Transcript

(i) The Notebooks

The journals are written in two notebooks catalogued in the Dorchester archives as D/BKL HJ4/19 and 20. The notebooks are made of white drawing paper, folded, hand-cut and roughly hand-sewn. The title-page of the first reads 'Jerusalem round the South end of the Dead Sea to Karrack and from thence to Shoback and Wadi Mousir - 1818 - taken down by the Hon^{ble}. C.L.Irby from my dictation - WJB'. The title page of the second reads 'Journal No. 2 Wadi Mousa & Dead Sea - part dictated to C.L.Irby and part in my own hand - WJB'. In what follows the text of the first notebook is referred to as Journal I and the second as Journal II.

There is no risk of mistaking Bankes' writing for Irby's, or vice versa. There is an enormous amount of material written in Bankes' hand in the Dorchester archive which can be compared with that in the journal; it varies extraordinarily between the neat, sometimes miniscule lettering used in some of his graphic work and in a few places in the journal and a scrambled near-scribble which at times verges on the indecipherable. It is, however, unmistakably his. Irby's writing is much more consistent; the letters are quite large, flowing and easy to read. The parts of the Journals in his hand may be compared with autographed letters written by him and now amongst the Bankes papers in Dorchester or with others in the Murray Archive ³.

³ The Murray Archive is the collection of papers accumulated at the offices of John Murray, Publisher, in Albemarle St. London, during the 19th and 20th centuries. The Archive was presented to the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh, in 2006.

Parts of the original notebooks (particularly pp. 65 to 79 of Journal I) are difficult to read because of the many alterations, corrections and after-thoughts which Bankes or Irby inserted in the text. Some of these were written at the top, bottom or side of the page and were intended to be transposed to earlier or later places in the text.

Occasionally words are now hidden by the fold of the paper or by the sewing which appears to have been done after the writing. (Cf. pp. 4 and 5 of Journal I and p. 26 of Journal II). Sometimes but not always some form of direction such as an asterisk or a note points to the place to which words are to be transposed, but often it is necessary to rely on sense or context in deciding where they are to appear. I have given no indications in the transcript of the position in the original manuscript of words which have been transposed, but the notes which follow the transcript indicate where some of the transpositions have been made.

In transcribing the text from the notebooks I have made no further changes other than to add some paragraph breaks and punctuation marks. (A glance at parts of the original, with pages and pages of unbroken handwriting the punctuation of which is non-existent or chaotic, will, I hope, demonstrate that in this one respect 'authenticity' may legitimately be sacrificed and that my paragraph and punctuation additions are more than justified).

I have used the following symbols in the transcript:

< > denotes that the word or words in the manuscript are illegible (or, in a very few cases, that nothing was written at that point in the original).

{ } denotes an uncertain reading.

[] denotes that the words so enclosed are my own suggestions.

The pages of the transcript contain no editorial material or end-note numbers. End-notes, each of them headed with the number of the page of the transcript to which they refer, appear after the transcript.

Not all the original page numbers in the notebooks are now legible but enough have survived to make possible a reconstruction of the pagination throughout. In the first

notebook page 1 was left blank and p. 2 was taken up with notes. The narrative, headed 'From Jerusalem to Hebron', begins on p. 3 and ends on p. 84. (The heading just mentioned is not strictly accurate; notebook one describes the whole journey from Jerusalem via Hebron and Karak to the threshold of Wadi Musa, with no further sub-titles). The beginning of the next stage of the journey, starting with the entry to Petra, is described on the unnumbered page preceding p. 1 of the second notebook. The description of Petra and the northward journey occupies almost all of the second notebook; it ends abruptly on p. 91.

I have numbered the pages of the transcript consecutively from the beginning of Journal I to the end of Journal II. The numbers in the right-hand margin of the transcript are the numbers of the corresponding pages in the original notebooks and make for easier reference. In the transcript and notes I give references in the form I 16 / 9 or II 64 / 96, the first number before the diagonal stroke being the page number in the original notebook, and the number after the stroke the page number in the transcript.

The spellings, abbreviations and transliterations of Arabic names (of which several variants sometimes appear on one page) and other Arabic words which appear in the transcript are the same as those used in the original manuscript; no 'corrections' have been made. In this Introduction and elsewhere I have used transliterations some of which are inexact (no diacritical marks are shown) but which will be familiar to 20th or 21st century readers. Words which appear in Greek in the manuscript are also given in Greek in the transcript; translations are given in the Notes to the transcript.

Certain short documents written by Bankes or his companions during the journey are of interest but were not included in the Journal and are not, therefore, transcribed herein. The Dorchester catalogue numbers of these documents are D/B KL, HJ4 / 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25. Some of them are referred to in the two papers below entitled 'The End of the Journey' and 'A Commentary on Letter V'. Blank pages, or pages which are partly blank, are scattered through the two notebooks, and some of them were used by Bankes or others to make notes or jottings. I have not transcribed these; my aim has been to reproduce the text of the actual journal and nothing else. A few of the jottings

may be of some interest and they may of course be seen in the original manuscript notebooks. Finally, it should be noted that Bankes' most important contributions to the records of the journey are not in the notebooks and are not studied in this paper. They are his drawings, plans, notes and copies of inscriptions which are now archived separately at Dorchester, catalogue number DBKL: HJ III and IV.

(ii) Bankes, Irby and Mangles

The arrangement by which what was written in the journals was 'taken down by Irby from Bankes' dictation' was certainly unusual and warrants discussion. Bankes suffered from (or, as it sometimes appeared, cherished or boasted about) an extraordinarily strong aversion to writing which he often coupled with his 'indolence'.⁴ For this reason he occasionally tried to obtain assistance with matters such as the writing of journals. In 1816 he made two efforts to obtain such help. The first was early in the year when he met James Silk Buckingham in Jerusalem and asked him to join him on an expedition to Jerash. Because they afterwards contradicted each other on almost every point in their accounts of the journey we do not know what terms, if any, they agreed upon or just what Buckingham was supposed to do. From 1821, when Buckingham published his *Travels in Palestine*, until 1826, when he won his libel case against Bankes, the two men argued and insulted each other furiously by letter and in publications.⁵

A little later in 1816, Bankes made another effort to obtain someone to help him but succeeded only in precipitating a quarrel with Lady Hester Stanhope – he had

⁴ Bankes had evidently complained about this failing of his quite early in his adult life; in 1812 Byron referred to 'your declaration of old [Byron's emphasis] that you hated writing...' (Moore 1830, I, 478 – 80). In 1816 Bankes mentioned it to at least two people – Lady Hester Stanhope and J.S. Buckingham – (see Buckingham 1825, 620 and Lewis 2001, 57 – 70). On January 2, 1822 he lamented to Byron: 'As for publication, I am always thinking of it, and from a strange mixture of indolence with industry always deferring it. I hate, and always did, method and arrangement, and this is what my materials want' (Murray Archive).

⁵ Cf. Usick 2002, 159 – 163 for a fuller treatment of this affair.

suggested that her private physician might leave her and join him as amanuensis or secretary. Not surprisingly, she never forgave his 'impertinence'.⁶

Bankes was at last successful in finding the right man in Irby who with his friend Mangles possessed all the desirable attributes.⁷ The three of them first met in Aleppo in November 1817, and then again at Tiberias in March 1818. They quickly became friends and when Bankes asked the others if they would join him 'in a tour beyond Jordan and round the Dead Sea' they 'embraced the opportunity of accompanying him'.

They soon learned what was expected of them and appear to have thrived on it: from the 6th to the 10th of March 'we employed ourselves in measuring the circuit of the ancient city of Tiberias' and by the 17th were similarly employed at Jerash. Bankes does not yet seem to have asked them to write a journal for him but as he scribbled his own notes he must have noticed that they kept a regular record of where they went and what they did – the kind of conscientious journal which he had almost never managed to write.

The plan of making a 'tour beyond Jordan and round the Dead Sea' soon gave way to the much more ambitious idea of an attempt to reach Petra. Their first attempt to do this failed dismally and they retreated to Jerusalem, arriving on March 29, 1818.⁸ They then suffered a frustrating five weeks' delay during which Irby and Mangles could have changed their minds about going with Bankes but there is no suggestion in their book or elsewhere that they wished to do so. They knew their own worth; as they put it on p. 336 of their *Travels* they formed the opinion that 'Mr. Bankes, solely, could not have succeeded in accomplishing this journey without his junction with Mr. Legh and ourselves' and they were almost certainly right in this.

⁶ Lewis 2001, 57 – 67

⁷ They were both Commanders in the Royal Navy who since the end of the war with France had taken to independent travel, some of which is described in the early chapters of their *Travels*. They were both a little younger than Bankes.

⁸ The foregoing paragraphs are based on Irby and Mangles' *Travels*, 232 and 296 f. The paragraphs that follow are derived from Journal I.

Thomas Legh, who, like the others, had previously travelled in Egypt and Nubia, joined them in Jerusalem, having recently completed the journey from Moscow to Constantinople with his friend W. MacMichael.⁹ Giovanni Finati, who had been Bankes' right-hand man on several of his earlier journeys, came from Cairo at Bankes' behest to accompany him on this new expedition.¹⁰ The party, including Legh's three attendants, now numbered eleven men and must have made quite an impressive appearance. They were well mounted, armed, had plenty of money, and they encountered a great deal of good fortune during their journey.

Nearly all of Journal I pp.3 - 83 is in Irby's hand although obviously dictated by Bankes. One is tempted to think that they had agreed to this arrangement beforehand but this is by no means certain; those pages, like many after them, may have been 'fair-copied' at a later stage from notes or from a preliminary version of the journal.

The party left Jerusalem on May 6 and reached Hebron two days later. The entries in Irby's hand in the first notebook describe their journey and their activities, as a group, in Hebron.

From Hebron they made for Karak and afterwards towards Petra. Journal I reads easily for the first 64 pages, but from p. 65 to p. 79 the text is frequently interrupted by

⁹ Thomas Legh was a wealthy landowner (of Lyme Park in Cheshire) and an experienced traveller. His *Narrative of a Journey to Egypt and the country beyond the Cataracts* had been published in 1816 and, when he arrived in Jerusalem he had recently completed the journey from Moscow to Constantinople with William MacMichael described in the latter's book of that name, on which see the paper in this collection headed 'The End of the Journey'. He happened to arrive in Jerusalem when Bankes was there and, at his own suggestion, joined in the Petra venture.

¹⁰ Finati's *Life and Adventure* is a fascinating autobiography of an Italian who was obliged to profess Islam. He saw active service in Muhammad Ali's army in the Hijaz and elsewhere and then settled in Cairo as a civilian. In 1815 he was taken on by Bankes as a janissary, interpreter (Bankes 'spoke Italian fluently as I did Arabic,' wrote Finati) and general assistant during Bankes' first Nile journey. In 1816 he accompanied Bankes to Syria and in 1817 acted as janissary to the group which included Belzoni, Irby and Mangles which started the excavation of Abu Simbel. Bankes sent for him the following year and he joined him (and 'my two fellow labourers at Abu Simbel') as noted, at Jerusalem. Irby and Mangles thought poorly of his judgement and performance during the 1817 journey and can hardly have been pleased to find that he was going to accompany them to Petra. They said almost nothing about him in Chapter V of *Travels*, and Finati himself mentioned his relationship with them during the Petra journey only once, as noted on p.2 of the paper below entitled 'The End of the Journey'.

deletions, insertions, afterthoughts and other changes. These pages record the events of May 20 – 24 when the party was held up – within sight of Petra – by the refusal of the men of Wadi Musa to allow them to proceed. They were days of tension and frustration but at least they allowed time to spare for writing. The multiplicity of changes here suggests that this part of the journal may have been written at the time and on the spot and was not, perhaps, fair-copied later, but we cannot be sure of this.

Once they were able to go forward they descended to the Siq and eventually passed along it towards the centre of Petra. Banks himself wrote a first draft describing what they saw but evidently rejected it as unsatisfactory; a second draft which filled the last few pages of Journal I was also, apparently, considered unworthy and was criss-crossed out in its entirety. The third attempt to do justice to their first day in Petra is a revised version of the previous one. It appears at the beginning of a new, larger notebook entitled 'Journal No. 2, Wadi Moosa & Dead Sea, part dictated to C L Irby and part in my own hand – WJB'. This reads relatively smoothly as does most of the rest of Journal II.

(iii) Other accounts of the journey

Three other accounts of the journey were written and published: Legh's which forms Chapter IV in MacMichael's *Journey from Moscow*, Finati's *Narrative of the Life* and 'Letter V' of Irby and Mangles' *Travels*. Both Legh's and Finati's accounts generally confirm the Journals and sometimes provide information not given in them. They are particularly helpful in helping to reconstruct the events of the period June 11 – July 25. Irby and Mangles' Letter V' is based on the Journals and is discussed in the Commentary which forms the last paper in this collection.

Several unpublished papers are also available. The first to be written was a diary of one day's activities by Banks, written at Hebron on May 17, 1818. It is at Dorchester at D/BKL HJ4/21. It may have been surreptitiously written and was perhaps not shown to his companions; it recounts his fruitless attempt to enter the great Mosque. There is no mention of this in Journal I; Legh wrote that Mahomet (ie. Finati) and Legh's Tartar servant were admitted to the Mosque, but that no Christians were allowed to enter.

Another draft, apparently written by Bankes soon after he reached Petra, is now at the British Museum; this document is discussed in Lewis and Macdonald 2003, 77 (note 198) and 89 - 90. The original manuscripts of four other short papers in Bankes' hand - D/BKL HJ4/22, 23, 24 and 25 - are also at Dorchester and are discussed in the paper entitled 'The End of the Journey' below.

TRANSCRIPT OF JOURNAL I

Notes, each of which is headed by the number of the page to which it refers, follow the Transcript of Journal II. The notes are not numbered or referred to in the text of the transcript. Translations into English of Greek passages on certain pages are given in the notes to each of those pages. The numbers written in the right-hand margin of the pages of the transcripts are the page numbers of the original manuscript notebooks.

Jerusalem round the South end of the Dead Sea¹
to Karrack & from thence to Shobac
and Wadi Mousir

1818

taken down by the Hon^{ble.} C.L.Irby from my
dictation

WJB

FROM JERUSALEM TO HEBRON

Our party consisting of 11 persons left Jerusalem a couple of hours before dark in the evening of May 6th and slept at Bethlehem. At 8 the ensuing morning proceeded for Solomon's Pools and thence down the valley - towards the Mountain of the Franks, which we ascended - hollow on the top, with walls round it, & four towers - said to have been defended by the Crusaders forty years after the fall of Jerusalem - too small ever to have held any great No. of Men, and the ruins, though they may be of a place so defended, appear to have had an earlier origin, as the architecture appears to be Roman. From the Mount of the Franks we could see part of the Dead Sea and the situation of Karrack on the other side of it. (Abou Jani - on hills to < > between Bethlehem and the Frank Mn.. Bearings from the Frank Mn. - A.J. West., Bethlehem, N.W, - St. Elias, NNW)

3

From hence we went to see the Labyrinth. We left our horses at the ruins of a village called Hariatoun, and proceeded on foot by the side of the cliffs on the Southern side of a deep and picturesque ravine to the mouth of the Cave, which runs in by a long winding, narrow passage, with small natural chambers or cavities on each side of it, into a vast chamber with natural arches of a great height and dimension; from it other passages lead on to a very considerable distce. The air in the cavern is extremely dry and pure, and the sides present a fine polish and are white & clean - we saw three names of Englishmen who had visited it before us. Returned to our horses we advanced to the Southward, to the ruins of Tekoa.

4

They stand on a slight eminence, commanding several bursts of the Dead Sea, & are extensive but do not contain the remains of any distinct Temple or Public Edifice, though there [are] a few fragments of columns. (Bearings from Tekoa - Bethlehem N, Elias NNE, Fk. Mn. NE b E, Karrack NE). From Tekoa we passed through a plain of cultivated land, and thence all the way to Hebron, through a much prettier country than [near] Jerusalem, the sides of the hills being covered with Shrubs & dwarf Trees of the gall oak, Arbutus Scotch fir &c.&c.

5

About five o'clock we passed a village called Sipheer, by the side of a well cultivated valley.

There are about 9 Roman Sepulchral Caves near this village. From hence we crossed a rugged road into another plain, where are the ruins of a small old – Convent [by the] Jews called the House of Abraham & ascended from hence passing between numerous vineyards We reached Hebron at dusk. Passed many Arab Camps during the day chiefly {cultivators and found them} all very civil; towards evening {some of them invited us to pass the night} in their Tents.

We were very kindly received by the Sheik, put into a small praying-room attached to the Kane; provided with Carpets &c. We were served with a beverage we never saw before in the Country, warm rice milk with sugar; before the Coffee. Unfortunately the Turks will not permit a Christian to enter the Mosque, in which is said to be the Tomb of Abraham. It is a very curious building, apparently antique, formed of great stones, some of upwards of 25 feet in length; it has sixteen Pilasters on each side, and 8 at each end, without capitals, excepting a sort of ornamented summit along the top of the whole building. Above it is a continuation of modern masonry. It is entered by a long flight of steps between it and other ruined buildings which stand on its SE side; the edifice being constructed lengthways, in a NE & SW [direction]. I imagine, however, that these outside walls are only those of the Court which surrounds the Mosque, not of the Mosque itself. The town of Hebron is not of large dimensions, though its population is great; the Country is cultivated to a considerable extent all round it. The streets are winding, and the houses unusually high.

6

We visited a manufactory of glass lamps, articles which they export to Egypt. We were told by the Governor of Hebron, that there is a regular party of pilgrims who set out thence every year, depending entirely on their own strength, without any escort, who fall in with the great Damascus Hadj either at Mecca or very near it which is at the distance of 30 days.

From a Merchant of Cairo I ascertained the existence of the great ruins at Abdi in the Desert to the South about 3 days.

7

The Governor of Hebron made no difficulty the first evening about our going to Wadi Mousir Karrack &c. saying it was an easy matter & he would undertake it. On the 8th. however difficulties began. We visited after dinner the House of the Jewish Priest (there are 100 Jewish houses in Hebron) .We found their quarters excessively clean & neatly white-washed; that of the Priest particularly so; having a very nice divan, & commanding a fine view of the country; they were very civil, offering us letters to the places we were going to. The Governor offered to leave us that we might drink wine but we declined it. They shewed us their synagogue. On our return to the Kane, a Watch was given to the Governor by Mr Bankes; who made no remark at the time, but shortly retired, when a Man arrived to say that the Governor was not contented with his present, and had given it to the Jew Priest. Shortly after however another person arrived to say they wished to arrange the bargain for paying the guides. 350 piastres were offered but rejected. After a second visit however to the Jew's House, where we again found the Governor, 400 piastres were paid down, and we were to proceed the following morning. After supper the Governor called at the Kane; he appeared to be shuffling a good deal and altering the arrangement of visiting the different places, but as he did [not] alter it materially, still placing Wadi Mousir before Karrack, we did not care about it. He looked at all the Firmans &c. and did not appear to pay so much respect as is usual to that

8

of the Grand Signor. On observing Mr Legh's Constantinople Tartar, he said, but in a good humoured way, that a few years ago if a Tartar had come to Hebron he would have had his head cut off, but that it was not so now. We requested to proceed on our journey early in the morning, but he said that arrangements could not be made for our departure until an hour [after] sun-rise, and he soon after left us.

On the 9th however he did not make his appearance till after eight o'clock, bringing with him the three men who were to be our conductors & the Jew Priest. He was shortly after followed by his Brother, who had previously desired to know in an indirect manner why he had not had a present as well as the Governor and last came all the Law Officers, who together with the

Governor advised us to go to Karrack direct, and not to Wady Mousir. He, however, told the guides that there were 400 piastres for them if they chose to take us; but these people who had in all probability previously received instructions to the purpose declined to conduct us. Finally we mounted our horses and left the Town; but to [do] justice to the Governor he not only returned the 400 piastres [but] the watch also.

9

When we had got out of the Town we held a consultation together and finding we had nobody who could shew us our way, we sent into the Town to say we would consent to visit Karrack first, in the mean time we retired to a neighbouring olive-yard. By the return of the messenger, the Governor sent to say he would [have] nothing at all to do with our concerns. A man on horse back, however, offered to shew us the road, and we accordingly proceeded with him, but had scarcely advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour, when two Men came galloping and hallooing after us, upon which we stopped in a corn field under an olive Tree and sent in Mr Bankes's Soldier, Mahomet, as the Governor wished to communicate with us; this was about midday. Towards two o'clock Mahomet the Arab who had come with us from Jerusalem, quitted us. Some peasants passed by who said they were going to a village less than an hour distant which they called Yetta. About 3 Mahomet the soldier returned with one of the Jews, the sheikh having consented to send us to Karrack with a letter to the Sheik there, and he gave us a guide, one of the Jehalleen Arabs. He was to receive 300 piastres, or the watch & 200. The watch and 150 were given, as the former was of more value than he imagined it. Two roubies were given to the Jew, & he begged one for the sheik's brother (a roubie is less than 2s value). We proceeded accordingly through an ugly country enough but being tolerably well cultivated with corn. We passed several ruined sites; one of these they called Hagee - standing on a hill - there is a large square building there which appeared {partly} perfect; we had also another on our right called El Birket and a column which was too far off to be visited. Afterwards we passed two Roman excavated Tombs, with Porticos in front but not very interesting - there are two ruined sites near them, to one of which they probably belonged. About 5 o'clock we reached a well where we

10

gave our horses water, as the Camp where we were to sleep was ill provided; This well they called Al Baid; two pools - one a small green pool, the other a fountain in the live rock -

ancient site N.W. of it - wall of large construction, others of good masonry - slanting passages cut in the live rock down to Cellar or Tombs. Near it are extensive ruins of some ancient place. We reached the Jehalleen camp of thirty tents about dusk; it was unusually situated on the top of a hill as they generally chose a valley. Women's tents covered in front and women particularly veiled. Other camp near full as large. These people we found uncommonly poor in appearance, though they had Sheep Goats and Camels: they were pitched in quite a desert country, the cultivated land ceasing about the well Al Baid. They however gave us mutton for supper, but we were obliged to provide our own Coffee. They retire in years of scarcity to Egypt, this was the case the year that Mr. Bankes was in the country before. Our course from Hebron to the camp was in a South-easterly direction.

The next morning we wished to make a bargain with Jehaleens for conducting us; nothing would induce them to take us to Wadi Mousir without leave from the Sheik of Hebron. After much bargaining, they agreed to take us to Karrack if we were to give 75 piastres to the chief & 10 to each of 5 guides who were to accompany us with muskets. Though these people for a long time refused to accept this, when they agreed to do it they all began fighting for who shd. go. After we had descended from the camp, we offered as high as 500 piastres to be taken to Wadi Mousir but the people were afraid to undertake the business. It was about 8 when we left the camp and at 9 we arrived at a well where we watered our horses. We remained here about half an hour and [when] we proceeded, the conductors began their tricks saying they would go no further unless we gave them 500 piastres, the sum which they had been offered for Wadi Mousir: we told them we would go without them and taking a course about $\langle \quad \rangle$ by compass till eleven o'clock, when one of the guides appeared in the rear, waving his Turban, and making all possible signs for us to stop; in about half an hour therefore we were again joined by two of the five, and proceeding a little more to the [south], about mid-day had a delightful view from a slight eminence to the left of the road, of the southern extremity of the Dead Sea and the backwater and plain at the end of it. Near here we saw a spider as big as the first joint of a man's thumb, his body was of a pale greenish colour, the legs yellow {shading} away to

orange, it ran very swift and hid itself in a small herb where it was stoned to death. It appeared evident that the Dead Sea must be of much less length than is usually supposed, we thought 50{m} the outside, except < > you include the backwater which is always varying its extent. As we saw it might have been about 5 or 6 miles but beyond that the ground was in such a state as to shew that the waters had but lately retired from a much greater distce. From the point of view alluded to we were continually descending but did not get to the bottom till near five o'clock, passing over a road so rugged, barren, & full of great stones that we were obliged to lead our Horses; at last we arrived at the ruins of an old Fort, standing on a single rock to the left of the road; & to the right there is a pool of tolerable water for the Horses. Further on, on the same side, the Cliff is excavated with loop holes. They call the place El Zowar. From hence we passed through a pretty, gravelly ravine, with bushes of Acacia, and another which bears a small stone fruit, resembling in taste to an apple. About 6 we entered the great plain at the end of the Dead Sea; for about a quarter of an hour we had a few bushes, and afterwards found the soil sandy and perfectly barren. On our right we had a hill of sandy soil, running in a SE and NW direction towards the middle of the plain. At dark we stopped for the night in a ravine at the side of this hill, much against the wishes of our guides, who made the excuses against the want of water & the fear of dytchmaan. About the latter they were plagueing us all night. Great quantities of dead wood, thrown out by the overflowing of the Dead Sea some of Palm Trees would scarcely burn - would not {flame}.

(See Bankes' Note at the end of this division of the Log)

In the morning, at the very dawn of day, we proceeded across the plain; for the first half hour we had still the before-mentioned sand hill on our right. We found, exclusive of the saline appearance left by the retiring of the waters, several large fragments of rock-salt lying on the ground and on examining the hill found that it was partly composed of salt and partly of hardened sand. Icicles of salt were hanging in various parts. The torrents during the rainy season had brought down immense masses, and we observed that the strata were general{ly} in perpendicular lines. Leaving this hill, the plain opens to the South to a more considerable

distance and is bounded at the distce. of abt. 8 miles by a sandy cliff about 60 to 80 feet in height which runs directly across and closes the valley. They told us that the plain on the top of this little range of cliff continues the whole way to Mecca, without the interruption of mountain - to us it appeared that the Mountains to the West of the Dead Sea gradually lowered in height to the Southd., while those to the East continued in their pristine height as far as the eye could reach, and {appeared to be} of a reddish colour, probably granital. In about [an hour] from the Salt hill, passing through the barren plain with 6 different drains into the backwater, some wet others dry - we arrived into a very prettily wooded country, with high rushes and marshes; from hence the variety of bushes and wild plants became very thick and really extraordinary and would have been a delightful sight for a botanist. Amongst those we knew were the acacia, and other mimosian plants - the apple before alluded [to] the Tamarisk & etc. and the plant which we saw in Nubia & which Norden calls the Oschar. There was one curious Tree which we observed in great plenty, & which bore a fruit resembling in appearance the currant but which is mustard - and is more probably the sort of Tree that our Saviour alludes to in the parable of the Mustard seed, than the high weeds of that plant which we saw on our journey from Bisan to Adjelon, for the birds really might take shelter under its shadow. In about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour we arrived at the little river which is marked in the maps, and improperly placed as Futlet; the people told us it was the Nahr Hussein or Horse River.

14

There was plenty of corn cultivated in the open grounds between the bushes and we found the people here taking in the harvest; they were a wild set of people in appearance and wore leathern aprons reaching to the Shoulders, a dress we had never before noticed. Their civility however was exceeding great. We told them we were soldiers of the Aga of Jaffa, going to Karrack, they said they wished more soldiers would come amongst them, that they were much oppressed by the Bedouin Arabs, whom they described as a bad set of people, caring neither for God or the Saints. They took us to their bivouac, saying their village was some way off, and that they were only remaining here to take in the harvest. They gave some of the apples I have before alluded to {dried and pounded} & then mixed with butter & about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour after with

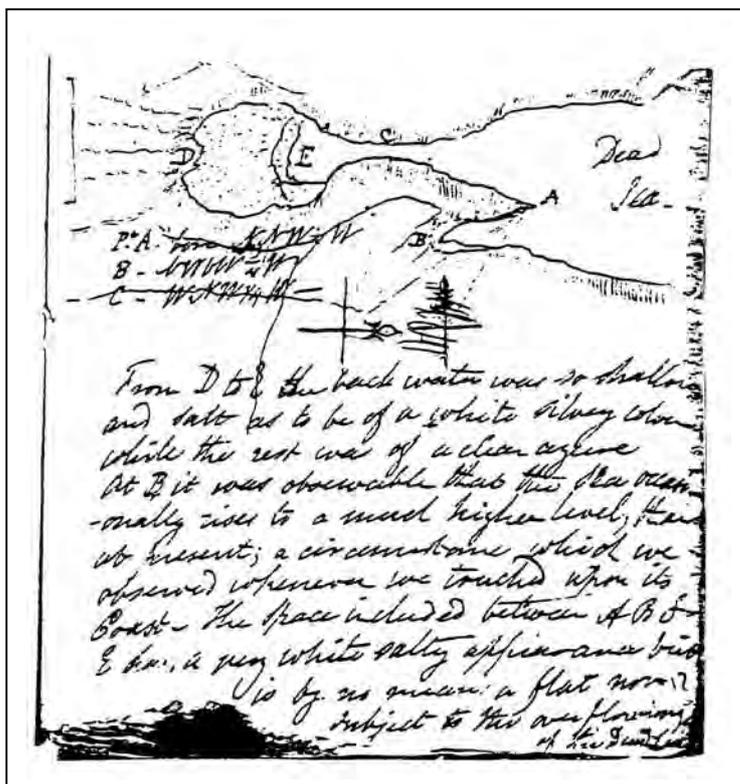
15

bread & butter, & sour milk We were annoyed with large Horse flies here, some of the poor animals were streaming with blood. We were told at Karrack that they were a plague sent by God at the time of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah; and that no Turk in praying is allowed to kiss the earth in the customary manner there. Before we left this place they threshed out with great sticks some grain for our Horses out of the Corn which was just cut.

