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978-1-108-07619-7 - Travels in Egypt and Nubia, Syria, and Asia Minor,
During the Years 1817 and 1818
Charles Leonard Irby and James Mangles
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Travels in Egypt and Nubia, Syria, and Asia Minor, During the Years 1817 and 1818

The preface to this work describes how its authors, Charles Irby (1789–1845) and James Mangles (1786–1867), both officers in the Royal Navy, left England in 1816 for a tour of the continent. 'Curiosity at first, and an increasing admiration of antiquities as they advanced, carried them at length through several parts of the Levant.' On their return to England, interest in Egypt being at its height, they were persuaded to compile this book from their letters to friends and family at home, and had it privately printed in 1823. Their account begins in Cairo, whence they made a journey down the Nile, meeting with Giovanni Belzoni at Abu Simbel. They then travelled from Cairo across the desert and along the coast of the Holy Land, reaching Aleppo and exploring Syria. This detailed account of their two-year travels provides much information of continuing interest to archaeologists and historians.

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University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108076197

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This edition first published 1823

This digitally printed version 2015

ISBN 978-1-108-07619-7 Paperback

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TRAVELS
IN
EGYPT AND NUBIA, SYRIA,
AND
ASIA MINOR;
DURING THE YEARS
1817 & 1818.

BY
THE HON. CHARLES LEONARD IRBY,
AND
JAMES MANGLES,
COMMANDERS IN THE ROYAL NAVY.

Printed for Private Distribution.

LONDON:
T. WHITE AND CO. PRINTERS, 2, JOHNSON'S COURT,
FLEET STREET.
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MDCCCXIII.

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PREFACE.

ON the 14th of August, 1816, the Hon. Charles Leonard Irby and James Mangles, Commanders in the Royal Navy, left England, with the intention of making a tour on the continent. This journey they were led to extend far beyond the original design. Curiosity at first, and an increasing admiration of antiquities as they advanced, carried them at length through several parts of the Levant, which have been little visited by modern travellers, and gave them more than four years of continued employment.

Soon after their return to England, in the end of the year 1820, they were induced to transcribe a selection of the letters which they had addressed during their absence to their families in England, as the most

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convenient mode of satisfying the inquiries of numerous friends.

Among those, who by expressing themselves interested with the narrative, suggested the step which has now been taken, of printing some copies for private distribution, was a gentleman well acquainted with the Turkish provinces described in the following pages, and who has lately edited the Travels of the lamented Burckhardt through the same countries. He was not only so obliging as to suggest such corrections in the language of the original manuscript as must always be necessary in such circumstances, previously to printing, but more especially in the case of persons quite unexperienced in authorship: but he has further permitted the maps which he published in the two volumes of Burckhardt's Travels, and in the second volume of Mr. Walpole's collection, to be used in

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the construction of the geographical delineation, which accompanies the present volume. The only material point in which this map differs from those authorities, is in the position of a few points, in the southern part of Syria, the latitude and longitude of which have been communicated since the publication of Burckhardt's Syria, by the Earl of Belmore and Captain Corry, of the Royal Navy, who made the observations.

To these gentlemen, therefore, the authors have to express their obligations, as well as to H. W. Beechey and John Rennie, Esquires, who have kindly furnished them with five original Sketches in Nubia.

London, July, 1823.

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C O N T E N T S.

LETTER I.

OUR party and the first object of interest described. Departure in a boat from Philæ. The crew characterised, including Hassan nicknamed the blue devil. Saracenic buildings in picturesque situations. Piles of stones on elevated places, to guide the caravans from the interior of Africa, &c. Supposed boundary between Egypt and Nubia. The different natives and their languages.

Arrive at Kalapsche. Inspect the temple. Description thereof. Unusual appearance of crocodiles in this part of the Nile. Are mistaken for physicians and induced to prescribe. Found the purple acassia. Peculiar manner of taking water fowl by swimming. Bathe. Belzoni bitten in the foot by a water lizard. Trickery of a native of Senaar.

Arrive near Koroskoff. Picturesque appearance of the islands and rocks in the Nile, in that vicinity. Visited by a messenger from Halleel Cashief, requesting presents. Refused. Stop at Offidena. The natives handsome and well made, but very dark. Arrive at Derry. Apply to Daoud and Halleel Cashief, sons of Hassan, he being at Dongola, for leave to open the temple at Ebsambal. The Nubian dance. Avarice and treachery of the crew. Pass Ibrim. A sad picture of ruins and desolation. Comparative limits of former travellers in these parts considered. Arrival at Ebsambal. Renewal of application to Daoud and Halleel. Interesting appearance of the Dongola caravan, with numbers of camels laden with provisions. Remarkable appearance of the Mockatem mountains; their pyramidal form and termination. Stop opposite the village of Farras. Fine ruins of a large Nubian city. Several remarkable temples with hieroglyphics. Greek and Roman ornaments. Instance of shyness in crocodiles. Kill a torpedo with daggers. Several cameleons taken; their versatile appearances and peculiar faculties of catching flies.

Arrive at Farras. Bargain with the servants of Hassan Cashief for asses and camels to visit the Second Cataract. Arrival thereat. Fresh instances of artifice displayed by the boatmen. Consequent determination to proceed on foot. Herds of the gazelle, a nimble animal resembling the deer. Survey and description of the Second Cataract. The great extent and velocity of "the rapids." Striking and contrasted beauty of the mountain

