

## CHAPTER III.

*Account of the Kingdom of Tunis, as divided into the Summer and Winter Circuits, including an Account of the Ruins of the ancient Carthage. A Description of Tunis, Susa, and other Places of consequence.*

“ THE Kingdom of Tunis is bounded to the north and east by the Mediterranean sea; to the west by Algiers; and to the south by Tripoly; extending from the isle of Jerba in  $33^{\circ} 30'$  to Cape Serra in  $37^{\circ} 12'$  north latitude; it being two hundred and twenty miles in length, and only one hundred and seventy in breadth. Sbekkah, the farthest city to the west, being situated in  $8^{\circ}$  and Clybea, the farthest to the east in  $11^{\circ} 20'$  east longitude from London.

“ Tunis is not like Algiers, divided into provinces: but is under the immediate inspection of the Bey, who goes in person to collect the tribute; for which purpose he once a year visits the principal parts with a flying camp; in the summer season traversing the fertile country near Keff and Bajjah, and the districts between Cairwan and the Jereede; and in the winter taking a circuit through the rest of the country: therefore under these divisions I shall describe this Kingdom.

“ The summer circuit \* is much better inhabited, than any part of the neighbouring Kingdoms of the same size, it having a greater number of cities, towns and villages; and from there being fewer instances of oppression in the government, there is a greater appearance of affluence, prosperity, and cheerfulness.

“ The country is pretty fruitful; but its fertility is interrupted by several hills, plains and marshes dispersed over it, that will admit of no cultivation, nor any manner of improvement.

“ A small island opposite to the mouth of the river Zaine is in the possession of the Genoese, who pay an annual rent for it to the Regency; but the coral fishery, which chiefly induced them to make this settlement, failing considerably, it is not probable that they will long keep possession of it.

“ They have, however, built a fort for their protection against any surprize from the neighbouring Arabs on the continent, and from the insults of the cruising vessels of Algiers and Tripoly.

“ Cape Negro, which is about five leagues to the north-east, is remarkable for a settlement of the French African company, who

“ pay a considerable sum of money to the Tunisiens for the same privileges they enjoy at La Calle, and have a small fortification to protect them from the attack of the neighbouring Arabs.

“ Five leagues farther to the north-east is Cape Serra, the most northerly part of Africa; and four leagues beyond it are three rocky islands, called The Brothers, lying near the continent, half way to Cape Blanco.

“ Eight miles beyond this last cape, at the bottom of a large gulph is the city of Bizerta, pleasantly situated on a canal between an extensive lake and the sea. It is about a mile round, and defended by several castles and batteries, the principal of which are towards the sea, from which the lake is continually receiving a brisk stream, or discharging one into it, the waters flowing into the lake when the wind is northerly, and returning back into the sea when it blows from the south.

“ The channel between the lake and the sea was the port of Hippo, which is still capable of receiving small vessels; but it was formerly the safest and most beautiful haven on this coast, and there are still remaining traces of a large pier, that extended a considerable way into the sea, to break the force of the north-east winds; but the want of this, and proper repairs, will soon demolish a haven, which, in any other country would be invaluable.

“ The gulph of Bizerta, the Sinus Hipponensis of the ancients, is a beautiful sandy inlet, near four leagues in diameter. The ground being low, the eye is permitted to penetrate through delightful groves of olive-trees, a great way into the country and afterwards the prospect is bounded by a high rocky shore. Were the Turks to give proper encouragement to trade and industry, Bizerta might be rendered a town of a great wealth; for it abounds with all kinds of fish and fruit, with corn, pulse, oil, cotton, and a variety of other productions.

“ On the side of a spacious navigable basin formed by the river Mejerdah, lies Porta Farina, which was some years ago a considerable city, but is now under great discouragements. It is chiefly remarkable for its beau-

\* This is the Regio Carthaginiensium of Strabo, the Regis Zeugitana and the Africa Propria of Pliny, &c. the eastern part of the Africa of P. Mela, the

Provincia Proconsularis of the Notitia, and the Provincia Vetus of the old historians.



“ tiful cothon, where the Tuniseens have their  
“ navy.

“ The Mejerdah is the Bagrada, so famous  
“ in history for the monstrous serpent said to  
“ have been killed on its banks by Regulus,  
“ which Pliny tells us was one hundred and  
“ twenty feet in length. This river winds thro’  
“ a rich and fertile country, and like the Nile,  
“ makes encroachments upon the sea.

“ To the cause we may attribute the many  
“ changes that appear to have been made in its  
“ channel, and that an open creek of the sea  
“ into which, no longer than a century ago,  
“ the Mejerdah discharged itself, is now cir-  
“ cumscribed by the mud, and become a basin  
“ or anti-harbour, as it may be called, to Por-  
“ to Farina.

