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Great Britain, there can be little doubt but that their work would equally stand the test of examination, and even in some points their charts might be considered by the mariner superior in practical utility to the elaborate French volume: surely then it is much to be lamented that the surveys of our coasts should not be carried forward and published on a similar systematic plan, and engraved on a large scale, and that the whole of the data on which they rest, were it only in justice to the officers employed, should be made easily accessible, in order to enable those who are competent to form some judgment of the accuracy of the survey represented on the chart, and such as geographers in the present day are entitled to expect.

In conclusion we must be permitted to repeat that, taken as a whole, the "Pilote Français" is the most perfect specimen of hydrography it has fallen to our lot to examine; and France may be justly proud of her corps of *Ingénieurs Hydrographes*, with the venerable M. Beauméps-Beaupré at their head, who have the judgment to plan, and the ability to carry into execution, such a splendid national work.


The first volume only of this work has yet reached England, but it may be considered due to the character of Dr. Rüppell as a scientific traveller, so well established by his former travels in Nubia and Kordofán, no less than in consequence of the Royal Premium for the advancement of geographical science and discovery having been awarded to him by this Society, to give a short analysis of his work without waiting for its completion. It is much to be regretted, however, that it is not accompanied by the map, which is to appear with the second volume, since all the maps of Abyssinia, as yet published, appear to be extremely incorrect.

Dr. Rüppell returned to Europe in 1834, having spent above two years in Abyssinia: his pursuits were not only geographical and statistical, but were also directed to natural history. He found the difficulties of penetrating into that country much diminished since the time of Salt and Bruce, but the work of MM. Combes and Tamisier, he says, is most unsatisfactory. They were the first Europeans who for 200 years had gone beyond the province of Gojam, and visited that of Shoa: yet they have only implicitly copied the sketch of a map of that country, which Salt
had compiled merely from hearsay, and have published it as made from their own observations! Von Katte, the only other traveller, has done nothing more than copy their map with all its errors.

Dr. Rüppell has yielded to the general wish of publishing this work in the form of a journal, and not of detached essays upon scientific observations like his former work on Kordofán, &c.

He expresses a strong wish to be made acquainted as soon as possible with any information extant respecting old Abyssinian coins which may exist in any private or public collection, and says that he has everywhere been obliged to take up the defence of Bruce against the attacks of Salt.

Passing over the three first chapters of Dr. Rüppell's work, which are devoted to an account of Egypt and of its present ruler, Mōhammed ʿAlī, and which our limits forbid us to touch upon, we come at once to the narrative of his excursion to Arabia Petræa, the chief object of which was to ascertain by barometric measurements the height of the different mountains, forming the remarkable promontory of Mount Sinai, respecting which many mineralogical and geological details of much interest are given. Having ascended to the summit of Mount Sinai, he confirms the exactness of Burckhardt's description of the view from thence, and he found its elevation to be 7498 English feet above the level of the sea. On the 7th of May, the time when he ascended, the rocks were partly covered with numerous alpine plants in flower. The following day he visited Mount Horeb, where he found less vegetation than on Sinai: its height is 8593 feet; while the convent of the Forty Martyrs is 5720 feet above the sea. His next ascent was Jebel Serbal, the height of which he found to be 6760 feet. Here his guide pointed out to him the footsteps of a leopard which had established itself here for several years, living on the wild goats. On his return to Tör, he obtained from the Amherst a tracing of the chart of the Red Sea by the officers of the East-India Company's surveying vessel Palinurus, the examination of which confirmed him in his opinion of the position of Myos Hormos in lat. 27° 30', and not 24° 40', as assumed by Professor Reichard.