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scenery. The natives' great dread of the dark. Difficulties of crossing to Elpha. Disappointment in the supply of the animals bargained for at Farras. Mutinous and desperate conduct of the boatmen. Serious interference of the natives repulsed by our firmness. Return to Ehsambal. Communication from Daoud Cashief not arrived. The crew here sued for pardon, pleading the custom of such demands upon strangers. Visit to, and description of a small temple excavated in the mountain opposite Ehsambal; curious Greek paintings, &c. Gratifying arrival of a message from Daoud Cashief at Derry to ascertain our identity as the favoured English for whom Hassan Cashief had promised to open the temple. Deceptive conduct of two natives in the promised introduction to a temple in the mountains. The crew draw their daggers on our servants; severe reproof of their sanguinary conduct, and our lives threatened in revenge. Daoud and Halleel arrive; their persons described. Partake of refreshment. Give presents to the two Cashiefs. Halleel offended; sulky and inexorable at not having a gun amongst his portion similar to Daoud's. A sheep killed by Daoud to regale us, who apologises for his brother's absence and indiscretion. Artful scheme of Halleel to obtain more presents. Halleel perseveres for a gun. Gave him one of ours as a peace-offering. The Farras man, who threatened us at Elpha, suddenly annoys us. Procure his reprimand from the Cashiefs. Agree on terms for clearing the access to the temple, and proceed thither with fifty men. The exterior of the temple and its situation, enveloped in sand, described. Obstacles to our progress. Selfish song of the men. Their indolence. Contract with the cashiefs for the completion of the work. One hundred men employed. Boat's crew renew their entreaties for forgiveness. Consequent reconciliation. They work badly, and exact half the agreed terms. Despair of success. Encourage them to proceed. Complain to the Cashiefs, who promise more men. Retire disappointed to our boats. Renew our labours with fifty men only, and those idle. None of the leaders except Mouchmarr, an Arab, an elderly servant of the cashiefs present, who designated his masters as robbers, and the whole of the tribe of the Barbarins as thieves. Daoud arrives. Complain of the laziness of the men. Increased exertion promised. Remainder of the terms insisted on. Persist in a refusal. Great discontent excited thereby. Meanness of Halleel in begging Mr. Salt's pipe, the janissary's silk waistcoat, and our Greek servant's sabre, &c. All refused. Another unsuccessful attempt to get presents, by one of the chiefs, sanctioned by the cashiefs. Hassan excites us to return to Philæ to repair the boat, asserting it to be leaky; steadfastly decline till the accomplishment of our task. First day of the moon, Ramadan, or Turkish fast; total abstinence from food. Halleel's third fruitless application for Mr. S.'s pipe. His anger and abrupt departure. Farewell visit to Daoud's tent, announcing our intention of persevering to gain access to the

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temple. His dissuasion therefrom. Promise to apprise him in due time to share the gold, his anticipated treasure; his tacit consent. Enjoin good conduct to the crew but proceed without them to the temple. Strip, six in number, and commence, determined by our own labour to affect this Herculean task. Make rapid progress. Joined and assisted by the astonished crew. Personal inconveniences from our toils. Encourage our men. Retire to our boat gratified at the successful prospect. Unexpected visit in the night from Daoud. Exchange presents, and receive assurances of his favour and early assistance.

Vigorously proceed for our object under excessive heat. Crew refuse to work. Persevere and make great progress without them. Visited, while at work, by Halleel. Desperate affray between our janissary and Hassan. To our great joy Halleel suddenly disappears. Further artifices of the men. The Darfur caravan passes, with four thousand camels laden with gum, ivory, and ostrich feathers, on its way to Cairo. Extraordinary exactions upon them by the Mamelukes at Dongola. Description of the Jelabs conducting the caravan.

Re-commence with increased strength, having sixty-four men. Present from Daoud of Nubian clothes, &c. His fruitless attempt to beg a pipe for his master. Renew our labours. Pleasing discovery of a seated statue, in a mutilated state, near the door. Unfinished and discouraging appearances of the exterior on further progress. Numbers of labourers offer their assistance. Retire in consequence to avoid disputes, leaving tickets for thirty only with old Mouchmarr. His infamous breach of trust in purloining ten of them. Violent quarrel among two parties for preference. Redouble our efforts, with twenty men, but only three instruments. The form thereof delineated. Observe the tracks of snakes and other reptiles on the sand. Sudden appearance of forty armed men. Mouchmarr and his party instantly fly to the mountains. Their deception and artful attempt to levy contributions. After their departure discover that they were Mahommed and Ali Cashiefs with their forces, who were engaged in war of extermination with Daoud and Halleel. Ridiculous return of Mouchmarr, with his matchlock and a few of the Ebsambal people; relates his account of the warfare. Find that Mahommed and Ali intercept our supplies.

Crew insolently withhold our ludri for their own use. Forcibly repossess ourselves thereof. About fifty men employed; annoyed by their skulking and idleness. Troublesome application of immense numbers of men. Decline their assistance, and they carry off the implements and threaten our crew. Aided by the assistance of twenty-three persons, proceed to our employment. Arrival of a Mameluke from Dongola, reporting the misery prevailing there. Half of the supplies of bread we had paid for withheld. Exorbitant increase of the price of provisions. Set to

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work with only two assistants and the crew. Animating song of a workman to his fellow-labourers. A spy from Daoud arrives, dissuading the men from their work. Falsely reports that the Grand Seignior had superseded the Pashaw in his government at Cairo; treat him with derision. Mouchmarr states his prohibition from supplying us with bread, or farther assistance, and takes his leave. Pursue our operations with only our sailors and Mameluke. An Ebsambal man comes to offer supplies. Refuse all assistance.

Encourage our crew for their increased exertions. Sailors next day ask leave to go to Ebsambal to get bread. Hassan steals our doura; dispossess him of it. A milkman re-supplies us by stealth; a real luxury. The reis appears with a present of spirits distilled from dates, from the wife of Daoud. Decline the present and pay for it. Thermometer 112 Fahrenheit in the shade. Cheering indications of a door. Former apprehensions from unfinished appearances now cleared up. Hassan impudently demands pay for the crew. Mameluke departs on a raft for Cairo. Hassan sends to the cashief to apprise him of our progress. Resume our labours with the crew and two strangers, and at sunset come to the corner of the door. Sailors exult, with cries of backsheeish, and redouble their efforts in the prospect of our promised reward. Sailors beg our cook's waistcoat and the Greek's gown. Proceed to work without the crew, at moonlight, who load us with abuse; desire us to quit the boat, and threaten to leave us. Belzoni frightens them. Their abject homage on his appearance; bring up all our arms and ammunition. Hassan threatens to murder the janissary. At work by candle-light. The crew, all armed and dressed in full costume, peremptorily repeat their demands, with savage imprecations and gestures. Try to appease them; meanwhile the janissary squeezes himself through a hole and enters the temple; discovered by the crew, who now strip and work with alacrity. Hassan discloses to our cook their lawless power. Attain our primary object, and enter the temple. Obtain some statues, sphinxes, &c. of calcareous stone. Ebsambal peasants astonished at our success; anticipate the convenience of the temple as a place of retreat from the Bedouins. Contract with Hassan for bread and meat. Take internal and external dimensions of the temple. Receive a supply of provisions of one-third more than their worth. Effect the shipment of the statues and distribute forty piastres, the promised backsheeish. The splendid exterior of the temple described. Four beautiful colossal figures, above sixty feet high, sculptured in the best style of Egyptian art, and in the highest perfection. The interior consists of fourteen capacious apartments. Its stupendous and magnificent embellishments, its paintings, its sculpture, and its numerous valuable specimens of antiquity. Extreme heat of the temple, similar to the feeling and effect of the