We left them about 11 o'clock and crossing the Horse River proceeded along the foot of the mountains at the East side of the plains. We continued in this manner till near 5 in the afternoon, passing two other Rivulets one called the {Honey} River. We found many pieces of granite, {porphyry} Serpentine stone and other mineral products, the produce of the neighbouring hills, which however are principally composed of a mixture of sand stone and bad 16 marble. At 5 we had reached the tongue of land which lies between the South end of the Dead Sea & its back water, and from hence began to ascend the hills to our right. At 6 ½ we stopped in a beautiful little ravine, watered by the river El {Darra} whose banks are prettily covered with bushes of Palm, Acacia, Aspen &c. and some oleanders in full flower & beauty. It is a delightful spot rendered doubly so by the desert appearance of its neighbourhood and reminds one of the 8th verse of the 17th Ch. of Jeremiah – “He shall be like the Tree planted by the waters and shall not die when the heat cometh” &c.&c. though the same applies to the Jordan and that part of the Nile banks in Nubia, where although the desert produces no vestige of vegetation the immediate bank of the Nile is covered with the most beautiful acacias, as well as to many others in a warm dry climate. We passed the night here; Mr. B took a sketch of the spot, as well as another of that part of the Dead Sea which may be seen from it. (I will here insert the relative distances of the principal objects we passed this day: 2 hours ½ from the Western cliffs of the Gor to Rahk, the first salt water drain; ½ an hour to Saphy, the Nahr el Hussayn; three hours from Saphy to the Honey river, Nahr el Asul; from thence 2 hours to Mara; 2 more to el-Darrah.)

The following morning, shortly after the rising of the Sun, we began to ascend the Mountain; very rugged & stony, little vegetation, the {stone} a darkish colour. On our left we had a deep 17

ravine. Three men shouted from a height, and asked where we were going, only one had a gun. About 8 o'clock we reached a noble point, where the road turns in its ascent; here is an excellent bird's-eye view over the South end of the Dead Sea and the backwater. The delay which it required to take a sketch of it, gave time to the Men to come up with us, who spoke to us roughly.



From D to E the backwater was so shallow and salt as to be a white silvery colour while the rest was of a clear azure. At B it was observable that the Sea occasionally rises to a much higher level than at present, a circumstance which we observed whenever we touched upon this Coast. The space included between the A B & E has a very white salty appearance but by no means a flat < > subject to the overflowing of the Dead Sea.

The 3 men who had accosted us, of whom 2 were blacks remained with us for a few minutes.

18

As soon as the sketch was finished we began to ascend to the rest of our party who had left us and were sitting above; in the way we were surprised by the sight of five other armed men standing behind a wall. After hesitating a moment, they came forward and after some parley left us and we went on upon a sort of terrace {scraped} out on the side of a romantic ravine, with vast fragments, each as large as ordinary houses, which had been detached from the sides

of the precipices & were lying below; and some only just cracked off & not yet fallen. About a quarter of an hour from meeting the strangers, we came to a small deposit of water, under an olive Tree in a gully to the right of our < > and which crossed the road. Here some of the same men whom we had reason at that time to suspect for banditti called loudly to us to come & eat bread with them. We ascended however & continued our route when after a considerable {rise} from this gully the road continued mainly on a level and we began to find ourselves amongst corn fields, and cattle grazing in the valley through which the rivulet Souf Saffa probably runs towards the Dd. Sea as we observed the remains of ancient mill-courses, the rivulet itself being invisible on account of the richness of the vegetation which grows on its banks, especially the Oleander just now coming into bloom.

The Castle of Karrack was now in sight but not any portion of the town < > lying behind it.

The ruins of the Castle on this side, that is to say the NW, present two principal features; the great mass at the South angle of the town, and more towards the north the great building which goes by the name of the Seraglio of Melek-e-Daher. Between these two but nearest to the latter is the only gate of entrance on this side (the Wn). It is no more than a plain, narrow arch, with an Arabic inscription over it but it has this remarkable that it is fitted to the mouth of a natural cavern which passes with a winding course through a high ridge of the natural rock, which has thus been made use of as the principal avenue to the Fortress. The form of the hill on which it stands is not advantageous on this side, being rather long, & the buildings upon it straggling.

20

High as the Town stands, it is commanded on every side - in our approach we descended moderately into the narrow valley at the foot of the Castle hill, where runs a Stream with a narrow line of gardens on its banks, in which we observed Olives, Pomegranites and Figs, with some vegetables. The ascent from it is steep and toilsome to a great degree; we all dismounted.

Entering at the Cavern gate already described we found ourselves within the walls with the Seraglio on our left hand. The houses do not come very close upon that part of the fortification, though there are ruins and foundations every where, that seem to announce a greater population

21

formerly. There are the remains of a Mosque with pointed arches, and an octagonal minaret with a band of black stone carried round it; the whole is much in ruins. Over the doorway is a pointed Horse Shoe arch like that at the khan at Bisan, and among the ornaments is the cup repeated several times which I saw before on the Khan at Jesir Majamé. The houses are of one story, terrace roofed, so constructed against the (slant) of the ground the back is often not above the level of the ground; but in many instances you may pass on the Housetops even on horseback without being aware of it; some have a little court before them. The mounds of rubbish & dung heaps accumulate so much in front of the houses that they in several instances {swamp} them. The principal chamber in the best houses has two arches thrown across it, on which rest the rafters, not squared & very smoaky; but there is a small hole in the centre as a vent & immediately under it a circular hearth with a rim raised round it. In the recesses between the spring of the arches are raised platforms which serve as shelves; and there are receptacles for corn with bung holes in the manner of casks for taking it out. The walls are daubed with the rudest paintings; we observed particularly an attempt to represent a horseman, and in another instance a kneeling camel, with a mai



22

this to give you an idea of them. There is not a vestige of antique work in the castle; but among Mahomattan works it may be reckoned a fine one, especially at the South end, the cutting down of the live rock in order to detach the fortified hill from the ridge with which it was by

nature connected; that hollow very probably furnished materials for the building above, as at Callah er Rubbat, &c. &c. Two ridges are left standing up across this artificial ravine in the manner of walls.

There are many subterranean passages and dark chambers in the Castle but what is most remarkable is a Christian Church within the enceinte of this part of the Castle, very ill constructed with small stones and some pillars laid horizontal into the masonry, which is quite a contrast to the Mahometan work, which is of large, well cut stones, laid in regular courses.

This Church has small narrow lancet windows, and a circular end and pointed vaulting so that it has

a great resemblance to that of St. Peter at Tiberias, which last is evidently posterior to the first Mahometan conquest, as there is an Arabic inscription built upside down into the front wall. It is probable therefore that both are works of the Crusaders. Godfrey de Bulloigne took Karrack and called it Mons Royal, it is probable he or some of his successors may have built this Church. There are remains of paintings of large {groups} of figures on the stuccoed wall; one seems to have represented a King in armour, another the Martyrdom of some Saint, by twisting out his bowels; and there is an imperfect inscription upon [it] with letters of the Gothic form; I am inclined to suppose the Castle prior to this Church. Upon the Southn tower and on some others there is a band of Arabic inscription; the gateway seems to have been repaired in a slovenly manner & in use within late years. What is called the Seraglio of Melek e Daher is a high building forming 3 sides of a square, with a winding staircase and an open gallery round the 3 interior sides. A few poor families live there who make gunpowder. Of remnants of antiquity; all that we found are 1st.a small column of deep coloured red granite exceedingly well polished but ill shaped at the Castle gate; another of grey granite not far from it, close to a well a great wing of sculpture in low relief that resembles much those which we were used to see attached to the globe in Egyptian buildings. I can form no conjecture what it was; there is no trace of the globe - it might possibly be the wing of a Roman Eagle; its length is 7 feet and breadth 4. Near the mosque are three barbarous capitals, not like any of the orders, much like some I saw at Hamah and one at Sanamane. In two of the private Houses are Greek inscriptions, one in large characters on a fragment of architrave. There is a plentiful supply of water by cisterns in almost all the houses.

24

The Sheik was absent at a camp half a day distant. We were very well received and few questions were asked, & less attention excited than might have been expected. There was a merchant from Damascus; the distance on a swift dromedary is 5 days, but the ordinary travelling is 10. There was also a merchant of Hebron, trading in butter. He had {brought} to

25

sell handkerchiefs for men & women, beads and {common} abbas. The Women do not cover their faces at all or keep out of sight; the utmost they ever conceal is the point of their chin. We sat and conversed familiarly with several of them. We had for breakfast < > we were there thin wafers of bread folded up and toasted with butter laid between them, we had Leban in abundance and two meat meals a day of mutton boiled in Leban, with bread of a very white flour that was more raised than the bread generally is in the Levant. Amongst our Co. was a travelled man who had been to Tripoli, Aleppo & Mardin, and Cyprus; he had never been to Constantinople, nor had any desire to go there, because he had heard that a man could not beat out his pipe without burning the house down, and that justice was so strictly administered, that a man ran the risque of have his head cut off while he was walking in the street - a curious picture of the ignorance in one part of the Turkish Empire of what passes in the other. It appeared that few if any of them knew the name of the present Sultan. It was also a curious example of the liberty of speech in these remote corners, that our Traveller added that they respected the Sultan because it was their interest to do so on account of commerce but as to the Pashas, they were no better than they themselves, and that it was a degradation to stand in a humiliating posture with the head stooped, and the hands hidden before one of them, when he might loll at his ease in his own house, and stand or lie in whatever posture he pleased. We were invited out to dinner one day and treated to a boiled Sheep but no bread was served to us - a custom we first obd. at Salt. It appears that the Wahabees made an attempt on Karrack, & were encamped for several days or as some said (probably falsely) for some months on the heights south of the Town. One of them was sent in to parley, and the Inhabitants boast of having killed at least 40 of them with their muskets from the loops of the Castle. From hence it appears they proceeded into the Hauran by Rampda and Messaribe and thence to Bosrah where they burned all the produce of the harvest & then fled precipitately.

26

27

On the 14th towards evening the Sheik arrived without his bride; he asked a trifle roughly at first upon being told of our purpose of travelling in these mountains, whether this was the Country of our Fathers; but we soon found him to be a plain, blunt, honest old Man of very few words.

Only one Man in the village can read, & he is the Greek Priest. He read to him the letter of Sheikh Eysah of Hebron, without which we have reason to think we should have had a much colder reception. It appears that the Governor of Jerusalem deceived us, and never wrote at all upon the subject. A letter from Abu Gosh was read about a cow that had been lost, a good deal of {Parish} business was done. We carried out our business thro' the Greek priest - & as we had to deal with an honest man we had not much trouble; for in fact the negotiations on the next morning were hardly closed, before the horses were ordered to be in readiness. 400 piastres were paid down as the price of a safe conduct thro' several places, specified in a list, as far as Wadi Mousir to the S and Salt to the North; the old man not undertaking to free us from some incidental tributes which we must pay on the road.

During our stay at Karrack, we saw the dowry of a Woman about to be married in a Sheik's House; it amounted to 100 piastres, in white Constantinople money. This was I believe only the head dress, the amount of a dowry being sometimes as high as 4 purses. In an adjoining chamber to ours there was music and singing nearly throughout the day. One of the Christians pressed Mr. Bankes apparently very seriously to take one of his daughters. There is resident at Karrack one Greek priest who was {educated} and < > by the Patriarch of Jerusalem.

There is also a Deacon. There is a church but appears not to be in use; some difficulty was always made about admitting us into it. I heard a < > story that the Mussalmen had offered to allow them the free use of the Church if the Christians would repair the mosque. It is remarkable that the church stands in the Mahometan quarter and the mosque in the Christian which are divided from each other at the Sheik's house. There are no crosses on the doors nor any external distinction. The Christian population is said to be somewhat inferior in No. to the Mahometan but they boast of being stronger & braver. Both go armed and with the exception of some old men among the Christians & the Priest there is nothing to distinguish them, but there is certainly a difference in their countenances. The No. of Christians bearing arms was differently stated at 4 or 500.

29

It was said that at the time of the French invasion in 1799, there was a project of disarming the Christians or driving them out, which the present Sheik prevented. We saw, and were recognised by several of those whom we had mistaken to be banditti on the road. They assured us that they had bread & butter with them, which they only wished us to share with them, but their concealment & manner in which they 1st. came upon us still appears equivocal. 30

In the afternoon of the 15th May we set out from Karrack to the Southward, descending into the ravine which surrounds {it} with the main building of the Castle close on our right hand, the base of which is here a slanting casing of the Rock, as at Homs, Aleppo, Salhad, Callat Medeak &c &c. From hence we passed up the side of a narrow ravine to its very end, on each hand there are caverns some of which are wrought tombs, and it is probable that others are also for I observed places for sarcophagi in one which had all the appearance of a natural grotto outside. In this ravine is a spring of water, with a small Turkish building. Here we were joined by an Arab of Gebal who had been forced away by the Wahabees, and had lived and served with them - almost all his Fellow-townsmen had been put to death. He was upwards of a month [at] Dareyah their capital. It is larger he says than Karrack - the houses all of mud, and the fortifications of mud & Palm Trees. There are cannon on the walls, and immense treasure buried and concealed. They prefer silver very much to gold, for which no reason was given. He confirmed the relation of horses being fed entirely on camel's milk. He was mounted himself on one of that breed, a light leggy Horse. His < > and dress was not different from those of the Country. He seemed to think the Wahabee sect very general and said joking that our Sheik was one, which the other denied with apparent horror. 41

We ascended into a sort of down country with verdure so close as to appear almost turf, with here and there corn fields; the surface sprinkled over with stones but little rock appearing. In an hour and a half we reached a Camp belonging to the People of Karrack. The younger Son of him of Karrack, his name Is[mail] was well dressed in < > of Damascus silk. The elder son Abdel Caider never leaves the town whereas the old man continually moves from one to the

other. After taking a little Leban and bread, we went to the NW about a mile, across some corn land, to a ruined village called Mahanna. The ruins are mostly of ordinary buildings, but it is evident that one of them was a Christian Church - a steep hollow separates this from another ruined site to the Westd. called Dgellgool. The following ruined sites are visible from this point; Machad - arti Musshut, (which is the single building supposed to be the tomb of Abu Taleb), Hamahita or Mote, Toor, Howeeh, and Marrowid. We passed about an hour due < > towards the ruins of Medeen and descended into a valley which surrounds three sides of the eminence on which it stands, where in a low cave in a rock is found [a] spring from whence our camp is supplied. The ruins {and} the hill cover much ground but are {not} interesting however the place seems to have been walled to the Westd. with pretty large stones. It exists to the height of about six feet built without mortar. From {Midin} we could see the following ruined sites mostly upon slight eminences - Imriega E b N of Medeen, Hadad – Shirsee SSE of Medeen - Behtanah., Suhl & Nehkill. Our old Sheik had sent his Son to join us as he was uneasy at our going alone in that direction. The sun set as we [were] returning and we saw Ismail gallop forward, strike his spear in the ground and perform his prayers while he held the bridle. We found the camp full of Cattle especially Sheep, Goats & Asses. Our supper boiled meat without bread. {An excellent} mess of milk with the consistence of a custard brought to us. All our party liked it & some thought that it was {produced} by mixing rennet with the milk. Bread was served with the milk.

42

16th May. This mng. we were off before sun-rise. The same down country continued; in about ¼ of an hour we came to the site of Hamarta or Mote, which last name signifying death it acquired from the circumstance of all its inhabitants being exterminated by Abou Talib, whose reputed Tomb called {Mushan} is a building upon arches which appears to stand in a small enclosure, was less than ½ mile dist. WSW on our left hand. The situation of this place is low and the ruins indistinct - close to them is a Roman milestone, still erect, but perhaps not in its place, inscribed in Latin - the no.of miles {13} but the rest indistinct. I conjecture the no.of

43

miles 13 {dating} possibly from Rabbath Moab. We were told that the old Mecca road went through these mountains - improbable as Mr. Bankes was shewn several others, some in the Hauran & one through Hebron. In $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour from Moat reached the Tomb of Sheik Jaffe; the Mahometan part of our party alighted and visited it and saw in the interior two dark granite columns well polished. We saw the exterior only; there are two buildings of white stone of which one has a Persian dome and battlements thus -



the other has a square tower like that of a Church for a minaret; whole is falling into ruin. A quarter hour further past over a ruined site called Amita. A quarter of an hour further we reached the camp of Sheik Salem who commands or has influence at Gebal and in all the Country as far as Shaubac. We found there our Wahabee companion & a camp of 33 tents. In the tent several sabres of a very fine fabrick were handed about, compared & valued.

Afterwards there was a sort of trial about a Jack Ass who had been missing & returned with a {sore} back, the people of Karrack supposed to be the culprits. There was another trial about some arable land. The whole was pleaded with a good deal of noise, the judge sitting in the middle of the circle; we had a meal of meat without bread.

44

Afterwards 200 piastres were asked of us, in lieu of 30 which we had been led to expect. This we refused & Sheik Shalem persisting, we mounted & retired to a distance. Upon our leaving the tent he expressed a wish that we might be struck with lightning before we should reach Karrack and said that had not Sheik Yousef been with us, he would have forced it from us. Finding, however, that he did not follow us, we sent back to offer 150; the bargain was struck & the money counted into his hands. He mounted with us as well as his Son, a very fine young Man; he brought us to another large camp of his tribe of 33 tents in about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour having quitted the direct road close to where it begins to descend towards the Wadi El {Hussa}. The camp was less than a quarter of a mile to the left.

From hence the ruins of Dettrass on a height East about 2 m. from the camp. In our way to it we passed another camp, and some others. At the foot of the hill are many cisterns and great part of the ruins indistinct & of no interest. There are however three piles of building that

render this place interesting; the largest which has the air of a castle at a distance is upon the very {brow} of the hill to the West and there is no architectural ornament upon that side. The opposite side which was probably the front measures 107 feet 4 ½ inches. The doorway was probably in the center but that part is fallen. The two extremities however are pretty entire and were decorated each with two semicolumns attached to the wall 4 ft 2 in diam. and two quarter columns of the same scale attached to square pilasters at the angles; in the intercolumniations of these are remains of circular windows very high up. Not one of the capitals is to be found, though the rim immediately below the capital is remaining in one instance. The construction is of stones of a long narrow proportion. The North & South end of the building are almost intirely fallen but measure 80 feet. There are some arches attached to those parts. {ESE} a few yards from this building is another smaller which fronts to the South, having a doorway 12 f. 7 in the clear, and a window on each side with a sort of Doric frise over the Architrave. This building measures 31.8 in depth. There are three columns in the interior, each 3 f. in diameter; we may conclude there was a 4th. The width of the building in the interior was 38 ft. {SSE} below the Town and wholly detached from it, at the distance of a few hundred yards only, there is a building which was probably a Temple which stands upon a raised basement 3f. 9 ½ high & 7.1 in width upon the sides and back. In front, where there was certainly a Portico, the width is 11.2, a flight of steps led up to it. The exterior width of this temple is 32.5, the length 45.5.

45

46

There were Corinthian Pilasters at the angles and a frise all round, and above the frise a sort of Attic with a doorway opening from a staircase that leads to the roof. The doorway faces N b E by compass. The interior distribution is rather singular [with] two arched recesses in each side and one very deep one at the extremity where at a considerable height is the small nitch for the Statue. The details of the passage to the roof are very singular. It opens from the principal recess of the cellar, it is not easy to account for the thickness of the front wall of the Temple, nor for a sort of cupboard that is gained at the left hand of the doorway. A great many people, men, women and children, came flocking about us from the neighbouring tents but were very civil and obliging. We reached our camp at nightfall and had boiled meat without bread for

47

supper. The faces of all the elderly women in this camp and some of the younger had their cheeks disfigured with scratches and large stains of blood, signs of their mourning for a death in one of the harems.

17th May. We recovered the track which we had quitted, where it falls into a descending < > with a good deal of rock upon the sides. At the extremity, where we turned out of this to follow a more rapid and deep descent into the Wadi-El-Hussa, we saw upon our left hand, on the height, the remains of an ancient fortress, that seems to have commanded the pass; it is of dry masonry and large stones, and is no doubt antique; this was called Acoojah. As we proceeded downwards, there was on our right hand a great quantity of lava and black volcanic stone, which seem to have issued from the side of the ridge of mountains in < >. We reached the little rivulet called El Hussa in the bottom; it has in some parts pitted for itself a very deep channel in the live rock, which produces the effect of a {waterfall}. < > many oleanders were growing about it. From hence we began to ascend a more [gentle] acclivity than the steep 48 we had come down. It is observable that the sides of this Wadi El Husser are more destitute of verdure than the high plains above. We continued our course up a slanting hollow, in which we saw the stones gathered into heaps & collected into fences in a manner that denotes more cultivation formerly, there are however still a field or two of corn near a little spring.

A little further on, upon the point of a sort of promontory of high land that stands between the fork of two vallies, are the ruins of a small but rich building; little or nothing is left entire, but all the fragments lying in confusion. There are rich arabesque borders of vines & foliage, much in the {style} of Diocletian's building or the triumphal arch at Palmyra; the capitals are not of any regular order but fanciful & loaded with ornament; the execution is {shamfered} & neat. The Temple appears to have fronted SSW and there were apparently four semi-columns attached to the front wall of which the diam. was 3.5; amongst the fragments are tombours of some columns of a smaller diameter. There are other vestiges of building near, but nothing that gives reason to suppose there ever was a town. The great dark mass of volcanic matter that was 49 on our right before mentioned, bears from these ruins NNE. They go by the same name as a

clear spring issuing from the rock a little Southd. of them - Elabahn. There are old mill-courses in the low ground. The ascent continued still, till we reached the level of the high plain. In a SSW direction there were reapers at Harvest who informed us that the chief persons of the town of Gebal were encamped; and induced our sheiks to turn more Southerly out of the great track to Gebal and reached a camp of 33 Tents, about 1 in the afternoon. We were this day 6 hours on horseback. Here there was a feeble attempt to extort money from us, under pretext that the sheik was independent. Upon our mentioning afterwards an intention of visiting their village (Gebal) which was two hours' distant, objection was raised against it; and I am inclined to think that had we persisted we should have been prevented; we therefore left it for our return. There were some small specimens of volcanic stone in the valley near the camp, but not in quantity. In the afternoon we were empld. in visiting the `ruins of El {Haya} which are situated on an eminence and are certainly the remains of a village but with the exception of an approach by an inclined plane to a grotto cut in the live rock we did not tumble upon anything that denoted antiquity, but it may be remarked once for all that there is great probability that all these ruins at least belong to a time anterior to the Mahometan conquest, as the population seemed to have been decreasing in every part of the Empire.

There was some highly dishonourable conduct at this Camp about a spy glass which had dropped from Mr Bankes's pocket - after confessing that it had been found, and was in the camp, they attempted to force him to give an extravagant reward which was obstinately refused; and by the intervention of the old Sheik of Karrack it was recovered for two Rubies. Our supper consisted as usual of mutton without bread.

The next morning (18th) after we had taken our departure, Dawoud, a relation of the sheik of Karrack, missed his sword, and rode back for it, but these rogues refused to restore it to him. Passing to the Southd. upon a slight descent in ½ an hour we saw on our right a village situated in a valley very considerably below us with one building standg. above the rest which may probably be the Sheik's house, its distance in a direct line could hardly be more than a mile, its

name Bsaida. About and beyond this village there are hanging woods of some extent.

From hence, in 3 ½ h, the descent becoming more considerable as we advanced, we reached the ruins which are called Gharundel. The extent of the ruins is very considerable upon the slope of [a] hill towards its foot facing to the < >. Towards the center of the ruins are the remains of two parallel rows of columns, of which 3 are standing in one row, & 2 in the other; they have about 2 feet diar. None have their capitals near. About the same part are some tambours of columns and pieces of attached columns about 3 feet in diar. The capitals appear to have been a bad Doric. There is a spring of water close below these ruins. From Gharundel we passed up a valley to an Arab Camp lying in a vale at ½ hours distce to the SE - they were Bedouins of the tribe of Hadjeyah, they gave us a dish of rice and milk, made into a sort of paste with butter poured over it & afterwards boiled mutton without bread or vegetables – we had scarcely done eating when there was an alarm of an enemy who had made an attempt to carry off some of their flocks; the women crying out and waving their scarfs from the top of the hill. We rode up, but

saw nothing of the offenders, and descending from the other side in a SW direction with great plain on left, much less below us than when last seen, so that either this ridge must be much lower than that which we had quitted before we passed Wadi El Husser, or the desert plain higher in this part - a white line in the distce as far as the eye could reach was pointed out as the Hadj road. In this plain at no great distance from us we observed three volcanic eminences looking very dark & the lava that had streamed from them making a dark sort of island in the desert. Close on the right of the road was another volcanic eminence, covered with scoria of a reddish colour and extremely light weight - much black porous stone below it. Soon after we found an ancient Roman highway paved with the black stone, the edges and a line down the middle being laid pretty regularly, the intermediate parts more slovenly. Here and there were laid heaps of the same stone by the side, as if for repairing it. On the right, at intervals of about a mile and a half, are ruins of square buildings of the same stone, in one was a cistern; they

were probably intended for the use of Travellers. At 2 ½ hours from the last Arab camp in a SW direction, upon the side of the same road, is a large mass of ruins, called {El} Gaig - there was a cistern here; the buildings are rude & quadrangular. On the left of the road we found 3 milestones, the first much broken and fallen, the 2nd also fallen and the inscription effaced, the 3rd still erect but inscription indistinct - some traces of lettering are however visible. They are of white stone and that which stands measures 6 feet in height. From one of these stones we turned off to the left hand about a mile from the road. There are two separate buildings here nearly contiguous with some outbuildings attached to one of them, the stones white and small. They call the place Dosuck and it bears {E ¼ N} from Shaubac. Both buildings opened to the East. One had a pointed arch with a zig-zag ornament round it, the other has a small Tablet over a pointed door and an Arabic inscription which appears to be ancient. Upon the walls and about the door and windows are scrawled several crosses & rude characters, some that appear rather recent. These characters are three times repeated. I cannot imagine the use of the building. Seeing some Arabs in the distance to the South we returned to our companions, who had advanced just a Roman mile on the ancient road which we still followed until we came to the edge of a deep vale whose sides of a whiteish soil mixed with rock & its course broken and winding. Here we deviated to the right descending, the original road continuing straight on, on the {height}. At the SW end of the vale alluded to rises the hill upon which stands Shaubac like a gigantic mound; at its foot the ground is terraced out into gardens & fig-grounds. Nearly at the bottom of our descent we passed a sheikh's tomb, called Abou Soliman; from thence passing a ravine or torrent, we approached the town on its NE side by a zig-zag path, the only one which seems to lead to it, and observed in ascending that almost all that side of the Castle hill has been covered with buildings. Our coming seemed to have created considerable alarm amongst the natives, who stood on the walls shouting and throwing down stones. We entered at an iron gate and were well received, who cried out "Go and get bread & firewood for these poor fellows, who are come to lodge a night amongst us." We were carried up to a sort of Divan in the open air, that is constructed from the ruins of what appears to have been a Church of

Crusade architecture, standing due East & West. The Tower of the Castle has Arabic inscriptions, which appear to be Mahometan and the 3 doors of the supposed church are square topped, and the centre is under a pointed horseshoe arch, & has more the air of Mahometan than Christian architecture. We had a boundless view – Dosuck bearing as before mentioned E $\frac{1}{4}$ N } & three volcanic eminences on the skirts of the Desert, thus - viz - the highest NNE, the other two ENE and ESE They brought us figs split & dried of a very green colour & delicious flavour & tasting nearly like the fresh fruit; they told us they were on the Trees when the Pilgrims arrived at Damascus (this was in Decr). We observed much kissing in the salutations. Shortly after our arrival we had an alarm of Arabs - 30 men with guns went out; they ret'd. in about an hour saying the Arabs had killed {40} of their goats and that they would find an opportunity of returning the compliment; we, however, doubted the truth of this story.

The name Shobek occurs among those that sealed the Covenant - Nehemiah Cap.X 24.

19th of May. Quitting Shauback, we wound by a spiral road into the valley which surrounds it, and observed that this had been artificially deepened, and in some parts cased with masonry. From thence we ascended to the SW and passed along a tract of country which assumes the form of a valley, having two parallel ridges of higher ground upon the right and left. It has a diminutive brook flowing down the midst of it which contributes to the watering of the gardens below Shauback, but is not the only supply. We reached & drank at its source in about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour having < > a track between the SW & West. Upon the two parallel ridges, which we passed between, the stones are ranged in fences and gathered into heaps, denoting the boundaries of fields and gardens formerly; and near the spring on our right hand there seemed to be the remains of some village. Our course continued much in the same direction, gently ascending for about a mile. We then turned half to the right hand & reached a large Arab camp, situated upon high ground though with higher ground about it. Here we expected to have found the Shek Mahomet Ebn Raschid under whose command is the Town of Shoback & the great

56

57

district about it. He was absent but messengers were dispatched to acquaint him with our coming. From this camp another was in sight to the Southd. & beyond it a hill thinly scattered with Trees. A very large wooden bowl of coarse meal dressed with butter was set before us, and Lebban poured over it. A merchant whom we had known at Hebron came in, complaining that he had been robbed of 28 pieces of Merchandise, which he had brought to sell amongst the Arabs, who had lain hands upon them in their tents and refused to give them up. At particular seasons of the year the Inhabitants of these tents are in the habit of passing to Cairo, where they carry on the charcoal trade between that city and Suez; (Mr. Bankes in his journey from Egypt to Mt. Sinai met more than one Caravan each consisting of several hundred Camels, solely loaded with this article). They reported the distce. to Suez to be five days' journey. In passing into Egypt they usually take the road of Gaza, though they seem to be fully aware of the shorter way; it is, therefore, only for the sake of security. At Shaubac there was a small Caravan setting out on the morrow the owner of which offered to carry us to Cairo in 8 days, computing 2 to Gaza and 6 thence. The Son of Sheik Shalem had a horse of a fine breed. A person at this camp

paid him two dollars for a leap. As [we] were now in Arabia, so famous for the breeding of Horses we were curious to see the process. They were both conveyed to a distce. from the camp and placed upon high ground. The mare was stripped but the horse remained with his saddle on. The mare was then exercised at a fast trot. A mixture of butter & brimstone was brought & a knife & needle & thread. The groom first anointed the < > & nostrils of the mare and then introducing his arm into her sexual parts almost as far as the shoulder continued rubbing and anointing her inward parts with the butter and brimstone. Next introducing the needle & thread he made a stich in some fleshy part of the urethra, and drawing it towards him {cut} it off and threw it on the ground. The mare shortly after voided a considerable quantity of blood. The horse was then stripped & brought near to her. I observed she stooped very much to receive the leap. As soon as it was over the Mare had again some gentle exercise. The grooms

would not explain to us the reasons for any of these preparative measures. For supper as usual we had the mutton without bread.

