

THE WISDOM OF THE EAST.

BY GEORGE MURRAY, B. A.

BEFORE a Judge two Arabs came,
One to deny, and one to claim.

And one was young and one was old :
They differed—like the tale they told.

The young man spake : " Nine days have flown
Since the hot sands I crossed alone.

" My gold, meanwhile, I left in trust
With yon old man, reputed just.

" My journey o'er, his tent I sought—
He swears I trusted him with nought."

" Name," said the Judge, " the sum of gold :
And where, I pray thee, was it told ?"

" Four score gold pieces did I tell
Beneath a palm-tree, by a well."

Then spake the Judge : " Go, seek that tree,
And bid him hither come to me ;

" But take my seal that he may know
To whom thou biddest him to go."

The youth went out into the plain—
The old man and the Judge remain.

An hour passed by, but not a word
From either of the twain was heard.

At length the Judge : " He cometh not—
Dost think the lad hath reached the spot ?"

The old man, startled, answered : " No—
Far o'er the sands the tree doth grow."

The Judge spoke sternly, like a king,
" How know'st where that one palm doth spring ?