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hottest vapour-bath. Visit a smaller temple, like the former, cut out of the rock. Description of it. Its colossal and other statues, some of upwards of twenty-five feet high; small female figures ornamenting the front. Its interior, consisting of three principal apartments, its antique sculpture, its ornamented walls, and other objects of exquisite beauty and interest. Start on our return. Mahommed and Ali Cashief, with their predatory band, hail us and inquire as to the money found in the temple. Call on Daoud. Another instance of his guilty duplicity. He gives us provisions. Promises to keep the temple open for Mr. Salt. Arrive at Derry. Visit, with candles, another temple cut out of the rock; its ruinous state, and dismal appearance described. A visit from Halleel, with presents. He is disappointed in expected requital.

Visit the temple at Armada, in the desert, opposite to Derry. Description thereof. In the interior are modern Greek paintings and ancient Egyptian figures. Arrive at Sabour and inspect its temple, the edifice and statues much dilapidated. Desperate conduct of Hassan, who attempts to stab Belzoni. Captain Irby wounded in the effort to disarm him. The reis and one of the crew quit the boat. Hassan returns next day, wanting us to re-land the statues and leave them behind. Admonish and threaten to bring him to account at Assuan. Mameluke rejoins us, having been robbed of his money and raft. Proceed to the small unfinished temple at Offidena. Greek or Roman figures, in entaglio, found on the walls of the neighbouring ruins. Importuned by the natives for backsheesh. Bid for a statue previously noticed, but without effect. Visit the temple of Dekki, also in an unfinished state. Traces of the artist's skill in the interior (in basso-relievo); the entrance covered with Greek commemorative inscriptions. Visit the temple of Garbe Girshe, excavated in the rock. Natives insolent, and of a murderous character. The building much mutilated, and the sculpture bad and heavy.

Inspect the temple of Garbe Dendour, built in front of a rock; small and unfinished. Pass Garbe Merie. See the ruins of a temple, with hieroglyphics. Land at Kalapsche. Proceed to the temple. The assembled natives, armed with daggers, refuse our entrance. Ask for money. Rashness of the janissary fatal to our object, nearly so to him; rescue him, and return to our boat under showers of abuse and stones. Fired over their heads to shew our forbearance. One villain frightened, by a pointed musket from his attempt to plunder the boat in our absence. Indifference of the crew. Fidelity of the Greek servant. Insolent self-will of guides and interpreters. Repass the gates of Nubia. The waters of the Nile very high. The crew ask for backsheesh for passing the rapids. Driven by the current past the two temples of Teffa. One dedicated to Isis now used as a cow-house, the other unfinished.

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Visit Hindaw and various ruins in that quarter; extensive wall; stone quarries; Roman and Greek commemorative inscriptions and sculpture. Inspect the temple of Daboude, altogether unfinished, two handsome moorelithic cases of red granite adorn the sanctuary. Hassan, the Philæ murderer, deserts the boat on our approach there. Arrive at Philæ. First Cataract. Description of the edifices; their style and sculptures. French inscriptions on a pylon, indicative of the extent of their Egyptian conquests under Buonaparte. Unique symbol of the elephant in the portico of the temple. Remarkable imperfection in sculpture, in figures of Isis, on this island. Observations upon the natives of Nubia; their unprincipled habits; the country in general. Frequent appearance of ancient towns buried in rubbish. Nubians a distinct race from the Arabs; their extraordinary superstition. Curious mode of smoking. Strange manner of killing personal vermin. Their habits and costume. Their manufacture. Platters made from the date tree.

Bargain with the suspicious crew Pay exacted in advance for conveyance down the Cataract. Receive a pilot and eight additional hands to conduct us down. Hassan disappears, dreading our report of him to the Aga. A two hours' passage down the rapids. Scenery wild and romantic. The boat strikes against the rocks. Self-imagined courage of the crew. Reach Assuan, the ancient Syene. Visit the ancient granite quarries. Examine the column there, curiously inscribed in Latin. Their ancient method of cutting pure masses of stone. The ancient road paved with granite. English translation of the inscription. Historical remarks on the origin of the quarries. Examine the mummy-cases and boxes of sacred Egyptian emblems. Curious specimens of carved-work. Assuan uninteresting, a dirty and ill-built place. The Aga visits us. Complain to him of the crew. He pronounces them notorious rascals. Their previous desertion. Visit Elephantina, celebrated by Denon. Its pleasing and luxurious appearance. Ruins of the ancient town and several temples. Engage a boat to Thebes. Inspect Koum Ombo, the ancient Ombos. Remains of two temples on a promontory of the Nile's eastern shore; description thereof; peculiar structure of one of them. Barren appearance of the neighbouring country. Observe the large fertile island of Mansouria, and a smaller one in the middle of the Nile. Saracenic ruins of brick-work. Traces of ruins of the ancient town. Extensive view from the promontory. Djibel Selsilis, mountains of the Chain; tradition thereof. Several small temples, excavated from the rocks, of calcareous stone. Statues in alto-relievo. Tasteful specimen of architecture. Numerous extensive quarries. Reach Edfoo, the ancient Apollinopolis Magna; its large temple; prodigiously high pylon. Sculptures and antiquities described. Striking contrast with the paltry modern town of Edfoo. Recent and interesting discoveries of emeralds by a French mineralogist. Stop at El Cab, the ancient

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Eleethias, splendid ruins. Curious antiquities of agricultural routine and other miscellaneous objects of interest in entaglio. Another small temple. Reach Esneh, the ancient *Latapolis*. A magnificent Egyptian temple, supported by twenty-four columns, with nine capitals, obscured by modern houses. Ruins of a small temple on the site *Aphroditopolis*. Another on the opposite side of the river. Erment, the ancient *Hermontis*. Ruins of four temples visible. Highly finished symbolic representations in basso-relievo. Remains of an ancient basin and Nilometer. Arrive at Luxor, part of the ancient Thebes. Lodge in one of the temples. Magnificent obelisks. Similarity of the hieroglyphics to those at Ebsambal, and to those of Cleopatra's Needles at Alexandria.