“ Utica certainly lay somewhere in this direc-  
“ tion; but we shall not be able to fix its  
“ exact situation, unless we allow that the sea  
“ has been driven back three or four miles by  
“ the easterly winds, and the increase of the  
“ mud; and then we may justly place that  
“ small, but celebrated city at Boothater, 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 the view of the large  
“ fields which the Romans have rendered fa-  
“ mous by their military exploits.

“ Indeed Carthage has not much better sup-  
“ ported itself against the encroachments caused  
“ by the north-east winds, and the mud thrown  
“ out by the Mejerdah, which together hath  
“ stopped up the ancient harbour, and made it  
“ almost as far distant from the sea as Utica.  
“ The greatest part of Carthage was built upon  
“ three hills, inferior in elevation to those on  
“ which Rome was erected.

“ 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 being  
“ at first well built and cemented, time has not  
“ in the least impaired; except these, the cis-  
“ terns have suffered least by the general ruin of  
“ the city.

“ Besides those belonging 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 a-  
“ bove twenty contiguous cisterns, each about  
“ a hundred feet long, and thirty broad. The  
“ smaller is in a higher situation, near the co-  
“ than, it being contrived to collect the rain-  
“ water that fell upon the top of it, and on  
“ some adjacent pavements made for that pur-  
“ pose. This might be repaired with little  
“ expence, the small earthen pipes thro’ which  
“ the water was conveyed, wanting only to be  
“ cleansed.

“ These are the only remains of the grandeur

“ and magnificence of this ancient city, the ri-  
“ val of Rome: we find no triumphal arch, or  
“ superb piece of architecture; no columns of  
“ porphyry or granite, no curious entabla-  
“ tures: all the broken walls and structures  
“ still remaining, being erected either in  
“ the Gothic manner, or by the later inhabi-  
“ tants.

“ The ruins of the celebrated aqueduct, that  
“ conveyed the water into the greatest cisterns  
“ may be traced as far as Zow-wan and Zung-  
“ gar, 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.

“ At Arriana, a small village two leagues to  
“ the northward of Tunis, are several entire  
“ arches, which I found to be seventy feet high,  
“ and the piers that supported them were six-  
“ teen feet square; the water-channel that was  
“ above these arches, was vaulted over, and  
“ plastered with a strong cement. A person of  
“ the ordinary size may walk upright in it;  
“ and at certain distances are holes left open, as  
“ well for the admission of fresh air, as the con-  
“ venience of cleansing it.

“ The water mark is near three feet high;  
“ but it is impossible to determine the quantity  
“ daily conveyed to Carthage by this channel,  
“ without knowing the angle of descent that  
“ was given to it, which from the many breach-  
“ es in it, cannot be ascertained.

“ A temple was erected at Zow-wan and at  
“ Zung-gar over the fountains by which this  
“ aqueduct is supplied with water. That at  
“ Zung-gar appears to have been of the Corin-  
“ thian 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.

“ Eight miles to the west-south-west of Cape  
“ Carthage is the Guletta, a small channel  
“ that forms a communication between the lake  
“ of Tunis and the sea, each side of which is de-  
“ fended by a pretty strong castle.

“ There is also another castle upon a small  
“ island within the lake, half a league from  
“ Tunis, and about two from the Guletta; but  
“ from the little danger of an attack that way  
“ by sea, it has been long neglected.

“ The lake was formerly a deep and capaci-  
“ ous port, sufficient to contain a numerous  
“ fleet; but from its receiving all the filth of  
“ the common sewers of Tunis, the main chan-  
“ nel is in summer, reduced to six or seven feet  
“ deep, and for the space of a mile or more  
“ within the banks, the bottom is dry.

“ This lake is remarkable for the number,  
“ and largeness of the mullets caught in it,  
“ esteemed the sweetest of any on the coast of  
“ Barbary: the roes of them when pressed and  
“ dried are called Botargo, and are accounted  
“ a great dainty.

“ Tunis, the Tunes of the ancients, and the  
“ capital of the Kingdom, is three miles  
“ round; but not so populous as Algiers, nor  
“ are the houses so handsome and spacious. It  
“ is



“ is chiefly situated on a rising ground along  
“ the western banks of the lake, having a full  
“ view of Carthage and Gulletta.

“ The lakes and marshes with which the  
“ city is surrounded might probably render its  
“ situation less healthy, was not the moisture  
“ of the air corrected by the great quantity of  
“ mastic, myrtle, rosemary, and other aromatic  
“ plants with which their ovens and bagnios  
“ are daily heated, and that frequently commu-  
“ nicates a sensible fragrance to the air.

