

among the last arrivals. It has been supposed by some that the Kaffirs are of Shemitic origin, and there are certain of their usages which seem remarkably to favour the idea : as, for instance, circumcision, the law of marriage and the widow, the distinction of clean and unclean animals ; and one of their tribes towards the north, the Makalakas, seems still to hold sacred a seventh day. The structure of the Kaffir language does not, however, support this idea, which is now abandoned. It is probable, at the same time, that in their southern wanderings there may have been added a considerable mixture of Shemitic blood, as Arab rule long prevailed on the east coasts of Africa ; and this may in part account for these usages. It is a question of greater difficulty how far the Kaffirs are a Hamitic race. Much mystery still hangs around that great people whose history begins for us at the time of Babel, and culminates in the early splendour of Egyptian civilization. It was they, too, whose races aided so powerfully the great Shemitic invasions of Europe by Hannibal, and in the middle ages by the Moors. There is every likelihood that the affinity is close of the Kaffir to the Copt and the Berber of North Africa, the ancient Numidian, and to those warlike tribes