Visit the tombs of Gourná. Deceptive practices of the natives in the concealment of the antiquities. Their party attachments to French and English travellers. Description of the tombs, and their rich and exquisite sculpture. Account of the mummy pits. The subjects therein deposited. Inspect a newly discovered magnificent tomb; its fine paintings, in fresco, and other curiosities. The valley of Gourná, and its antiquities described. Visit a temple near Medinet-Aboo. Return to Luxor. Examine the statues and temples at Memnonium. Farewell visit to the tomb of the kings. Scorpions taken by our guide. Grand view from the Lybian mountains. Remarks upon ancient Thebes.

Departure for Cairo. Stop at Tentyra; swim the canal, and revisit the temple of Isis. Astronomical table, and complete lunar system on the ceilings delineated. Egyptian mode of calculating the year. Stop at Siout. Visit Dr. Marouky and Mr. Brine. Stop at Houarti, the village of our crew; infatuation of the women to procure them families. Ruins of a city in the Mockatém. A range of catacombs and temples in the rocks. Arrive at Cairo. Mr. Salt's urbane reception of us. Shave our beards and resume our European costume. Proceed with Mr. Salt, Col. Stratton, and Mr. Fuller, to the Pyramids. Account of the Great Sphinx, &c. Return to Grand Cairo, a mean, ill-built city. Description of its wretched inhabitants. Its citadel, government, and customs. Account of the massacre of the Mamelukes. The varied appearances of the Nile, and Egypt generally. Visit the fertile island of Rhoda. Egyptian agriculture. Boulack, the port of Cairo, and its extensive commerce. Contemplate our departure. Renew our supplies of provisions, clothes, and arms. Our expenditure. Letters of introduction from Mr. Salt. Interesting tomb at Radimore, covered with beautiful paintings.

LETTER II.

DEPARTURE from Cairo. An Arab, with three camels, conducts us to Jaffa. Pass the obelisk of Mataria, the site of Heliopolis, and other ruins. Our route through the desert. Stop at a village;

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proceed again at night. Howling of wild beasts. Joined at a village by a man with a loaded camel. Skirt the desert, and pass richly cultivated plains. Selahieh, the last village on the borders of Egypt. Recruit with water and provisions for the desert. Joined by eight persons on asses, on their pilgrimage to Mecca. Leave the village. Picturesque appearance of the desert. Contrast thereof with Nubia. Quails, partridges, &c. in abundance. Pass the lake Damietta and ruins of Pelusium. Desert more hilly. Many carcasses and detached bones of camels and asses, and some wells of indifferent water. Make bread. Approach a bay on the coast. Meet a small armed caravan. Backsheeish demanded and refused. Pass over a plain covered with salt. At breakfast a stranger demands backsheeish. A party of Tarabeen Arabs levy a contribution on our guides. Our arms preserve us from a like exaction. Arrive at El-Arish. Description thereof. Quit it by night, followed by an Arab, whom we request to leave us. Pass some wells, a Sheik's tomb, a Mahomedan burial place, flocks of sheep and goats, peasants and laden camels. Our arms protect us. Pass ruins, and arrive at Haneunis on the confines of Syria. Description of it and its inhabitants. Our route from Cairo. Proceed through a barren country to Esdier. Frantic grief of a woman, who had quarrelled with her husband. Proceed from Esdier to Gaza through richly cultivated plains, and thence through groves of olives and open country. Pass several villages. Arrive at Asdoud. Description of a Turkish khan. Curiosity of the natives of Asdoud. Suppose us to be doctors. Give them some balsam of Mecca. They beg some of our hair to burn, refuse it and laugh at their superstition. Their gratitude. Reasons for not proceeding from Gaza to Jaffa by way of Ashkelon. Quit Asdoud. The country open and little cultivated. Pass ruins of an aqueduct; well of poisonous water. Also Yabne the ancient Jamnia. Cross the river El Rubin. Description of Sheikh Rubin's tomb. Proceed over sand hills and along the sea beach towards Jaffa. See Ramla and Loudd on our right.

Arrive at Jaffa, the ancient Joppa. Ludicrous appearance of the British representative. His conduct. Description of Jaffa. Generosity of the Aga. Anecdote of him. Leave Jaffa, equipped, in an Arab suit of clothing, for the approaching winter. Skirt the sea-beach. Pass Arsouf, the ancient Apollonias, on the left, and arrive at Cesarea. Description thereof. Arrive at Tortura, the ancient Dora, and proceed to Athlite. Situation and description of Athlite. Pass the foot of Mount Carmel, and arrive at Caiffa, the ancient Hepha. Ascend Mount Carmel. Description of the convent. Elijah's cave, &c. Beautiful view of Acre, &c. Descend to Caiffa. Cross the brook Kishon and the river Belus. Arrive at Acre. Lodge in the convent. Description of Acre. A religious festival. Procure a firman from the Pashaw. Quit Acre, and

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pass on to Zib. Applied to for medical aid. Give them balsam of Mecca. Gratitude of the Sheikh's son. Leave Zib, and pass over Cape Blanco. Visit some ruins, and ascend the ladder of the Tyrians, a picturesque spot. Descend the ladder and arrive at Tsour, the ancient Tyre. Awful fulfilment of Scripture prophecies against Tyre, manifested in its present state.

Cross the Kasmia. Explore the ruins of several large cities. Cross several dry torrents and a river; its banks enriched with flowers. Pass the ruins of a city, and arrive at Saida, the ancient Sidon. Its immediate neighbourhood well cultivated. Visit the convent Mar Elias Alzo, the usual residence of Lady Hester Stanhope, with letters for her. Her ladyship absent, and residing at castle Jeba, a more elevated spot in the mountains. Forward her letters with a note. Her answer, requesting us to visit her convent. Her costume and amiable generosity. Description of Saida. Pass the ruins of an ancient town, and many sarcophagi, over the promontory of Bayruth. Descend through plantations of figs and mulberries to Bayruth, the ancient Berytus. Cross several rivers, and over a rocky promontory. Description of the nahr el Kelb. Sepulchre of St. George. Superstition of the fishermen. Cross the nahr Ibrahim, and arrive at Gebail, or Gibyle. Description thereof. Pass Batroun, the castle of Temseida, and arrive at Tripoli. Situation and description. Visit the English Consul. Visit the Cedars of Libanon and Baalbec, accompanied by Signior Guiseppe Mazoliere. Description of the road.