“ The want of sweet water is one of the  
“ greatest disadvantages under which the in-  
“ habitants labour; for the brackishness of their  
“ well water, and the scarcity of their cisterns,  
“ oblige them to fetch a great part of what they  
“ drink from some places a mile distant: but  
“ except this inconvenience, no place enjoys a  
“ greater plenty of all the necessaries of life.

“ The Tuniseens have little of that insolence  
“ and haughtiness too common at Algiers, and  
“ indeed are the most civilized nation of Bar-  
“ bary. All affairs with the regency are tran-  
“ sacted in such a friendly complaisant man-  
“ ner, that I had no small pleasure in attending  
“ the English consul at his audiences. This  
“ nation has always had the character of not  
“ imitating their neighbours in living at open  
“ war, or perpetual discord with the Christian  
“ Princes; but of cultivating their friendship,  
“ and readily entering into an alliance with  
“ them; they have therefore for many years  
“ been more intent upon trade, and the im-  
“ provement of their manufactures, than upon  
“ plunder and fitting out corsairs.

“ On a rising ground between the lake of Tu-  
“ nis and the sea, is the town of Rhades, the  
“ ancient Ades, where Regulus defeated the  
“ Carthaginians, and at a small distance are the  
“ hills where Hanno placed his elephants to  
“ oppose him.

“ Near the bottom of the gulph is the small  
“ town of Solyman, situated upon the skirts of  
“ a fine plain. It is remarkable, that this place  
“ is chiefly inhabited by Andalusian Moors,  
“ who retain the Spanish language, are more  
“ civilized than their brethren, and more cour-  
“ teous to the Christians.

“ Farther to the north-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. But this structure appears  
“ to be a part of a Roman Prætorium, from  
“ three contiguous Mosaic pavements, all of  
“ them wrought with the greatest symmetry and  
“ exactness: the figures are horses, trees, birds,  
“ and fishes, finely 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 Carthagi-  
“ nians, 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, intended to point  
“ out the strength, the diversions, the fishery,

“ and the plenty of dates and oil, for which this  
“ country has always been remarkable. This  
“ place is surrounded with the ruins of the an-  
“ cient Nisua, or Misua.

“ Two leagues farther is Lowbareah, the  
“ Aquilaria of the ancients, where Curio landed  
“ the troops that were afterwards cut to pieces  
“ by Sabura. There are here several fragments  
“ of antiquities; but none of them very re-  
“ markable, except a surprising cavern; for  
“ from the sea-shore to this village, which is at  
“ half a mile's distance, is a mountain hollow-  
“ ed with great art from the level of the sea to  
“ the height of twenty or thirty feet, with large  
“ pillars and arches left standing at proper dis-  
“ tances to support the mountain.

“ These are the quarries mentioned by Stra-  
“ bo, from whence the buildings of Carthage,  
“ Utica, and many other neighbouring cities,  
“ might receive their materials. As this moun-  
“ tain is all over shaded with trees; as the  
“ arches below lie open to the sea, with a large  
“ cliff on each side, and the island of Ægimu-  
“ rus, is placed over against them, while springs  
“ are perpetually running down the rocks, and  
“ seats are raised for the weary labourer, we can  
“ scarcely doubt, but that this is the cave which  
“ Virgil places somewhere in this gulph; not-  
“ withstanding some commentators have thought  
“ it fictitious.

“ Within a long recess there lies a bay,  
“ An island shades it from the rowling sea,  
“ And forms a port secure for ships to ride,  
“ Broke by the jutting land on either side;  
“ In double streams the briny waters glide.  
“ Betwixt two rows of rocks, a sylvan scene  
“ Appears above, and groves for ever green:  
“ A grott is form'd beneath, with mossy seats,  
“ To rest the Nereids, and exclude the heats.  
“ Down through the crannies of the living walls  
“ The crystal streams descend in murmuring  
“ falls.

DRYDEN'S VIRGIL.

“ A league to the northward lies Cape Bon,  
“ called by the ancients the Promontory of Mer-  
“ cury; from whence I was well informed,  
“ that the mountains of Sicily may sometimes  
“ be discerned in fair weather.

“ Five leagues to the south-by-east of Cape  
“ Bon, is the small promontory of Taphitis,  
“ on which the city of Clupea or Clypea was  
“ anciently built; but there are now no re-  
“ mains of it to be found; for the castle is a  
“ modern structure; and what is called Cly-  
“ pea, is a knot of miserable hovels at a mile's  
“ distance. Masinissa was supposed to have  
“ been drowned in his flight from Bocchar, in  
“ a deep and rapid river a little to the south-  
“ ward.

