

caravan often fell in with other Arab tribes travelling like themselves, but they never pitched their tents near each other. This arose partly from fear and partly from the scarcity of water and food for their cattle. Beasts of prey seldom attacked a party unless they first molested; but about this part of the route the flocks were attacked in a wood of some extent by a tiger. The camels smelt this animal at a great distance, which was known by their refusing to advance. This tiger killed three men, notwithstanding their firearms, wounded five others, and ended his exploit by carrying off a sheep, as lightly and easily as if it had been a feather, in its mouth. In the same wood, which contained date and cocoa trees and wild oranges, Scott saw a tame elephant in the possession of a party whom they met.

Beyond this wood he observed no more of the clayey soil which was noticed, and for the next month the district was entirely sandy, though still containing small hills, or rather hillocks, and here and there running streams of brackish water. The caravan then came abruptly on the shores of a vast lake or sea. The day was extremely clear, and two mountain tops on the opposite shore of this large inland gulf were just visible almost like clouds on the sky. The point at which they had arrived was not that which they intended to reach; for it was an uninhabited country. They proceeded therefore along the banks of the lake, and in the same evening arrived at a number of fixed huts, built of canes and bamboos, and called El Sharaz. The surrounding country was of a soft sandy soil, and only partially wooded; but the trees were in general very high. The route from El Ghblah to El Sharaz had been, upon the whole, as far as Scott could guess from the position of the sun, a little to the southward of east, inclining farther to the south towards the end of the journey.

Hitherto no mention has been made of the unfortunate captive's sufferings during this travel. The Arabs themselves endured much and fared ill, but Scott fared much worse, was severely tasked, and frequently most cruelly beaten in addition. His feet and legs were blistered by the burning sand; and if he lagged from fatigue, or slept too long in the morning, his tyrants belaboured him with a cudgel. The whole party were often short of water, and at one time, when travelling over the hard ground, near the salt and brimstone mines, they were in great distress, having been six days without any water. The resource then was the milk of their goats and camels, and they frequently collected the urine of the latter as a drink in this extremity, and preserved what water was found in the stomachs of several that died. Only one meal was taken by the Arabs, which, when they had grain, consisted of barley flour and goat's milk. When they had none, however, they were obliged to eat the flesh of the dead camels, and their hides also; and locusts were occasionally used by them in extremity as food. All their meat was roasted in such a way that particles of sand and dirt were abundantly mingled up with it, but this was totally disregarded.

Leaving at El Sharaz their cattle and property with two persons of each family, the remainder of the party to the number of eighty, among whom was Scott, crossed the great lake, called Bahar Tieb,\* in a large red-wood boat. Here the negroes were first seen by Scott, in the character of slaves to the Arabs. The boat had an anchor attached to it, but every thing was in the rudest fashion, and three days were spent in the passage. Many other vessels of small size were on the lake, which was composed of a brackish kind of fresh water, and abounded in fish. On landing in the sacred country to which their pilgrimages were directed, the Arabs all kissed the ground three times, and washed their faces and hands with sand, as they did at all times when they prayed. Scott's conscientious refusal to imitate this, procured him a severe beating with sticks, and the men told him further, that, when they reached Hez el Hezch, and Sidna Mohammed (the grave of some near relation of the prophet,) he must become a Mahometan, or die; for if he did not change his faith, Mohammed would rise and kill him.

The party then traversed a mountainous country till they arrived at a valley containing large trees, from the fruit of which an abundant vegetable oil was extracted. Here also was a building, partly built of red stones, and partly of rushes and canes, with one end to the north, and one to the south, having a large forked pole arising from the roof, on the points of which were two ostrich eggs. This was Sidna Mohammed, the grave alluded to of the chief who was related to the prophet. By the sides of it were the

graves of many pilgrims, which were all marked by small hollows and a stone. In Scott's party were five pilgrims, who seem to have borne a character somewhat resembling the palmers of the old Catholic church, for they were dressed in white shirts, with red belts round their waists, and in their hands brass boxes containing books and papers. The pilgrims went through similar ceremonies of bowing and kissing the stone, as those performed at Mecca, and all the party, excepting Scott, followed their example.—They threatened to kill the poor lad, but his sufferings had made this threat not so terrible as it might have been, and he had the constancy to resist all their endeavours. In consequence of his obstinacy, he was confined to a hut during the remainder of the stay at El Hezch, and saw therefore little more of their ceremonial observances.

After about a month's stay altogether at this place, the caravan party re-embarked on the lake Bahar Tieb, and returned to their companions and property at El Sharaz. The hire paid to the proprietors of the boat was three camels for each family conveyed across. Of these valuable animals several had died during the month, owing, it was supposed, to their having swallowed stones while feeding on the low bushes. The loss of so many camels was a grievance, but the party, notwithstanding, set out on their return. On reaching the wood alluded to as the scene of the adventure with the tiger, they met with a band of Negroes, called, by the Arabs, Bambaras. These were armed only with bows and arrows, and the Arab party, without the slightest provocation, attacked and defeated them, taking eight of them prisoners.—These were bound hand and foot, and the next morning carried away by their captors, who pursued their journey. After a month and a half of travelling, in a different route apparently from that by which they had come, the caravan came to a large valley, where they took their abode for nearly a quarter of a year. This will not be wondered at, when one recollects, that, though they are often more attached to one place than another, scarcely any one spot is the place of birth of two members even of one family, and no one quarter, consequently, has any pretensions to be called their general home. The valley where they now were, supplied them with water and vegetables, particularly one resembling the green sauce of Britain, which served as food both to man and beast. When the leaves fell from the trees, and the vegetation began to decay, away went the wandering sons of Ishmael in search of another abode.