On the 20th about noon Ebn Rashid arrived. He is a small dark man with a very black beard, piercing eye & aquiline features. In age one would not judge him to be above thirty, full of life and spirits. Having dined with us and given a decree in favour of the Hebron Merchant that his goods should be restored to him our terms were very soon settled, he assuring us that he would readily carry us for nothing, for the sake of Mohd Ali Pashaw of Egypt. Soon afterwards a great dispute and tumult arose in the Tent, some person from Wadi Mousir violently opposing all idea of our going there, and many of his own people being of the same mind. The good old man's (Sheik of Karack) resolution was shaken & Shalem (of Gebal) strongly pressed our return. [Ebn Rashid] twice dismounted to answer the arguments of his people or to overcome their opposition, but seeing that all was without effect he sprang on his horse and exclaimed "I have set them on their horses, let us see who will dare to stop Ebn Raschid". The men of Wadi Mousir who had repeatedly said "let the dogs go and perish if they please", swore by the honour of their women that we should not drink of their water nor pass into their territory - and after having loudly maintained their resolution both by arguments and threats, sullenly mounted their horses and rode in the same direction as ourselves only keeping on the high ground to the left. We descended in the direction SbW through a ravine whose sides, rocky as they are, have at some time been cultivated. In about ½ an hour (4 o'clock) we reached a source that issues from the live rock, and is called {Sammack}. Here we were joined by a host of people subject to our Sheik, both on horseback and on foot; as well as two double-mounted dromedaries, all armed and Ebn Raschid here took an oath by the honour of the women & by the Prophet that we should drink of the water of Wady Mousir, and go wheresoever he pleased to carry us.

61

i64

62

There is a view down this ravine, terminated by the wild peaks of that black and rugged ridge of Mountain which is probably the Mount Hor of the ancients, and by a boundless extent of desert view beyond it, that I have hardly ever seen equal for singularity and grandeur. We turned up

out of this valley to the Eastd. and remarked as we quitted it, that there were two small masses of ruin upon two opposite points that command it that were perhaps Forts. We lost sight of Mt. Hor, our way lying through a circular plain covered with corn, surrounded on all sides by a low natural rampart giving it the form of a shallow {basin}. In this plain there are several white thorn bushes just coming into blossom. Beyond this plain we turned to the SWd. into a valley whose sides are prettily spotted with Turpentine Trees {in} some parts so clustered and grouped together as to give a very parkish appearance. Here we perceived traces of a paved way, similar in construction to that which we quitted when [we] descended to Shaubac and which I make little doubt is a continuation of the same. We were carried to a singular Phenomenon in this valley; there is a hollow turpentine tree in whose trunk there is a large supply of water. Upon our enquiring whether this was constant we were differently ansd, some saying it lasted all the year & some only after the rainy season. The latter is more probable as the surface of the water was much above the level of the ground and we could not observe any running from the tree. It is probably therefore not a spring.

There are some patches of corn in this valley. We ascended to where it closes and alighted at a camp of from 65 to 68 Tents, pitched in 3 circles, on the highest point of a pass. It was now about sunset and our total journey this day had occupied 3 h. of which $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour we went S, $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour E and 2 h. SW. The word {pass} is here to be understood not as between, but as on a mountain, great part of these heights being so steep as to be almost inaccessible, except by the beaten track. One of these precipitous falls of ground was almost close to our camp to the Westd; it commands a most magnificent view, in which the fore-ground is a circular, but uneven hollow, in part cultivated, with several circular camps pitched in different parts of it, and the little village of Dibdebar, with a grove of Fig Trees about it, bearing S.W. From the back of our camp the dark ridge of Mount Hor, which appears to be altogether composed of a sort of sparry flint, broken into masses & seamed with deep crevices, with scarcely any verdure to vary its deep purple colour, forms the boundary of this hollow to the Southd, & to the Westd. with that high Peak, upon which is the reputed tomb of Aaron, & called by the Arabs Nebi

64

65

Haroon, rearing itself above all the rest in the middle of the picture, bearing directly over the village of Dibdebar. This craggy ridge does not, however, terminate the landscape; the mountain from which we contemplated it being considerable higher, and commanding a boundless view, over a whitish expanse of country, which is varied here & there with other lower ridges rising like islands upon it, or jutting forward into it like Promontories. The violent rains of the night of the 21st & the 22nd supplied the feature of water to this varied landscape, forming a glittering line in the dist. plain. To the SWbS as far as the eye can reach there is a < > to the line of Mountain in which I thought I could recognise the features of Mt. Sinai; the natives, upon whose testimony however I should place but little dependence, assured me that it is so. We were told after that Mt. Sinai makes a continuation of the same. We were told it was at the distance of 4 days, Aqaba we were told is on the Red Sea Coast, an inhabited place at a distance of a day and a half. Mahn is upon the Hadj road one day from Wadi Mousir. We heard of a place called Gereye where there are very extensive ruins four days to the Eastward or SEd. of these camps.

65/66

The ground rises pretty rapidly behind the Camp to the Eastd. and between that rise and the Tents passed an ancient Road; no remains can be traced of pavement, but two parallel lines of low, dry wall, set at the distce. of < > feet apart seemed to have bordered it. We followed it the next day (21st) in its passage downwards to the SW during the space of ½ an hour, when we reached another camp subject in some measure to our chief; having passed over the site of two others belonging to the adverse party, which had been broken up during the night and removed to some commanding heights immediately over the village of Wadi Mousir where we could plainly distinguish them. These sites are always distinguished by little holes filled with heaps of ashes, and stones laid in oblong circles, with dry heath & dead boughs laid into them that have served as beds to the Bedouins. An eminence about {SW} of this last camp commanded a view over Wady Mousir, bearing {S½W}; it seemed an inconsiderable village in a low situation with a few fig Trees about it. Nebi Haroun bore WSW from this point and

Dibdebar North. We were advised not to go on this hill more than one at a time, for fear we should be discovered by the [Enemy] & afterwards prohibited altogether. There were some very odd-looking people in this camp, some of the men having long hair of a tawny colour, plaited in small plaits, much in the Nubian manner, but without grease, and a handkerchief, instead of the usual gaudy stripes, of a brown colour and, in lieu of the plain cord to confine it a broad, flat band, worked in with patches of coloured woollen, standing up almost in the manner of a coronet. Their sandals, which however are not peculiar to them as we had obsd. it in many other instances, are simple & curious, having a thong standing up on each side of the foot from the sole, & another between the toes; a single tie fastens them on. The women had a singular way of plaiting their braided hair across the forehead, that gave the air of a formal wig. The {female} children had the same leathern aprons and ornamented with the Shells called Black-a-moor's teeth which are in use in Nubia. We had first about mid-day a meal of meat without bread and sometime afterwards a great dish of rice and butter.

From the break of day we had been apprized that the adverse party were fully prepared to stand to their word in opposing us; that they had removed several of their camps, and that a large part of them at least had abandoned their village of Wadi Mousir to occupy a height which commanded it. We could see the Tents which they had pitched there, as the distance from our advanced camp was very moderate. Messages, sometimes of persuasion and oftener with threats were continually passing. A small detachment of the hostile party passed our tents, but refused to eat in them; but were suffered to go on unmolested & a large deputation arrived, sufficient to fill the whole Tent. A conference was immediately commenced with them; they never personally appealed to us; but carried on the conversation with Abou Raschid only. It was in vain that the authority of the Sultan or the pashaws was dwelt upon in our favour; they got rid of the firmans, by insisting that they did not understand Turkish, and after having a biruldi of Sallee, Pashaw of Damascus, delivered into their hands, they said it was a fabrication of the Jews. Not argument only, but even artifice and falsehood were empld in our favour; our friend Ebn Raschid asserting that we had with us a person on the part of Suliman Pashaw and a letter

68

from the governor of Jaffa; which, however easy to have been procured, were not really in our hands. The adverse party in some of the conferences insisted much on seeing something under the hand of the last-mentioned governor, whose recommendation, we have reason to think, would go farther in this country than that of any other person. It was however in this instance only asked for captiously on the presumption that we had it not to produce.

Ebn Raschid urged repeatedly that in the event of their not complying, we could use our influence with the several Pashaws to cut off entirely their communication with Mahn, with Gaza, and with Egypt; he insisted upon our taking down the names of the chiefs of them which were Abou Zeitoun Shekh of Wadi Mousir & commanding the {Howeitats Arabs}, Kaliphee of the same place; Lehaddineh and the adherents of even Ebn Jarzee who was himself rather disposed to our side - he advised us in the presence of some of their people to instigate Mahomet Ali to lay hands upon some of them whenever they should come to trade at Cairo.

< > said on first coming that we were very lucky in the protection of the chief who accompanied us, for otherwise we should never have ret'd. The opposite party pretended to believe that we had a design of poisoning their water.

In the afternoon there was a very loud thunder storm; and as all that could be said or threatened seemed to have no effect and as there was neither supper for us or forage for the horses at these tents, we {returned} and slept at the same camp as the past night. It was the full of the moon, a dismal cold rain came on that for the space of 2 or 3 h. penetrated the covering of our tent, and until a Trench was dug along the inside of the back curtain within flowed in upon us from the higher ground. The goats were continually coming in, and at last even a Cow. There was < > without sunshine & a thick fog {prevailing} so that even the tents opposite were not visible; We heard very noisy councils in the adjoining tents & it was soon after announced to us that War was positively determined on as the only alternative of our not being permitted to see what we had desired, and to drink of the water. Messengers were dispatched to the camps under Ebn Raschid's influence, and to Shauback for reinforcements of armed men. A poor matronly woman, in the other half of our Tent, was looking over the partition with the child in her arms

70

& shedding tears, and now & then throwing in some arguments of dissuasion. It was in vain that we all agreed to give up Wadi Mousir altogether, and declared that we had no desire to taste of the water. Our chief, who was a Man of few words, stood always to his point, and declared that we should not only see the place, but even bathe in the waters; and that if fair means could not compass this, he had sworn to accomplish it by force.

What messages arrived in the course of the morning from the opposite party were only a renewal of protestations and {oaths} against our entering their territory; and threw out menaces of cutting off our return. About mid-day, when the weather was somewhat clearer, we perceived a No. of armed men and some Horsemen coming up the valley from the NEd. The mounted group proved to consist of the Sheiks Joseph of Karrack and Shalem of Gebal, with their own attendants, and some few others with lances - the total No. of those mounted amounting to seven; the infantry following with their match-locks & muskets, to the amount of upwards of 60. The mother of our tent refused to supply rations to any excepting such as carried guns. They drew up into something like a line near the camp, & approached it shouting, the women answering with Lee! Lee! Lee! from the Tents. They were not however {suffered} to stand exposed in the way; such as had come out being warned back by the men rudely into their habitations. The Sheks of Karrack & Gebal were conducted, each of them by separate openings, into the camp and to the several tents allotted to them. We found them dispirited and discomposed at what had happened, and at the consequences which were likely to ensue. They reminded us of having dissuaded us from pressing the matter any farther at the camp where we had last parted, and in their conferences with Ebn Raschid gave him such advice as might be expected from persons of their years. Old Yousef particularly, like Nestor in the Iliad, dwelt much upon what had passed in his youth, and upon wars which he had been engaged in and had found reason to repent of afterwards. He told his stories with a great deal of grave action and his counsels seemed to have more effect upon all his audience than on the spirited young Arab to whom they were addressed - who continued staunch in his determination of waging war, and could not even be induced to shift his ground so far as to

71

72

confine his demands in our favour to the sight of the antiquities only; strenuously persisting that, as we had put ourselves under his protection, we had a right to go wherever he should pleased to carry us.

A deputation arrived from the party below, and the old Sheiks tried every argument that experience could suggest to induce them to permit us to go forward; Sheik Yousef gave out that Abraham was a soldier of Suliman Pashaw. He said that he had kept our firman from Mahomet Aga of Jaffa, though he knew we had none. They mentioned all the places we had visited in this Country, observing that this was the first where we had been stopped. They were denounced as rebels in the case of non-compliance, and the consequences were painted in the strongest colours. No effect was apparently produced by these conferences and our party was continually gaining strength by armed persons dropping in from various directions until night. One circumstance, however, seemed to turn in our favour; Hindy, an Arab Chief of very poor and ordinary appearance, & almost blind was represented to us as a Man of so great power and influence that it was said that he could command two thousand guns; & though this is probably an exaggeration, from the effect which his interference seems to have had in the sequel, it seems probable that he is really able to command a formidable force. He had been upon ill terms with Abou Raschid, but from the time of our first conference with him at the advanced camp, had seemed disposed to favour our pretensions, & to dissuade the hostile party from their obstinate opposition. More especially he professed great respect for the written orders of the Turkish Government. It was said however that there was a great party among his adherents of a very contrary opinion which could prevent his co-operation; however from the evening of this day,

75A +

he made a solemn peace with Mahomet, & passed into the enemy's quarters, with the intention of bringing all his men to act in concert with Abou Raschid in open war against them in case of their persisting another day. Some communication was also made by letter, but in whose name

we did not {learn}. The answer was expected, but did not arrive that night. [We offered] to pay for the feeding of our horses.

About nightfall there went a rumour through all the camp that our opponents had given in, & that we should be at liberty on the morrow to go where we pleased. We laid down with this impression upon us & I believe it was pretty general throughout the camp. Our Chief seemed very proud of matters having been brought to an {issue} so soon and said exultingly that there were some who had the talent to bring matters to an {issue} saying very little whilst others who make a great noise were obliged to give way and behaved like cattle.

The same dismal weather continued throughout the night. About midnight there was a cry of thieves in the camp, & it was found that they were very quietly sitting at our fire; but as there were some of our people not yet asleep we lost nothing. In the morning we heard that 2 spies had been found in the camp, but it did not appear that anything < >

On the morrow (23rd) the fog was as thick as ever I remember to have seen it in London or anywhere else. I was surprised to find that this was not deemed anything unusual or out of season but rather spoken of as something customary & of annual occurrence. It was announced to us that the Men of Wadi Mousir did not adhere to their agreement, but in the plainest terms had declared that they would oppose us by main force & that we should pay with our lives for any attempt that we should make to advance within their limits. It appeared that they had even thrown up some sort of fortifications about the well. Upon our declaring that we did not wish matters to be pushed to extremities, and our again persisting in confining our desires to the sight of the antiquities only [Abou Raschid] would scarce listen to those who were sent with the message, and scarcely came to see us during the course of the whole day. Armed reinforcements in small numbers were continually dropping in so that at night there were regular quarters {assigned} to each individual & a Man with a sort of office of barrack master went round as soon as it was dark to send all who might be found out of their place into their respective tents. This gave us an opportunity of seeing a remarkable instance of Arabian obstinacy in the person of a lad who had made friends with us the day before and was sitting in

74

our tent. He was peremptorily ordered to go out which he refused and menaced the person who gave the order with his club, a weapon in use with all such as are not otherwise armed. Our barrack master drew his knife upon him and with difficulty they were parted by some of us rushing between them, but the lad remained, resumed both his place & his posture and with every mark of rage and determination on his countenance continued sitting there. Upon the same person coming to [warn] him a second time he rushed at him with great fierceness & was only deterred by violence from dealing heavy blows with his club.

75

For the two last days, ever since the negotiations had been pending, we had seen so very little of our friend Abou Raschid, that we hardly knew whether he was in the camp or not; and it appeared that he avoided us more from the moment that some of our party had suggested the abandoning the matter altogether rather than pushing it to extremities.

76

In this case we found ourselves on the morning of the 24th. The result of Hindy's declaration was expected with impatience, and almost every one seemed to think that it must have great weight with the enemy. However we heard that their party also had had an accession of two neighbouring tribes of Arabs who had declared against us and that they had actually thrown up some sort of works about the fountain, which we were so ready to give up but never could prevail upon our Chief to bait one tittle of his original demand in our favour. Old Youseff was this day unusually eloquent in our favour giving out that we were believers in Mahomet, & that our sole object in wishing to advance was to pay our devotions to the Prophet's tomb, thus giving a very plausible {turn to the object of our Journey; when asked if we were of the true faith he always replied with great < > "they are English"}. Besides he recapitulated the list of the documents with which we were furnished, adding always from his own head several which were not really in our possession, as that of Jafa & of Egypt, & pointing always to our Soldier & the Tartar from Conste. He proceeded in the true character of an old Chieftain, to relate the events of War that had happened in his early days & his drift was for carrying matters by fair means if possible, & to restrain the impetuosity of Ebn Raschid. He recounted particularly the circumstances of a War which he had hastily engaged in & had repented, and he also mentioned

for the first time an old grudge which the People of Wadi Mousir bore towards him, on account of the fate of three or four of their fellow townsmen whom he had beheaded at Karrack. The tone, however, [of] old Yousouf was considerably changed, and he seemed not altogether so averse to hostilities as he had hitherto been; he said, I too could bring out the Men of Karrack and spoke of their Nos. & courage; he did not however, absolutely pledge himself to do so. In the course of this morning it had been discovered that one of the ruins which we were in quest of was in sight from our Mountain; it proved to be that which we thought the Palace and bore < > from this point. The sight of this was a great encouragement to us, as it appeared possible to reach it without passing at all through the Enemy's Country; and we began to propose amongst ourselves some means of getting there secretly should all other expedients fail. While we were endeavouring to distinguish some of the details of this building and of some of the excavated tombs near it which a spy glass enabled us to distinguish, the Son of Sheik Abou Raschid, a fine little boy of some 11 years old, came and sat by us and observing upon what point my eyes were fixed told me that we should go there, and upon my saying that I trusted with God's assistance that we might tomorrow, he exclaimed in the true spirit of his Father - today. He had scarcely done speaking when we saw a great cavalcade entering our camp from the Southward. There were many lances & mounted Arabs, but I observed at the first sight that there were some amongst the Horsemen who wore richer Turbans & more gaudy colours than is usual amongst Bedouins or peasants. The whole No. alighted at the tent of our Chief, and kissed his turban; this was the signal of pacification. Peace was immediately proclaimed throughout the camp, & notice was given that the men bearing arms who had come from a distance, (many of whom we had observed dropping in that very morning) might return. We afterwards saw them returning to their respective homes & particularly those of Shobac, by 20 & 30 together.

The party who were now reconciled to our expedition were willing to consent to our setting out that very afternoon but by the consent of all parties it was deferred to the next day. We heard

music & singing in several of the Tents. One of the Chiefs of the party who had been adverse to us came very shortly to pay us a visit. Amongst other things he said in his excuse that he had misconceived the object of our journey; having supposed us Frenchmen who came with the design of poisoning their water. They dissembled the real motive of their change of conduct, which there can be no doubt was really fear, and imputed their concessions entirely to their respect for the Sultan and the Pashaws. To make the matter more formal & to give this picture better colour soon afterwards a person who is in the employ of the Pashaw of Damascus, with two attendants, came to our tent to read the papers. It proved, however, that he was wholly unacquainted with the Turkish language, and so confined himself entirely to the Biruldies of the two Pashaws, which he declared to be satisfactory & sufficient, although in point of fact they were altogether foreign to the question, being addressed to persons & places in quite a different part of the Country. This man, in recompense for his decision, in the course of the evening attempted through our old man to lay claim to some remuneration, who fought off his pretensions with an evasive falsehood, asserting that for his own part he had seen no money of ours, which was so far true as to just save his conscience since the 400 P. were deposited in the hands of the Greek Pt. at Karrack.

In the evening Abou Raschid visited us in high spirits; the weather had been considerably clearer this day, but still much colder than might have been expected at this Season of the year.

In an evening walk we had explored the high {ridge} to the {E'd.} of our camp, and found it covered both upon its sides and on its summit with lines of dry wall and solid masses of the same, which appeared to me to be no more than the traces of former cultivation; those solid masses being only the remains of towers for watching in harvest & vintage time. We found that this ridge divides another valley from that in which we were encamped, which is sufficiently covered with verdure and has formerly been laid out in fields - all which seems [to] indicate the neighbourhood of a great Metropolis.

79

TRANSCRIPT OF JOURNAL II

JOURNAL NO. 2

WADI MOOSA & DEAD SEA

part dictated to C.L.Irby and part in my own hand

WJB

DESCRIPTION OF WADI MOUSA

Thence return to Karrack -

Rubbah, Mein, Debahn, Madeba, Callirhoe,

Hesbon, Palace of Hircan, Salt,

Amman, Jerash, Bisan,

Tiberias

Wadi Moosa (Petra), Wadi Ellasa (perhaps Zared),

Rubbah (Rabboth Moab),

Bait al Carm (the temple of Atargatis at Carnaim),

Wady Mojib (the Arnon),

Diban (Debon), Zarka Maein (Callirhoe),

Maein (Baal Meon), Medaba,

Hespahn (Heshbon), Arrag el Emir (Hircan's palace),

Salt, Amman (Rabbath Amman, Philadelphia),

Zerka (the Jabok), Djerash (Gerasa or possibly Pella),

Rajib (possibly Ragaba),

Bisan (Scythopolis), Tiberias,
Acre (Ptolemais)

On the 24th the morning was less unfavourable than those which had preceded it. Soon after Sunrise our party set out from the camp; Yousouf and Sahlam returning to Abou Rashid's camp. There were in all about 50 persons, amongst whom were the deputation from Wady Mousa & the men of Damascus, who had passed the night in the Tents of our Chief. The first part of our road was the same which led to the advanced camp where we had dined on the 20th; but before we reached that spot we turned off from it in an ESE direction, varying occasionally a point more to the S & constantly descending. As we got lower down we passed into a rocky and steep defile, where the footing is extremely bad, & the passage so commanded from the sides and intersected by huge masses of sand-stone detached & rolled down from above, that it was obvious that a very small force would be capable of holding it against a very superior number, a whole army. Here we collected some specimens of an opaque milky spar different from that brilliant and glassy sort which we had found above. Towards the lower extremity of this pass the path branched off two several ways; it had previously been whispered to us by our chief, that we should not seem to take any notice of it, but let the men of Wady Moosa & their faction go their way, & ourselves follow one of our own party, who would go forward & guide us in a different direction. When we reached the point of separation, not apprised of this determination, the others said all that they could to induce Abou Raschid to ascend to their tents, and came even to high words, but could not prevail, he having sworn an oath that neither we nor himself should eat or drink at their expense within the limits of their territory. Some few even followed us for a time, hoping to persuade us to turn back with them; however before we reached the valley of Wadi Moosa all that party had withdrawn.

Our defile brought us directly down into this district whose name was become so familiar to us; it is, at the point where we entered it, a stony but cultivated valley of moderate size, without much character or beauty, running in a direction from East to West. A lesser hollow sloping down to it from the Southward, meets it at an angle; at the upper end of which hollow is the village seen over stages of hanging fruit grounds and gardens that are watered by a spring. At the point of junction of these valleys a source issues from the rock which forms a brook to which the other is contributory. To this Abou Rashid pointed with a sneer as we crossed it, telling us that this was the water about which there had been so much altercation & dispute. It flows towards the Wward & is in point of fact the head of the stream which Pliny has dignified with the name of a river. We approached no nearer to the village than this point, but the distance being not more than about a 1/4 of a mile, we could plainly perceive that there is nothing ancient there; that the houses are mean & ragged & not more in number than 40 or 50. On the summit of a broad, green hill that rises above it we could not only distinguish the large encampment to which the inhabitants had retired on the night of the 20th. as to a post, but could plainly see them collected in great numbers on the brow looking down and watching us. Some hundred yards below the spring begin the outskirts of the vast necropolis of Petra. Many doorways are visible upon different levels cut in the side of the mountain, which towards this part begins to assume a more rugged aspect <

NB. There are several illegible lines at this point in the original manuscript.

>

Tombs.

1

The first of these is upon the right hand, and is cut in a mass of whitish rock, which is in some measure insulated & detached apart from the general range. The center represents the front of a square tower, with pilasters at the corners & several successive bands of frieze and entablature above. Two low wings project from this at right angles & present each of them a recess in the

manner of a portico with 2 columns whose capitals have an affinity with the Doric order, between corresponding Antae, there are, however, no Triglyphs above. Three sides of a square area are thus inclosed & the fourth seems to have been shut in by a low wall and two colossal lions on either side of the entrance. Time however & the weather have made great ravages upon this part. The surface of this excavation retains in all parts the marks of the chizzel and was certainly stuccoed over. The interior has been a place of sepulture for several bodies which renders it rather surprising that there should be little niches and hollows cut upon the front as if for the reception of votives. Between this monument & the road lie fragments of a hollow column or cylinder of which it is not easy to conjecture the object.

Farther on, upon the left, is a wide Facade/ Front of rather a low proportion, loaded with ornaments in the Roman manner, but in a vicious taste, with an infinity of broken lines & unnecessary angles & projections, & multiplied pediments & half pediments & consoles & pedestals set upon columns that support nothing. It has more the air of a fantastical scene in a Theatre than a {real work} in living stone; & for unmeaning richness and littleness of conception, might have been the work of Boromini himself whose stile it exactly resembles & carries to the extreme so that what is bad in architecture has not even the merit of invention or novelty. What is observed of this front is applicable, more or less, to every specimen of Roman design at Petra. The doorway has triglyphs over the entablature, and flowers in the metopes. The chamber within is neither so high nor so wide as the exterior promises; it has a broad, raised platform round three sides, on which bodies were probably disposed. Immediately over this Front is another of almost equal extent, but so wholly distinct from it, that even the centres do not correspond. The doorway has the same ornaments, the rest of the body of the design is not more than a plain wall, without any other enrichment than a single moulding as a coping. Upon this are set, in a recess, four tall and taper Pyramids. The effect of these has something in it surprising and exotic but combining too little with the rest of the elevation to be good. My attention was the more attracted by this monument, as it presents perhaps the only existing example of Pyramids so applied, though we read of them as placed in a similar manner on

the summit of the tomb of the Maccabees & of the Queen of Adiabane, both in the neighbouring province of Palestine. (The Tomb near {Albans} that is commonly ascribed to the Herodii and < > is not a parallel instance as they are towers and not pyramids that surmount it). The interior of this Mausoleum is of moderate size, with 2 sepulchral recesses upon each side, and one in form of an arched alcove at the upper end. A flight of steps leads up to the narrow terrace upon which it opens, a part of which beyond the doorway is raised several feet as a platform with a singular semicircular hollow sunk in it down to the level of the rest of the Terrace, upon which I can offer no conjecture.

The sides of the valley were now becoming precipitous & rugged in a high degree & approaching nearer and nearer to each other, so that it might rather deserve the name of a ravine, with huge masses of rock standing up here & there detached in the open space. Of these the architects had availed themselves. In some instances the simple face of large and lofty towers is represented {in relief on the lower part of the precipice, in others} the live rock is cut down on all four sides, so as to make the resemblance to a tower complete. The greater part of these present themselves to the high road, but there are others which stand back in the wild nooks & recesses of the mountain. All seem to have been sepulchral, and it was here that I first observed the features of a sort of architecture that was new to me & is perhaps not elsewhere to be found.

To erect sepulchres into quadrangular towers seems to have been the fashion in several inland districts of the East. Such abound at Palmyra and & are very general throughout the Hauran & the Dgibbel et Druse: but the details & ornaments of these universally betray an imitation of Roman Architecture, whilst at Petra they bear all the marks of a peculiar and indigenous style; their sides have generally a slight degree of that inclination towards each other, which is one of the characteristics of Egyptian edifices, & are also crowned with the Egyptian Torus and concave frieze. The design, however, does not finish upwards with these, a very remarkable superstructure rising above them as a parapet. Two corresponding flights of steps represented

in relief ascend in opposite directions from two points near the centre of the angles. They are of a cubic proportion, & very generally 6 in number though there are examples of 5 or even of 4 only; they are connected together by a horizontal line drawn between the uppermost steps, which brings the summit to a square. At the angles are, in many instances, pilasters with a considerable diminution upwards whose capital is very peculiar. I had already seen it at Bostra & at Shohbah & had supposed it always the rough draft of an unfinished Ionic capital as it comes from the Quarry. It is, however, almost universal on these Tombs & is certainly the Arabian order, an entablature & frieze, little differing from the Ionic or Corinthian, rests upon these pilasters; above that is a blank space in the nature of a low Attic which is finished with the Egyptian torus and frieze, bearing the superstructure which I have described. There is one single example, (near the Theatre) of an upper doorway opening in this attic, to which there is no visible access; there may possibly, however, be some staircase in the interior; the lower doorway is unluckily choked and does not permit the {access} of this. In some instances the pilasters are multiplied to four upon the front, & are rounded instead of being angular. What is the least peculiar in the details of these Arabian elevations, is the decoration of the doorways, which have in many instances a pediment with nothing to distinguish it from those of the Romans, & in others a plain horizontal architrave with the same Classical character in the mouldings. It is remarkable that in very many instances the whole frame & ornament of the door has been of separate pieces & grafted on upon these solid Monolith masses. Sometimes there are cavities for pegs or rivets as though these were laid on in metal or in wood; in others they seem to have been of marble or some finer sort of stone, let into grooves which shew, in the hollow, their exact form. I am at a loss to account for the apparent conformity of this single member of the building to the rules of the Greeks & Romans which seems too strong to be purely accidental; if we suppose the imitation to have taken place so far back even as the Macedonian expedition < > in the East, it will still make the Tombs, by many ages, more recent than it is probable that many of them really are; since, from the days of Rekem who

passes as the founder to that of Alexander there must have been a long suite of kings, {and these kings probably had tombs.} Yet if the form of these doorways be judged decidedly posterior to that period {it is so general} that few if any of the larger sort will remain for that early dynasty & if we bring them still later & suppose them a Roman innovation, the difficulty is increased by supposing a much greater lapse of ages to have passed in a flourishing kingdom, without any considerable monuments, when architecture was not unknown, since we meet with striking peculiarities that were certainly not borrowed from its Western Conquerors, & which one may safely suppose not invented subsequent to that time. It is possible such among these door frames as were not cut in the solid may have been added afterwards but I must confess that this does not appear very probable to me, nor entirely to remove the difficulty; especially as in some instances in the higher parts of the design, broad bands seem to have been laid on in a similar manner, which very probably were charged with the Inscriptions.