“ Seven leagues to the south-west is Gurba,  
“ the Curobis or Curubis of the ancients, which  
“ seems to have been in former times a confi-  
“ derable place, but the ruins of a large aque-  
“ duct, and of the cisterns that received the  
“ water, are all the antiquities it now possesses.  
“ 'Tis said that the port, and a great part of  
“ the



“ the city, together with the neighbouring city  
“ of Nabal, were destroyed by the sea, and  
“ that in calm weather some traces of them  
“ may be seen.

“ Nabal is situated five leagues to the south-  
“ west of Gurba, and is a thriving, industrious  
“ town, famous for its potteries. It is built in  
“ a low situation, a mile from the sea-shore,  
“ and about a furlong to the westward of the  
“ ancient Neapolis, which seems to have been  
“ a large city, without including what is sup-  
“ posed to have been gained by the sea.

“ Here are many inscriptions upon stones six  
“ feet in length and three in breadth; but they  
“ are so defaced, and filled up with rubbish and  
“ mortar, that it required more time than my  
“ guides would allow me to copy them. On  
“ the bank of a little brook that runs through  
“ the old city, is a block of white marble, on  
“ which is curiously carved a wolf in basso re-  
“ lievo.

“ Travelling for the space of two leagues  
“ through a rugged road, delightfully shaded  
“ with olive trees, we come to Hamamet, a  
“ small, but opulent city, compactly built upon  
“ a low promontory, and well fortified by na-  
“ ture.

“ Some pillars and blocks of marble are here  
“ to be met with: these are ruins brought from  
“ the neighbouring places; and the city prob-  
“ ably takes its name from the number of wild  
“ pigeons bred in the cliffs of the adjacent  
“ mountains.

“ Near the sea, at two leagues distance, is a  
“ Mausoleum near twenty yards in diameter,  
“ erected in the form of a cylindrical pedestal  
“ with a vault underneath, and on the cornice  
“ are several small altars, each of them inscrib-  
“ ed with the name of a different person. These  
“ are supposed by the Arabs to have been for-  
“ merly so many lamps for the direction of mar-  
“ iners.

“ Fifty miles from Utica is the city of Bay-  
“ jah or Beja, the Vacca of Sallust, a place of  
“ great trade, and the chief mart for corn in  
“ the whole kingdom. The present city is  
“ built on the declivity of a hill, and has the  
“ convenience of being well watered.

“ Upon the highest part of it 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 on the banks of the Mejer-  
“ dah, a public fair is kept every summer, to  
“ which the most distant Arabian tribes resort  
“ with their flocks and families.

“ Six leagues to the west of Tunis is situated  
“ Tuburbo, the Tuburbum Minus of the an-  
“ cients, a small town on the bank of the Me-  
“ jerdah, inhabited by Andalusian Moors.

“ Mahomet, a late Bey of this kingdom,  
“ planted a great variety of fruit-trees in this  
“ neighbourhood, placing each species in a se-  
“ parate grove; thus the orange-trees are all  
“ placed by themselves, without being mixed  
“ with the lime or citron; and where you ga-  
“ ther the pear or apple, you are not to expect  
“ the peach or apricot.

“ In the adjacent valley, the same generous  
“ and public spirited Prince, erected out of the  
“ ruins of an ancient amphitheatre, a large  
“ massy 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 is en-  
“ tirely broken down and destroyed.

“ On the east side of the Mejerdah, ten leagues  
“ to the south-west of Tunis, is an old trium-  
“ phal arch, of no extraordinary beauty or  
“ workmanship; but has been adorned with a  
“ variety of niches and festoons, that are now  
“ intirely defaced. It appears by an inscrip-  
“ tion, to have been erected on the declension  
“ of the Roman empire.

“ At the bottom of a large winding of the  
“ Mejerdah, is Slougeah or Salowkeah, the  
“ Municipium Hidibelense of the ancient; but  
“ now a small village, remarkable for the in-  
“ scriptions, the remains of cisterns, the shafts  
“ and capitals of columns, and other monu-  
“ ments of its ancient grandeur.

“ To the south-west is Dugga, the ancient  
“ Thugga, situated upon the extremity of a  
“ small chain of hills, where are several tombs,  
“ mausoleums, and the portico of a temple,  
“ beautifully adorned with fluted columns; on  
“ the pediment of which is the figure of an  
“ eagle finely executed, and below it an inscrip-  
“ tion in honour of the founders. There is  
“ also an inscription on the frieze, and several  
“ others upon square stones.

“ At the distance of about a mile and a half  
“ is Beiffons, the Municipium Agbiensum of  
“ the ancients, which is built upon a hill, and  
“ has the remains of two temples, and of a  
“ castle of later workmanship.

