

Inhabited by Andalusian Moors. Mahomet, a late bey of this kingdom, planted in this neighbourhood a great variety of fruit-trees, placing each species in a separate grove: thus the citron trees are all placed by themselves, without being mixed with the orange or the lime; and where you gather the peach or apricot, you are not to expect the pear or apple. In the adjacent valley the same public spirited prince erected, out of the ruins of an ancient amphitheatre, a large masonry bridge, or dam, with sluices and flood-gates to raise the Mejerdah to a proper height, for the refreshing of his plantations: but this was too laudable a work for it to last long in Barbary, and therefore it has been entirely broken down and destroyed.

*of Sallust.*

The city of Bayjah, or Beja, the Vecca of Sallust, is a place of great trade, and the chief mart for corn in the whole kingdom. It is built on the declivity of a hill, and has the convenience of being well watered. On the highest part of the city is a citadel of no great strength, and on the walls, which are raised out of the ancient materials, are several inscriptions. In the plains that lie before the city, a public fair is kept every summer on the banks of the Mejerdah, to which the most distant Arabian tribes resort with their families and flocks.

*of Sallust.*

Ferreanah is thought, from its lonely situation and other circumstances, to be the Thala of Sallust, and was once the largest city of Bizacium: though it has no other remains of its ancient grandeur, but some granite and other columns, which the Arabs have left standing on their pedestals. It has been extremely well watered; for, besides a considerable brook which runs under the walls, the city has had several wells, surrounded with a corridor, and vaulted over with a cupola. This, with the goodness of the air, are the only benefits this city can urge in favour of its situation; for, except a small extent of ground to the southward, which the inhabitants cultivate by supplying it, at proper times, with the water of the rivulet, the rest of the adjacent country is dry, barren, and inhospitable. The prospect to the westward is terminated with some naked precipices; or, where the eye is at liberty to wander through a valley between some narrow cliffs, you are entertained with no other view than of a desert scorched up with perpetual drought, and glowing with the ardent beams of the sun.

Twelve leagues to the eastward of Ferreanah is Gafsa, the ancient Capfa, which is situated on a rising ground, almost enclosed with mountains; but the landscape is more gay and verdant than that about the last mentioned city, from the prospect it affords of palm, olive, pistachio, and other fruit-trees. However, this agreeable scene is of small extent, and only serves to refresh the eye in the more distant prospect of an interchange of barren hills and vallies. These trees are watered by two springs, one of which rises within the citadel, and the other in the center of the city. The latter is probably the fountain mentioned by Sallust, and was formerly covered with a cupola: it is still walled round, and discharges itself into a basin, which was perhaps originally designed for a bath. These two springs unite their streams before they leave the city, forming a pretty large brook, which, from the quantity of water, and the rapidity of the stream, might continue its course to a great distance, did not the inhabitants constantly use it in supplying their plantations. In the walls of some private houses, and more especially in those of the citadel, which is a slight modern building, is a great confusion of columns of granite, entablatures, and altars, which, when entire, and in their proper situations, must have been great ornaments to the city.

#### S E C T. XXIV.

*Of the Roman and other Antiquities to be found in the Kingdoms of Tunis.*

FROM the account we have given of the principal towns of Tunis, it appears that this country abounds with Roman and other antiquities; and we shall now add to those we have already mentioned, others of a more extraordinary nature. The Rev. and learned Dr. Shaw

says, it is difficult to fix the exact situation of the ancient city of Utica, except we allow that the sea has been driven back three or four miles by the easterly winds, and the increase of the mud, which is probably the case; and then it may be justly placed at Boofhater, where are many traces of buildings of great extent and magnificence, as walls, cisterns, and a large aqueduct. These ruins lie about twenty-seven Roman miles from Carthage, and behind them we are entertained with a view of the large fields which the Romans have rendered famous by their military exploits.

*Utica.*

The celebrated city of Carthage has not much better supported itself against the encroachments caused by the north-east winds, and the mud thrown out by the Mejerdah, which has stopped up the ancient harbour, and rendered it almost as far distant from the sea as Utica. The greatest part of Carthage stood upon three hills, inferior in elevation to those on which Rome was built. Upon a place which overlooks the south-east shore is the area of a spacious room, with several smaller near it: some of them have tessellated pavements, but neither the design nor the execution are very extraordinary. In rowing along the shore, the common sewers are seen in several places, which, as they were originally well built and cemented, time has not in the least impaired. Except these, the cisterns have suffered least by the ruin of the city; for, besides those which belonged to particular houses, there were two sets for the public use: the largest, which was the grand reservoir, and received the water of the aqueduct, lay near the west wall of the city, and consisted of more than twenty contiguous cisterns, each about a hundred feet long and thirty broad. The smaller cistern is in a higher situation near the cothon, it being contrived to collect the rain water that fell upon the top of it, and upon some adjacent pavements made for that purpose. This, however, might be repaired with little expence, the small earthen pipes through which the water was conveyed wanting only to be cleaned.

No other remains of the grandeur and magnificence of this ancient city, the rival of Rome, are now to be seen. We find no superb pieces of architecture; no triumphal arches; no columns of porphyry or granite; no curious entablatures: all the broken walls and structures now to be seen, being erected either in the Gothic manner, or by the later inhabitants. However, the ruins of the celebrated aqueduct that conveyed the water into the greater cisterns, may be traced to the distance of at least fifty miles. This was a very expensive work, and that part of it which extends along the peninsula, was beautifully faced with stone. Dr. Shaw observes, that at Arriana, a small village to the northward of Tunis, are several entire arches, which he found to be seventy feet high, and supported by piers sixteen feet square. The water channel above these arches was vaulted over, and plastered with a strong cement: a man of the ordinary size may walk upright in it, and at certain distances holes are left open both for the admission of fresh air, and the convenience of cleaning it. A temple was erected at Zowan, and at Zungar, over the fountains by which this aqueduct is supplied with water; that of Zungar appears to have been of the Corinthian order, and ends very beautifully in a dome that has three niches, and extends over the fountain. In these niches were probably statues of water-nymphs, or other deities.

Farther to the east is the sanctuary of Seedy Doude, which takes its name from David, or as they pronounce it Doude, a Moorish saint, whose sepulchre is here shewn five yards long. Yet this structure appears to be part of a Roman Prætorium, from the contiguous Mosaic pavements, all of them executed with the greatest symmetry and exactness: the figures are horses, trees, birds, and fishes, beautifully inlaid in such a variety of colours, that they even appear more gay and lively than many tolerable paintings. The horse, the insignia of the Carthaginians, is represented in the bold posture in which it appears upon the African medals; the birds are the hawk and the partridge; the fishes the gilt-head and the mullet; and the trees the palm and the olive. The designer perhaps, intending to point out the strength, the diversions, the fishery, and the plenty of dates and olives,