It is surprising, amongst such a multitude of tombs, to find so few which record for whom they were constructed. I myself met with but one that is inscribed though my companions tell me that they observed another example in that great Mausoleum which has a door in the attic which I have already mentioned as being near the Theatre. That which I found is on the left hand side of the track leading towards Dibdebar. It is a large front of pure Arabian design, with four attached columns and has this peculiarity, that from some failure or defective vein of the sandstone the Architect has been obliged to carry up the {lower} half in masonry so as to meet the upper which is {sculpted} upon the face of the mountain where there were flaws, also pieces have been let in to make up what was defective. These last remain, but the whole substruction has disappeared entirely & the upper part is left hanging upon the rock above without any base whatever immediately below it. This is not the only proof that is to be found among the remains at Petra that those who wrought on the live rock contrary to the necessary practice of builders began their work at the top. There is one example in which nothing besides the uppermost parapet has been put out of hand and in another instance the capital & upper portion of four columns with the frise that bears upon them have been detached in the rough

from the general mass whilst all that is below continues absolutely in its natural state without having even been touched by the chisel.

To return to the inscription it is upon an oblong tablet without any frame or relief but easily distinguishable from the rest of the surface by being more delicately wrought. There project from each of its ends those wings in the form of the blade of an axe which are common both in Roman & Greek Tablets, & which I am convinced were in their origin for the purpose of receiving screws or fastenings, without encroaching on the part that was inscribed. This original purpose seems to have been particularly kept in view in the present instance since although the whole is in the solid, there is upon each side a stain of metal which must be the effect of {studs} of bronze actually driven in to give the whole tablet the effect of a separate piece (it has been already mentioned that upon some of the tombs they really seem to have been so). The letters are in [fact] not very deeply cut though with much neatness and precision and are in a state of wonderful preservation owing to the shelter which they receive from the projection of cornishes & to the Eastern aspect. I find them to be exactly the similar to those scratched upon the Rocks in the Wadi Makutub and about the foot of Mt. Sinai, also one line of the same from a rock close to Coban in Nubia. It is worth remarking that Diodorus Siculus, when he speaks of the letter written by the Nabatheï of Petra to Antigonus expressly says that it was in the Syriack character (though this perhaps is no proof that the Syriack was in use with them since they may have chosen that language only as more familiar to the Court they were addressing). There are 5 long lines upon this tablet and immediately underneath a singular figure on a larger scale which doubtless has some signification and which I cannot help suspecting to have some reference to the date; the very same occurs at the bottom of the Hebrew inscription which I copied above at the tomb of Aaron. Above the inscription is a shallow oblong horizontal niche, within are two chambers. Over the door by which they communicate is a large oblong recess as if for the reception of bodies; at the upper end of the inner chamber another for the same purpose. The measures and details have been taken and may serve as a general specimen. In a few instances however {there are some architectural

decorations in the interior by pilasters & mouldings}. The front is crowned with the double flight of steps in the usual form which I recur to, that I may have no opportunity of mentioning that in many instances in lieu of two flights diverging from each other, they are brought to meet in the form of pyramids and being reduced to a much smaller scale and repeated in the manner of battlements, to the No. of 3 or 5 intire & the half of one at each extremity. I have preferred collecting into one view the most remarkable features of these singular tombs, before we advance further; without confining myself strictly to those which are met with in the approach from Wady Mousa to the City, for the purpose of being able to generalise more in my description that the narrative might not be perpetually interrupted by recurring to them all severally as they present themselves, not only in every avenue to the City and upon every precipice that surrounds it but even intermixed almost promiscuously with its public and domestic edifices.

Were pointed architecture really of Arabian origin it is here, if anywhere, that we might have looked to find it; the advocate for that hypothesis will be disappointed to hear that no such thing appears, for my own part I should have had more expectation of finding the architecture characterised by that pendent ornament composed of little arches rising one above the other, which has been for many ages above all other ornaments characteristic of Eastern decoration, but of this also there is no example. We may remark that the adoption [of the] Egyptian frise and torus is not confined to Petra among the Syrian provinces since we find it on the tombs of the valley of Jehoshaphat and even so late as Christian times in a large building near Marrah in the road from Hamah to Alepps. The step battlement is however a striking peculiarity that has been transmitted down to the present day in the East. It is common upon almost all sort of Mussulman buildings, and to instance one that is now before our eyes upon some of Dgezzar Pasha's buildings at Acre.

The natural features of the defile grew more and more rugged and imposing at every step as we passed down it to the Westward and in proportion the objects of excavation & sculpture are multiplied upon both sides, till it presents at last a {continued} street of tombs, beyond which

the rocks drawing nearer & nearer & folding in upon each other, seem all at once absolutely to close without any outlet. There is, however, one frightful Chasm originally {destined} for the passage of the stream, this furnishes, as it did also anciently, the only avenue/access to Petra upon this side. The brook has (at least at this season) disappeared beneath the soil, but the manner in which its occasional overflowings have broken up the antique pavement where it had been laid & rendered difficult the footing on the live rock where it had been smoothed by art sufficiently prove the necessity of providing another course for its waters. A trough carried along near the foot of the precipice upon the left hand side was destined to confine them & convey them upon a higher than the natural level to the city. At a considerable distance down the ravine this water course passes over to the opposite side & towards its extremity may be traced passing along at a great height in earthen pipes bedded & secured < > upon the face of the rocks & even across the architectural fronts of some of the Tombs, which makes it probable that it is posterior to them. It is impossible to conceive any thing more astonishing or sublime than such an approach; the width is not more than just sufficient for the passage of two horsemen abreast, the sides are in all parts precipitous & often overhanging to such a degree, that without their absolutely meeting the sky is intercepted [and] completely shut out for 100 yards together, and little less than the darkness of a cavern produced. The Tamarisk & the wild fig & the oleander, grow luxuriantly about the track, rendering the passage often difficult & in some places hang down most beautifully from the clefts & crevices where they have taken root, the continuing shade furnishing them with moisture.

Very near the first entrance into this romantic pass, a bold arch is thrown across at a great heighth connecting the opposite sides of the cleft. Whether this may furnish a communication to some upper line of road upon the mountain, or whether it be a portion of some aqueduct (which is less probable) we had no opportunity of examining; but as the Traveller passes under it, its appearance is most surprising, hanging thus above his head betwixt two rugged masses apparently inaccessible. Immediately underneath it are sculptured niches in the Rock destined probably for statues; and I am inclined to suspect that by careful inspection inscriptions might

be found there; but the position in which they are viewed is disadvantageous, and the height so great that it would require a good glass to distinguish them. Farther down, upon a much lower level, there is an object frequently repeated in sculpture along the road side, which I am at a loss to explain; an altar is represented within a niche and upon which is set a mass of a lumpish form, sometimes squarish and sometimes curved in its outline, or rising in other instances into a sharper or obtuser cone; in one instance 3 of them are coupled together in one niche. It might possibly be a representation of the God Terminus, or perhaps one of the stones which were objects of worship amongst the Arabs, down to the time of the coming of Mahomet. The No. of these representations upon the face of the rock is very considerable; in some instances there are many almost contiguous & Greek inscriptions about them but all too much effaced to be of use in explaining their object. The ravine, without changing much its general direction, yet presents so many < > elbows & windings in its course, which the road, of necessity, conforms to that the eye can seldom penetrate forwards beyond a very few paces, and often would be puzzled to distinguish in what direction the passage will open, so completely does it appear obstructed. The exact spot was not pointed out to us, but it is somewhere amidst these natural horrors, that upwards of thirty pilgrims from Barbary were murdered by the men of Wady Mousa on their return from Mecca last year. The wrapping cloak of one [of them] was offered to us for sale at Ipseyra & one of their watches at Tapheely. Salvator Rosa never conceived so savage and suitable a quarter for Banditti.

This sort of half subterranean {scenery} is continued during the space of nearly two miles, the sides continually increasing in height from 300 to 500 perpendicular feet. It is where they are at the highest that a beam of stronger daylight breaks in at the close of the dark perspective, and there rises in view, half seen through the tall narrow opening, as if by the effect of some enchantment, columns & statues & cornishes, of a light and finished taste, sharp as if fresh from the chisel {without the tints or weather stains of age} and executed in a stone of pale rose colour, which was at this moment warmed with the full light of the morning Sun, the dark green of the shrubs that grow in this perpetual shade forming a fine contrast of colour to the glow of

the edifice. I know nothing to which I can compare this scene; perhaps there is nothing in the world that resembles it. Only a portion of a very extensive architectural elevation is seen at the first burst but it has been so contrived that a statue with expanded wings (perhaps of victory) just seems to fill the Center the rest opening gradually at every pace. The narrow cleft which has continued thus far, without any increase of breadth, here spreads upon the left hand into an open area of a moderate size, whose sides are by nature inaccessible, & present the same awful & romantic features as the avenues which open into it. It is this opening that gives admission to so great a body of light from the Eastd.- and supplies one of the most beautiful positions that could be imagined for the front of a gt. Temple; the richness and exquisite finish of whose decorations offer a most remarkable contrast with the rugged masses that overhang and surround it.

It is of a very lofty proportion, the elevation comprising two stories. The taste is vicious, but many of the details and ornaments, & the size and proportion of the great doorway especially, to which there are five steps of ascent from the portico, are very noble. No part is built, the whole

being purely a work of excavation, and its minutest ornaments, wherever the hand of man has not purposely effaced and obliterated them, are so perfect, that it may be doubted whether any work of the ancients, excepting perhaps some on the banks of the Nile, has come down to our time so little injured by the lapse of ages. There is, in fact, not a building of 40 years standing in England, that is as well preserved. Of the members of the architecture nothing is deficient excepting a single column in the Portico. The statues are numerous and colossal. Those on each side of the Portico represent, in groups each of them, a Centaur & a young Man, whether it be Charon & Achilles or what may be the nature of their attitudes or occupation their mutilated state will not permit us to decide. Unfortunately the fanaticism whether of early Christians or early Mussulmen, has exerted its full force wherever the human form is represented throughout the {edifice}. In the upper tier the figures seem to be all females, two are winged, and two appear to have been dancing or much in action, with some instrument lifted above their heads,

of which that on the left hand seems to be the Amazonian Bipennis. Unfortunately the centre figure, which was doubtless the principal one, is too much effaced for her attributes to be determined; nor is there anything in the ornaments that could enable me to {decide} to what divinity the Temple has been dedicated; for (contrary to my general opinion with regard to the excavations at Petra) I believe this rather to have been a Temple than a Tomb - I deduce this not only from the stile of the exterior but also from the appearance within, there being no graves nor side recesses for the reception of bodies. The Chamber itself is large and remarkably lofty, but quite plain with the exception of the door {frames} and architraves of which there are three; one at the farther end and one upon each hand, all opening into small and plain cells. It must be confessed however that the lateral chambers opening from the Portico are of so rude & irregular a form that they have more the air of places of sepulture than appendages to a Temple and above all that most singular vase which crowns the whole edifice & would seem by its position the principal object of it is more easy to be accounted for as something funereal than as a mere idle ornament, especially since it appears to the eye to be detached and not wrought as the rest is in the living stone & to have the cover of another piece, the handles also which have disappeared were unquestionably of metal which must have been for the purpose of raising it. This vase has not escaped the attention or failed to excite the covetousness of the Natives. I heard of it as the depository of a vast treasure so far off as Jerusalem and that it has been repeatedly aimed at by musket shot, there are evident proofs in the dents of bullets in the stone. No one has however been successful enough to arrive at it by climbing, which would indeed be a difficult task. A tale which they tell of one who reached it and was struck with instant Death is probably an Arabian invention. The manner in which the workmen gained their footing towards the upper part is sufficiently apparent upon the [sides] where the holes for the fixing of ladders and insertion of scaffolding yet remain. The face of the rock is left overhanging at a considerable height above & it is to this that the excellent preservation of the details is to be ascribed. The half pediments which terminate the wings of the building are finished at the top

13

with Eagles – which combined with a style of the architecture differing little from the Roman, can leave no doubt that this great effort of art is posterior to the time of Trajan's conquest. There are small cavities for votives above the Doorway; the same has already been remarked of {one} of the Tombs and is not therefore a proof of a place of worship. Some of the heights whose steep sides inclose the area that is in front of the Temple are rendered accessible by flights of steps cut in them. Small pyramids are on their summit & it was from there that some curious discoveries were made, as of for instance a much higher point of the mountain to whose summit there is a regular staircase of ascent (the same probably on which we could distinguish from another point a single pillar or an obelisk []) and it was here too that the great vase crowning another Temple to the Westward was first observed.

14

It is in this one spot only throughout the long approach that the space widens just giving room for this noble < > and passing the temple it presently contracts again & renews for a moment all its former features of darkness & ruggedness & horror. A large chamber is hollowed out upon the Rt. hand side & near it two human figures coarsely cut in low relief, nearly opposite is a square recess with pilasters & an arched ornament above with < > figures & a long Greek inscription up on the architrave the center of which has been broken out but it lies upon the ground & united to the two portions which remain in their places there is no considerable hiatus and it is upon the whole the longest & best inscription that I {met} with, the letters are picked out with red paint.

Beyond the Temple the narrow pass is only < > to the Westward just long enough to give its full effect when approached from the city, in about 2 or 300 yards it finishes & opens at once upon a multitude of large and noble monuments that are disposed and crowded about its mouth & the Theatre facing to the ENE in the midst of them.

Now that we are arrived within the precincts of the city itself it will be better to pause a moment in order to take a general view of its site, though this is in its nature so very different from that of all others, & the singular effect of rocks tinted with most extraordinary hues, whose summits present us with nature in her most savage & romantic form whilst their feet are {tricked} out in

15

all the symmetry and regularity of art with colonnades & pediments and ranges of {windows} adhering to the perpendicular surface is something which is so difficult to convey any just idea of that I can hardly expect that any description could enable those who have not visited it to form a just image of Petra.

The short notice of Petra which we find in Pliny respecting the metropolis is this: “the Nabataei inhabit a city called Petra, in a hollow somewhat less than two miles in circumference, surrounded with inaccessible mountains, with a stream running through it. It is distant from the town of Gaza, on the coast, 600M; and from the Persian Gulph 122. VI Book, 28 Cap. Strabo says “the Capital of the Nabathaei is called Petra; it lies in a spot which is in itself level & plain, but fortified all round with a barrier of rocks and precipices; within, furnished with springs of excellent quality for the supply of water & the irrigation of gardens. Without the circuit, the country is in a great measure desert, & especially on that side towards Judaea. Jericho is at the distance of 3 or 4 days. []. He adds that one of the Royal lineage always resided at Petra, & had a sort of counsellor attached to him who was entitled his brother; he {praises} their laws and customs.

It will be seen that these two ancient geographers, in characterising the position of the city, agree with one another, & on comparing their accounts with the localities of the place they will be found sufficiently characteristic & exact though strictly speaking the situation can neither be called a valley with Pliny, nor a plain (with Strabo); yet it is certainly both low in position and level in surface when compared with the crags and precipices that surround it. It is in fact an area in the very bosom of a mountain, swelling into mounds & intersected with gullies, but the whole is ground of such a nature as might be conveniently built upon and neither ascent or descent inconveniently steep. Within the actual circuit of the City there are two mounds more particularly which seem to have been entirely covered with buildings, and are still strewed over with a prodigious quantity of loose stones, tiles, and fragments of ancient ware, of a very light & delicate fabrick. The bed of the River, taking its course from SE to NW, separates these two; the water has now sunk below the surface, and no doubt creeps through the rubbish which ages

have accumulated in it; great part of it seems to have been arched over in the same manner as the stream at Philadelphia, whether to prevent the evaporation of the waters, or whether for the purpose of building over it, a more careful examination might perhaps determine.

In the low ground upon the left bank of this stream, seem to have been some of the principal edifices; the first, which passing forwards to the NWd. from the Theater that is in a state to judge its nature, was an archway of a very florid architecture with pannels enriched with foliage in the pilasters in the manner of Palmyra. On the Eastern face there were compartments in the pannels with busts and trophies arranged in them alternately with the meanest possible effect; there were columns also attached to this archway, but the whole is fallen into confusion & from the state of some of the parts it is evident it was never a finished work. This archway was the introduction to a great pile of building standing nearly at right angles to it, facing towards the North which in great part still remains of its full original height. It was crowned upon the three solid sides with a handsome frise of triglyphs and large flowers & the metopes; beams of wood are laid in at intervals between the courses of the masonry & (what is extraordinary) continue to this day, which seem to speak much for the dryness and salubrity of the climate. I imagine that the object of these beams was for the purpose of getting a better hold for the fastening of the stucco with which the whole was originally covered; it still hangs on in some places, especially towards the lower part of the building on the sides and at the back representing ranges of diminutive pilasters and frises, very paltry both in their design & proportion & in no way suitable to the scale of the building, which they were designed to decorate. The front was open to a considerable depth, being disposed as a Patio of 4 columns, betwixt the {antae}. This part is much fallen into ruins, and I could not even find any trace of the capitals although the columns themselves measure little less than 6 ft. diar. The antae are enriched with square and octagon compartments in plaister in the same taste with the triumphal arch which has been mentioned. The side walls of the Portico have on their interior face the same courses of wood which I have observed upon the exterior; the frame of the great door, if it ever had one has

17

disappeared - a lofty open arch now conducts you to the interior of the building, which is most singularly subdivided into three parallel chambers of which the centre one was adorned with semi-circular pilasters. The whole seems to have been {portioned} out into several stories, with {doors}& staircases, though it is not very easy to trace the communication or distinguish the plan of the several parts. That this edifice was not a Temple is I think probable both from its aspect & its great breadth as proportioned to its length, as well as from its interior subdivisions. Whether it was a palace or hall of justice, I leave to others to decide, but have little doubt that whatever was its nature, it was for the very same purpose as the great building at Bait el Carm. This is the ruin which we saw from our camp above Dibdebar and is in fact the only considerable work of masonry that exists at Petra.

Upon the summit of the mound at the back of this are vestiges of some public buildings. One or two buildings are standing and a portion of wall with pilasters attached to it; I noticed upon these columns those singular characters, of which I have copied some specimens from Oom i Rasas and other places. Upon the summit of the other, that is the Northern, mound, there is a mass of ruin of some solidity, but of no very definite shape. The Nubian Geographer (Climate 3d.) says that the houses at Petra were excavated in the rock; now that this was not universally true is evident from the great quantity of stones employed in the lesser kind of edifices which are scattered over the whole site which are no doubt the remains of dwellings of the inferior sort; but it is also true, that upon the outskirts the mountain sides afforded facilities for excavation, there are Grottoes in great nos. which were certainly not sepulchral, especially towards the Western part of the Town near the gt. Palace or Hall of Justice which has been just described - there is one especially which presents a front of four windows, with a large & lofty doorway in the Center. In the interior, one chamber about 60 ft. in length, and of a breadth proportioned, occupies 3 of the windows and the door; and there is this remarkable that an arch of masonry has been thrown across towards the farther end probably to remedy or obviate some failure in the stone. At the lower end, the 4th window is allotted to a very small sleeping chamber, which is not brought down to the level of the floor of the great apartment, but has a

chamber below it of the same size that receives no light but from the door. This which seems the best of all the excavated residences has no ornament whatever on the exterior, not even a simple frieze and the same applies to all the other excavations of the same nature. The access to this house is by a shelf gained out of the side of the Mountain; other inferior habitations opening upon the same, & more particularly an oven & some cisterns. These antique dwellings are close

to an angle of the Mountain, where the bed of the Stream having traversed the City passes again into a narrow defile, along whose steep sides a sort of excavated suburb is continued of very small and mean chambers set one above another without much regularity, like so many pigeon holes in the rock, with flights of steps or narrow inclined planes leading up to them. The main wall and ceiling only were in the solid; the fronts and partitions being built of very indifferent masonry with cement.

Following this defile farther down, the River reappears, flowing with considerable rapidity & not so scanty as might have been expected at this season. It is with difficulty however that its course can be followed from the luxuriance of the shrubs that surround it & obstruct every track. Besides the oleander, which is common to all the water-courses of this Country, one may recognise among the plants which choke this valley, some which are probably the descendants of those which adorned the Gardens & supplied the market of the Capital of Arabia; the Carrob, the Fig, the Pomegranate, the Mulberry & the Vine along the river side. A very beautiful species of aloe also grows in this valley, bearing a deep orange flower shaded to scarlet. The quality of the sand stone is of a {whitish} colour, it is hollowed out into deep and lofty concave recesses, not as if it had been quarried for building, but rather as if it had been scraped away with some broad instrument like a shovel. In almost every one of these cavities, the height of some of which may exceed 30 or 40 ft. and their breadth as much, rude figures have been scratched by the workmen, altars are the most frequent; and obelisks with a singular finish on their summit. In one instance there is an altar between two palm trees. There are inscriptions also but difficult to be copied. Amongst the {stuff} in the bed of the river lumps both of grey

20

and red granite are found, fragments of fallen edifices of the < > as I imagine. < >
 many lumps also of plaster coated over with a thin < >. What course the River afterwards
 takes, whether it is lost in the sand or where it empties itself we did not learn, nor can one
 depend upon any geographical information gained from the Natives of these Countries.
 The position of the Theatre has been mentioned; it is the 1st. object which presented itself to the
 Traveller on entering Petra from the Eastd.. It is entirely cut in the live rock; the diam. of the
 podium is 120 ft.5 ,the No. of the seats 33, and of the cuniei 3. There was no break, and
 consequently no vomitorii although there is upon the right hand close adjoining just without the
 Theater the mouth of an arch that resembles one extremely and {was} no doubt some chamber
 or communication connected with the scene. The Scene unfortunately was built & not
 excavated; had it been otherwise we might probably have had here a more perfect example of
 the distribution & decoration than either at Bostra or Djerash. As it is the whole is fallen &
 bases of four Columns only remaining upon its interior face. What is most amazing in the
 placing of this Theater is the manner in which it is surrounded by Sepulchres upon all sides.
 Every avenue leading to it is full of them and I think I may safely say that 100 of the largest
 dimensions are visible from it, a strange prospect one should think from a place of public
 diversion. Indeed, throughout almost every quarter of this Metropolis, the repositories of the
 Dead must have presented themselves to the eye and almost out-numbered the habitations of the
 living. There is a long line of them not far from the Theater, though at such an angle as not to
 be comprehended in the view from it - which must have formed a principal object from all the
 Town. The scale of these is so prodigious and their external distribution so little what one
 would look for in Sepulchres that they have all the appearance of a range of Temples & Palaces
 and perhaps give one a juster idea of what must have been the effect of whole streets of such
 edifices than can be got anywhere else since nothing is here to be supplied by the imagination,
 the whole remaining entire and in pretty good repair.

21

The largest of these had originally 3 stories, of which the lowest presented four portals, with
 large columns set between them; and the second & third, a row of eighteen Ionick columns,

attached to a façade. The live rock being insufficient for the total elevation a part of the story was grafted on in masonry & is for the most part fallen away. The four portals of the basement open into four chambers, very dissimilar both in distribution & dimension, but all sepulchral & without any communication between them. In one were three recesses which seem to have been ornamented with marble or some other extraneous material. Almost contiguous to this extensive front is another somewhat smaller but equally rich, whose design has a great analogy, (especially in the circumstance of the half pediments & the circular lanthorn in the Center) to the beautiful Temple of the Eastern approach. Though a general symmetry pervades this piece of architecture, yet there are irregularities observable in its doors & windows, which as they open into apartments no way connected with each other, and apparently constructed for different families, may explain the reason of this singularity. A little further to the S or SE an area is gained by cutting down the slant of the mountain so as [to] form 3 sides of a square. Two of these are disposed of as Doric Porticoes; the 3d. which is the loftiest as being that which abuts against the body of the Mountain is occupied by a lofty front decorated with four engaged columns of the same order, but without triglyphs. A pediment surmounts the frieze, supporting an urn, in all respects similar to that on the beautiful Temple. A doorway with a window over it fills the Center & there are 3 windows in the Attick the Center one of which exhibits two half-length figures in basso relievo. In the approach to this tomb there were arched substructions of great extent now fallen much into ruin.

23

It is surprising to reflect that monuments of so vast a scale should be executed subsequent to the Roman conquest, since after that period we can look upon them as no more than the Tombs of private individuals. Whence should come so much wealth, & such a taste for magnificence after the Country had lost its Independence it is difficult to conceive. It is possible, however, that a trade by the Red Sea with India, or even the Caravan trade with the Spice country, may have imported so much wealth into the place as to give the Inhabitants the same fondness for ostentation & ornament observable at Palmyra, which owed its riches to the same source - yet to consider a Mausoleum of upwards of 70 or 80 feet high, with lateral Porticoes, and flights of

terraces upon arched work leading up to it, as the effect of the vanity of some obscure individual in a remote corner of the Roman Empire has something in it surprising and almost unaccountable. The Interior was disposed of in one large and lofty Chamber with six recesses with {grooves} in them at the farther end. On the Establishment of Christianity these 6 recesses have been converted into 3 for the reception of the altars, and the whole apartment made to serve as a Church; the fastenings for the tapestry & pictures still visible upon all the walls, & near an angle is an inscription in red paint, recording the date of consecration. These are the only vestiges of a Christian Establishment which I was able to discover throughout the remains of Petra, notwithstanding it was a Metropolitan See at a time when according to Miletius

24

(whose authority is not worth much) it was called $\text{U} \leftarrow \text{G} \rightarrow \text{O} \leftarrow \text{O} \text{ G} \text{ L}$

Diodorus Siculus has a long account of the expedition sent by Antigonus against the Nabathaei; {their riches he says which proved very great in gold & spices} and such of them as were feeble and infirm were left $\text{O} \leftarrow \text{O} \leftarrow \text{G} \text{ T} \text{ O} \text{ L} \leftarrow \text{O} \leftarrow \text{L} \rightarrow \text{L}$ which he calls afterwards a place of prodigious natural strength but without any wall & distant 2 days' journey from any inhabited place & in the second expedition it is said there was but one way of access to it which was artificial & afterwards the loftiness of the {post} is mentioned. It is difficult to suppose that the Nabathaei would lodge what was the most precious & dear to them elsewhere than in their capital, especially as it would be difficult to find a place so secure {yet both the word

$\leftarrow \text{G} \text{ T} \text{ O} \text{ L}$

<prefixed to> $\leftarrow \text{O} \leftarrow \text{L} \rightarrow \text{L}$ & the loftiness of the site & the rough passage up to it here in the rock} agree so little both with the other descriptions of the ancients and with the < > appearance of the place that it may be reasonably doubted whether Diodorus is really speaking of the city Petra in this Passage and not rather of some nameless rock. It must be acknowledged

however that he is a writer in whom there is little accuracy as to localities and balancing probabilities it is more likely / probable that Petra is the place in question than not. In the same passage I would observe that I have a great suspicion that the $\leftarrow \rightarrow \updownarrow \bullet \updownarrow \leftarrow \rightarrow$ to which all the Arabs {resorted} with Merchandize is no other than the <great > meeting at Mecca which we know dates from a period long anterior to the birth of Mahomet.

Upon some of the high points of rock that rise about the skirts of the city, and tower above them, the remains of walled forts are visible from below and as it is probable there was an acropolis it must be looked for in some of these and supposing the term $\leftarrow \odot \leftarrow \rightarrow$ in

25

Diodorus Siculus to signify the proper name rather than some nameless rock in the desert, < > he says < > it is certainly to be referred to the acropolis only, & not to the general situation of the {place}, he representing it as on a < > accessible only by one single {avenue} & this a work of human labour. Such a description might be found very {conformable} to the appearance of some of the craggy peaks which formed its barrier and defence but in no degree to the general position of the city, which is neither itself seated on an eminence nor, however limited in its lines of approach, confined to a single one, nor however assisted & taken advantage of can the main avenues be said strictly to be works of art. That from the Eastward has been described. It is the only one which I was able to follow through all its length; that from the Westward did not usurp the channel of the river or share its course [which] upon this side would have been too winding and perhaps the level too low but entered the city by another ravine a little more to the Northward in the bed of an occasional torrent. The high way is quite broken up & destroyed at the first out set from the city but somewhat farther on it ascends and leaving the rugged and broken {channel} on the L. hand entered a passage that has been cut down by art through a prominence of the rock. In the sides of this artificial passage are niches & votives & somewhat beyond some tombs present their fronts to the road side. I extended my researches no further in that direction although I had reason to believe that {this} would be

26

ruins of Petra mutually authenticate each other; & leave no doubt that the height which we were going to ascend is the Mount Hor of Scripture. The Base of the highest pinnacle of the mountain is a little removed from the skirts of the city to the South or South Westward; we rode to its foot over a sufficiently rugged and broken track, passing in the way many sepulchral monuments, similar to those which have been described. A singular object presents itself upon the L hand on the way, an obtuse cone generated by the coils of a spiral is represented as placed upon a vast square pedestal or altar, both the one & the other obtained out of one of the peaked summits of the rock by cutting it down upon all sides till it assumed this figure. Towards the same point close to the wayside is the same representation in relief, within a similar niche which we have remarked upon in the Eastern approach, the form of the object surrounding the altar rising into the figure of a sugar-loaf. No where is the extraordinary colouring of these mountains more striking than in the track which we were now following & up to the very summit where is the Tomb, the rock sometimes presenting a deeper or paler blue, streaked with red or shaded off to lilac or to purple, in others a salmon colour veined < > in waved lines and circles with crimson & even scarlet, so as to resemble exactly, if I may be allowed the comparison, the colour of raw meat or salmon in slices. In other parts there are livid stripes of yellow or bright orange, & in some places all the different colours ranged side by side in parallel strata; there are portions also with paler tints, and some quite white, but these last seem to have a softer & more < > surface & not good for preserving the sculpture.