“ Musti, now called Seedy Abdeabbus, from  
“ a Marabout of that name interred there, is  
“ situated in a plain within sight of Dugga and  
“ Beiffons, is remarkable for the remains of a  
“ beautiful triumphal arch, near which is a  
“ stone that might formerly belong to it, con-  
“ taining an inscription in honour of Augustus  
“ Cæsar.

“ At a small distance is Keff, the Sicca Ve-  
“ neria of the ancients, which is a frontier city,  
“ the third for riches and strength in the king-  
“ dom; though the greatest part of the castle  
“ was about nine years ago blown up in the  
“ civil wars.

“ The city is situated on the declivity of a  
“ hill, with a plentiful spring rising in the mid-  
“ dle of it; but some ancient Roman inscrip-  
“ tions are the only antiquities to be found  
“ there.

“ Tubernoque, the Oppidum Tuburnicense  
“ of Pliny, is seven leagues to the south-south-  
“ west of Tunis, and built in the form of a  
“ crescent, between two ridges of a very ver-  
“ dant mountain, that form a variety of wind-  
“ ings and narrow defiles.

“ The only antiquity to be found there is  
“ the gate of a large edifice, over which is a  
“ spreading pair of stag's horns well delineated  
“ in basso relievo.



“ Twelve miles to the south-west is Jerraado, situated on the declivity of a hill. There are here the ruins of a small aqueduct with its cisterns, and on the portal of an ancient temple, in the same ruinous condition with the city, is an account of the persons who contributed to the building of it.

“ On the north-east extremity of a mountain named Zowoan or Zagwan, is a small flourishing town of the same name, famed for the dying of scarlet caps, and the bleaching of linen; great quantities of both being daily brought thither for that purpose from all parts of the kingdom.

“ The stream used for this purpose was conveyed to Carthage, and over the spring-head was a temple, the ruins of which are still to be seen. On an ancient gate of the city is carved a ram's head, under which is the word *AUXILIS*, from which it may be presumed that the city was dedicated to Jupiter Ammon.

“ We shall now take a view of the most remarkable places in the Winter Circuit. Here all the parts I have seen fall very short of that fertility attributed to them by the ancients; and particularly those near the sea-coast are generally of a dry, sandy nature, with no great depth of soil.

“ Herkla, the Heraclea of the lower Empire, and probably the Adrumetum of the earlier ages, is built upon a promontory, two leagues to the south-east of a morass, supposed to have been the boundary between this province and Zengitania. It appears to have been little more than a mile in circuit, and if we may be allowed to judge of its former grandeur by the remaining ruins, it will appear a place of importance, rather than of extent.

“ That part of the promontory which formed the port seems to have been walled in to the very brink of the sea, and to the west and south-west of this promontory were the port and cothon which Cæsar could not enter in his pursuit of Varus.

“ The next remarkable place upon the coast is Sufa, situated on the northern extremity of a long range of eminences, about five leagues to the south-east of Herkla. This is the chief mart of this kingdom for oil; it has also a flourishing trade in linens, and may be reckoned one of the most considerable cities of the Tuniseans.

“ Here are several columns of granite, vaults, and other marks of its being formerly a considerable place. It is walled round, and was probably one of those towns that submitted to Cæsar in his march to Ruspina.

“ A league and a half from Sufa we pass over a valley which has a rivulet of fine water running through it; and half a league farther, upon a declivity of the same chain of eminences with Sufa, is Sahaleel, where are likewise some remains of antiquities. It is now situated a mile from the sea, and was probably the ancient Ruspina.

“ On the extremity of a cape five miles from Sahaleel, is Monasteer, a neat thriving city,

walled round: but it can lay no claim to any extraordinary antiquity. At some distance from this place is Demas, the ancient Thapfus, situated on a low neck of land. From the great extent of its ruins Herkla, Sufa, and Monasteer, have received large contributions in building their walls, castles, and principal houses; it must therefore have been the most considerable city on this side of Carthage. There still remains a great part of the cothon, which is formed of a composition of small pebbles and mortar, so well cemented together, that a solid rock could not be more hard and durable.

“ El Medea, in the modern geography called Africa, is situated upon a peninsula five miles to the south of Demas, and appears to have been formerly a place of great strength. The port was an area near a hundred yards square, and lies within the walls of the city; but is not at present capable of receiving the smallest vessel.

“ Leo says, it was founded by Mahdi, the first patriarch of Kairwan, and therefore assumed his name; but though it might have been possibly rebuilt by him, there is something too regular and elegant in the remaining capitals, entablatures, and other pieces of the ancient masonry, defaced as they are at present, to suspect the founder to have been an Arabian.

“ Elalia, which seems to be the Achola or Acilla of the ancients, is situated on the borders of a fertile plain, that extends from Sulesto to within a few miles of Sbeah. Besides the ruins common in other places, there are here several large cisterns for receiving the rain-water, which, from the workmanship and contrivance, appear to had been formed since the invasion of the Saracens.