Arrive at Eden, and at the Cedars. Situation and description of the Cedars. Scriptural references to this country. The village of Eden identified with the garden of God. Ascend to the crest of Libanon. Extensive view of the hills at its south-east foot, Baalbec in the distance, and the sea to the westward. Description of the Bekaa Mathoalis. Descent from Libanon, excessively steep and rugged. Dismount, and walk the horses down to the valley. Proceed over some rugged hills covered with shrubs, to Yead. Arrive at Baalbec. Imposing grandeur of the ruins. Quit Baalbec for Tripoli. Rainy weather; stop at a village for the night; meet some peasants returning after an ineffectual attempt to cross the Libanon; the weather very bad, with much snow. Shelter in a cave filled with peasants at the foot of the mountain. Remove to a larger one, more exposed, and kindle a fire for the night. Next morning fine weather. Ascend the mountain. Fear of the peasants to proceed before us. Approaching the summit, the snow being deep, the horses fall. Reach the summit with much difficulty. The cold excessive. Descend through a great depth of snow to Eden. Our situation thought dangerous, and public prayers offered up for our safety. Return to Tripoli. Good quality of the Libanon wine. Leave Tripoli for Latachia. Stop at a khan near the nahr el Bered.

Arrive at Tortosa opposite Ruad island. Description thereof. The island of Ruad, the Arpad of scripture. Cross the nahr el

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Mulk. Stop at the village where Monsieur Boutin was killed. The inhabitants refuse us shelter. Bivouack in the open air. Pass Jebilee and reach Latachia, the ancient Laodicea. Its situation and port described. Detained three days by the intrigues of the Arab conductor. Arrive at Candele. Difficulty of finding Lourdee. Its situation close by the highest pinnacle of Mount Cassius. Descend the north side of the mountains. Scenery woody and wild.

Reach the banks of the Orontes near the site of the city and groves of Daphne. Description thereof. Follow the banks of the river; beautiful scenery. River meanders between high hills, and the road along precipices in the rocks. Enter the plain of Suadeah. Difficulty in finding Suadeah. Guided by a peasant across the river, up to the horses bellies. Suadeah a straggling village. Civility and generosity of the Soubash. Proceed towards Antioch. Rainy weather. Arrival at some cottages; refused admittance at three of them; our hospitable reception at a fourth; present the mistress with a gold double Napoleon. Reasons for giving it.

Arrive at Antioch—its description. Arrive at Gesir Adid, and cross the Orontes. The lake Aggi Dengis on the left. Arrive at Bourkee, the site of a Roman town. The sepulchres described. Pass several sites of ancient towns, castles, &c.; proceed over the rocky hills into the plain of Alaks. Stop at Tourneen. Arrive at Aleppo. Good fortune in the adoption of our own route, though advised by Sheik Ibrahim to take a northerly one. Arrive at Mr. Barker's, the consul-general. Find Mr. Bankes there. Wait for the Sukne caravan. Amusement during our stay at Aleppo. Idea of visiting Bagdad frustrated by a letter received by the Dutch consul. Suckne caravan arrives; dissuaded from going with it, and urged to proceed by way of Hamah and Homs.

LETTER III.

Remarks on Aleppo; its situation and buildings; decorations of the houses by Persian artists; carved-work doors, &c. Resemblance of the city to that of Antioch; neatness of the butchers' shops; its society and manners. Depart for Hamah, our good host accompanying us for two hours outside the town; his kind solicitude in our behalf; furnishes us with letters for advice and assistance to Selim, the governor's secretary at Hamah; and to Scander, secretary to the Motsellim of Homs, also to Hadji Hassan, an old Turk, at that place, a great dealer with the Arabs. Receive also Mr. Barker's letters to the Saraffs of the Pashaw of Damascus to secure horses; also, to Acre, Cyprus, and Smyrna; to Sir Robert and Lady Liston, and other persons of consideration, at Constantinople; aids us also with printed documents, a map, and money. Stay for the night at the khan Touman, a spacious lodging, but crowded with caravans for Damascus and Latachia. Proceed next day over naked plains in company with

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them; stop at Sermein. View of mount Cassius covered with snow on the right. Join a caravan bound to Hamah and Damascus, and proceed therewith. Pass a ruinous Turkish fortress, enclosing a village. Custom of such circumvallations, on the skirts of the desert accounted for. Meet an extensive caravan, part of the hadj, or Mecca pilgrimage, returning from Damascus; an interesting sight. The green flag (the prophet's banner) flying; the animals, a few camels, but chiefly horses and mules, all with bells; among them, the tackterwans, a curious vehicle peculiar to the east; description thereof.

Pass many divisions of the hadj; the animals laden with the pilgrims' private speculations. History of these customs. Commercial quickness of the peasants. Observe some Roman ruins and sarcophagi. Pass the night in a very good khan. Proceed in the morning; Lebanon, a mass of snow, before us. Mount Cassius shut in by the northern extremity of the Ansarian mountains. Observe sites of many ancient towns, tanks, sarcophagi, &c. much dilapidated; an open country abounding with gazelles and game. Sleep at khan Shekune, a good khan, but crowded from the hadj. Pursue our route over the plains, parallel with the range of the Ansarian mountains. Lebanon and Antioch in sight. Descend gradually into a delightful vale, and arrive at Hamah, on the west-bank of the Orontes, a winding stream; its banks fertile and picturesque. Take up our quarters in a khan; comparative description of these buildings, in the towns and on the road side; their terms of accommodation and arrangements; also, the mode of travellers subsisting themselves. At Hamah, receive a letter from Mr. Barker, by an express messenger from Aleppo, with a firman from the Grand Seignior, empowering us to go with four servants through Syria and Cyprus, the island of the Archipelago, &c. &c. to Constantinople, and insuring us all requisite assistance and protection. Melancholy scene of traffic in female slaves; eleven of them brought from Georgia; their charming appearance; wretched diet; mode of conveyance, and unnatural treatment; witness a disgusting bargaining for one about fifteen, by a rich old Turk; agonizing grief of one of the ill-fated girls, anticipating a separation from her sister and companions; their destination, Damascus. Comparative accuracy of Bruce and Volney, as to the Georgian and Circassian women. Negotiate with the Arabs to reach Palmyra; our Maltese interpreter meets with Pierre, in the employ of Lady H. Stanhope, and the bearer of a present to Narsah, the chief of the Annasee Arabs; Pierre professes his acquaintance with the Arab chiefs, his attendance upon lady Hester to Palmyra, and his negociation for Mr. Bankes, who was so injuriously treated. Embarrassed by the absence of Selim and Scander, at Damascus; resolution to wait Selim's return. Discuss with Pierre, the customary charges to travellers; his trickery and suspected treachery. A Christian from Homs offers his services; doubt his sincerity, but decide to

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avail ourselves of them, and manœuvre with Pierre; weather-bound three days.