Chapter V. describes the journey from Cairo to Jiddah. At Suez, Dr. Rüppell met with the pilgrims returning with the cholera from Mecca, where it had raged so violently in that year (1831) that 50,000 men perished in a fortnight. Between Tör and Rās Mohammed he made some observations respecting the coral banks which abound there, and which are more elevated above the surface of the water at the northern than at the southern extremity of the Red Sea. At Moweilah, on the coast of Arabia,
Dr. Rüppell's Travels in Abyssinia. [1831.

he found ten small vessels loading with charcoal, burnt by the Arabs. In consequence of this, the supply of wood on that coast will soon be exhausted. He then continues to describe the different places at which he stopped during his voyage down the Arabian shore. Here he found, as afterwards in Abyssinia, Nubia, and Kordofán, the plant of Pavetta longifolia, the roots and young shoots of which are used by the inhabitants for toothbrushes. He also found that the harbour of Wushk, although safe, is not so extensive as represented in his first voyage. On the 31st of July he reached Jiddah, having left Suez on the 13th of the same month.

Chapter VI. describes Jiddah and its neighbourhood, and his voyage from thence to Maşawwah. The population of Jiddah, when there are no pilgrims there, he estimated at 22,000, instead of 40,000, as formerly. Dr. Rüppell remained some time here to observe the numerous objects of natural history which abound in the Red Sea.

Leaving Jiddah on the 9th of September, after a vain attempt to visit Taifah, Dr. Rüppell reached Konfadah on the 11th. This place had suffered much since his former visits.

From thence he steered across to the Abyssinian coast, which is protected by numerous coral banks and an endless labyrinth of islands, and reached Maşawwah on the 16th, where the ship was nearly burnt before he landed, by the gross carelessness of his Turkish companions, by which he would have lost all his books, instruments, &c., amounting to nearly forty cases.

In Chap. VII. he describes his stay at Maşawwah, and excursions in the neighbourhood, and gives an account of the manner in which it passed from the hands of the Abyssinians into those of the Turks. This is followed by a large account of the taxes and revenues of the island of Maşawwah, the customs of which annually amount to forty thousand Spanish dollars. The trade is chiefly carried on with Jiddah, and the annual value of the exports is stated at above two hundred thousand dollars. The place is visited by many native East Indian merchants. Dr. Rüppell then describes the moral and social state of the inhabitants, and says that beggars are numerous, and robberies and theft frequent. He then mentions the diseases, water, provisions, fisheries, and climate. There is here, as elsewhere, in hot climates, generally a land-wind by night and a sea-wind by day.

Along the coast towards the N. are the ruins of several buildings of no very great antiquity: one of these places is called El Jerrar, near which he concludes the ruins of the old town of Saba should be found; if indeed Maşawwah itself should not be looked upon as its representative.

Near Maşawwah to the W. is a small flat island, called Dowal-
hat, the burial-place of Abyssinian Christians, and where Dr. Hemprich was buried in 1825. The town of Arkiko is situated rather farther to the S., and is inhabited by an idle population, whose social and domestic habits are described, as well as the government of the Naib, who exercises a very equivocal kind of authority over the neighbouring districts.

Chapter VIII. commences with the author’s preparations for his departure for Ailat, the chief village in the valley of Modat, on which occasion the Naib did not show much delicacy in the way of asking for presents. He then describes the country from Masawwah to Jerrar, and thence to the W. At the villages of Hetumlo and Mokullo most of the merchants of Masawwah have one of their wives and children and slaves to supply them with the necessary quantity of milk and wood. In proceeding to the westward, igneous and volcanic rocks abound. By a very winding road the distance from Masawwah to Ailat is about 30 miles, but the direct distance does not exceed 20. The inhabitants of Modat are Ethiopians and Mohammedans, but live on good terms with their Christian neighbours. Here Dr. Rüppell could obtain no information respecting the remarkable insect mentioned by Bruce, called tsaltsalya, said to be so destructive to cattle. He then describes the dwellings and habits of the inhabitants; and the natural productions and wild beasts of the valley of Modat, which he saw in great numbers. Hot springs occur at a short distance to the west. The author then returned to Masawwah; and concludes with the curious details of a marriage ceremony, to which he was invited by the Naib of Arkiko, after having been laid up for six weeks with sore feet.