Two shepherds met us & seizing the bridle of Abou Raschid insisted upon conducting him to their Tents which were somewhere to the Southd. An amicable altercation ensued in which our Chief seemed to find great difficulty in excusing himself. We engaged one of these as our guide and quitting our servants & horses where the steepness of the ascent commences, we found some difficulty in keeping pace with his nimbleness and agility. The track being extremely

steep and toilsome and the footing but indifferent, it is to be wondered at that an object of veneration during so many ages, and to all the three successive religions which have occupied

the spot should not have a more decided and convenient path up to it. In most parts the pilgrim must pick his way as he can. Where by nature it would have been impassable, there are flights of rude steps, or inclined planes, constructed of stones laid together, and here and there niches to receive the foot cut in the live rock; in {certain} places {pilgrims} have traced the outline of their feet in the live rock; {with a sharp instrument}. Much juniper grows on the mountain, almost to the very summit, & many other flowering plants which I have not observed elsewhere; some very beautiful but most of them thorny. On the summit there is an overhanging shelf of

the rock, which forms a shelter in the nature of a cavern. We found here a skin of extremely bad water suspended for drinking, and a pallet of straw, with the pitcher & the other poor utensils of the sheik who makes his residence here. He is a decrepid old man, who has resided here during the space of 40yrs. and occasionally still endures the fatigue of descending & reascending the Mountain. Although the age at which Aaron went up to invest his son & to die was perhaps double that of the infirm devotee who guards his tomb the circumstance reconciles one at least to the possibility of such a < > being accomplished by a man infirm with years & upon the brink of the grave which had appeared to us a little doubtful as we panted and struggled up. The Tomb itself is inclosed in a small building, differing not at all in external form and appearance from those of Mahommedan Saints, common throughout every province of Turkey. It has probably been rebuilt at no remote period; some small marble columns are bedded in the walls, & some fragments of granite and of slabs of white marble are lying about. The door is near the S.W. angle & a constructed Tomb with a pall thrown over it presents itself immediately upon entering; it is patched together out of fragments of stone & marble that have made part of other fabricks. Upon one of these are several short lines in the Hebrew character, cut in a slovenly manner and probably of no intrinsic interest; but yet as it is not probable that any professed Jew has visited the spot for ages past, probably not even since the period of the Mahometan conquest; it at least may lay claim to some antiquity, & it is an additional presumption upon the spot over & above the testimony of Josephus that this place has had the

same reputation which it has to this day for at least {2000} years among the Jews. There are rags and shreds of yarn, with glass beads & paras strung upon them left as votives by the Bedouins. In one of the interior walls is a black stone as smoothed and polished as a looking glass to which a peculiar sanctity is ascribed and many miraculous virtues. It is the custom to kiss it. Not far from the NW angle is a passage descending by steps to a vault or grotto beneath, for I am uncertain which of the two I should call it, being covered with so thick a coat of whitewash that it is difficult to distinguish whether it be built or hollowed out. I believe that it is (in great part at least) a grotto; the roof is {coved} but the whole rude and ill-fashioned. It is quite dark, the sheik, who was not informed that we were Christians, (a circumstance which perhaps our guide himself was not aware of) furnishing us with a lamp of butter. Towards the farther end of this dark cript the two corresponding leaves of an iron grating are lying, which formerly prevented all nearer approach to the Tomb of the Prophet; they have however been thrown down, and we advanced so as to touch & to kiss it. The same difficulty to the whole of this subterranean chamber extends to the tomb itself; it has been so coated with wash of lime that it is impossible to say whether it be in the live rock or constructed; it appeared to the eye to be too short for the reception of an ordinary human body but we took no measures; a ragged pall was thrown over it.

30

The view from the summit of the edifice is extremely extensive in every direction, and though the eye rests upon few objects which it can clearly distinguish and give a name to, yet an excellent idea is obtained of the general face and features of the Country. The Chain of Idumean Mountains which forms the Western shore of the Dead Sea, seems to run on to the Southd.though losing considerably in their height; they appear in this point of view barren and uninviting. Below them is spread out a white sandy plain, seamed with the beds of occasional torrents, and presenting much the same features as the most desert parts of the Gor. Where this desert expanse approaches the foot of Mount Hor, there arise out of it, like Islas. several lower peaks and ridges of a purple colour (probably composed of the same sand stone with Mt. Hor itself, which, variegated as it is in its hues, presents in the distance one uniform dark purple).

Towards the Egyptian side there is an expanse of country without features or limit, that is lost in distance. The lofty district which we had quitted in our descent to Wadi Mousir shuts up the prospect upon the East & SEn. sides; but there is no part of the landscape which the eye wanders over with more curiosity and delight than the crags of Mount Hor itself, which stand up on every side in the most rugged and fantastic forms; sometimes strangely piled one upon the other, and sometimes as strangely yawning asunder in clefts of a frightful depth. In the midst of this chaos there rises into sight one finished work, distinguished by profuseness of ornament & richness of detail. It is the same which has been described as visible from other elevated points, which I was never able to arrive at; it bears N.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ N. from this point. The rest of Petra is intercepted and concealed by the prominences of the Mountain. An artist who would study rock scenery in all its wildest & most extravagant forms, and in colours, which, to one who has not seen them, would scarcely appear to be in nature, would find himself rewarded should he resort to Mount Hor for that sole purpose.

31

We had employed just one hour in the ascent, & found that our return to the place where we had left our Horses occupied the same time. We had varied little from our former track, excepting to visit a small natural hollow in the rock where a small deposit of rain water still remained. A boy presented me with a small species of wren. I had observed among the trees and thickets of Petra a bird whose note & form & general colour greatly resembled the blackbird but his wings are of a bright golden colour & his note has less fullness and variety. I saw the same afterwards at other places during our journey. As the day was closing we mounted and were conducted by Abou Raschid near the gt. Judgement hall or palace, and from thence in a Northern direction. In this route we passed an infinite no. of Tombs of the Arabian form & amongst others that on which is the great tablet of inscription. The Road rises somewhat afterwards and is sufficiently slippery and dangerous. There are a few simple graves cut in the rock. In another place a similar opening served as the mouth of a vault in which were repositories for 2 or 3 bodies. In other parts of this extensive Necropolis I had noticed the same; in several instances the vault was provided for some reason which I cannot conjecture with two apertures, one at the top like

32

that which I am speaking of, and one, like a small door opening at the side into < > ravine. In one instance I found the covering remaining upon that which opens to the sky, composed of several slabs lain across and fitted on with cement. It may be supposed that this was a species of tombs belonging to a poorer class than those which assume architectural forms. Our attention was particularly excited on this side, by remarking with how much care the little soil that there is had been banked up into terraces, and disposed into fields and gardens, every nook that could furnish footing for a single plant being turned to account, proving that Strabo was not mistaken in speaking of the horticultural advantages of this City; the Inhabitants seem to have made the most of it.

It seemed to have been our chief's intention to have carried us for the night to some camp at a greater distance; however, it so happened that we had scarcely quitted the immediate precincts of the City & the district of the Tombs, when we passed near a small one, consisting of a few poor tents only. Two Arabs rushing out from them with impetuosity seized our bridles, and carried us by main force to lodge with them; before we could dismount they had contrived to loose the corn bags from behind our saddles, and were fighting with one another, disputing who should fill them. The Contest was so much in earnest that the most elderly of the Persons engaged was thrown down, and the corn bags which he had secured, snatched from him by force. It will hardly be credited that the object of so much contention was the furnishing 33 necessaries from their own stock, gratis, to persons whom they had never seen. A sheep was slain, & our supper was as usual. So finished our first day's visit to the ruins.

Little more than a general survey had been taken, and that imperfectly. When we proposed returning there the principal objection that started, was the difficulty of finding provisions for ourselves, and provender for our Horses; this was remedied by the purchase of a sheep on our part & of whatever else was necessary for 24 h. to come, and it will appear strange to those who have had no experience in Arabian manners, that those same people who had fought with one another for the privilege of providing for us at their own expense with what we wanted a few hours before, from the moment that payment was talked of and money shewn to them,

became greedy & imposing to the highest degree, & resorted to every method they could think of, of extorting from us; but this which in the recital will appear inconsistent and singular is yet a universal picture of the Arab character; generous and prone to hospitality at first, and as long as there is no talk or appearance of a recompence, but from the moment it is discovered that any thing can be got, all not only liberality, but even common honesty and good treatment ceases and a scene of fraud and double dealing and extortion begins - so that in fact a poor man may pass better and upon a more friendly footing in the Country than a rich one. A sheep was killed and cut up in a retired spot near the Gt. Building and we had more opportunity of observing the manner in which it was cooked than we could have in the Tents; great part of the wool was left on the joints and the head was thrown into the kettle exactly in the state in which it was cut off from the animal, neither was any part of the intestine cleaned or removed. The result of this 2d. day's observations have been thrown into the general description which relates to Petra. We remained there till night, & took our last farewell with reluctance, returning to the same camp where we had passed the night before, where we were treated with a dish of boil'd grain only & milk for supper. At the back of this camp is a small chamber in the rock, though quite detached from the rest of the Necropolis, it was now serving as a stable. With our glasses we observed in the valley of Dibdebah two doorways in the rock: There were great apprehensions of robbers who would carry off our horses in the night. They were stated to be likely to be Annisee Arabs, who are continually lurking about in this neighbourhood; it was reported in the morning that two fellows had been seen, who finding that persons were upon the watch, made no attempt to do any mischief.

At daybreak (26th May) we quitted the Camp & turning our backs upon the tomb of Aaron crossed a portion of smooth & cultivated ground to Dibdebar which does not stand so low as it had appeared to us to do when we looked down upon it; the houses are of the poorer sort but all the doors now shut and no Inhabitants there. We continued our ascent in a slanting direction. It was intensely cold and a flying mist totally obscured the upper parts of the ridge; we kept along the < > of the declivity at a very high level, which is spotted over with juniper and bushes of

the prickly oak so shorn & burnt by the wind as to prove that the wind which we found so uncomfortable is very prevalent. It was from the Westd.. An European would find it difficult to believe that on the 26 May in a Latitude more Southern than the Delta of Egypt, we were suffering the greatest inconvenience from excessive cold, with the wind from the Westd. The very elevated situation which we were upon was in some measure the occasion of this, but does not seem quite sufficient to account for it. The gusts were so violent, and the cold so bitter, that our people once alighted in the middle of the way for the purpose of kindling a fire, but we soon afterward passing from the side to the summit of the terrace, which is handsomely scattered over with thickets & knots of tress, like the scenery of some Parks in England, we alighted in the same camp which we had seen from that [of] Abou Raschid. The half naked Children looked starved with cold and the Women were shut up in their tents with the horses. A fire was lighted for us and a mess of milk and grain was set before us. Passing onto the N. from this camp we again got sight of the purple chain of Mt. Hor & drank the waters of Soumaan. Arriving at Abou Raschid's camp no impatience was expressed at our delay. Sheik Shalen was sitting in the Tent but Youssouf (of Karrack) was absent on a visit to a tribe at a little distce. which had been on bad terms with him. He returned in the afternoon and we almost immediately mounted, [accompanied by an] Arab belonging to M. Raschid and a man of Shaubac. Abou Raschid had sent his iron mace as proof that we ought to be recd. the same as if he was present. The night being too cold to remain out of doors an immense fire was lighted in the menzoul (room) and such a throng of the inhabitants came to warm themselves round it and to share our supper of mutton that the heat and crowd were intolerable. They passed the evening in singing or telling stories.

36

The menzoul & the Court before it (as) has been mentioned upon our first arrival are within the ruins of a Christian Church. Upon closer inspection an inscription in Latin was discovered upon the architrave of the principal door which though imperfect leaves no doubt that it is a work of the Frank Kings of Jerusalem. It is surprising to find that the limits of their empire were extended so far. One of their principal strong holds somewhere in this direction was

called Mont Royal. This might either be Karrack or the place in question, though Miletius extendg. {their} conquests still farther says that this name was applied by them to Petra, and relying upon I know not what passage in Diodorus S. says that it also seems to have borne that name in his time. What is most remarkable is that whilst the interior parts of this church are in the pure Gothic style which is common of the same age in Europe, the ornaments of this inscribed doorway are purely Eastern, exhibiting that border of convex fluting which is common in Turkish buildings and the pointed arch itself inclines slightly inwards at the bottom in the manner of a {horse shoe). The construction also has more of the Orient than the Norman manner, the transome in lieu of consisting of a single stone being composed of many ingeniously locked together by dovetails & angular irregularities. In the walls & at the gates of Antioch are similar examples which are also of the time of the Crusaders.

From Shoback we descended to the spring at the foot of the hill and in lieu of following the road which we had taken coming any further continued along the valley for the space of 2 hours ½ varying in our direction between East and ENE. I observed the < > Bladder < > growing. There are some ruins with arched roofs upon the N. side of the valley which may be Christian or Moslem; they are not antique. A swarm of locusts were resting themselves in a gully which we passed over; they were in sufficient numbers to alter the apparent colour of the rock on which they had alighted at a distance & to make a sound that might be heard as we passed over them.

We were < > that they were on their way to Gaza, and that they pass almost annually. The valley of Shoback makes an elbow to the N. or N Eastward & nearly at the same point a ravine opens into it from the South At the angle which is formed at their point of meeting is a small site of a ruined village called Beddah; it had an agreeable & advantageous position but the remains are trifling and offer nothing remarkable. At this point the road quits the valley altogether and ascends bearing afterwards NNW & NW. It soon falls in with an ancient highway not paved but only edged with stones, with an effaced milestone lying on it. This seems to branch off from the great paved way which we had followed in our coming, and points

so directly to Shoback which is visible at 3 hours distance upon this side bearing {SW} that it offers some ground of probability for supposing it an ancient situation. A ruined site call Derrah was on our left with no remarkable features. A grey partridge was shot by Mahomet which the Arabs were eager to lay upon the fire without cleaning its inside or plucking out its feathers; it was afterwards {dressed } < > and proved {tender} and juicy. Having recovered our old track we passed under the volcanic mountain where are the red scoria and cinders in such abundance, then soon after turned WNW into a valley where were three camps placed near each other. Here we were regaled with a mess of {durrah} and Leben with bread and another of hot bread soaked in butter. This valley is probably a {continuation} of that in which Gharandel is situated.

From thence in a direction almost N. we descended into the fertile plain of the District of Djebahl. The corn was ripe but remarkably short in the stalk, & instead of being cut was plucked up by the roots & loaded onto mules and asses. There is a spring in the midst of these fields and near it a site of some extent but without any buildings of the better sort (unluckily the note of its name is lost). The way continues to descend and shortly afterwards it passes into a defile of rock neither very lofty nor very long but of a sufficiently romantic character, with an artificial watercourse upon one side supplied by the spring above. We found ourselves upon the shelf of a precipitous declivity falling into the deep and rocky dell which passing below Ipseyra is continued down in a North Western direction to the Dead Sea, There are a few red cedars of no great age or size growing upon its sides, & wherever there is room and soil for them, Fig orchards irrigated by channels. Ypseyrah though standing low with respect to < > ridge upon which we had been travelling and to which we afterwards reascended, is yet upon a gentle eminence as compared with the ground immediately adjacent & upon two sides looks down to a great depth into the dell below it which has been spoken of. A broad square tower in the middle of the village with an iron door & small loops for defence and with a parapet of loose stones piled upon the summit gives character & importance to it in the view. The houses are small & low & so irregularly placed that the communications are crooked and inconvenient. We found

all the inhabitants sitting round an open court near the entrance to the Tower. They seemed to be a fanatic & surly sort of people. It was here that the wrapping cloak of one of the murdered Mograbeens was offered to us for sale. North a few yards of the village upon a point that would command it, and which, standing forward upon a sort of Promontory has the ravine upon 3 sides, are ruins which seem to announce a place of some strength & consequence. South of the village is another ruinous heap amongst which is a portion of a column.

A few drops of rain fell on the morning of the 28th and we delayed quitting Ipseyrah until a mess of Doura boiled in fresh milk had been brought to us. As no spoons were brought we had recourse as usual to our fingers, but we excited the compassion or contempt of the Inhabitants by our awkwardness in making use of them, who said we eat as the Camels do.

When we took leave of Ipsara we retraced our steps for about a quarter of a mile as far as that natural terrace of rock at the head of the valley, but here in lieu of turning into the defile we continued upon the same level along a narrow shelf, until we turned up to a spring of very fine water which is called Ajeleen or Adjenon and bears < > from the village. From hence we ascended and very soon found ourselves in a track which we recognised and passed under the ruins of El Aga. The camp where we had lodged was removed.

About a mile further on I quitted the direct [and] strait road and my companions, with Daoude as my guide to visit the village of Tahfeelie, my Course to the West & NWd, first over some hills that are shaggy with rock & brushwood. In less than an hour I came in sight of a delicious valley, full of life and cultivation with Olive Trees and Fruit grounds forming Groves of a considerable extent, and the village itself situated in the fork betwixt two adjoining hollows. Looking down upon them it is of the same character with Ipseyrah, having the same kind of stronghold in the midst, but the houses are loftier and better and the number greater. The Shekh at whose tents we had lain on the 18th near El {Hagar} is Shekh Of this village. Here Daoude recovered his sword {&} made a purchase of some coarse linen. The Harvest was carrying in from all directions in such quantities as gave a picture of great abundance. There are vineyards also upon the hillsides about this Town, but probably no wine or spirits are extracted from

them, since there are no Christians either at Tahfely or at any of the villages in the district of Gebal which are five altogether including this, Shobac & Ipseyrah 6 in no. Sunnephy was in sight upon a height to the Wd. of Tehfeeleh, the names of the remaining two are Eyemy and < > but they are smaller than those which we visited.

It was at Tefeeleh that a watch, the spoils of one of the unfortunate victims of Wadi Mousir was exposed to sale. A pleasanter place of residence, so far as both natural outline and the cheerful features of cultivation and plenty are concerned, could scarcely be found than Teypheeleh. In this point of view no situation pleased me so well in all the ridge of Mountains from Salt to Wadi Mousir. An abundant spring is the cause of so much fertility but the valley a little lower down becomes impracticable for the purposes of cultivation & even impassable to the Traveller, sinking abruptly to a great depth and bare of soil. An excellent road brought me down between fences into and across the fruitful valley and I ascended by a steep zigzag road upon the other side to rejoin my companions. Many parties of harvest people met us and inquired news of us of the Arabs with whom they are at war & have prevailed against so far as to drive them out of their district. They complained of Sh. Sahlem as having neglected his duties and seemed to say that unless he put himself more forward he would lose his command. One party inquired whether I was Christian & used some menacing expression supposing that to be the case. We passed on and were soon met by Yusuf's son Ismael who was going to market for horseshoes at Tapheely. He {veiled} his face & ran at us with his lance in sport. After a salutation we passed on having recovered our accustomed high level passing through a great extent of corn land. An ancient site was on an eminence on the right hand but had nothing to repay the trouble of examining it. It is called < >. At this spot a pair of birds were very near me that appeared to be of the grouse kind with the two center quills of the tail standing out beyond the feathers. Their colours not differing so much as their form from that of the partridge, their mode also of flight is different.

In about an hour and ½ we reached a camp of 54 tents where we found our party and dined upon mutton dressed with doorah. After this repast we descended into a green valley that falls

into that of Elhasa and came at once in sight of 107 tents comprising 5 different camps upon 5 different levels. One of them was that of our Sheck Sahlem who treated us with < > & in the morning took his leave of us as we passed downwards towards the Ellasa. The shepherd boys very generally throughout the country use a double pipe composed of 2 reeds bound together with < > stops. The sound is shrill and not very musical and they do not produce anything like a tune upon it, at least to an European ear. A similar sort of pipe occurs frequently in antique representations. We passed some ruins in our descent to the R. which look like those of a small fort by the way side. After passing a spring and some fields, the declivity always easy & gradual, we arrived in 1 hour and 1/2 at the natural hot spring which is called that of Soloman the son of David. It rises upon the South side in the valley of Ellasa close to the foot

of the hills and distant some yards from the brook which flows through its center. It is so hot that at the first entering into it seems to scald the body but may afterwards be borne for considerable space of time. It is neither deep nor very copious. There was no deposit of sulphur about it nor any smell, & the water itself appeared to be quite tasteless. It is secluded among the reeds & (which surprised me) there is no vestige of any building having at any period been erected over it or about it.

The Wadi Ellasa is the boundary of the district of Karack to the Southward so that passing the stream our conductor Yusuf was entering upon his own territory. The acclivity is extremely steep and occupies more than 2 hours including the necessary pauses for giving breathing time to the animals. Here we killed on the road a black scorpion at least 4 inches long. From the point where we reached the summit of the high table land the camp which we had quitted in the morning bearing nearly S. From thence we included to the Westward keeping nearly parallel to the course of the great valley which we had crossed, for some time. We then quitted it and went down a little towards some olive trees spotted over a gentle fall of ground where was a Camp belonging to the new father in law of Yusuf; he is the Sheck of Hanzeery, a village of 40

or 50 houses all inhabited by Mussalmen, at the distance of less than a mile from the Camp to the Westward. Here resided Yusuf's new wife who did not show herself. He visited her in the afternoon & spent the night in the village and again stole off from us for a time the next morning. Her old mother came in & sat uncovered most familiarly amongst us in the Tent & smoked her pipe talking like the rest of the circle, a circumstance which is not common but was not unexampled in this journey. Near the village is a fine spring and some vineyards & orchards of apricots, figs and pomegranates which make the situation sufficiently pleasant though the houses seem to be poor. Hanging upon the N side of a hill and looking down into a deep & pathless hollow in which runs a stream called Harkoory which I was told falls into the Ellasa lower down and in {conjunction} with it forms the Nahr el Hossa which we crossed in our first approach to Karak.

We understood that Saphy, the residence of the Gowanies (which is only a village constructed of reeds) is almost immediately under Hanzeery on the mountain side but were assured that there is no road practicable for a horseman down to the Dead Sea from thence {we having been desirous} to make our descent here. However from a very high point NW by N at the distance of less than half a mile from the village [there] is a most {commanding} view over its Southern extremity, with the straits & the backwater; we could observe that the water was much subsided since we had last seen it.

Hanzeery is one of 3 villages subject to Karak; the other two lie upon the same side and at no great distance and are called Cuthyrubbah & ElArrag. In the tent at midday a mess of dorrah & butter was brought with lumps of fat in it, and at night boiled mutton upon thin cakes of bread laid round and lapping over the brim of the dish.

A part of the rock above Hanzeery was pointed out as the receptacle of a treasure. I could not observe anything that should reasonably have directed the attention of the people to this more than to any other part of it.

Yusuf would fain have been allowed another day with his bride but to this we would not consent unless upon condition that he would depute somebody else to conduct us to Karak; so

much against his will after a {stolen} visit in the morning to the village he set forward with us. We passed a spring and up a valley to the Northward high up upon one of whose sides sate an Arab at the mouth of a cave who upon discovering us instantly mounted his horse shouting and waving a handkerchief to call on his companions from a distance against us threatening us that we should by no means pass forward in that direction. He would not come down to us or be pacified, neither did all his signs and vociferation bring any body to join with him. It was never explained to us who this Arab was, but we supposed that he would not have done so had he recognized the Sheck of Karak.

We soon reached a small camp in which I observed a Colt drinking milk out of a pan. Bread and butter and Leban were set before us and another mess brought of bread soaked in hot butter. When we set forward the cupolas of the mosque < > were in sight at some distance to our Right & Yusuf said a prayer upon his horse as he passed it, and when we came in < > the ruined site which we had examined in going, a man from a camp near the roadside came forward & snatching Yusuf's bridle led him forcibly to his tent; a sheep was killed then & a great part of the afternoon lost. This gave me time however to examine the milestone close to ruins at Mote at my leisure, tho' little good resulted from it as the inscription is too far gone. I had also time to go out of the road so far as Mushart supposed the tomb of Abou Taleb and found it simply a santon's tomb with a dome resting on an octagon which springs from 4 {pedestals}. There is close to it a large cistern sunk in the rock provided probably for some Dervish who presumably kept it; it is now abandoned and fallen to ruin. Pursuing our route I observed close by the roadside a singular circular pit resembling in miniature that called Howty near the road from Antioch to Aleppo which is natural and seems to have been produced by the falling in of the roof of an immense Cavern. The valley of Karak & the road from there up to it was full of mules and asses carrying in the harvest. We found the Sheck's house very full of Anasee Arabs who were come with their camels from the eastward to purchase Corn, some of them wore their hair of a reddish brown colour hanging in long plaits. They had brought a present of a mare for old Yusuf who had not of late been on good terms with their

tribe. He gave in his turn 6 camel loads of wheat & 6 of barley, a sword of value & a {Baniche} for their chief. The wife of the Sheck's brother was dying of a fever in a little room opening into the court, it was so thronged that it was with difficulty that I could get my head in to observe the scene. She was lying on the floor speechless, & round her were women & girls some

squatting {down or leaning over} so thick together that none of them could move without {treading} on one another or the sick person a very small part of whom was distinguishable from the manner that they hung over her, the whole multitude uttering the most {piercing} & piteous cries nearly to the same tune as a funeral. Old Yusuf & another male of the Family were seated at the lower end of the room towards the door, silent spectators of these premature & unreasonable expressions of grief. At our particular request the troop of mourners was expelled and the woman left quiet. Knowing of no other remedy & hearing that she was weak from fasting my arnaut prescribed chicken broth upon which she recovered surprisingly.

Partly to keep us out of the way of the Anasees & partly perhaps to < > in his own house 46 Yusuf lodged us in the Christian Quarter. It has been mentioned how great a proportion of the Inhabitants are of this persuasion. In dress many of them are not at all to be distinguished from the Mussalmen & all go armed. They even give & receive the salutation of the faithful Salam Aleikoum which I have never seen elsewhere. We were told that the predecessor of Yusuf Majellie as sheck of Karak was himself a Christian and his son is still there. However it appears that the Christian part of the population are so well satisfied under the rule of the present {head} who makes no distinction that he relies much upon their strength to counteract the ill will & opposition of a party who are against him in the town. Such is the {internal} state & politics of Karak. The Christian houses are not different nor inferior to the Mahommedan, some are distinguishable by crosses on the doors but all are collected in one quarter. We slept on a terrace roof not 2 feet above the level of the street upon one side. No wine or brandy is ever to be had in Karak < > not to be bought but at an exorbitant price. An excellent sort of cake was provided for us made of flour & honey & butter with sugar sprinkled over it. We

were invited to eat at different houses, at one a sort of paste was set before us of flour and milk. A leisure day gave opportunity for examining in detail the plan of the city itself and its immediate neighbourhood. The fortification which includes the whole existing city and much waste ground

covered over with rubbish & ruins or cultivated in gardens besides is of nearly a triangular form, the castle occupying the SWestern & what is called King Dahher's palace the N or N Western angle, beyond which last a lower portion of the hill has been detached by art by means of a deep fosse in the live rock. The entrance from the W or SW is by a natural grotto apparently not at all assisted by the hand of man under the wall, so low that a horseman must stoop to his saddle to pass through it. It has been mentioned that the principal entrance from the Westward is of the same sort though loftier and more convenient. Below the < > of the Castle to the Southward another great {fosse} has been cut down in order to detach the mountain which is naturally united to that of Karak upon that side. The {fosse} was not however cut completely through, a wall of live rock being left standing across at one end and one of masonry at the other giving it the appearance of a great open reservoir, though these do not seem thick or solid enough to resist the pressure of so great a body of water as would be confined, though < > without the works) would have kept up the communication which was intended to be broken.}

47

Some arches that are carried along upon the top of one of these walls of rock are probably remains of an aqueduct though from whence I am not informed. 3 considerable fragments of Greek Inscription are sufficient in themselves to establish Karak as an antique site, but an inspection of its ancient necropolis seems to prove it a place of wealth & consideration. Upon both sides of the highway passing up the valley to the southward in a soft stratum of the rock is almost a continued line of caves. Few of them strike the eye from without to be artificial; a careful investigation however proves them to be so without exception. though the perishable quality of the stone and the uses to which they have been converted of cow houses & sheep folds have been the occasion that the tombs have been broken away & the internal figure

become scarce distinguishable. They were for the most part square chambers with narrow and deep recesses in the end and sides for the reception of bodies laid in lengthways. I saw no sarcophagi remaining in any of them but there is one at a < > fountain by the roadside in this valley so that it is probable < > in some at least they were empty. There cannot be less in all than 30 to 40 of these tombs, the chamber in the larger sort measures from 20 to 25 feet square with 5 or 6 niches on each of the 3 sides. Two or three of them are somewhat detached from the rest and face in another direction, being situated beyond an angle which this valley makes, bending to the Eastward at the foot of the Castle hill. Towards this point the soil & aspect < > & a small supply of water trickling in the bottom there are figs and pomegranate trees & some vineyards on the sides of the declivity.

The natural strength of Karak must always have made it a place of military importance & the scale of the sepulchres seems to prove that it had citizens of consideration. It is not impossible that it may be the ancient Machaerus which Pliny says looked to the Dead Sea from the South, but as he says immediately afterwards that the hot fountain Callirhoe was on the same side he had either a very imperfect idea of the localities or we must understand South East for East which would agree sufficiently well with the situation.