Pierre visits us, surprised at our not having set out for Damascus. Introduces five Arabs to bargain for conduct to Palmyra; Sheikh Salee (their chief) nephew to Mahannah, a lad of fourteen; demands three thousand piastres for convoy; treat them all with derision; they menace us with robbery; lower their terms to eight hundred, and quit us; send them an offer of six hundred, including the hire of camels; *payment on our safe return to Hamah.* Agree with us, only "for the love of Malaka," or queen, (their title of Lady Hester Stanhope, from her liberal payment.) Send to the Aga to ratify the treaty in writing; his conditional responsibility; resist their importunities for money in advance, and depart from Hamah at day-break. Pierre follows. Cross the Orontes near the villages of Rastan, and the ancient Arethusia; description of them.

Arrive at Homs. Suspicious letter from the Sheikh Narsah to obtain money; penetrate the *trick*, resolve to walk, and call on *Narsah*. Trifling of the guide; he arrives, after three days, from his chief Mahannah with three camels. Further detention for the Motsellim's ratification of our bargain. Access to the governor prevented from the recent decapitation of the pashaw. Arbitrary proceedings of the Turkish government against suspected individuals. Make partial payment to Hadji Hassan under stipulations. The Motsellim's surprise at our confidence of safety with the Arabs. Proceed with our three camels and conductors. Our finesse to prevent probable robbery on the way.

Arrive at a Bedouin camp, and welcomed by both men and women; stop next day at another Arab camp, and equally well-received. Pursue our journey, at an early hour, in an easterly direction, but uncertain track. The Arab's economy of his time on a journey. His rapid collection of fuel to prepare refreshment. Dispatch our breakfast, in ten minutes, and proceed; quench our thirst at a neighbouring rock, under the impatience of our guides; their affected vigilance and courage. Approach the camp of Mahanna, in a valley. Observe children running down young partridges with dogs. A wild boar hunt; escape of the formidable animal with a single wound. Approach the Sheikh's tent. Old Mahannah, his two sons Sheikh's Narsah and Hamed, with chiefs from various camps assembled. Narsah's unmoved reception of us; accounted for his subsequent address. Enquires the reason of English curiosity to see Palmyra; supposes it the search for gold. Promise him the half of our chance.

Arrival of further Arab guests. Etiquette of the chiefs, and mode of salutation. Narsah questions us about Buonaparte, and the occupation of France by the allied troops. Recognize Sheikh Hamody, the person who exacted upon, and confined Mr. Bankes. His consciousness of impropriety. Regaled with roasted partridges, and bread dipped in butter and honey.

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Amusing customs while eating. Evening devotions, and curious mode of ablution. Narsah's elaborate address to his circle about some land. Its soporific effects on us. Refused permission to depart in the morning, and desired by the chief to join an immense assemblage of Arabs at a breakfast banquet of rice and camel's flesh. Our portion sent to us in a separate tent, conjectures as to the course of such arrangement. Order and decorum of the feast; mode of distributing the remains to the people. Narsah summons us to his select circle. His whimsical queries as to our customary diet. Mahannah makes signs to us for money. Exchange our camels for dromedaries, and take our leave, each having his conductor mounted behind him. One of Narsah's men accompanies us as a guard on a white dromedary finely decorated. Dreadful jolting of the animals. Sleep in an Arab tent, we proceed on our destination, and arrive there in the afternoon.

Imposing effect of the ruins of Palmyra, as seen from the valley of the tombs. Picturesque beauty, and cheering contrast of the scene with the lonely desert. Examine the antiquities minutely. Survey the Arab village of Tadmor, and Temple of the Sun. Mutilated state of its chief ornaments. Our disappointment in the inferiority of the architecture and sculpture of Palmyra. Description thereof. The tombs more interesting; their merits, as works of art, compared with those of Egypt. Much salt in the vicinity, a lucrative branch of commerce. Return from Palmyra and sleep, as usual, in an Arab tent. Pusillanimity of our Arab convoy. Pass parties of Mahannah's people, armed with spears, &c. Their inquisitiveness. Reach his camp at night. Mahannah deprives our poor Arabs of the salt they had purchased at Palmyra. Scheme of Narsah to obtain a new dress from us. Declares his intention to write a letter to the KING OF ENGLAND, and charges us with one to "his dear friend Lady Hester." Their various titles, and uniform veneration of that Lady. Difficulty of obtaining a draught of water at starting. Pursue our course and get benighted. Bivouack in the open air. Timidity of the Arabs to make a fire. Lay down between the camels. Deprived of sleep from the intensity of the cold. Proceed at day break; interesting sight of the removal of a camp. Get a good breakfast, off lentiles and bread, at a small camp. Novel appearance of the ground furrowed up by wild boars.

Arrive at Homs. Pleased with our guides, give them voluntary backsheesh, and charge them with the present of a turban to the Sheikh of Tadmor. General opinions of the Arabs. Remarks on their singular hospitality, habits, manners, customs, and comparative happiness. Rest a short time at Homs; proceed through a mountainous country, rounding the point of Anti-Lebanon, and in three days view the plain of Damascus. Arrive at the convent of Terra Santa in that city. Luxuriant

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fertility of its vicinity and surrounding country. Sensible comforts of a bed, after thirty-eight days' privation thereof. Visit the place of the vision of St. Paul. The house of Ananias, &c. Shum, or Shem, the ancient name of Damascus. Scriptural references as to this spot, &c. Friendly offices of the Pashaw's Physician, procured by Mr. Barker's letter. Obtain another firman for the Pashalic, and a letter to the Governor of Jerusalem, for guides to Mount Sinai. Meditated route to Constantinople. Find a letter left by Mr. Bankes; with information about the ancient Abilah, his hopes of our joining him at this place. Our mutual disappointment, &c.

LETTER IV.