Chapter IX. contains an account of the author’s residence in the island of Dahalak, a flat coral island, once a place of considerable importance: all its trade has now left it, and the only occupation of its inhabitants is the pearl-fishery. Dr. Rüppell was successful in obtaining here a specimen of the curious animal, the dugong, a species of walrus, which is found along the Abyssinian coast, and is taken in great numbers by the Danakil,* a wild and independent tribe of fishermen. It is sought after for the sake of its long and beautiful tusks; its thick skin also makes good sandals. Earthquakes are frequent at Dahalak; and extraordinary cracks appear in the surface of the coralline rock, which contains numerous fossils.

In Chap. X. the author gives an account of an excursion to the ruins of Adulis, situated at the head of Annesley Bay. He left Arkiko on the 29th January, 1832, with the son of the

* The plural of Dankahal, probably the same word as Donkolah—pronounced Dongolah.
Nāib as his guide. After 7 hours' march due S., their direction became more easterly. To the S. volcanic hills rose out of the level plain. They halted the first night at Asté. From thence they proceeded to the village of Gula, 2 miles to the N.E.; between these two are the ruins of Adulis, still called Adulé. Here were a few square columns and capitals, but no inscriptions or sculptures. The latitude of Adulis was found to be 15° 15' 44" N. Dr. Rüppell, who is the first European that has visited these ruins, was surprised to find them at a distance of 3 miles from the sea, but this agrees with the account given by Arrian, in his Periplus of the Red Sea, who says the town was 20 stadia from the sea. On his return to Masawwah, the traveller became acquainted with a distinguished Abyssinian merchant, Getana Meriam, lately arrived from Gondar, from whom he obtained much useful information respecting his future proceedings, and an account of the then political state of the country, which was a prey to anarchy and civil war. Besides these serious difficulties, he was delayed by the exorbitant demands of the Nāib of Arkiko.

On the 29th of April, 1832, Dr. Rüppell quitted Arkiko for Halai, in company with a caravan of Abyssinian merchants. In the valley of Gatra, where they halted the first night, he found a stream of lava flowing down a valley in the rocks of mica-schist, out of which it had issued. He then describes the dress and habits of his Abyssinian companions: their mode of dressing their heads resembles that which appears on the statue of Jupiter Ammon. Their direction was S., passing through the valley of Saba Arega, between Mount Gedam to the E., and the Taranta mountains to the right, or W. Getana Meriam was in the daily habit of retiring from his companions to read a chapter of the gospel, a constant practice amongst the Abyssinians; but, as Dr. Rüppell says, done only, it is to be feared, from a motive of pharisaical hypocrisy.

Proceeding still southward, and leaving the direct road to Aksum on their right, they met with several parties of the Shoho tribe, who, under the garb of hospitality, proved to be little less than regular thieves. On the 1st of May they reached the Shoho village Hamhamo, to the E. of Salt's route. The Shohos are all nomadic, and do not exceed 300 men. The next day they began ascending the narrow valleys which lead up to the summit of the Taranta passes, and their direction continued S.S.W. Excellent honeys were found in these mountains near one of their halting-places: also new species of trees; some fine sycamore-fig-trees (Ficus sycomorus), and two species of monkeys. At Tubbo they saw several strings of oxen carrying salt into Abyssinia; thus are the N.E. parts of Abyssinia, as far as Aksum, supplied.
The rest of Abyssinia procures its salt from the dried-up salt-lake in the plain of Taltal, where it is cut out in small pieces 8 or 9 inches long, and then used as small change throughout this country.