W S W of the Castle of Karak at a distance of somewhat more than a mile is a source which in its name seems to {preserve} a traditional testimony of the occupation of this country by the Crusaders; it is known by the name of Ain el Frangee, the Frank's fountain. The way to it is steep, both in descent and ascent since the bed of the stream Soof Safa must be crossed. It issues from the side of the rocky mountain immediately beyond it at almost mid height, a clear but feeble spring conducted in an artificial channel to a small square tank constructed of very large rude stones on the slant of the declivity but the current is not sufficient to keep this clear of weed. It is possible that the construction may date from the time of the Frank Kings though there is nothing that marks it as a work of that period. There is a ruined site called {Finceeh} bearing S S E 3/4 E from the city and distant about 3/4 of a mile. The remains cover a considerable extent of ground with a sort of rocky mound as a centre and many of the stones

are of large size yet there is no appearance of buildings of the better sort. The whole seems to be of dry masonry. The {point} bears from Karak N W and the point N W 1/2 N.

A leathern apron slung on the shoulders seems a very general appendage costume for reapers in harvest time.

Between 10 and 11 in the forenoon of the 1st June we set out on a journey for the purpose of examining the Southern extremity of the Dead Sea, under the guidance of an old man of the family of Yusuf Majellie called Suleyman, mounted upon my mare, to whose account 30 Piastres had been paid under pretext that an escort of 3 men was necessary at 10 piastres a piece. We left the town by the same subterranean passage by which we had first entered it but exchanged the precipitous descent for one that is somewhat longer but much more easy, turning to the R hand and passing through a deep hollow way that is cut in the live rock immediately at the back of the building which goes by the name of K. Dahher's Seraglio, the object of which seems to have been originally to detach a considerable but lower portion of the mountain upon that side which it was not the intention to include within the < > or to fortify. The road passes at the back of this and afterwards turning round its {point} descends to the water. Below we fell in with a small caravan mounted on horses & camels who were setting out for Hebron & Jerusalem. We interrupted a curious quarrel between two persons belonging to it who assaulted one another with great violence first with the butt end of their matchlocks & afterwards with their swords, last of all when disarmed by their comrades with large and heavy stones. The first aggression seemed to be the dragging of one by the other forcibly off his camel. Nothing could exceed the loudness of the menaces & the fury of gesticulation, but there was almost an appearance that the combatants threw themselves purposely in the way of being parted by their companions which I have observed not uncommon in the quarrels of this country, where bullying appears to be more common than courage.

The barley harvest was cutting & carrying upon asses and mules (of which last there is a fine breed) towards the city from all directions. Many camps had been pitched in the fields on each

side of our road since we last passed it. In one place five were in sight at once within a very short distance. In one of these we were desired to observe a very large herd of cattle collected, which we were informed was spoil just brought in from the distant part of the Hauran near the Djebbel et Druse where they had been robbed by some men in Ismail's employ.

We passed again the portion of a coarse marble column lying in the road which we had remarked on our first coming & which may probably be a milestone, and afterwards by that wild rocky pass where huge masses of rock are cracked off from the mountainside and separated only from the sockets which contained them by deep and frightful crevices; in some of them grows the Turpentine tree. The scenery however of Haroun and Wadi Mousa which we had lately seen so far {exceeds} this in savageness & rugged sublimity that we were less struck than at the first sight. A spot was pointed out to us by Sulayman as the scene of slaughter of 30 men of Karak which happened in his younger days; we could not learn the story very satisfactorily but it seemed to have been the result of a civil war between them. It was towards the same point where we ourselves had been accosted by the armed men whom we had supposed Robbers, and certainly a fitter scene for a deed of blood could not easily be found. {So soon as we came to the pass which commands an extensive prospect of the Dead Sea we could observe the effect of the evaporation arising from it, in broad transparent columns of vapour, not unlike water-spouts in appearance but very much larger, all the rest of the atmosphere being remarkably < > and clear.} We did not deviate at all from our old route as far as the brook Derrah, which had lost nothing of its rapidity or quantity of water since we last saw it though the season was some weeks further advanced; the oleanders on its banks smelt < >. Here we parted from the little caravan who staid to eat and proposed passing onwards somewhat later. They charged us in the most earnest manner, as we valued their safety, not to mention in the huts of the Gowarnies below that they were on their road as it would infallibly lead to their being assaulted and robbed, they adding that so small a company could seldom pass that way with safety.

From this point we began to take a new course, making a pretty direct descent towards the plain of Gor. An open grove of the Acacia & doom trees was thinly sprinkled over the first portion of our way; of these a great many were apparently dead or dying, from what cause we did not learn, it is however probable that the foliage had been stripped by locusts. All this tract might be & it should seem to have been irrigated, it being easy to dam up the brook from so high a level & to conduct it in almost any direction. The form of fields & even the marks of ploughing are to be seen; and some inferior ruins like those of cottages in some small hamlet. Lower down there is very clearly an ancient site; stones that have been used in building, though for the most part unhewn, are strewed over a great surface of uneven ground, mixed with bricks and pottery. This appearance continued without interruption during the space of at least half a mile, quite down to the plain, so that it should seem to have been a place of some considerable extent. I noticed but one column, and found under my horse's feet a pretty specimen of antique, variegated glass. The Derrah opens from its glen into the plain near these remains to the northward, by a nook where there is a {low} wall of rude brick with an arched doorway, which, as it seemed not to promise much, we did not examine. The brook so far fertilises this part of the plain that it is scattered over with thickets of the Acacia and doom plant; and a third species whose twigs have an inclination downwards, & are of a dull green with little or no foliage; bearing a fruit about the size of an almond in its green husk, & not very dissimilar in colour, but nearer in shape to some < > plums with several seams or ribs like those on the fruit of the green pepper. When this ripens its skin retains its roughness but the flesh becomes soft and juicy like that of a green gage & has a sort of sweetness mixed with a strong bitter. It appeared to me that by culture it might be improved to a pleasant fruit. To our enquiries concerning it the answers were contradictory, some representing it as fit to be eaten and others as so very poisonous that the children frequently were disordered, or died by eating it; there is a stone within it, and the smell is sickly and disagreeable. The Hare and the Partridge of the desert abound throughout this thicket in which portions here and there are cleared and cultivated. In the very heart of it, not visible in any direction beyond a few yards unless by the smoke issuing

from it, is the residence of the Gowarnies, a sort of Arabs who are by profession Mahommedans, but looked on by the {true} faithful as little better than absolute infidels, seldom if ever exercising the forms of their religion. They hire themselves out as herdsmen and shepherds to others and are also thieves by profession. Their abode has more the appearance of something Indian or of the South Seas than any thing else that I have seen in the East. An oblong square is inclosed upon all sides by a continued line of huts about 9 or 10 feet high constructed of canes, with a high roof or thatch of the same laid very thick and almost like a heap upon the top. From the square there seem to be no more than two narrow outlets & no opening from the cabins towards the exterior. Towards the court there are no windows but each residence has its door & sometimes a sort of porch constructed over it with poles & shaded with boughs. Their interior is not coated with mud or plaister, but seems to be subdivided as the Bedoween tents are into the apartments for the men and for the women. The total number of doorways all round seemed to be about 30 not very regularly disposed which seems to imply some inequality in the scale of the houses. From its low situation and confined air [&] the reflected heat from the mountains the open area is intensely hot. In the center of this a number of poles are set up that support a quadrangular roofing of some extent covered over with boughs and thatch during the summer. This was assigned for our sleeping place. At sunset the whole square was filled with flocks of sheep & goats & herds of cows, & asses in great number. The inhabitants were a wild looking race of people, but received us {willingly} & without many questions. They were already informed of our story by two men from Karak who were passing the night amongst them. They are a tall well grown race of a very swarthy complexion. Many had stripped off their shirts so far down as the waist and wore nothing on the upper half of the body excepting a cross belt ornamented with shells for the knife or powder flask. Some carrying long matchlock guns and others clubs with a huge knot at one end. The hair of some is plaited in long braids without grease. The children for the most part of both sexes to the age of six or 7 years go entirely naked but some of the girls {wore} the leathern apron slit into thongs as in Nubia. The grown women dress as amongst the common Arabs. A wooden dish of the

dried doom fruit chopped up with butter was brought to us, & later some thin cakes of bread with butter & a large mess of doorah with butter. Our guide shewed great mistrust of [our] hosts, laying all our goods together close to our heads, when we lay down to sleep.

At the first dawn of the 2^d we left our old guide who had a {concession} of purchasing tobacco for Karak in the Gowarnie settlement, & turning rather to the Eastward of north, made our way through the thicket towards the sea beach. We were here surprised to see, for the first time, the oskar plant grown to the stature of a Tree, its trunk measuring, in many instances, two feet or more in circumference, and the boughs at least 15 feet in height, a size which I never remember to have seen it reach in Nubia; its fruit also appeared larger to me to be and in greater profusion. When I first saw this plant on the banks of the Nile I always suspected it to be the real fruit of Sodom or of the Dead Sea; it has the characteristic more than all others that I know of appearing juicy & delicious to the eye and being hollow within or filled with what is grating & disagreeable in the mouth. The flowery state in which it is found seems to point out the southern extremity of the valley of Gor as its own peculiar soil. The natives make use of silky filaments that are inclosed in the fruit as a stuffing for their cushions; and twist them into matches for their guns, which they assured us required no application of sulphur to render them combustible. Somewhat nearer towards the sea, the vegetation is principally confined to the Tamarisk and cane, so high & so thickly set as to render many parts wholly impassable. The same extend to the foot of the Eastern chain of mountains. {The rotten and marshy ground is produced probably by the stagnation of water deposited (during the winter season especially) by the Derrah and the stream from Karak which unite in this jungle & have a common discharge.} The foliage of these canes & Tamarisks have a dew of salt hanging upon them which gives to the hand the same greasy sensation and appearance that is acquired by dipping it in the sea itself. We understood that the wild boar abounds thereabouts. From the point where I reached the shore I could distinguish at the foot of the eastern range of mountain side two patches of green and some trees growing about them at no great distance which are probably indications of other running waters. All that coast of the Dead Sea is of a {more} handsome form than the

Western where in general the range of mountains is less broken into masses and has fewer advancing and receding < >. On both sides however the general outline is too level to be picturesque. The extremity of both ranges fades into the distance & the further extremity is not visible on any level or at any hour of the day.

A narrow pebbly beach separates the reedy jungle from the sea; it is very hard & firm to the tread & continues the same towards the Westward along the water's edge, which is here curved into a bay which as the land lies lower here than in that part already described, [the water] 54 encroaches more or less upon the land according to the season; the highest {limit} which it ever attains being marked as in other parts by an extensive deposit of timber of all sizes. It dries off into shallows & small pools that in the end deposit a salt as fine & as well bleached, in some instances, as in regular salt pans. The western horn of this bay is formed by a sharp promontory, projected forward into the sea, in the direction nearly from S. to North; that is to say such is the relative bearing of the extremities, for between them there is a considerable concavity that carries on the curve of the bay. Where the salt-water has retired from evaporation we found several persons peeling off a surface of solid salt, several inches in thickness < > & loading it upon asses. {Though the wind was not strong there was a small ripple on the water near the edge}. Towards the same part the ground is treacherous & deep & only glazed over with a thin crust. The promontory is not intirely of high land, this being confined to a steep white ridge running like a spine down the center of it, presenting the same appearance that such sandy ridges invariably do, of steep, sloping sides, seamed & furrowed into deep hollows by the rains, & sharp, triangular points, standing up like rows of tents ranged one above another. The height of this eminence varies from about {10} to about 30 feet, becoming lower gradually toward its northern extremity. At its foot all round is a considerable margin of sand, which varies however in length & breadth according to the season, being < > narrower in summer than in winter, at which time we have reason to suppose that at least in rough weather the waves almost wash the base of the Cliff. Upon that portion of this flat which edges the bay the surface presents a very remarkable appearance, rising into bubbles and

{scaling} off in thin flakes that have assumed the consistence of stone, with a surface as smooth and polished as glazed pottery or {as if} some process of < > had taken place by the {sun}.

At the northernmost point of the promontory a bed of rock seems to be composed of similar flakes embodied into solid masses. Some twigs standing up upon this point are so incrustated with salt deposited upon them by the spray or the process of evaporation that they have the appearance of stout branches of very fine white coral. The total length of this promontory or horn of the bay may be about 4 miles, computed from the observations that we employd -an hour & 12 minutes in going the distance at a foot's pace on horseback. Following the line of coast round the angle, the same cliff presents its opposite face of similar appearance and equal height, running for the space of about 2 miles or 40 minutes in a S W by S direction. Towards this part the surface of the flat has not the same scaly and varnished appearance but is of a fine pale coloured sand, seamed here and there with the marks of occasional streams from above. In these we first collected lumps of {nitre} & fine sulphur lying, from the size of a nutmeg up to that of a small hen's egg. It was evident from their situation that they must have been brought down by the rains < > and that the great deposit must be sought for in the cliffs. It is probable that persons come to collect this; at least it was the only mode that occurred to us of accounting for human footsteps printed upon this part, and those of asses somewhat farther on; there being no possible road of communication that is obliged to pass this way. The direction of the cliff varies between S W & S 1/2W. I quitted its foot {where the sand is in some places deep and distressing to the horses} to follow the edge of the beach, which diverges from it pretty widely, especially as the water subsides, which being always shallow towards the strait, retires more than usual towards that part and leaves a very great expanse incrustated with a salt that is as yet but half dried & consolidated, appearing just like ice in the commencement of a thaw, with solid lumps surrounded & as it were swimming in a discoloured liquid, & wherever the crust is not hard or solid enough to bear the tread water appearing in the fractures. The extent of surface left in this state near the straits must amount to very many acres.

I reached the narrowest part of that channel of communication between the sea itself & the backwater, which we have called the strait, in just 2 hours from the last place where our watches were consulted at the foot of the cliff having {gone} about S W. A low promontory projects opposite from the Western shore and is one cause why the passage is so extremely narrow. Where there are no living objects nor anything which the eye has {has been used to} judge it is extremely difficult and unsatisfactory to calculate distance especially across an expanse of water. Fortunately at my arrival at the straits a moving object presented itself which enabled me to find something like a calculation of their breadth. This was no other than the little caravan for Hebron which had forded the salt water earlier & was just beginning to ascend the broad gully in which the road passes up (and which if I mistake not is the very same which we were following when our Arab guide overtook us). The naked eye was able clearly to distinguish that there were {mounted} animals & the number of these which would not have been the case at the distance of more than about a mile as the crow flies. I {formed} my calculation upon this that the strait itself is at this season not more than a mile over. When the water is at the highest we may certainly reckon about a third more. It would have been highly satisfactory to have seen the Caravan cross as we could have then judged both of the depth and time required which have been both variously represented, some insisting that the water reaches to the shoulders and some only to the waist. The general computation of time is about 2 hours. This is only half the time set down upon Arrowsmith's map from Seetzen's information and yet is probably rather beyond the truth (& it is evident that as asses pass the depth cannot be very great) be it how it will it is a great saving both of time and distance in comparison with the road by which we came. The direction of the ford was sufficiently plain it being pointed out by great boughs laid together and set up as markers. It is on a < > direction and therefore considerably larger than the mere breadth of the strait. The water's edge is everywhere covered with vegetable remains that have been thrown up, but none of them marine productions - the Rush & Cane are in the greatest abundance and the boughs and trunks of Palms and other trees more or

56

less decayed and < > by the water. It is not the Jordan only that supplies these tho' when swollen I have myself seen it bringing down trees and bushes of a considerable size. The great {press} of timbers which have been intercepted and remain hitched in the Roman bridge over the Arnon at least 18 or 20 feet above the present level of the stream are proof of the size and quantity brought down by the torrent in flood time, & the marks of a recent flood at Wady el Wali which had risen many feet above the top of the tallest shrubs that grow about its bed and which has left some whole trees torn up and < > from their place in its course prove that the dead sea draws supplies from other sources & in fact the Palm tree abounds more about these lesser streams than on the banks of the Jordan. As for the shells that are found lying among the {canes} a great part of them certainly belong to the land & are snail shells & I much suspect < > are washed down the ravines for I never could find one alive nor the {excreta} of any marine animal. Dead locusts are found in exceedingly great numbers; they are not become putrid nor have any smell as when cast up by other seas but are preserved being completely penetrated with salt and have lost their colour. The sight of such a multitude of < > of animals who have perished in passing over these waters, might seem to lend some countenance to the tale of the ancients that no living thing could attempt the passage with impunity; were it not a spectacle sufficiently common upon other shores (as Sicily & about el Arish) and had another, still better proof to the contrary, first in a pair of the Egyptian geese and afterwards in a flight of pigeons passing over. The waters have been accused of emitting a strong and foetid smell; in general they have none whatsoever, not even that of the sea. Only in one place where they had subsided & left a deposit of mud we perceived that smell which is common in salt marshes & backwaters, neither differing at all from it nor stronger. Having contemplated the straits in their narrowest part I followed them to their Southern extremity where they open into the backwater and followed the shore of the backwater itself for some distance; here the fall of the ground being the more gentle and gradual the water has retreated from a yet greater extent of surface. The highest point which it had attained is marked by the branches & wood deposited (in sufficient quantities to form in time a stratum in the earth) and it cannot be much less in parts

than a mile from the present edge of the water. We were told that this back water is never quite dry & that the ford is not at any season impassable.

It is remarkable how few living things, as insects or reptiles, are to be seen on the borders of this sea < > - the want of vegetable matter & fresh water occasions this & the want of insects and reptiles naturally occasions a similar deficiency of birds who have nothing to draw them. I returned from the edge of the backwater & ascending the cliff which is steep but practicable gained a great table land upon its top & fell in with the track of those who pass from Karak to the ford. It brought me to a point where the descent from the table land is easy. There is a sort of < > by the roadside & I found myself again in that tract spotted over with thorny trees with the Gawarnies at about a mile's distance to my L but not visible. 2 hours brought me from the edge of the backwater near the straits to the foot of the Eastern range of hills at that part where is the ancient site near the Derrah.

At the Derrah we found old Suleyman & refreshed ourselves with talking & some food. Before I reached the point where I made my drawing there on the 1st, some palm trees in a hollow next a ruin that was probably a Kaphar and < > to the way side two circular masses of very large stones laid together which I believe very ancient perhaps 12 or 15 feet in < > probably tombs. From the place where I drew the point bore N W by N, the < > of the straits W.

My companions had gone forward & Sulayman was out of all patience with me, as much as if instead of being seated quietly in a hut he had accompanied me all day long. We might have reached Karrack an hour after sunset but in this country there is a great dislike of travelling after dark. He persuaded me to turn a little out of the road to the Left [where] some tents were immediately below us. The descent was very steep. There was the usual competition and 59
dispute for the privilege of lodging and supplying the guests. They seemed to be tents of a poor class of people. An excellent mess of Junket was set before me with bread and much later a sheep was served which as I would not sit up to eat it some was put by for me in the morning. We were not aware (tho' the master of the tent can hardly have been ignorant of it) that my 2 companions and old Joseph and Mr. Legh were sleeping in a camp about a quarter of a mile in

advance by the road side. Between the two were the tents of Ismael the son of Yusuf; as we passed them he beckoned & afterwards ran out, informing us that the whole party had engaged themselves to eat a sheep with him. I endeavoured to excuse myself & to go forward, but was not permitted unless upon condition that if they returned I was to return with them. I found them in the tents where they had passed the foregoing afternoon and the night.

There were added to our party < > a man from Salt and two men from Harrack in the Hauran near the Druse country who were come to reclaim the cattle robbed from them by Ismail amounting to more than four score head. These men recognised me and when they saw that their cause was in no very favourable way beg'd me to use what influence I had and afterwards that I would represent old Yusuf as a robber & a man without {faith} to the Pasha of Damascus. Almost as soon as I arrived in these tents we mounted and removed to Ismael's. Here the cause was heard though before a most partial and interested tribunal, Yusuf being both party with the accused & judge & arbitrator, and his decision & award < accordingly >, offering at the most the restitution of half the number that had been taken. He accused them of having been in some shape the aggressors, but explained himself so little that we did not learn what {provocation} < > he alluded to, but it was a surprise to me throughout to find that places lying so very wide of each other should have any < > or anything to do with each other. There was a great deal of arguing and disputing. A sheep was killed and dressed with wheat and milk. Bread of all the circle was only provided for us. In lieu of < > from these tents by the strait road Yusuf carried us down to look at a stream and a well called Tahoun Ain Sara, a little further up the valley is the spring Ain Sara itself springing from the rock with pleasant olive grounds on the slope of the hill opposite and many figs and pomegranates < > by its water. It is carried to the mill in an artificial channel. The machinery of another mill subject to Karak was spoken of in the most extravagant terms; it is called the sugar mill and is < > lower down towards the Gor. This stream we were informed falls into the Derah and < > with it finds its discharge into the Dead Sea near its SE angle. Passing along through the olive groves we recognised the

road by which we had set out on this expedition, and returned to our quarters in the Christian part of Karak.

5th.June In the afternoon quitted Karrack, accompanied by Sheik Yousef, Ismain, Daoude & the two men of Harak in the Hauran & < > a Mussalman of Salt who had come with them. We crossed the deep hollow behind the town to the Eastd. in which at this season there is no water; there is a single sepulchral grotto for 3 bodies in it. Crossed this we ascended varying between a SE and SSE direction. There were cornfields in all directions to a great extent & reapers working in them. Our track was edged upon both hands with stones set in lines & is probably the ancient road. There was a small site close on the < > hand with several cisterns in the rock called Carrah Phille. Further on were other sites of the same description of no further interest than as proving that the population of this Country has in some times been proportioned with its natural fertility. The site and ruins of Rubbah were in sight for a considerable time before we reached them; latterly our course varied somewhat to the West so as to bring in all probability the bearing of Rubbah about North from Karrack, a point which however there is no opportunity of ascertaining, the general level of the Country being so much higher than its highest towers that we never once could take a bearing on it after we quitted it for the Nd. The hill upon which Rubbah is situated, though of no great importance, rises from so high a base that it is in point of fact an extremely elevated point and is not commanded by any of the ground immediately about it. The city seems to have covered it entirely and to have spread into the plain upon all sides. The first objects that present themselves upon approaching it are three square open tanks coated on the inside with a facing of small volcanic stones bedded in stucco. Upon the S W skirt of the town not far from these in the flat part of the town seems to have been the best street, running nearly from N to S. It had an avenue of Corinthian columns upon pedestals measuring 9.9 in circumference. Two only are still erect. Opening to the street is the front of a small square Temple which measures 41.6 from angle to angle with a doorway in the centre 11.5 in width. It was finished with Corinthian pilasters at the angles and others supplied the place of the uprights to the doors between which and the angles were niches with arched

tops. The aspect of this temple was E b S. Almost contiguous to it upon the < > hand was another large edifice of a long proportion running from Ed. to W with a semi circular recess at the further {extremity} like that of ancient Churches but the aspect does not admit me to suppose it to have been one; it is perhaps a Basilica. There were several columns of small diar. that belonged to this building. The whole circuit of the Town does not seem to have exceeded about a mile which seems a small extent for a City that was the capital of Moab and that was dignified afterwards with a new name. I was yet more surprised [not] to find any traces of walls about it but as the soil is deep and fit for cultivation I know that great allowances must be made for what in such circumstances is buried beneath the surface in the lapse of years. It is probable therefore that its scale was greater than its apparent extent and other circumstances may have tended to diminish the remains of antiquity at Rubbah. It has certainly been an inhabited place down to a comparatively late period since a few yards only to the North close to the roadside there are remains of a Church or Chapel, and in the very heart of the Town towards the higher part are the remains of a large Mosque constructed with antique fragments, with two paved courts about it and some very large masses of stone empld. in its appendages. To the R .of the Mosque in the low ground are remains of a square edifice of which to judge from the very great size of the stone one might suppose of a very remote antiquity. Every thing else in Rubbah bears evident marks of being the works of Romans or of times posterior to them. In the construction of the private Houses there was nothing remarkable, most of them exhibiting low arches of small stones. There was no opportunity of ascertaining the {breadth} of that avenue of columns, all that remains of them being on the same side of the way.

64

We turned to the Westd. passing a pedestal which may possibly have supported a statue and crossing a district of corn land arrived at a small Christian camp - No. of tents 19. There was as is very usual a scramble & contention who should entertain the Strangers. We saw nothing in the tents to distinguish these from the general Arab tents of the country. This we understood to be the smallest of five similar encampments of which the 4 others are said to be very large. They are constructed in somewhat stronger manner during the winter months, but are in the

field the whole year round, moving from place to place as pasture and agriculture require them. They are all connected with Families resident in Karrack and occasionally take their turn in the City and send out a relative to take his in the Camp. I apprehend the spectacle of a Christian population living thus the Bedouin life is quite peculiar. They are the only tents where I have seen a lamp suspended. We had meat dressed with butter & grain for supper. We had the one string violin.

The situation of this camp was near a rocky gully running down towards the Dead Sea which presented us with a curious deception about sunset, a dark shade assuming so exactly the appearance of an Island that we did not doubt of it, even after looking through a telescope. It is not the only time that such a phenomenon has presented itself to us – in two instances, looking up the Sea from its Sth. extremity we saw it apparently closed by a low, dark line like a bar of sand to the Nd. And on another occasion two small Islands seemed to present themselves between the sharp promontory & the Western shore. We were unable to account for these appearances but felt no doubt that they are the same that deceived Mr. Seetzen into supposing that he had discovered an Island of some extent, which we have had opportunities of ascertaining, beyond all possibility of doubt, does not exist. It is however not absolutely impossible that he saw one of the Islands of Bitumen mentioned by Pliny of several acres.

On the morng. of the 6th. we took a NE direction and reached in about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour the ruins of Bait al Carm which had been visible to us from Rubbah the preceding evening from whence they are distant about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the same ancient road passing through it. The great building which forms the principal feature of the remains is evidently Roman, but what was its nature or object I am at a loss to say having seen no other like it excepting in some respects that large pile at Petra which for want of a better name I called a Palace. Both have in common a Portico of < > closed on the side by returns and the interior of both is subdivided into three. This analogy however does not seem to afford any clue to the discovery of what they were intended for. Both their subdivisions & the openness of their form make it probable that they were not

65

Temples. The construction of Bait al Carm is the most solid imaginable & upon 3 sides has the air of a fortification, there being projections at the angles that have all the appearance of square towers. The Stones are laid in parallel courses which are not however all exactly of one thickness. Their average length seems to be little short of 8 feet, their average breadth about 1½ feet, no cement was laid between them. The building is standing in part to the height of about 20 feet. It seems originally to have been crowned with a very rich frise of curling foliage, with the fore part of animals issuing from some of the flowers. The cornice above was extremely florid & was ornamented with great Lions' heads at intervals.

Somewhere in the frieze particularly in the "center" (unless we suppose that there were several) was a {bust} of very bad sculpture with rays opening from the {head} which one may suppose a representation of Apollo, and one would be inclined to suspect hence that the edifice was dedicated to the same like so many others in this Country. The columns of the Portico were Corinthian, the capitals of 2 pieces in their height agreeing with the diameter.

The Portico faces to the Eastward, upon the South side seems to have been a sort of wide approach {bearing} directly upon the building towards the < > angle. Directly in front are confused ruins of other decorated buildings of a smaller proportion with fragments both of columns and friezes; these supposing the great pile a temple are probably the remains of the Propylaum. Other inconsiderable ruins lie scattered over the surface and several large cisterns are sunk in the rock. Some of them have 2 entrances - in one a great many Arab women were collected. The quantity of cisterns prove however much the other structures may have disappeared that it was not a solitary building but had a town or village about it. I am inclined to believe that the great building at Beit el Carm is the temple of Atargatis at Carnain as it is called in the 1st. Book of the Maccabees Cap V v 43 or Carnion as in the 2nd book XII 26. Even the Arabic term Beit which is prefixed may possibly have been so anciently as we find it applied to a Temple, Maccabees 1.X.83 upon almost a parallel < > to the recorded < > of Carnain "The horsemen also being scattered in the field fled to Azotus and went into Bethdagon

66

their idols temple for safety". But be this as it may comparing the circumstances which led to the

mention of Carnaim with the geographical situation of Beit al Carm there can be little doubt that they are the same place. Timotheus had been wasted by Judas Maccabeus and his brother Jonathan in {Gilead} & all the cities of Galaad taken (which I imagine to signify Adjeloun & the Belka inclusive). He therefore retires across the Brook as it is called Cap V 37, 39, 40, 42, rendered river v. 41 &  by Josephus. This I think certainly signifies the Arnon. The { } of the Arabians being come to his aid v 39 makes it doubly probable that the {scene} lies where I place it "Then all the heathen being disciplined before him cast away their weapons & fled into the Temple that was at Carnaim but they took the city and burned the Temple with all that was therein, thus was Carnaim subdued" v 43 - 44. It is one of the very first places that they would come to flying from the Arnon. It is probable that it was not so much to the sanctity of the building which could < > as to its strength that the Heathens looked for safety from the Jews (for Josephus says expressly that they hoped to have been in safety there). It has been remarked in the description of Beit el Carm that it has upon 3 sides more the air of a fortress than anything else and might very well be defended. In V 26 Carnaim has been coupled with 5 other names of which it is said all these cities are strong & great. It is true that the remains about this great ruin do not seem to announce a city of any great extent and strength but the traveller who has seen what Rabbath Moab a Capital is reduced to and how Jericho with all its < > & < > has disappeared will not be surprised that the Temple the great feature of the place should be almost all that is left. whilst the cisterns attest that it has been < > by a large population. It would interesting to discover the {site} of Raphon on the N bank of the Arnon of which Josephus says < >  as it would ascertain the exact spot where Jonathan passed over and whence the flight of < >

67

commenced. Since it was opposite to it that the enemy with his Arab allies was encamped - I know not on what

authority Atargatis is rendered Venus in the margin. The Bust with Rays has the features so totally effaced that there is nothing that marks it certainly for a male figure.