DEPART from Damascus, follow the road to Jacob's bridge on the Jordan, between the lakes Houle and Tiberias. Stop at the khan of the village of Sasa. Pass through a rich plain to the westward for Panias. Traces of an ancient paved way, supposed the Roman road leading to Cæsarea Philippi. Djebail Sheikh. (Anti-Lebanon) on our right, a deep snow, almost impassable; a fine plain at the foot of Djebail Sheikh. A conspicuous tomb in the valley. The source of the Jordan considered. A singularly beautiful lake, called by Arrowsmith "Birket-el-Ram," by Josephus "Phiala." Further authorities as to the source of the Jordan. Fine coup d'œil. A hill to the S. W., the great Saracenic castle near Panias. The plain of Jordan, &c. A verdant country. Remarkable difference of climate from that of Damascus, &c. Cheering indications of spring. Enter Panias. Picturesque course of the river. Ruins of ancient walls on its banks. Town and environs described. Opinions as to the ancient Panias, afterwards Cæsarea Philippi; its extent, and other antiquities. Take the diversion of shooting.

Leave Panias, directed to follow the Jordan to lake Houle. Explore various fords. Cross the Jordan. Nearly lose the horses in a swamp. Reach the road to Safot at the foot of the hills. Intended day's journey shortened by the past difficulties. Stop at a village near lake Houle. Ascend an acclivity to Safot; pass some Roman ruins in a village. Grand and luxuriant prospect of the lakes of Houle and Tiberias, with part of the plain of the Jordan. Description of Safot, its castle, and fine approaches. Proceed towards Tiberias (the ancient Japhet). Pass the night at an old ruined khan, near the village of Madjdala. Dreadfully bitten and marked by a red vermin. Disgusting prevalence of other personal vermin in this country. The natives deem it "the curse of God on them." Bugs numerous, here and in Egypt. Shrubby and romantic country. Pass a picturesque cliff, with numerous caves occupied by goatherds. Arrive at Tiberias. Description of the modern town, on the lake of Gennesaret; its

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mural enclosure and towers. Fine reliques of the ancient town; also of the famous hot (mineral) baths of Tiberias. Their extraordinary degree of heat; experiments therein. A Turkish bath, the resort of the Jews, and a Roman sepulchre, supposed by them to be the "tomb of Jacob." Remains of Vespasian's fortifications. Description of the lake Tiberias. "The miraculous draught of fishes," and other gospel allusions considered. Lodge in the church, under an Arab priest, "identified as the house of St. Peter." Exchange the sacred roof, for the open court, on account of the fleas. Proverbial saying of the natives upon these insects. The dearth of fish accounted for. Passage of the Jordan through the lake, discernible.

Arrival of Mr. Bankes from a tour of the Haouran. Consent to accompany him on his projected tour of the Dead Sea. Mr. Bankes makes a short visit to Safot. Inspect Om Keis, (the ancient Gadara) in the country of "the Gadarenes." Leave Tiberias. Pass the site of the ancient Tanichea; ruins of a Roman bridge on the Jordan, and the village of Semmack. Cross the river Yarmack, or Hieromax. Ancient site of "Amatha." Kindly received by the sheikh of the natives inhabiting the ancient sepulchres. Lodged in a large tomb. Arrangements and description of its occupants. Scriptural recollections and identity of this spot, the Necropolis; its sepulchral and other antiquities described.

Visit the hot springs in the plain of the Yarmack. Ruins of a Roman bath at the source. Find sick persons thereat. Return to Tiberias. Occupied four days in measuring the circuit of the ancient city, and in making researches. Mr. Bankes discovers and makes a plan of a curious ancient fortification. Elaborate task of taking the measurements. Its appellation by the natives. Historical remarks thereon. Roman ruins in the village of Erbed at the foot of Mount Beatitude. Old convents of singular construction, between the village of Majdil, the ancient Magdala, and the fortress Callah-el-Hammam. Ruins of six Roman baths, of luke-warm mineral water, in the vicinity. Their form, peculiar construction, and surrounding scenery described. Swim to the Scorpion rock. Leave Tiberias. Pass an extensive aqueduct, discover traces of the walls of Tarichea. Circuitous course of the Jordan here. Pass a khan near a bridge of arches upon arches. Observe a Roman mile-stone. Pavement of the ancient road again perceivable. A sarcophagus on an eminence. A great number of Arab camps on our way. Arrive at Bysan, supposed the Bethshan of Scripture. Sacred memoranda thereof. Inspect the ruins of this great city. Its famous theatre, now filled with weeds, a primary object of interest. Remarks of Vitruvius on its peculiar structure; make a plan thereof. Discover twenty-four skulls, and other human remains in a concealed vomitory. A viper entwined in one of them. Examine the reliques of the tombs, near the Acropolis, and remaining sarcophagi. A fine Roman bridge, and near it, the paved way to the ancient Ptole-

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mais, now Acre. A dilapidated bridge. Prostrate columns of Corinthian architecture. Ruins of many subterranean graneries, and other antique remains in the suburbs. Character of the people.

Leave Bysan. Take guides for fording the Jordan. A tomb called "Sheikh Daoud," near the ford. Increased swiftness of the river here. Bathe, and ascertain its breadth. Visit "Tabathat Fahkil." Ruins of a modern village, of an ancient city, near it. Of a fine temple by the water-side, and of columns of the Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian orders. Excavations in the hills, the probable Necropolis, and the spot where Elijah was fed by the ravens. Sleep at Hallawye. Arrive at the village Cafringee in the valley of Adjeloun. Traces of a Roman town. Accompanied by the principal Sheikh to the Callah-el-Rubbat. Visit an extensive natural cave, supposed the "cave of Mackkedah." Scriptural reference thereto. Description of the castle and its antiquities. Find a Roman mile-stone in an old mosque, with fragments of Roman sculpture. Village of Eugen, Roman tombs, and sarcophagi. Extreme beauty of the country. The arbutus and other curious trees. Further traces of the Roman road. More Roman mile-stones. Village of Souf, its scenery and antiquities. Visit the ruins of Djerash. Character of the natives of Souf. Revisit Djerash escorted by the sheikh of Souf and ten armed men. Their officiousness and self-importance. Return to Souf. The natives, affected terror of the dytchmaan (enemy). Arrival of Mr. Bankes' interpreter and a soldier, with a young prince of the Benesuckher Arabs, and ten men armed and mounted. Ebn Fayes (the prince), attended by his mace bearer. Description of the party and their martial manoeuvres. Negotiations with them for guidance and protection on our intended route. Their refusal to go beyond Kerek, and reasons thereof. Objects of our research as connected with scripture history; conclude with the Arab guard, pay down the money, and proceed. Make further measurements and survey at Djerash. Precautions necessary in dealing with the Arabs. Pass the night at the village of Katty. The Arabs demand subsistence money. Repeat our labours among the antiquities of Djerash. Conducted to a camp of the Salhaan Arabs. Artifice of the conductors, to induce a present of one of our horses. The Benesuckhers refuse to go to Djerash. Dispatch our baggage to Katty, and proceed for Djerash. Pass a deserted village. Meditated interception of us by six Salhaans. Reinforce ourselves, and advance upon them with ridicule. Resume our operations at Djerash. Measuring, drawing, and copying inscriptions. Mr. Bankes surprised at work, and robbed of his cap by an armed Arab. Great quarrel at Katty between the Benesuckhers and the villagers. The field abandoned by the former. Dishonesty, desertion of the Damascus soldier. Completion of task at Djerash. Description of its numerous splendored ruins and antiquities, historical remarks thereon.