Instead of taking the road by the Asubo valley, which Salt followed in 1804, and which also leads to Halaï, the caravan now kept a road farther south by Mahio: here the road became too bad for the camels, for the way led up narrow passes, the rocks were perpendicular, and the country bare and dreary, without even the sound of a single stream. On the 4th, a slight shock of an earthquake was experienced. The following day they continued ascending, the Shohos, the bearers of their goods, all keeping perfect silence, not singing, as mentioned by former travellers. Among the plants of this country, Dr. Rüppell describes several quite new to him, but mimosa was still the most frequent. On the 7th their route was due west, and after reaching a small plain on the summit of the hills where was a little arable land, they crossed a stream flowing westwards into the district of Maleb, which is lost in the marshes in the N.W. parts of Abyssinia, and presently descended a little to reach Halaï. This village is a miserable place, containing 400 inhabitants, of which two-thirds are Christians, and the rest Mohammedans; they lay heavy contributions on all travellers. The character of the people resembles that of the Saortu’s, and their language is the Tigre. The height of this pass was by barometer 8625 feet above the sea, and its latitude 14° 59' 37” N. Towards the west the country was an elevated undulating plain.

The caravans no longer pass through Diksán. Water is very scarce here, as also are beasts of burthen: at Halaï they could not even get the number they required.

On his journey from Halaï to Ategerat, instead of following the direct route by Adowah, Dr. Rüppell joined Getana Meriam and others in going round by Sanafé and the province of Agamé, in consequence of the disturbed state of the country, and determined to decide upon their route to Gondar, from thence, according to circumstances. They left Halaï on the 10th of May, and at some distance, after passing a large village called Dera, he was told that the church there contained a block of marble with an inscription in European characters, and heard afterwards of other ruins off his line of route. Our limits will only permit us to allude to all the objects of interest here mentioned, as the whole of Chapter XII. is full of animated descriptions of the geology, physical geography, and natural productions of the country, and of the habits and customs of the inhabitants. Ategerat is the capital of the province of Agamé, and all the streams and
valleys between it and Halâi flow eastward into the Red Sea. At Senâfê, speaking of Aîto Ali, the faithful, but ill-used companion of Coffin, and who, being a Mohammedan, was the collector of customs in Agamé for the Detyâch Sabagadis, he says that all the Abyssinian chiefs employ Mohammedans in all situations which require truth and honesty, on account of their superiority, in a moral point of view, to the Abyssinian Christians. While delayed in the valley of Barakît for several days, he made an excursion to Gunna Kuma, to visit a curious spring and a chapel, in which were old Abyssinian manuscripts. A remarkable feature in this journey are the numerous duties and tolls which were levied at every place they passed through. From Barakît their direction was S.S.E. for 2 days, and then S.S.W. The rivers at Omfâito, still flowing E. into Amfilâh Bay, being only 2½ days' march distant. He reached Ategerât on the 26th of May; the country throughout consisting chiefly of sandstone, clay-slate, and trap soils.

Chapter XIII. contains an account of his stay at Ategerât, and his journey from thence to the river Takazzé. Here he received but little encouragement from the missionary, Gobat, who told him "All Abyssinians were rascals, without truth, gratitude, or faith." He found the latitude to be 14° 16' 26" N., and its elevation above the sea about 8180 feet. The mountains which form the water-shed between the Takazzé and the Red Sea are still to the W. of Ategerât, but not distant. The palace built by Sabagadis is nothing but a great barn: the number of inhabitants about 2200; and our author adds some amusing accounts of the manners of the Abyssinian nobility. They left Ategerât on the 28th May, Dr. Rüppell having been nearly detained there by order of Detyâch Weled Michael. The roads were bad and rocky: the next day they passed a stream of basaltic lava; and a steep and dangerous road led down into the romantic valley of Saheta. Here the water flowed S.W. into the Takazzé, and nature assumed a totally new character; but they were soon attacked by armed natives, and compelled to pay tribute. Rain became frequent, almost daily, about noon; and they continued for several days down this plain, in a S.S.W. direction, bounded to the E. by a perpendicular wall of rock, several hundred feet high, while to the W. they first saw the snowy tops of the mountains of Simen on the 1st of June. They reached Takheraggiro on the 8th, when they were again delayed. This place is chiefly inhabited by Mohammedans.