There were 4 camps almost in a line at a short distce. north of these ruins; we lodged in the nearest of them, where the Men of Harrack renewed their discussions and remonstrances with our Shekh, who had returned to them only 40 head of cattle. These were driven along upon the same road which we followed ourselves and generally rested at night in the same camp at which we put up. Early the next morning we moved to the 2d of these four camps which was a distance of scarcely 100 yds. There is an eminence, neither in itself very steep or considerable but which derives consequence from its rising from so high a base and so commands all the Country round. It is called Shekh Hahn and it may be about the distance of two miles or 2 ½ from Bait el Carm to the Nd. At the ft. as we approached it the land has been laid out into small fields with stone fences & there is a part so scattered over with stones that it appears like the site of a small hamlet. Upon the summit there are more disct. vestiges of builds.; I imagine that a Convent has been there; the form of the foundn. is a square, one portion < > which from its rounded extremity and Eastern aspect I suppose to have been a Church makes part of it, in the Centre is a large cistern in the rock. What remains of building is of mean construction. There was one large architrave, probably of the Church door, but it is not inscribed. A low dry wall like that of a Sheep's fold surrounds a small tomb which is probably that of a Turksh. Santon; hooked sticks are stuck up about it with votive shreds & rags attached to them.

Descending from Sheik Hahn we face in a direction W N W ½ W following a ridge that projects forward towards the Dead Sea; a part of it presents a very rugged surface of volcanic stone. The rest is sufficiently green and smooth; we reached the point of it, to which our course

was directed, in about two hours. This point has been distinguished by an extremely large heap of huge stones collected upon it, but whether into any geometrical figure is not ascertainable.

There was some appearance that it was a circle, it is in too imperfect a state to be of much interest but is probably of very high antiquity and possibly one of the altars of the high places. It was from this pt. that we first saw the N. Exty. of the Dead Sea & the plain of Jericho. A neighg. height intercepted our view of the point where the native sulphur is produced, but the extremity of the backwater & consequently the extreme length was visible; the bearings were these: Jerusalem N W $\frac{3}{4}$ N, F[rank] Mt. N W $\frac{3}{4}$ W, Jericho N b. W, End of backwater S W b. S. The $\langle \rangle$ N W b. W $\frac{3}{4}$ N. The water of the sea was of a most beautiful deep blue and we remarked that though the wind was extremely strong it was not at all ruffled or agitated. It should however be stated that it was from the {West} from which quarter it would naturally be very much screened off by the height of the Mountains & it could only be expected that a North or South wind could have much influence. The backwater appeared of a silvery whiteness & would not indeed have been judged to be otherwise than a dry plain of salt had it not been known to be an expanse of water. In all the excursion of the morning so far we had not met with any body & were surprised in so solitary & unfrequented a district as this seems to be to observe beaten paths in almost all directions, heading as it should appear to nothing from nothing. The same is applicable to most points upon this border of the Dead Sea. As the flocks seemed to be led to graze but little in this directn. they can scarcely be supposed anything but the frequent tracks of wild animals and it must be borne in mind that it requires much less to make the appearance of a path in these hot and dry climates than in ours where the vegetation has at all seasons a tendency to spring up afresh & replace what has been trodden down. Here on the other hand a single footstep is sufficient to kill tufts of herbage {that} scarcely find moisture or nourishment to last through the summer. We took a direct line in our return to the tents & passed a place where they were threshing. When we arrived we found that though durg.

69

our rambles we had seen nobody the vigilance of the Arabs is such & their eyes so keen that it was perfectly known where we had gone to.

We refreshed ourselves with bread & butter & Leban and set out on a journey of discovery for that eminence which had intercepted our view of the point & some of the {Sn.} parts of the Dead Sea in the morning. This height bore from Shekh Hahn W 1/4 N and the point from whence we had taken our prospect in the morning bore NNE½ E. In our way to it, we first crossd. an extremely stony dingle, beyond that we kept along the side of a hill covered with thickets of the Turpentine Tree. The height which we were desirous of reaching we found was detached from this, and a steep and difficult hollow intervening. Into this we descended. A Fox & a Ghazel ran out of different parts of the thicket. In the bottom is a road which passes over a low part of the range of hills where the valley makes an elbow. I followed this road so far as the brow which it crosses, & looking down upon the other side discovered it to be a very large and frequented way leading down into the Gor (tho' by whom frequented or directed upon what point it may be difficult to say) but a few hundred yards from the point where I was looking down is an old Dervishery by the road side. The establishment seems to have been for 5 who had separate cells & a small mosque in the centre of one side of the court. In the middle of the open space is a tomb like that on the Giants Mountain or at Nebbi Abel in the {Abbelane} at least twenty feet in length with a {head & footstone} in the manner of Turkish graves. I was told that this is called the Tomb of David. Beyond it in the distance the extremity of the sea with the < > of the Gouarnies and the backwater are seen.

It was at this point that for the first time I had the good fortune to see the wild animal called Meddn or Beddn, a species of Goat with his horns much bent backwards and serrated. It was a large creature at some distance but extremely shy since he stopped & looked back at me for several seconds. He appeared to be alone. Turning off from the road where it is at the highest to the right & keeping along an ascending ridge I reached the summit which I was desirous of exploring. It is a sort of < > eminence of moderate extent. There are remains upon it of two or three small edifices very solidly but rudely constructed; perhaps they were no more than

hovels for herdsmen or husbandmen. The position being both loftier & more advanced to the Westward than that of the morning the range of view is greatly increased though many of the objects are the same. The point is still concealed but the straights are visible bearing W S W 3/4W, and the habitations of the Gouarnies bearing SW by W - W and the hollow of the bay W S W 1/4 W, Jericho bore N 3/4W and the extremity of the backwater S W 1/2 S. Jerusalem & the Fr. mountain are seldom visible from this side so late in the day. Returning to the point which the road passes across we crossed it and instead of again passing down into the valley kept along upon a height thinly spotted over < > woods. Night overtook us before we had got well into the high plain. We got entangled in the branches of some of the ravines & gullies which fall from it toward the sea, in many of which we were surprised to see the lights of Camps & to hear the barking of dogs below us. It was with difficulty that we extricated ourselves but {luckily} keeping sight of Sh. Hawn and knowing its bearing & distance from our camp with the aid of the North Star we reached it about 2 or 3 hours after dark. We supped on meat.

The men of Harrack were out of all patience at Yusuf's injustice in making so little restitution. They called us aside to assure us that he was no better than a robber & hoped that we should publish it and confirm their complaints which would be carried directly to Damascus. We will drag him by the beard said they to Mezerebe – it would be a difficult task to force the Lord of Karak out of his district. Ismael had held out all along that he intended accompanying us so far as Acre, in which we said all we could to induce him to desist. With a complaint of this sort against him it would have been the height of imprudence to have done so; it was at these tents that he took his leave.

8 June, 1818

{Meat without bread & butter. Abt. 6 o'clock < > a little to the Eastward of north with Shekh Hahn on the < >. A little before we reached it saw at the distance of a mile or less on our Rt. i.e. to the Eastward a ruined site on the brow of a hollow gully running down

72

towards the East country called Balloor. There is we understood water there. One building among the remains is more considerable than the rest < > full of black stone < > with the antique high road intirely paved & < > similar to that which < > Petra. We continued sometimes on it sometimes close alongside, In about 2 hours from our tents we reached the track of the deep descent into the valley of Mudjib or Mojob. Close to the beginning of the descent on the summit to the R. are remains of a rectangular building with towers or projections at the angles It is greatly fallen into ruin & was not very well constructed nor of very large stones.} Yet in spite of its name, Khan El Pasha, I believe it Roman. It is of the black stone. {It was possibly one of the Castra < > since it is not probable that there was out of the high military road}. Arriving upon the brink of the descent towards the Arnon looking down it has more the appearance of a precipice than of a pass and although the Roman road chimes in with the modern track very near to the brink, and again about half way down, it is hardly credible that it exactly tallied with that by which we descended, which is not only extremely steep, but so interrupted with rocks and stones that we led our horses full half way down. In this rocky part there is here & there a struggling turpentine tree. About half way down the declivity is more earthy & shelving & so soon as we reached it we recovered the Roman highway which is not here as above compleatly paved, but at regular intervals a line of stones carried across the road in the manner of a step to prevent the washing away of the earth from above & to serve as a resting place in the descent. It zigzags from right to left. On the right hand of the road a shallow tank of considerable size walled round with thick & good masonry is placed on the slant of the hill & below it at only a few yards distance are the remains of a large square building which I suspect for a second Roman station, however both this & that above may probably have only been some place for the resting and accommodation of travellers. < > they seem < > small for the containing of troops, but on the other hand they appear too large for mere houses of accommodation. This 2d. is so much dilapidated that I did not ascertain whether it has that tower like projection at the angles which I had observed above, neither is it constructed of the same species of stone but of a yellow sandstone which composes the

mountain above it. There was something of a breastwork of very solid stonework towards the road and some other smaller constructions near it. A little below right of the road lie three milestones and one tapering cylinder that probably surmounted them; on one of them is the name of Trajan. Still descending, at a distance that appeared much less than a mile (tho' it is possible the Z of the road might account for it) I found the remains of 4 & the fragment of a top; on one of them the inscription of Trajan was repeated but was in part covered.

The valley of the Arnon is less shrubby than that of most other streams in this country which is probably ascribable to the violence and frequency of its torrents; there are however a few tamarisks & here & there an oleander growing about it. As it now runs it is not more than about three paces wide, the current rapid & the colour clear & remarkably pleasant to the taste but it has a remarkable tendency for so brisk a stream to encourage the growth of a filmy green weed. Where the Roman road comes down upon it remains a high single arch {measuring} 28.9 in perpendicular height from the surface of the center & 31.6 in space. The construction is good; nothing of the superstructure remains & very little of the abutments & it is become wholly useless, the other arches with which it was no doubt connected having been carried away by the force of the stream so entirely as to leave not a vestige, excepting just where they face against the foot of the heights; this arch which bestrides the stream owes its preservation to its resting not upon factitious foundations but upon two masses of {native} rocks. We found that from our tents we consumed < > & a half to the Arnon, of which 1 ½ hours may be reckoned in the descent. Our ascent followed for the most part the ancient road and before we had ascended to ½ the height we found to the < > of the road 3 milestones, one quite effaced, one with a very imperfect legend, the other with the name of Marcus Aurelius. Here we found a very large < > green scorpion. Towards the summit, this side as well as the other became both steeper & more rough & rocky, with strata of flint standing out above the stone of which the mountain is composed. It is remarkable in this pass that from either side looking to the opposite there appears to the eye no possible mode of ascent.

In all the country about Sheck Hahn & from there to the Arnon the volcanic stone is found in great quantities and large masses but the stratum where it is exposed does not go to any great depth below the surface.

Reaching the summit upon the Arnonite (Nn.) side we followed the course of the stream to the < > where we could plainly see that not more than 2 miles above the bridge there are 2 branches in both of which there was running water at this time. It is observable that so far as our eye could follow the course of the stream the valley is neither of a size or of a nature that could ever have admitted of cultivn. or have given room for the placing of any village or city on its immediate banks which makes it probable that those places which were supposed to stand upon it were in reality only within its district and at some distce. Besides the loss of its arches what remains of the bridge bears a remarkable witness of the height to which the torrent rises in [the] considerable quantity of timber & boughs that are caught in an elbow of the masonry at the height of at least 18f. above the present surface of the water. It may be added that this timber so brought down is an indication of the manner in which the dead Sea is supplied with that immense quantity which it throws up. We were 1h.20 in ascending upon this side & found as we expected that the summit is considerably below the level of that we had quitted.

From the summit of the N side of the Arnon we saw a Tower or Castle upon a very high point to the Ed.as far as the eye could reach. So soon as we reached the summit on the N. side we found ourselves on a plane down of a smoother and evener turf than that of Moab & with much fewer stones scattered on it. Though considerably burnt at this season it is still completely clothed with vegetation & I make no doubt that 2 months earlier the {verdure} might be compared to the Sussex downs. We soon recovered & continued upon the high road; a single effaced milestone was lying to the left. In somewhat less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour on the < > of our road was a narrow < > of ancient road which lead to the ruins which are called Diban at the distance of 200yds., the extent of these pretty considerable but not as large as that of Rubbah; its greatest length is from N. to S. The more Nn. part is but little < > above the general level of the surface of the district & is not separated from it by any hollow but a fall of ground

intervenes between it & the more Sn. part which occupies a circular < > naturally insulated upon all sides to a certain depth by a hollow. A wall enclosed the whole which seems to have a work of no great dignity or strength & very imperfectly preserved – the thickness seems to have been about 6f. and towards the S. the opening of a narrow {gateway} sufficient only for the passage of a single horseman. The buildings are for the most part ragged & < > roofed, < > the earth terraces still remain & I think this is proof that it has been inhabited since Mahometan times. One building that stands between the North & S quarters of the town was very probably a {mosque}. I did not bring it to proof. A few buildings & a very few only are of a better sort of masonry, there are many circular cisterns cut in the rock and lined with stucco. 100 yds. or thereabouts Wd. of the city are considerable lines of very solid foundations and other cisterns & crossing the high road in a low spot of ground is a sort of breastwork of stone that probably was some conveyance for water but of this I am not certain. There can be little doubt that this is the site of the Debon of the Scriptures but it must be remarked upon the article in Mac Bean's dictionary that it is neither on the Arnon (tho it is very probable that no other Town was nearer to it) and it is hard to conceive how it {could} have been famous for its water since there is no spring or stream there though an occasional torrent certainly flows in that valley which divides & {surrounds} a part of the City and the cisterns seem to announce that there never was a constant supply of running water.

The down continued but was interrupted with rock & here & there a bush of broom; at a moderate distce to the left saw an ancient site without hearing its name and the hills which rise above that side above the level of the {Belka} are thinly spotted over with trees. We lost the Roman road and came to the brink of the descent into Wadi el Wahli the sides of which are not only much less lofty but easier also of descent being in fact sloped & in great part composed of earth with vegetation but much rock intermixed with it - higher up than the point we {descended} - no water is visible in the bed of the stream but just below it finds some deep clefts and hollows in the rock where issuing from beneath the pebbles it forms pools of 6 or 7 feet in depth. The stream is pretty brisk & clear yet the water has a disagreeable taste & smell

partly owing to the comparative stagnation of the pools and partly to the vegetable matter brought down in the time of flood some of which is not only found sticking to the very top branches of the shrubs but deposited upon the bank to the height of 15 or 20 feet perpendicular above the ordinary level of the current. This remarkable inundation it is evident must be a recent occurrence from the state in which the oleanders are left by it, of which there is the greatest thicket throughout the bed of this stream that I have ever seen anywhere; some few of them bear a white flower. Some are torn up by the roots, the greater part are thrown aslant in the direction of the torrent & weeds & dead leaves are caught in the topmost boughs of all which must have been far under water. It is evident that such fits of violence cannot be common in this brook or these shrubs would never have been allowed so fine a growth.

On the L bank but little removed from the bed of the stream a stone about 10 feet high & 4 feet wide at the base on its broadest part and not more than one on the narrowest is set up perpendicular contrary to the natural direction of the strata & at Rt. angles to the stream

I cannot help supposing this to be one of those ancient bound stones of which we read so frequently in scripture. Across the stream but at a greater distance from its channel is another similar stone bearing obliquely on this with its broad side parallel to the stream. There no signs of sculpture or < > having been wrought smooth upon either. This last is situated in what may be termed a nook in the valley & does not present itself to him who passes carelessly down it.

Such rude remnants of a remote antiquity please me exceedingly. There is in this same valley another rude work that must probably be referred to as remote a period. It is higher up upon the stream by (perhaps) a quarter of a mile {from} the two bound stones. A knowl of very moderate height rises detached near the center of the valley upon the Right bank of the rivulet. On its top are the remains of a very large quadrangular platform constructed of rude stones laid together without cement. It is possible that this may be one of the altars of the high places. It is not in a state to admit of the taking of very precise measurement but may have perhaps 30 or 40 feet in length on each of the 4 sides. It is still a place in some measure consecrated, there is a tomb at the top with paltry bedouin votives hanging about it & 3 or 4 other Mohammedan graves. The

77

tents in which we passed the night & found much as usual were close to the < > of this eminence. There are a number of caves in the hillside however this < > but none of them appear to be artificial. About a mile lower down in the valley are the remains of the Roman bridge which consisted of 5 arches, the 2d. from this (the North) side being at least 60 feet in span with a waterfall & deep pool in the rock under it. All are fallen & nothing but the foundation of the piers is left. The violent floods have no doubt been the occasion of this < > effects we particularly noticed in this < > the very large trees that have been brought down. Opposite the bridge and to the Southward seems to have been a mill and on the Northern a large extent of quadrangular foundations, remains either of some military station that had charge over the bridge or more probably of a place of accommodation for travellers & merchandize. These were the first objects in our days' journey of the 9th.

Immediately we recovered the ancient paved road & passing upwards out of the valley observed 4 fallen & effaced milestones to the L. & soon afterwards upon a high point which does not fall in to the track now in use three standing & one fragment. There is some appearance that the inscribed face of all of them were not turned one way. The name of Severus is legible on one of them. Further on is yet one more. In 1 hour & 25 minutes from our camp we reached Lib, a small ruined site near the road side upon the Right hand. It is on a moderate eminence and seems to have had some sort of a square tower upon the highest part to the Eastward. The other buildings are mean. The roots of Djibbel Attarus (which by Jerome's description may perhaps be Nebo although it is far from opposite to Jericho) extend very near to this. We passed in among some hollows which they form & in less than half an hour entered a fertile plain of corn where the harvest was far advanced, large camps were upon the higher ground surrounding it on every side. Here we staid to eat & lost much time.

The ruins of Maein (which both the similarity of the name & the neighbourhood < > to hot water seem to identify with Baal Meon) were very near to us on the Northward though making but little figure since most of the remains on the S. side have disappeared. The site occupied one very considerable eminence and extending across a small hollow to the Westward

embraced the {shelter} of a hill close to that side. It seems to have been a place inhabited in part at least long since the public buildings were fallen into ruin and disuse since we find portions of them such as fragments of entablature & frieze & capitals & antae & shafts of columns built here and there into the walls of poor dwelling houses, not however in any quantity nor of such a scale as to convey an idea that this was ever a place of importance under the Romans. Indeed the only capital of a column that I saw belongs to none of the Roman orders but I suspect may be referred rather to the tasteless innovations of the Roman empire than to any very early period. < > is a cross on an architrave of Maein. A very great part of what remains of Maein consists of small < > quite rude within {faced} about the entrance with masonry. Few of the edifices rise to any height though almost all of them are arched, the back part of most being more or less against the side of the declivity They are in general constructed of small stones. There is however a line of wall or two of a larger & more ancient sort of masonry on the Western side towards the hollow which separated the two quarters of the town. In the {last} there is a wall carried across that was perhaps the dam of a great reservoir. From the westernmost quarter of the city we kept along upon a ridge in which there are some irregularities tending towards a high point from which we anticipated a fine view over the dead sea.

We were scarcely clear of the ruins of Maein when we observed other ruins on a high point upon our L hand which we were informed are called Derr but how truly I cannot say. There are some cultivated fields in this direction. When we reached the point on which we had been directing our course we found that we were very nearly arrived in the parallel of the northern extremity of the Dead Sea, that is to say there cannot be more than two or three miles of its length remaining at the most. Upon the blue surface of the lake we could distinguish a silver line of water of a different colour & quality passing from our shore & almost immediately beneath us into its very center. The colour & current of the Jordan itself are by no means as discernible after it has once had its discharge as those of this little stream. It is probably the point of discharge of the Zarka Maein (the ancient Callirhoe) though of this I am by no means

certain. In the plain of the Gor we could observe the course of two streams opening from the Eastern range < > as a fork in the plain & so fall into the Jordan but little above its mouth. They may probably be the waters of Heshbon & the Nahoor or the Nahoor & the Shaib. From the hill where we had placed ourselves the Southern extremity of the Sea is interrupted by the advancing < > of Djibbel Attarus. The points of which we took bearings were Jericho N W $\frac{3}{4}$ N, Mouth of Jordan N W $\frac{1}{2}$ N, Rama of < > N W by W, a high point in the mountains about Salt N $\frac{1}{2}$ E, Djebbel Attarus S W (bearing nearly with Jericho), Frank Mountain W N W $\frac{3}{4}$ W, Shech Hawn S $\frac{1}{2}$ W. Nearly immediately below us but at some considerable distance and cut off by the < > of ravines and irregularities of ground was a large mass of ruin that appeared to be of very solid construction & of a square form. We had no opportunity of approaching it now or afterwards nor was there any living object near it to furnish us with a scale for judging of its extent. It occurred to me that it was not impossible that it might possibly be Herodium. For however low it may stand with respect to the position we occupied it is very possible & even probable in a tract of country so intercepted with deep ravines and rising into so many irregularities as that immediately upon the borders of the Dead Sea its site may be extremely strong.

We returned at sunset to Maein & found that our guides had shifted their camp and were now lodged in one within the circuit of the ancient city in that hollow which intervenes between its two highest points. At day break next day we took the following bearings from Maein: Delaley (on a height), three villages of this name S E b S, Gebal Nebehr (ruins there) Heshbahn N E $\frac{3}{4}$ N, Attarus (sheik's tomb on top), Oom i resas (tall Chrisn. tower visible) S E $\frac{1}{4}$ S, Athame, a small ruined site N E b E and another N E $\frac{3}{4}$ E, El Kuffeyrah S E $\frac{1}{2}$ N. Three other places, whose names are set down without bearings – {Gufsur Leser, Eshbiah Etadowana & Billatallah}.

We engaged a guide from our tents, who undertook to carry us to the sources of hot water and to set us down afterwards at Heshbahn where Old Youseff would wait for us. We passed along the cultivated plain in S. Western direction bearing nearly in a line with the summit of Djibbel

Hatterous; and without either ascending or descending passed into a second plain which opens into it from the Westd. In less than ½ h. we reached another tall stone set up apparently as a land mark like those in the Wadi el Wahli. It has this additional particularity, that there appears to have been some attempt to cut through it horizontally as in that remarkable stone which in shape resembles it much in form at Nebi Yacoub.

The direct road is continued from this point round the Southn. side of a rocky knowl rising to some height & in a great measure detached from the surrounding heights which are also sufficiently rugged & covered with thickets. Some remarkable objects of which we got a glimpse induced us to pass round upon the other side of this knowl. They are rude sepulchral monuments of the same nature with those we discovered in our road from Salt to the valley of Agraba, yet, as these are rude throughout, without any mark whatever of the tomb about them whereas the others have universally a door in one of the smaller ends it is even possible that these may date from a remoter period or have belonged to a still ruder people as they are put together of stones not brought into shape or even smoothed by the chisel. Their aspect and proportions naturally vary considerably, their construction however is uniform – one flat stone is laid in at the bottom and this there can be little doubt covers the grave of the deceased, and as there is no appearance that these Tombs have ever been violated, probably protects them to this day. They would on this account be a highly interesting object for excavation & might lead to the ascertaining the form of many both of the ornaments & the weapons mentioned in Scripture. It is worth noticing that however remote may be the period that these sepulchres are to be referred to, the stature of those contained in them is so far from gigantic that it seems to have amounted to no more than the middle size of modern times. Two longer stones composed the sides & 2 shorter the ends, a single one rests upon all 4 and covers the whole and this last is often of a prodigious size. Not only this rocky eminence, upon which we first obsd. them, is covered over upon all sides with these barbarous structures, some few are scattered in the fields upon a lower level & a great many upon the sides of the surrounding hills {insomuch that there cannot be less than 50 in sight.} Such monuments are of a high degree of interest in themselves,

but it becomes a curious question, to what City the Necropolis belonged, Maiein it should seem being more than a mile off in the straightest line it should seem is too distant The nearest ruins which we could perceive to it are those which we had passed upon our left hand the afternoon before called Dehr. They were now visible upon an eminence at no great distance to the North. Passing round the rocky knowl we found ourselves amongst a great many single stones set upright, which it was suggested might possibly {be} the tombs of the commoner sort of people. This however is by no means clear, but be it how it may they are within the precincts of the burial ground since we passed some of the constructed tombs in our way afterwards. At this part of our route we found ourselves in an ancient highway not paved but edged with stones & possibly prior to Roman times.

Following this we came to a prominent point whence the descent commences towards the Zerka Maiein, whose deep bed had been visible to us for some time. There are the foundations of a circular construction of rough stones without cement whose walls seem to have had an inclination to meet like a cone; its diam. may be less than 20 feet. Whether it was ever carried up to any great height cannot now be ascertained as only two or three courses remained at the most. I have mentioned two nearly similar remains in the road that ascends from the River Deraa to Karrack, but this is constructed with more care; it is probably not a tomb since it is quite away from the Necropolis. Is it an altar of the high places?

The steepness of the ground though little broken by rocks renders the descent winding and long. Some of the surface over which we passed still preserves the mark of the ridge & furrow and seems to have been cultivated within no great no. of years, and we afterwards saw near the torrent's side the marks of a pretty recent camp, but in this whole day's journey encountered nobody.

In about two hours from Maiein we reached the bed of the torrent Zerka. Where we crossed it, it is dry. The roots of Djibbel Hatterous came almost down to it on the opposite side and a very

good road seemed to lead to the summit from the place where we passed over. In lieu of following it we turned to the Westd., keeping along parallel to the course of the stream whose bed has a most rapid and violent descent so that it presents to the eye little more than a narrow cleft. In this valley somewhat below the point at which we crossed, upon the R. bank, rises a high & rugged mass of black volcanic matter which has upon one side somewhat the aspect of a crater, & which is certainly a point that has at some period been the orifice to a subterranean < >. The whole valley from that point forward is filled with fragments and masses of the black porous stone. Sometimes the whole cliff is composed of it and sometimes only broad strata make their appearance occasionally under & occasionally above all the others. Our own track kept nearly upon a level rather however upon the ascent than descent but the level of the bed of the Zerka falling so considerably we found ourselves at every step very naturally higher with respect to it. We had the satisfaction of catching sight of a small herd of the animal called Meddn or Beddn which had been described [to] {us} as a creature with long horns the size of an Ass - eight of them in file were crossing our way before us at a very slow pace. When they came directly in front they stood still & turned round looking intently at us - one was larger than the rest & seemed to have all the characteristics of the Father of the flock, his horns being bigger & thicker & a beard hanging under his chin. It seems to be a creature that partakes rather of the characteristics of the goat than the deer or the antelope. The legs are not extremely slender & though his coat is short it does not seem to be very smooth. His horns are serrated or knarled in black & are curved backwards in the manner of those of the Ibex and some other Alpine species. The colour is a sort of dun or fawn colour not differing much from that of the gazelle. The rest of the herd seemed to answer the same description on a smaller scale. They remained so long stationery that some of our party expected to get a shot at them & were advancing slowly towards them in a covered hollow of the ground. Their {cunning} & swiftness must be extraordinary since in the space of that moment they disappeared & we could not only not get a second sight of them but did not even ascertain which way they had fled. As

85

they have probably the scrambling habits of the goat they may probably have passed over or at least descended into the craggy bed of the stream.

We came to a second road that seems to pass to the top of Djebbel Attarus & found that we had employed upwards of 4 hours in our journey from Maein. We had now reached the place where it was proper to descend, though looking down at the point which our guide had brought [us] to it appeared little better than an absolute precipice. In fact it was so by nature, but at some time a narrow path has been contrived with a low parapet of stones set along the sides that crossing upon itself in frequent zig zags makes the descent sufficiently safe. There is a small extent of level ground about midway in the way to the bottom which serves as a landing place, beyond which the steepness recommences. In this last stage of the descent there is a fine burst of the Dead Sea at the end of the ravine & the Frank Mountain & Bethlehem in sight the Mountain bearing WNW. Looking down into the valley of Calirrhoe it presents some grand & romantic features. The rocks vary between red & grey & black & are grand & bold in their forms. The open space between them is not great & appears to the eye trackless and impassable. The whole bottom is filled & in a manner choked with a crowded thicket of Canes & Aspines of different species intermixed with the Palm which is also seen rising in tufts in every moist recess of the mountain side and in every part where the springs issue. (I have observed elsewhere the fondness of the Palm for natural hot springs as below Oomkais.) It is from this valley in flood time that the Dead Sea is supplied with so many trunks and branches of the palm.

In one place a considerable stream of the hot water is seen precipitating itself from a high and inaccessible shelf of rock which is strongly tinted with the brilliant yellow of sulphur deposited upon it. On reaching the bottom we found ourselves in what may be termed without exaggeration a hot river, so copious & rapid is the source, and the heat abated so little in its course – indeed as it passes downwards it is not permitted to cool, receiving constantly fresh supplies of the same scalding temperature. In order to visit these in succession we crossed over to the Right bank where we kept along constantly mounting a little on a natural shelf more or less broad on the mountain side. We passed 4 abundant sources (all within the distance of about

86

87

half a mile) and I thought I could distinguish at least one more yet further down. The river is more than tepid; some of our horses could hardly be prevailed upon to taste it. It would be interesting but perhaps difficult to follow it all the way to the sea. The distance in a straight line can not be great, and if practicable might probably be performed in an hour and a half.

Macbean says that there was a cognominal city at Calirrhoe which I think from the very nature of the place he must be wrong since there is not space or footing for a city in the valley so far as we saw it. That Herod must have had some lodging when he visited the springs is true & there are {left} sufficient remains to prove that some sort of unsubstantial buildings have been erected. The whole surface of that shelf where are the springs is strewed over with tiles & pottery & what is most surprising, within very few minutes without any particular attention in searching for them, 4 ancient copper medals were found – all were too much encrusted to be distinguishable but they had the appearance of being Roman. There are the foundations of a building of rather a more solid construction though of small dimensions and with very small subdivisions. It seems to have consisted of 2 little chambers only & a passage between. All these were without doubt places of accommodation for such as came to enjoy the benefit of the waters. Our Arab guide took his Bath (according to the practice of the country) in vapour only. A bed of twigs and broom is laid across a crevice whence one of the springs issues at the height of a foot or two from the water; on this he laid himself wrapped in his abba and remained several minutes. We observed another of these sweating beds prepared over a spring lower down. Our thermometer was broken but the degree of heat in this water seemed at least to equal any that I ever felt. Near the source it scalds the hand & it can not be kept in it for the space of half a minute. The deposit of Sulphur is very great but the water appears tasteless to the palate. A very singular plant grows near these hot sources to the bulk & stature of a tree; its foliage does not seem to differ from that of the common broom but it bears a pod hanging down from it, from a foot to 15 inches in length, fluted with convex ribs from the end to the point; I have never met with this elsewhere. After having bathed we returned by the way we came. Near the top of the ascent I found a stone which had not caught my attention before since it is only upon

88

that face which presents itself to one coming up that it is remarkable. It is inscribed or scratched with a multitude of those regular characters of which I know not to what era we should refer them though there is every reason to suppose them Xtian - amongst them is the cross with a handle represented exactly as in Egypt.