“ A little farther is Capoudia, the Ammonis Promontorium of Strabo, a low narrow strip of land, which stretching a great way into the sea, has a watch-tower on its extremity, with the traces of several ruins that might formerly belong to the city built there by Justinian.

“ From this cape to the island of Jerba, is a succession of small flat islands, sand-banks, oozy bottoms, or small depths of water. Of these shallows the inhabitants make no small advantage, by wading a mile or two from the shore, and fixing in the various windings as they go along, hurdles of reeds, and by this means enclosing great numbers of fish.

“ Asfax or Stax, is a neat thriving city walled round, where, by the indulgence of the Cadi, the inhabitants enjoy the fruits of their industry, carry on a good trade in oil, and linen manufactures, and know little of that oppression which is severely felt in most other parts of Barbary.

“ The materials used in building it were brought from Thainee, the Theneæ of the ancients, once a famous maritime city, situated at ten miles distance, though the country about it is dry and barren, without either fountain or rivulet.



“ Four leagues to the south-west of Thaince is Maharefs, perhaps the Macodama of the ancients, a small village, where are ruins of a large castle, and some cisterns said to have been built by Sultan Ben Eglib, whose memory the people highly respect, from his having left many public marks of his beneficence.

“ Four leagues farther to the west-south-west are a great number of sepulchres at a place called Ellamaite, but they have no inscriptions, and very little beauty. At Gabs, a new city which rises from the remains of an old one bearing the same name, are many fine square granite pillars, such as I have no where met with in any part of Africa.

“ The old city, where we see these ruins, was built upon a rising ground, at the distance of half a mile from the new. It had been formerly washed by the sea, which formed a bay near half a mile in diameter: but at present the greatest part of it is filled up and gained from the sea.

“ There are here several large plantations of palm-trees, though the dates are in every respect inferior to those of Jireed. But the chief branch of trade for which this city is now famous, arises from the great number of Alhenna plants cultivated in gardens, the leaves of which dried and pounded, are disposed of to good advantage in all the markets of this kingdom.

“ This plant, as well as the palm, requires to be well watered; and for that purpose many canals from the river Triton, are brought thro’ these plantations.

“ Leaving the sea-coast, and taking an inland course, we soon arrived at Hydrab, which is situated in a narrow valley with a rivulet running by it, and for extent of ruins appears to have been one of the most considerable places in this country. For there are here the walls of several houses, the pavement of a whole street, with a variety of altars and mausoleums still remaining.

“ Many of the latter are well preserved, and are of various forms, some being round and others octagonal, supported by four, six or eight columns: while others again are square compact buildings, with a niche in one of the fronts, or a balcony on the top; but the inscriptions are either defaced by time or the malice of the Arabs: however, upon a triumphal arch, more remarkable for its largeness than its beauty, is a Latin inscription in letters a foot long; but it does not, as usual, mention either the name of the city, or the people who erected it.

“ Eight leagues to the westward of Sufa is Kairwan, the Vico Augusti of the ancients. It is a walled city, and the second in the Kingdom for trade, and the number of its inhabitants. It is situated in a barren plain, and at half a furlong’s distance without the walls, is a pond and a capacious cistern, built to receive rain-water; but the former, which is chiefly for the use of the cattle, drying up or putrifying in the heat of summer, causes agues and other distempers.

“ Here are some fine remains of the ancient architecture, and the great mosque, esteemed both the most magnificent and the most sacred in Barbary, is supported by an almost incredible number of granite pillars, which the inhabitants say amount to five hundred: but I could not be informed of one single inscription: and those I found in other places were either filled up with cement or defaced by the chissel.

“ Eight leagues to the westward of Kairwan are the ruins of Truzza, the Turzo of Ptolemy, where are several vaulted chambers perpetually filled with sulphurous steams, much frequented by the Arabs for the use of sweating. The river Mergaleel waters the neighbouring country, and the Arabs make use of it in overflowing the extensive plains that extend along its banks, which are seldom or never refreshed with the rain.

“ At the distance of a furlong from Spaitla the ancient Sufetula is a magnificent triumphal arch of the Corinthian order, consisting of one large arch, and two smaller, one on each side, with the fragment of an inscription upon it. From thence all along to the city, is a pavement of large black stones, with a parapet wall on each side.

“ At the end of this pavement, we pass through a beautiful portico built in the same manner with the triumphal arch. This leads into a spacious court, where are the ruins of three contiguous temples; but the roofs, porticos and fronts are broken down, though all the other walls, with their pediments and entablatures, remain entire. In each of them is a niche, fronting the portico, and behind that in the middle temple is a small chamber, which formerly served, perhaps, for a vestry.