The latitude of Takheraggiro is 13° 39' 32" N., and its elevation 6347 feet above the sea. Here he unfortunately dismissed the porters whom he had brought from Halâi, and no others were
to be procured. On the 16th June they again set out in a W.S.W. direction; and on the following day all traces of cultivation had disappeared. Ten leagues from Takheragiro they reached the river Geba, a rapid torrent. Fodder for their beasts was scarce; but birds were abundant on the picturesque banks of the river. From thence they reached Takazzé through a difficult, rocky country, the real distance being only about 2 leagues W.S.W.

Chapter XIV. contains an account of the journey from the Takazzé to Anjetkat, in Simen. The Takazzé is here a very rapid stream, its periodical risings being uncertain. A remarkable fact here mentioned is, that the height on the banks of the river was only 2998 English feet above the sea. A year later another observation in Shiré, 25 leagues N.W. from this spot, gave only 2774 feet above the sea; whereas Humboldt and others had calculated the height of the Nile, even in Sennár, at 4000 feet, which must be very far above the real height. The physical geography of the country is everywhere described with great care, as well as the geological formations. In addition to the natural barrenness of the soil, the few plants were destroyed by swarms of locusts. They left the Takazzé on the 21st June; but the next day the natives again opposed their progress, throwing masses of rock down upon them, and attacking them with slings, to enforce payment of tolls. This country is called Talemt, and is poor and barren, rocky, and ill supplied with water. Volcanic rocks were frequent, and boulders of basalt filled the beds of all the streams. Dr. Rüppell, however, defers his geological remarks until he gives a description of the province of Simen. Vegetation improved as they ascended the lofty chain of hills to the S.W., up the valley of the Ataba river, which afterwards flows N.W. into the Takazzé. At Ataba the basalt had taken a beautiful columnar structure. Goitres were common here, possibly from the use of snow-water. Higher up, the Ataba, flowing from W.N.W., is joined by the Abana, coming from the snowy mountains to the S.W.

On the 1st July, near the summit of the Selki pass, they were stopped by rain, fog, and snow, close to them, and no provisions but what they had with them could be obtained: it was difficult and dangerous. The height of its summit was 12,684 English feet above the sea, and forms the boundary between the provinces of Simen and Talemt. The view from this elevation was very striking; but high as these mountains are, they do not form the culminating line between the Takazzé and the real Nile, which is farther W. No disagreeable effects were felt from the great elevation. On the 5th they continued their route towards the still higher point of Buahat, in the direction of S.S.W.; and
at night everything froze around them. The following day, after a fatiguing journey through snow and rocks, they reached the top of the pass, which was 13,937 English feet above the sea. The real summit of the mountain was about 500 feet higher. The account of their journey is full of interest. On the 8th they descended still S.W. into a more fertile country; and after a march of 23 leagues reached Anjetkat.

Chapter XV. contains the narrative of the author's residence in Simen, (which is the most mountainous and the most elevated province in Abyssinia,) and full details on the geography of the country. There is a great want of trees, but it is well peopled. None of the volcanic formations show any traces of a crater, but lava and trachyte appear frequently. The villages are chiefly small, and the habitations are dirty, diminutive, straw huts. Here, also, it is usual that whoever helps another to food should taste it himself first, to shew that it is not poisoned. Their habits, as described at a feast given by the governor, are not remarkably cleanly. The volume concludes with an account of the treatment the traveller met with from the Abyssinian governor.

From what has been already said, it is evident that numerous geological details and notices of productions in natural history are mixed up with the personal narrative; and the geographical description of the country throughout the work, which, together with the ethnographical accounts of the inhabitants, will be read with interest; but there is much which it was impossible to introduce, or even allude to, in this short analysis; for nothing but a translation could do justice to it. Many readers, who take an interest in the physical geography, the natural history, and the present state of Abyssinia, will unite with us in hoping that the second volume of Dr. Rüppell's narrative will soon appear.