In our return we varied little from our former route excepting in descending once more into the bed of the Zerka considerably higher up for the purpose of getting a draught of cold water for ourselves & our horses - it trickles there out from under the gravelly bottom & is pure and refreshing. There are crabs of a large size. A little before sunset we passed by the Camp of Maein which we had left in the morning but refused to stop there, so our guide without dismounting called only to his wife for his gun out of his tent and conducted us forward to the great encampment of the Beny sackers which lay towards Madaba at the distance of about an hour & a half. I noticed in the way a singular stone {cut} like an altar with half a globe standing out of one of its < >. It might be sepulchral but it was too late to stop to examine it; it was thrown down. At nightfall we reached the Camp. It was scattered over a very great extent of ground, comprising in all probability more than 200 or < > Tents in several circles more or less apart. The Tent of the chief was in length at least 100 feet, the breadth differing in different parts by the contrivance of stretching it upon higher or lower poles. Ebn Fais himself & his brother came out to receive us and welcomed us with a kiss. They were dressed in handsome silk Caftans of Damascus. Decent carpets were provided & camel saddles for cushions to lean on. In the center of the Tent on the ground was a {bason} serving as a lamp with a lighted wick floating in oil or butter. Sheck Yusuf had previously been invested with a pelisse in fur and was sitting dressed in it. The three close sides of the Tent were allotted to the visitors, the two chiefs sitting out upon the open side scarce within the cover of the Tent. The elder brother who has the deformity of a hairlip, called for his {one stringed fiddle} and sung to it. There was in the Tent a messenger from Damascus whom we had once seen at Karak, he had arrived in the course of the afternoon to summon or invite Ebn Fais on the part of the Pasha. It was supposed by some that the object of this was to make some arrangements with the Bany

Sackr tribe relating to the Hadge now that he had broken with the Anases, or as others supposed to endeavour to reconcile the two parties into which the tribe was split to set them up as a check to the other. To the accidental presence of this man the kind and gracious reception that we met with was probably in great measure owing. The wooden dish in which our supper was served was of a size to require 4 iron handles & was brought in by three persons. It was filled with rice and {boiled} mutton remarkably well dressed and a degree of superior refinement was observable in the manner of disposing it in the dish which instead of presenting a {confused heap had a broad mound of rice all round it and the meat reserved and set in order in a sort of pyramid in the center.} So that cookery has its < > even in a Beduin's tent. When we rose in the morning we found that Ebn Fais was already on his way to Damascus, his brother remained with us. We requested of him a guide for Oomeressas which after some hesitation and talk of danger & enemies & Anases was promised & an agreement in money made. We were to pass by Madaba in the way. A breakfast was brought us of Eggs fried in butter & Dibs & {cheese} & Leben

91

NOTES TO THE TRANSCRIPTS

Page references and transpositions

Page references in the form p.7 or p.80 are to pages of the transcript.

Page references in the form I 7 or II 32 are to pages of the original manuscript (i.e. the notebooks) of Journal I or Journal II.

References in the form I 6/3 indicate that a passage on page 6 of the original of Journal I has been copied on p.3 of the transcript.

Similarly II 91/119 indicates that a passage on page 91 of the original of Journal II appears on p.119 of the transcript.

The same form of reference is also used when a passage in the manuscript has to be moved to a different place in the text; it will be shown transposed to its new place in the transcript.

Several of the notes to the transcript of Journal II give translations of Greek words or passages.

Journal I

Pages 2, 6, 7 and 8 of the transcript include in appropriate positions words and passages transposed from the first written page of the manuscript of Journal I (which was originally numbered p.2).

I 13 / 7 The words in parenthesis at the end of p.9 and the beginning of p.10 of the transcript were written on I 31 of the manuscript and referred to on I 13 as 'Bankes' Note at the end of this division of the log'.

I 17 / 10 The sketch map reproduced on p.10 above was obviously drawn 'in the field'. Its equivalent in Irby and Mangles' *Travels* was drawn by Irby, on a larger scale, and was neater and more informative than its predecessor. In 1823, the year during which Irby and Mangles' *Travels* was printed, A. Arrowsmith, 'Hydrographer to His Majesty', published a new version of his Map of Syria which incorporated features at the southern end of the Dead Sea which were clearly taken from Irby's map or were contributed by him or one of his companions. The most significant of

such features is a note reading 'Strait or ford about 1 mile across' approximately where Irby had placed it. The channel of communication between Arrowsmith and Mangles was probably Capt. A. L. Corry, R. N., to whom Arrowsmith dedicated his map; Corry and his party had been in Jerusalem in April 1818 at the same time as Mangles and his companions. They made each other's acquaintance there and it is likely that they communicated subsequently.

I 30 / 12 The words 'The moundsswamp them', now seen on p.12, are on I 30 of the original with other passages to be transposed.

I 30 / 15 The words 'In an adjoining', now seen on p.15, are also from I 30.

I 30 / 17 'An excellent', now seen on p.17, is also from I 30 where it is entitled 'Note A'.

Pages I 32 - 38 of the manuscript are either blank or occupied by notes or short drafts, many of them almost indecipherable. They have not been transcribed. Bankes or Mangles probably referred to them when the final text of the Journal was being written; the wording of some of them is recognisable in later parts of the text. By contrast with those scrawls I 40 begins with something of a flourish: 'In the afternoon of the 15th May we set out from Karrack to the Southward' - i.e. towards Petra - written in a firm flowing hand, almost certainly Irby's.

I 46 The jottings at the top of I 46, evidently notes of expenses incurred at Hebron or in the next few days, have not been transcribed.

I 65 / 28 Notes on I 65 are integrated on p. 28 of the transcript. The order in which they should appear is uncertain.

I 66 - 67 / 29 The insert C of I 66 - 67 and the insert beginning '& removed' are on p. 29 of the transcript.

I 68 – 69 / 30 Footnote D on I 68 – 69 is on p.30 of the transcript. Notes 1 and 2 are on lines 4 – 6 of p.31.

I 71 / 32 Footnote + on I 71 is on line 5 of p.32.

I 71 / 33 The passage beginning ‘Our chief seemed very proud...’, now on line 22 of p.33, appears at the bottom of I 71 headed with the words ‘to come in two pages farther.’ On I 73 there is a much-blotted asterisk after ‘throughout the camp’. It is here that ‘our chief seemed very proud,,,’ appears on pp. 396 – 97 of Irby and Mangles’ *Travels*. I have followed suit although the words might more appropriately appear on p. 37 of the transcript when Abu Rashid was ‘in high spirits’ because of his success in negotiation.

I 72 / 33 The insert re. feeding the horses, now on line 19 of p. 33, is at the bottom of I 72.

I 73 / 34 Footnote x has been transposed to line 1 on p.34.

I 75 / 33 Passage beginning with ‘ * ’ has been transposed to the last line but 3 of p.32.

I 75 / 33 - 34 Passage beginning with ‘ * A ’ and continued at ‘ + ’ has been transposed to line 5 of p.33.

I 79 The last words of Journal I: ‘ the neighbourhood of a great metropolis’ are on the top half of I 79. The lower half and most of I 80 – 83 contain a description of the journey towards the Siq all of which has been criss-crossed out. The first few pages of II are very similar in content and wording. See comments in the Introduction to the transcript.

I 84 – 85 carry only a few jottings. I 86 and 89 each carry a set of bearings, taken near the south end of the Dead Sea. 86 also contains a list of expenditures, criss-crossed out. The rest of I 84 – 89 is left blank.

None of the pages I 80 – 89 have been transcribed.

hand. This 'note', which I have not transcribed, is similar to Bankes' speculation on II 65 - 67 / 97 - 100.

The End of the Journey

The first 34 pages of 'Journal II' were largely devoted to a description and discussion of the two-day sojourn at Petra, and the remaining 56 pages dealt with the journey northwards which started on 26 May. The journey itself ended at Acre a month later but Journal II stopped abruptly on 11 June, two weeks before the end of the journey. The last words written (in Bankes' hand) were: 'A breakfast was brought to us of Eggs fried in butter & Dibs {cheese} & Leben'. The rest of that page was left blank. Immediately afterwards the stubs of about 30 pages still adhering to the spine of the notebook show that those pages were cut out - when, why, by whom we do not know. Parts of two or three more pages were used for notes and jottings, which I have not transcribed. Neither in the notebook nor in any of the other accounts of the journey is there any hint of an explanation or, indeed, any reference to what seems to have been the sudden abandonment of the Journal.

We have, however, ample evidence that Bankes completed the journey with his companions. Some of this evidence was provided by Legh, Finati, Irby and Mangles in their published accounts, some by Bankes in the drawings and notes he produced at Iraq al Amir, Amman and Jerash, and some by very rough notes or drafts of a journal which he wrote en route. One of these, Ref. DBKL/HJ4/24, was begun on June 11, the very day on which he made the last entry in the Journal. This document is difficult to decipher but is of interest. It and another sheet of notes, DBKL/HJ4/25, give us information, albeit scrappy, about the period to June 18.

An incident which took place on the 11th is mentioned by Bankes in HJ4 / 24 and, separately, by his companions. Bankes' reference is the shortest - merely the casual phrase 'Adventure of the Abba' amongst his notes. ¹ Irby and

¹ Bankes, DBKL / HJ4 / 24, June 11.

Mangles were more specific, reporting that while Bankes was walking round the ruins of 'Oom-i-Rassas an armed Bedouin made his appearance and robbed him of his abba.'² Legh's mention was shorter still, but Finati made more of the incident, writing that 'an armed Arab stole upon him unawares as he was mounting and, after cutting at him with his sword, two or three times, contrived to snatch away his abba (cloak) from off the hinder part of his horse and to run off with it.' He also reported that Irby and Mangles criticised him for not more effectively protecting or helping Bankes, but he maintained that more active intervention on his part would have endangered Bankes.³

On the 12th the party was at Heshbon (Hisban) and the next day at Iraq al Amir. Legh mentioned the ruins there briefly. Irby and Mangles described them adequately and Finati's account was relatively lengthy and much more interesting than the others. 'The palace', he wrote, 'was the most remarkable object that we saw since Petra, the very first sight of which filled my master with great delight, he exclaiming at once that it was the principal object of his search.' Bankes joined in enthusiastically in a footnote, claiming that 'there can be no doubt that we have here the ruins of the singular palace built by Hircanus, prince of the Jews.' Finati - or perhaps Bankes - then described the palace and its environs briefly, noting that 'it is built of vast blocks of hewn stone, and had the figures of immense four-footed animals carved all round the top, like a frieze; and in the face of the live rock all along are doorways opening into great chambers, and into ranges of stabling for horses and camels with all the cribs and mangers carved out of the solid. There is also one single line inscribed in large Hebrew characters'.⁴

Bankes was particularly pleased because he had actively searched for the site, guided by Josephus' *Antiquities of the Jews* which he carried with him.

² Irby and Mangles, 471

³ Finati, 273 - 4

⁴ Finati, 274 - 5. Bankes' drawings and watercolours of Iraq al Amir are at D / BKL: IV H1 - IV H6 in the Dorchester catalogue.

Josephus stated that Hircan's palace was situated between Arabia and Judea, beyond Jordan, not far from Heshbon - which Bankes and his party had just visited. This commentary, written by Bankes and Finati almost in harness, is the best example of the personal touch and warmth which Finati brought to his narrative and which is lacking in the other accounts of the journey. Finati understood and to some extent shared the passionate interest in archaeological exploration which drove Bankes and which characterises his writing.⁵

Salt was the next place visited, and on the 16th Bankes left most of the party there and went on to Amman 'with only Yusuf', probably to give himself as much time as possible to explore and draw 'the great ruins of Amman' with its 'noble theatre'. The others rejoined them there but on the 17th Shaikh Yusuf, who had escorted and guided them for a month, 'took a fatherly leave of us' as Finati put it, and set out to return to Karak. The next day they reached Jerash and resumed the survey work ('Irby and myself measuring and Mr Bankes drawing, copying inscriptions, &c' as Mangles had put it)⁶ which they had been obliged to leave unfinished four months earlier. The great collection of plans, drawings, inscriptions and notes which resulted from this and Bankes' previous two visits to Jerash are now at Dorchester (as are the plans and other work done there in 1819 by Barry at Bankes' request) in D/BKL: HJ III A).

None of the accounts have much to say about the journey from Jerash to Acre through country much of which might have felt almost familiar to most of the party. They reached Acre on June 25 and only four days later Legh and his suite left them to travel through Syria and Anatolia to Constantinople.

⁵ Finati, 234 and 276. Cf. Irby and Mangles, 475 and Legh in MacMichael 247.

⁶ Irby and Mangles, 314.

Legh must have given his account of the Petra journeys to MacMichael within the next few months as it appeared as a sort of addendum to MacMichael's book which was published in 1819.⁷

Irby and Mangles stayed at Acre for three weeks (and Bankes and Finati for several more). Irby and Mangles had to get ready for their forthcoming journey by sea to Constantinople and for further 'exploration' in Asia Minor (the account of which forms Letter VI in their *Travels*) but almost certainly spent much of their time finishing the Journals in the form in which we now have them.

Journal I bears all the marks of an account written during or immediately after the events it describes, and the same might be true of parts of Journal II. Forty two years later Mangles stated in a letter to John Murray that in his opinion diaries should be 'regularly written up every evening' and he continued 'Thus was written-up daily every evening our Dead Sea journal - the only portion of our book which was written in this way.'⁸ This passage conjures up a picture of Bankes, Irby and Mangles sitting outside a bedouin tent in the evening, Bankes dictating and Irby transcribing. This may well have been their frequent practice but there are passages in Journal II which suggest that much of the text as we now have it was written at Acre, when the journey had ended. Bankes inadvertently tells us this in the course of his description of Petra and his discussion of 'step battlements', remarking that they are 'common upon all sort of Mussulman buildings, and to instance one which is now before our eyes upon some of Dgezzar Pasha's buildings at Acre' (II 8/50).

⁷ Legh in MacMichael 1819, 249 f. Bankes was furious when he heard that Legh had published an account of the journey; he apparently persuaded himself that he had the sole right to do so. He sent a 'strongly worded' (or 'intemperate and inappropriate') letter of protest to Legh, written, it seems, before he had actually seen Legh's little contribution at the end of MacMichael's book. Amongst the correspondence which followed was a particularly informative letter from Irby to Bankes dated Naples, 1 May, 1820 (Dorchester D / BKL / HJ1 / 130). Usick 2002, 72 – 73, gives a more detailed account of the dispute.

⁸ Murray archive, April 3, 1860

Elsewhere in Journal II he wrote in a fashion which suggests that he was looking back after the journey. On II 16/56, for example, whilst still describing Petra, he stated that much of the river there 'seems to have been arched over in the same manner as the stream at Philadelphia' [Amman] – which he didn't reach until three weeks after leaving Petra, and on II 31/68 he describes a bird [Tristram's Grackle?] which he saw in Petra 'and the same afterwards at other places during our journey'.

Passages such as those were evidently dictated by Bankes at Acre and written out there by Irby (Not only were 'some of Dgezzar Pasha's buildings' before their eyes there; they might well have been provided with amenities such as tables and chairs. Long passages of even, close-written text like that in II 13 – 14 could, I think, only have been written on a smooth, horizontal surface). They must also have had at their disposal the notes or drafts made during the journey which could be integrated with the newly dictated material. All this would have been time consuming, but with no travelling or archaeological work to do they had leisure in which to write.

Almost the only record we have of Bankes' doings in the weeks after Irby and Mangles' left Acre is in Finati's *Narrative*, and this, though admirable in its detail, lacks dates. Short journeys, illness and adventure in Palestine were followed by their return to Egypt in the autumn of 1818 and eventually by Bankes' last long Nile voyage.

Bankes' oriental travels completed, he returned to England in April 1820.

A COMMENTARY ON 'LETTER V' OF IRBY AND MANGLES' TRAVELS¹

In the Preface to their *'Travels'*, Irby and Mangles described the book as 'a selection of the letters which they had addressed during their absence [in the Near East] to their families in England', and they called each of its six sections a 'Letter' rather than a 'Chapter'. Letter I is concerned with their travels in Egypt and Nubia in June – September 1817, Letter II, III and IV with those in Syria in October 1817 – May 1818, Letter V with the journey from Jerusalem to Petra and eventually to Acre in May – July 1818 and Letter VI with travels in Asia Minor.

Letter V, then, covers the same ground as the Journals but whereas the Journals start abruptly with the departure from Jerusalem on May 6, 1818, nothing being said about events leading up to that moment, Letter IV and the first few pages of Letter V provide much useful information about the period preceding the departure. Pages 232 – 3, 283 – 4 and 296 in Letter IV describe the first contacts which Bankes, Irby and Mangles made with each other and their subsequent travels together.² After the failed attempt which the three of them made to follow Burckhardt's route east of the Dead Sea and thence to Petra they were obliged to retreat to Jerusalem which they reached on March 29. They spent the next five weeks making preparations for their next venture and trying, fruitlessly, to obtain some kind of official support for it. Legh and Finati joined them in Jerusalem.³

¹ The book discussed below is Irby and Mangles' *Travels in Egypt and Nubia, Syria and Asia Minor; during the years 1817 and 1818, printed for private distribution*, London, 1823. Some discussion of later, published editions follows below.

² In addition to *Travels* a text of a draft journal in Irby's hand describing Irby and Mangles' activities during a few days beginning on February 23, 1818 and, separately, from March 6 to March 10 (by which time Bankes had joined them) provides a certain amount of information beyond that given in Letter IV. This document strayed somehow into Bankes' papers and is now in Dorchester, D / BKL: HJ4 / 14.

³ See note 7 and 8 in the Introduction to the Journals and the Transcript.

All of that, and more, is new to anyone who has only read the Journals, but as soon as such a reader reaches the description in Letter V of the stages of the journey from Hebron and beyond he feels that he is on familiar ground. So much of the phraseology is similar or identical to that of the Journals that he quickly realises that the later account – that of 1823 – is based on the Journals written in 1818. Further reading and consideration leads to the conclusion that a great part of Letter V must have actually been copied from the journals; far too many of the phrases, sentences and pages in the book are closely similar to those of the journals for any other explanation to be tenable. Even passages written in Bankes' most extravagant style reappear in *Travels* with only trivial changes. One example, on pp 405 – 406 of *Travels*, reads as follows: 'Farther on, upon the left, is a wide façade of rather a low proportion, loaded with ornaments in the Roman manner, but in a bad taste [The Journal had 'vicious taste'] with an infinity of broken lines and unnecessary angles and projections, and multiplied pediments and half-pediments, and pedestals set upon columns which support nothing. It has more the air of a fantastical scene in a theatre than an architectural work in stone...' (Cf. Journal II 1 / 43). It is most unlikely that such an elaborate passage could have been written by either of the 'two Captains', both of whom had been on active naval service since their teens.⁴

The work done went beyond mere copying, as pp. 388 – 400 of *Travels* demonstrate; instead of the tangled passages of I 65 – 76, full of deletions, transpositions and insertions, we are presented in Letter V with a well-ordered account of the events of May 20 – 24. Few words have been changed and they are now in the right order. This transformation could only have been achieved after a careful word-by-word study of the original. [My very similar reading of that part of it is on pp. 30 – 37 of the transcript].

As one reads Letter V or other parts of *Travels* it becomes apparent that Mangles was the editor. Page 339 for example, describes preparations made in Jerusalem for the journey ahead and records that 'We each gave ourselves an Eastern name

⁴ Details of Irby's and Mangles' naval careers are given in O'Byrne, 1849.

...Mr. Legh was called Osman...and myself Hassan', and on page 360 it is stated that 'Mr B., Captain I. and myself were alone'. Similar phrases occur elsewhere. Some readers of the book came to realise that Mangles was the editor or perhaps thought that he was the author; Harriet Martineau, for example, using the book as a guide to Petra in 1847, made three very correctly worded references to 'Commander Mangles' as her authority.⁵

Mangles' use of the first person singular provides one of the most immediately obvious differences between the Journals and Letter V; in the former 'I' refers always to Bankes (whether the writing is his or Irby's) and in the latter to Mangles. A reader familiar with the Journals but new to *Travels* is likely to experience a series of slight shocks before he gets used to the fact that although he is reading words which he knows were written or dictated by Bankes, it is now Mangles, not Bankes, who appears to be the author and narrator. Mangles also uses 'we' frequently, sometimes to connote Irby and himself and at other times to mean the larger group including Bankes. This is reasonable enough but it occasionally changes the sense a little so that some action of Bankes', as reported in the Journal, is now attributed to the group. One example is that Mangles stated that 'we copied' the Nabatean inscription on the Turkmaniya tomb, a delicate task which only Bankes could have undertaken.⁶

One of the most important tasks which Mangles assumed as editor was to shorten the text of the journals to a length suitable to form a Chapter in the *Travels*. The journals were about 48,000 words long; Mangles added a thousand or so words at the beginning describing their stay at Jerusalem and over 4000 at the end describing the last stages of the journey and concluding with some personal observations. He - or his printer - doubtless felt that 53,000 words was far too many; the longest letter in *Travels* was 44,000 words long, the shortest about

⁵ Martineau 1848: 353, 356, 357.

⁶ *Travels* 411: cf. II 4 - 6 / 47 - 49. The original of Bankes' fair copy of the inscription is at Dorchester, ref. No. D / BKL: HJ IV A20. A copy of it is on one of Bankes' lithographic stones at Kingston Lacy. A study of it and of other inscriptions is in Lewis and Macdonald, 2003.

14,000. He therefore cut some 12,000 words from the text of the journals, to end up with about 36,000.

Mangles made most of his lengthier deletions or abridgements in those passages which contained Bankes' description of, comments on and speculation about the lesser archaeological sites on their route. He probably guessed that many of his potential readers would find them boring, as, one suspects, he did himself. Most of these entries were made during the return (northward) journey between Karak and the Bani Sakhr camp at which the last entry was made in Journal II (pp. 94 – 118 of the transcript, 456 – 469 of Letter V). 10,000 words are devoted to this part of the journey in Journal II, only about 3,600 in Letter V. Amongst the passages eliminated or severely shortened were those on Rabbah (II 62 – 63 / 94 – 95), Beit al Karm (II 65 – 67 / 97 – 99) and Dhiban (II 74 – 75 / 106 – 107). Mangles' only comment about Dhiban was that 'the ruins present nothing of interest'. Karak itself was not spared; Bankes' 1000 word description of the architecture and other features of the castle on II 46 – 48 / 80 – 82 was taken out, Mangles evidently considering that Bankes' earlier paragraphs on II 19 / 58 were enough on that subject.

In abridging the text and on making other changes Mangles clearly had in mind the susceptibilities of his readers and so, of course, the very 'indelicate' paragraph about 'the leap' on I 58 / 26 had to go. He evidently thought that most of his readers would not know Greek and so cut out all Bankes' occasional quotations in that language. He also eliminated certain passages in which Bankes debated – with himself, as it were – matters more likely to interest architectural historians than the ordinary reader or tourist. One such passage was concerned with 'pointed architecture' and 'step battlements' (this being the passage on II 6 – 7 / 48 – 49 in which Bankes, in the midst of his description of Petra, speaks of 'buildings now before our eyes' in Acre).

Mangles compensated for the cuts to some extent by adding material which he reasonably considered should have been noted in the Journals. On p. 443 of Letter

V, for example, he recorded that as they parted company with Shaykh Muhammad Abu Rashid (without whose vigorous and unstinting support they would never have reached Petra) they 'gave our intrepid friend four hundred piastres, and Mr. Legh presented him with a brass blunderbuss, having a spring bayonet, with which he was much pleased'. Nothing had been said about this in the Journals. Mangles also added a map of their route, a 'sketch of the ground plan of Petra' and a better sketch map of the south end of the Dead Sea than had appeared in the original notebook as well as a few other illustrations and fifty biblical quotations. All in all, Mangles produced a useful, straightforward account which was well received. It was now very much his text, not that of Bankes' journals which no one except his companions had ever seen.

I believe it would be fair to say that the fundamental difference between the Journals and Letter V was that Bankes conceived the Journals primarily as his record of archaeological and other discoveries, whereas Mangles simply wanted to produce a good travelogue. The Journals, despite their serious intent, were imbued with Bankes' well-informed interest and enthusiasm, his eccentricities of style and his personal opinions. Most of this was filtered out as Mangles edited the Journals and turned them into Letter V, the style of which was more ordinary, like that of the other 'letters' in *Travels*.

On May 1st, 1820, by which time Bankes had returned to England, Irby wrote a letter to him from Naples; a pleasant, gossipy letter with some more serious comments about Legh's contribution to MacMichael's book and Bankes' reaction to it. The letter ended in valedictory style: 'Pray consider this as a joint letter from Mangles and myself and with our united best wishes for your success, yours most truly and sincerely.'⁷

It seems that no other letters written by Irby or Mangles to Bankes have survived. Mangles must have been busy working on *Travels* until it was printed in July 1823. Presumably Bankes had lent him the original notebooks containing

⁷ Dorchester D / BKL / HJ / 1 / 130

Journals I and II which Mangles was able to use. So far as we know Bankes did not object to this nor, apparently, did he take objection to certain other features of the book: Irby and Mangles were given as sole authors and Bankes' name was not mentioned on the title page or in the Preface. It was rumoured at the time that the main source of disagreement was Bankes' refusal to allow any of his drawings to appear in the book, which Mangles had wanted. It was said that a quarrel ensued; Léon de Laborde stated or inferred that 'miserable contestations' resulted,⁸ and Buckingham published a second- or third-hand rumour that Mangles had received 'accusations and threats' from Bankes. Buckingham, however, wrote this at the time of his own quarrel with Bankes, when he was happy to circulate anything to the latter's discredit.⁹

The reality was probably less dramatic than the rumours but the wording of the Preface to *Travels* may suggest that Mangles was disappointed with the outcome of the negotiations. Instead of the conventional words of thanks to Bankes which one would expect, no mention is made of him at all although several other people who had helped were appropriately thanked.

It seems, then, that relations between the two men may have been soured, but ill-feeling was not serious or long-lasting. In January 1826 Mangles wrote to John Murray about a plan to publish *Travels* 'for the sole benefit of Mrs. Belzoni's subscription with your powerful name as the publisher'. He added that before 'settling this' he would seek Bankes' concurrence.¹⁰ On December 20, 1827, he wrote a very long letter to Bankes the contents of which show that the two of them had been in friendly contact with each other before this. He started the letter in sprightly fashion: 'My dear Bankes' and continued by thanking him enthusiastically for some 'materials' Bankes had sent him for an art-work of some sort which was being made for him, which, Mangles said, would be to him 'a

⁸ Léon de Laborde 1828 (p. 87 of 1998 reprint)

⁹ Buckingham 1825: 632

¹⁰ Murray archive (Mangles did not date the letter but a notation on it, evidently made in Murray's office, reads 'Jan. 1, 1826')

highly prized memorial of a few friends for whom I shall ever have the highest esteem and regard.' Later, he interrupted his letter with the joyful news that Irby – now a full Captain – had just arrived at Portsmouth after his final spell of service in the Navy.¹¹ Mangles then went on to discuss the sad state of Mrs Belzoni, widowed and in debt. A committee had been formed to collect funds for her, and Mangles had been 'applied to by some of Mrs. Belzoni's Committee for the fulfilment of the promises I made her of publishing our Book for her exclusive benefit.' He then referred to Bankes' 'promised benevolent intention of revising the Book' and suggested that rather than doing that Bankes might 'contribute a few of your valuable Drawings – Maps – or plans'.¹² We do not know how Bankes replied, but 'the Book' was not published at this time, and the idea of helping Mrs. Belzoni in this roundabout way seems to have been abandoned.

In 1841 Bankes fled the country in deep disgrace. Whatever his thoughts might have been about Mangles' plan to publish *Travels* he was now unable to influence the course of events. Mangles began discussions with Murray in 1842 and after some exchanges of letters¹³ the book came out (with a rather fulsome Preface thanking the publisher) in 1844, in Murray's 'Home and Colonial Library'. Mangles or Murray had made a few changes which in the circumstances were probably considered politic or reasonable. In 1823 on p. 232 of *Travels*, for example, Mangles had written that Irby and he 'were glad of the opportunity of meeting this celebrated and indefatigable traveller' in Aleppo, but in 1844 (p. 90) he merely noted that 'we found Mr. Bankes there'. Similarly, instead of declaring – as he had in 1823 – that they 'embraced the opportunity of accompanying him' (p. 296), in 1844 he simply recorded that 'we have accordingly resolved to accompany him.' (p. 90) Perhaps we should not blame him or his publisher for making such 'judicious' little changes?

¹¹ Irby had returned to the Navy in 1826; see O'Byrne.

¹² Dorchester D / BKL / HJ1 / 332

¹³ Murray Archive.

The edition of 1844 was entitled *'Travels in Egypt and Nubia, Syria and the Holy Land, including a Journey round the Dead Sea, and through the Country East of the Jordan'*. The last chapter of the 1823 version which described the journey in Asia Minor was dropped. The 1844 edition contained no map, no illustrations or notes, and was shorter than the 1823 version by more than 25,000 words. The print was small and the paper and binding quality poor; it was indeed a cheap edition and Chapter V of it was an unworthy descendant of the Journals of 1818.¹⁴

¹⁴ The 1844 edition was reprinted in 1868.

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