“ Upon an eminence six leagues to the west-south-west of Spaitla, is Cassareen. The river Derb runs winding below it; and upon a precipice that hangs over that river, is a triumphal arch, more remarkable for the quantity and value of the materials, than for the beauty and elegance of the design. It consists of one large arch with an attic structure above it, that has some ornaments resembling the Corinthian upon the entablature, though the pilasters are entirely Gothic; but notwithstanding the rudeness of the workmanship, and the oddness of the situation, it has an inscription, in which Manlius Felix, the founder, is gratefully commemorated. In the plains below the city are many mausoleums, upon one of which is an elegy in hexameter and pentameter verses. This place seems to have received its present name from the mausoleums, which at a distance have the appearance of so many towers or fortresses.

“ At Jemme, the Tiftra of Cæsar, are many antiquities, as a variety of columns, altars with defaced inscriptions; and many trunks and arms of marble statues, one of which is of the colossal kind in armour; another is of a naked Venus, in the posture and size of  
“ the



“ the Medicean; both by good masters; but  
“ their hands are broken off.

“ This place is also remarkably distinguished  
“ by beautiful remains of a spacious amphitheatre, that originally consisted of sixty-four arches and four orders of columns.

“ The upper order, which is, perhaps, no  
“ more than an attic, has suffered by the Arabs, and in a late revolt of those people, who used this place as a fortress, Mahomet Bey blew up four of the arches from top to bottom; otherwise nothing could be more entire and beautiful.

“ On the inside the platform of the seats, with the galleries and Vomitoria leading up to them are still remaining. The Arena is nearly circular; and in the centre is a deep well of hewn stone, where the pillar that supported the Velum, or awning, may be supposed to have been fixed.

“ It seems to have been built about the time of the Antonines, and as the elder Gordian was proclaimed emperor at this city, it is probable that ingratitude to the place where he obtained the purple he founded this structure.

“ To the southward of Jemme is Rugga, the ancient Caraga, famous for a spacious cistern, that formerly supplied the whole city with water, the roofs of which is supported by several rows of massy pillars.

“ Ferreanah, which from its lonely situation, and other circumstances, was probably the Thala of Salust, lies in the same parallel with Rugga, and was once the largest city of Bizacium, though it has now no other remains of its ancient grandeur but a few granite and other columns, which, by some extraordinary chance, the Arabs have left standing on their pedestals.

“ It has been extremely well watered, for besides a considerable brook that runs under the walls, there have been several wells in the city, each of them 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 excepting a small extent of ground to the southward, which the inhabitants cultivate, by refreshing it at proper times with the rivulet, all the rest of the adjacent country is dry, barren, and inhospitable.

“ The prospect to the westward, which is the only one it enjoys, is terminated by some naked precipices; or where the eye is at liberty to wander through some narrow cliff or valley, we are entertained with no other view than of a desert scorched up with perpetual drought, and glowing with the sunbeams.

“ At twelve leagues to the eastward of Ferreanah is Gafsa, the ancient Capsa, situated on a rising ground almost enclosed with mountains; but the landscape is more gay and verdant than that about Ferreanah, from the prospect it affords of palm, olive, pistachio, and other fruit trees: this agreeable scene is, however, of small extent, serving only to re-

“ fresh the eye in the more distant prospect of an interchange of barren hills and valleys.

“ The water that refreshes these trees is collected from two fountains, one of which arises within the citadel, and the other in the centre of the city. The latter is probably the fountain mentioned by Salust, and was formerly covered with a cupola. It is still walled round, and discharges itself into a basin, designed, perhaps, for a bath.

“ These two springs, uniting their streams before they leave the city, form a pretty large brook, which from the quantity of water, and the rapidity of the stream, might continue its course to a great distance, were it not constantly used by the inhabitants in refreshing their plantations.

“ In the walls of some private houses, and particularly of the citadel, which is a weak modern building, is a great confusion of altars, columns of granite, and entablatures, that when entire and in their proper situations, must have been great ornaments to the city.

“ We now enter upon that part of the Sahara, which belongs to the Tuniseans, and is called El Jereed, or the Dry Country. The villages in this district are built like those in Algiers, with mud walls, and rafters of palms; among them may be found granite pillars, and Roman inscriptions.

“ The inhabitants in general trade in dates, which they exchange for wheat, barley, linen, and other commodities brought from the neighbouring parts. The dates of Tozar, one of these villages, being most esteemed, that is become the principal mart for them; great quantities of them are exported at Æthiopia, where they are exchanged for black slaves, at the rate of two or three quintals for a black.

“ The villages in this neighbourhood are divided from others in the province of Nizowah, by the lake of Marks, which is so called, from a number of trunks of palm-trees that are placed at proper distances, to direct the caravans in their marches over the plain.