Depart for Szalt. Cross the Zerka. Pass the night at a camp

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of the Salhaans. Menacing scheme of the Benesuckhers to impede our progress and extort money. The prince's prime minister, the chief rogue. The prince and his gang quit us for their own camp. Proceed to Szalt. Ruins of a large square cyclopean building in the valley Bayga. Pass some inclosed vineyards. Prospect of Szalt, and its luxuriant neighbourhood. Description of its choice fruits. Arrive, wet through. The people's reception and treatment of us. Find many Christians. Conducted to the house of one. Attempted extortion of "the minister." Dismiss the gang. Their efforts and threats to draw us to their camp. Our contempt of them. Insulted by the Mahommedan natives. Accompanied by the sheikh's son and five guards on our researches. Ruins of the village Athan, and sarcophagi in the rocks. Two old tombs at Gilhad Gilhood; adoption of one as a christian chapel. "The birth place of the prophet Elijah." Visit several ruined villages. Szalt identified as Machærus, where John the Baptist was beheaded. Conciliatory invitation from the Benesuckher prince to his camp. Our ulterior plans and determination. Quit Szalt amidst a great dispute among the people. Our interpreter found concealed and crying behind a door. Rejoined by the prime minister and two Benesuckhers; their attempt to mislead us aided by the Turkish natives. Discover the right road to Jerusalem, and proceed followed by the Arabs. View of the Dead Sea, Jericho and the plain of Jordan. The two men leave us; their supposed object. Divert our course towards the Jordan and quit "the minister." Reach its banks. Ancient tombs. Swim the river on horseback. Spoil all our papers. Misled by a labourer. Benighted and shelter in a shepherd's cave. Retrace our steps to Wady Zeit. Received by the peasants armed; mistaken. Procure a guide for Nablous. The Arabs reported to be in chace of us. Village of Bait Horage. Twenty-eight hours without food. Village of Kaffer Baiter. Old Roman tombs and tanks, dead bodies therein. Jacob's well. Nablous the ancient Sychem. Ruins of a large town, tank, and sheikh's tomb, on mount Gerizim. Visit Bethlethem and St. John's. Trick of the fire in the Holy Sepulchre at the Greek Easter. Departure with the pilgrims, the governor and an immense body of troops to the Jordan. The Procession described. Arrival at the camp near Jericho. Proceed to the Jordan. Pilgrims all bathing. Their various ceremonies described. Attended by two Arabs, bathe in the Dead Sea. Peculiar nature and effects of the water. Reach Jerusalem. Meet Lord and Lady Belmore. Serious dispute of the Friars in the Holy Sepulchre. Sepulchres called the tombs of the kings. The governor refuses permission to excavate. The Reverendissimo certifies our visit to all the sacred places at Jerusalem.

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LETTER V.

PRELIMINARY arrangements for leaving Jerusalem. Assume oriental names. Adapt our costume. Secrete our money in our belts, and depart, well armed, from Jerusalem at dusk. Party, eleven in number. Sleep at Bethlehem. Proceed for "Solomon's pools;" ascend the mountain of the Franks. The ruinous state of its walls and towers; military history thereof. View of the Dead Sea. Bethlehem, &c. Proceed by Harriatoon to the labyrinth; curiosity thereof. English names inscribed. Ruins of Tekoa, built by King Rehoboam. Track to Hebron. Pass Sipheer and its Roman sepulchral caves. Ruins of the house of the House of Abraham." Pass numerous vineyards, with antique watch-towers.

Arrive at Hebron. Hospitable reception. Description of the town and its inhabitants. Refused admission to the mosque and Tomb of Abraham. Description of the exterior. Manufactory of glass lamps. Introduction to the Jewish priest by the governour. Hospitality of the Jews, who offer letters of introduction. Visit the synagogue. Present the governour with a watch. His dissatisfaction. Contract for guides. Governour inspects our firmans, &c. Introduces our conductors. The law officers and authorities. The guides refuse to conduct us. Receive the money and watch. Depart by ourselves for Kerek. A messenger overtakes us. We re-contract and receive one Jellaheen Arab. Pass the ruins of Hagee, and two Roman tombs. Jellaheen camp of thirty tents, with harems for the women. An Arab tailor arrives; refusal, from fear, to conduct us to Wady Mousa. Agree for guides to Kerek; their avarice on the road; they leave us; they rejoin us. Delightful prospect of the Dead Sea. Pass an old Turkish ruin on a rock. Drink from a pool of green, stagnant water at El-Zowar, a man bathing therein. Enter the great plain at the end of the Dead Sea. Refresh ourselves with flour and water, and retire to rest. Disturbed by our guides in dread of the dytchmaan. Observe numerous hills and strata of salt. Mountainous margin of the Dead Sea, pass into a country of curious shrubbery. Botanical remarks thereon.

Arrive at the nahr el Hussan, or horse river. The Ghorneys hospitably entertain us; refuse any compensation. Mistaken for soldiers of Mahommed Aga. Left them in a terrible scramble and dispute for money thrown amongst them. Great annoyance from horse flies, identified by the natives as those of the plague. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Attempt to cross the Hussan on horseback. Our horses lay down in the stream; dismount and walk down. Proceed under the mountains. See quantities of rich porphyry, and various beautiful stone. Collect specimens thereof. Reach the south end of the Dead Sea, and