They arrived at this time near El Ghblah, the spot, it will be remembered, from which they started. They never travelled farther to the northward than this, for fear of being taken by the Moors of Morocco, between whom and the Arabs (for they are of the same race) of the desert a deadly hatred exists. The caravan party or tribe were now held in much higher estimation than formerly, on account of their having effected the holy pilgrimage, and they got the new title of Sidi el Hezch Hezch. This religious exaltation was a source of great trouble to Scott, for, since his refusal to change his faith, they treated him much more cruelly, beating him almost daily with sticks.

The dress of the Arab tribes at El Ghblah is nothing more than a simple blanket or shawl, which is worn both by men and women, the latter having generally silver clasps to secure their covering, and belts. Their marriage ceremonies are very simple. A man who wishes to take a young woman to wife, makes a present of a number of camels to her father, and, in general, without delays, coquettings, or refusals, the girl removes from her father's to her wooer's tent, and the matter is finished. Some attention is paid to the education of children: they are taught to write, and Scott learned their process, which appeared, from his specimens to be a very rude one.

After the return from the pilgrimage, the Arabs did not sit down in peace to rest themselves; for in twelve days after they came to El Ghblah, they set out on a plundering expedition, taking Scott with them. Their intention was to attack the tents of the enemies, or rather the objects of their cupidity, by night; but the alarm had been given by some dogs, and the scheme was frustrated. An open battle was the consequence, in which Scott's companions were the victors. Five days afterwards, however, they were vanquished in turn, and were forced to fly for refuge to some nearly inaccessible rocks by the sea-side. Here Scott was of great use to them, though in a most perilous way to the poor captive. He was lowered down from high rocks to the beach, where he collected mussels and fishes for them, without which they would have perished from famine.

This is a sample of the life of suffering and danger which was the lot of poor Scott during all his remaining captivity among the African Arabs; for these restless bands never were at peace, or out of dangerous broils, for one day or hour. He attempted more than once, before his final flight, to make his escape, and on one of these occasions was lashed so severely

on the soles of his feet, and burnt with a hot iron rod, that it was two or three months before he recovered from the punishment. At last, in the beginning of August, 1816, a circumstance occurred, which incited him to another trial, in which he was fortunate enough to succeed. He fell asleep while tending his master's herds, and in the mean time a wolf came, killed three sheep, and dispersed the rest of the flock, so that when the slumberer awoke, the dead sheep were all that were visible. Such was his dread of a punishment similar to the last which had been inflicted on him, that he fled instantly towards the sea-shore, along which he travelled for four days and nights in a northerly direction. During this time his only sustenance was a little fresh water. On the fifth day he met with a Moor, who, though at first wearing a hostile appearance, ultimately received and entertained him in the most hospitable manner. By the Moor's advice, Scott wrote an account of his sufferings and situation to the British Consul at Mogador. This letter the Moor himself carried a distance of one hundred and fifty miles; and the result was, that Mr. Willshire, the consul, gave a considerable sum in name of ransom to the friendly Moor, and Scott was brought to Mogador, where he was treated with the kindest attentions, and ultimately sent home to England in the brig Isabella of Aberdeen. He reached his native land on the 9th of December, 1816, after an absence of six years, spent in sufferings and dangers such as few men are doomed to undergo.

It ought to be mentioned, to the praise of Mr. Willshire, the Mogador consul, that to him several others of the crew of the Montezuma were indebted for the means of ransom, and the same humane attention which was paid to the unfortunate wanderer.

The above account of the sufferings and wanderings of Alexander Scott, for six years among the Arabs, is condensed from a narrative drawn up and published some years ago by Professor Traill, who received the particulars from Scott's own lips, and who states a perfect conviction of their truth in every respect.

[FOR THE BEE.]

To the Freeholders of Tatamagouche, New-Annan, and Earlton.

Gentlemen,

By a short period will now offer, of giving you an opportunity, of making a selection of a Candidate to represent you in the next General Assembly of representatives. Owing to such being the case, and that this occasion, connected with such vital importance to you as Freeholders, and the more immediate interest of the County at large, induces me to offer a few remarks for your mature deliberation. In your selection of a Representative, I would say that he should be a man whose interests are, in every respect, connected with the interests of the county; whose political tenets are in unison with your own; whose information of the wants of the county should not be limited; whose power and influence in that House, is considerable; whose abilities as an orator, in advocating independently your rights and privileges are not defective; and whose past conduct, both as a private character and politician is not defamed. Such should be the leading principles which he, as your representative, in a great measure should be endowed with; and without a greater part of these qualities, no man should be upheld as a candidate for your suffrages. Keeping in view these remarks, I would now turn your attention to what has been done for you previous to this momentous occasion. You, as a section of the county have suffered much, from the negligence, on the part of those who you expected had the interests of the county at heart; from those who promised much, and who when referred to, petition after petition, embracing the wants of your section of the county, did nothing, and such only received a momentary glance. In making these statements to you, I do so from my own personal knowledge, and what you, as well as myself, know to be truth. Again, I would say for example, turn your attention to the Main Post Road from Pictou to Amherst; in this section of the county it needs no description. This far I will say, it is in a worse state than any Post Road one hundred miles hence; which is principally owing to the wilful neglect

\* As Bahar signifies a navigable sheet of water generally, Tieb we must suppose to be the proper name of this lake. The resemblance of Tieb in sound to Dib or Dibbie is evident, and the lake is in all probability the same as that on the Niger's course, mentioned by Park, though the Bahar Tieb had no perceptible current.