“ Were it not for such assistance, travelling would be here both difficult and dangerous, as well from the variety of pits and quick-sands that could not be otherwise avoided, as that great mistakes might be made in passing over a plain of this extent, where the horizon is as proper for astronomical observations as the sea.

“ The lake extends near twenty leagues in length; and where I passed it, was about six in breadth; it has many islands, one of which is large and covered with dates, that according to a tradition of the Arabs, sprung from the stones of that fruit, brought hither by an Egyptian army for their food.

“ Near the eastern extremity of this lake is an entire mountain of salt, as hard and solid as stone, and of a reddish or purple colour. Yet what is washed down from these precipices by the dews, attains another colour, be-

“ coming



“ coming as white as snow, and losing that bitterness which is in the parent rock.

“ Leaving Maggs, one of the lesser villages of the neighbouring province of Nifzowah, we proceed near thirty miles through an uncomfortable desert without either herbage or water, till we arrive within a few miles of El Hammah, one of the frontier towns, where the Tuniseens have a castle and garrison.

“ At a small distance, are some remains of its antiquity. It received its name from the hot baths, which are resorted to from all parts of the kingdom. But these are only sheltered

“ from the weather, by having a miserable thatched hovel built over them: while their basons, which are about twelve feet square and four deep, have stone benches a little below the surface of the water, for the bathers to sit upon. One of them is called the Bath of Lepers.

“ The water of these springs form a rivulet, which after being conducted in a number of small streams through the gardens, is again united, and directs its course towards the Lake of Marks; but at a few miles distance is lost in the sand.

CHAPTER IV.

*Account of the Manners and Customs of the People; and of the Climate, Beasts, Birds, Reptiles, and Insects of these Countries.*

“ THE roving unsettled life of the Arabs, and the perpetual grievance the Moors frequently suffer from the Turks, will not permit either of them to enjoy that liberty and security, which gave birth and encouragement to learning: hence the knowledge of medicine, of philosophy and the mathematics, which once flourished among the Arabs, are now so lost, that there are scarcely any traces of them remaining.

“ The children of the Moors and Turks are sent to school at about six years of age, when they are taught to read, and write, for the value of about a penny a week: instead of paper, each boy has a piece of thin square board slightly daubed over with whiting; on this he makes his letters, which may be wiped off or renewed at pleasure.

“ Having made some progress in the Koran, he is initiated in the several ceremonies and mysteries of religion. When a boy has distinguished himself in any of these branches of learning, he is richly dressed, mounted upon a horse finely caparisoned, and conducted amidst the huzzas of his school-fellows thro’ the streets; while his friends and relations assemble to congratulate his parents, and load him with gifts. After being three or four years at school the boys are put to trades, or enrolled in the army, where most of them soon forget all they have learned.

“ While I was at Algiers I endeavoured to become acquainted with those persons who were most distinguished for their learning; and though from their natural shyness to strangers, and contempt of Christians, it is difficult to cultivate a real friendship with them, yet I soon found, that their chief astronomer, who super-intends and regulates the hours of prayer, had not the skill to make a sun-dial: that the whole art of navigation, as practised at Algiers and Tunis, consisted of nothing more, than what is termed the pricking of a chart, and distinguishing the eight

“ principal points of the compass; and that even chemistry, formerly the favourite science of these people, is at present only applied to the distilling a little rose-water.

“ The physicians chiefly study the Spanishe- dition of Dioscorides; but the figures of the plants and animals are more consulted than the description. Yet these people are naturally subtle and ingenious; and nothing but time, application and encouragement, are wanting to cultivate and improve their faculties.

“ The Mahometans being for the most part predestinarians, pay little regard to physic, and generally either leave the disorder to contend with nature, or make use of charms and incantations. They, however, resort to bag-nios in all distempers, and there are a few remedies in general use.

“ Thus in pleuritic and rheumatic cases, they make several punctures on the part affected with a red hot iron, repeating the operation according to the violence of the disease, and the strength of the patient. They pour fresh butter almost boiling hot into all simple gunshot wounds.

“ The prickly pear roasted in the ashes is applied hot, for the cure of bruises, swellings, and inflammations; and a dram or two of the root of the round birth-wort is an established remedy for the cholic: some of them, inoculate for the small pox; though this practice is not much in repute in this part of Barbary, and they tell a number of stories to discourage the use of it.

“ They have few compound medicines; however, they use a mixture of myrrh, saffron, aloes, and syrup of myrtle-berries, which is often found effectual in the cure of the plague.

“ I have sometimes been favoured with the sight of their ancient Kalendars, in which the sun’s place, the semidiurnal and nocturnal arch, the length of the twilight, with