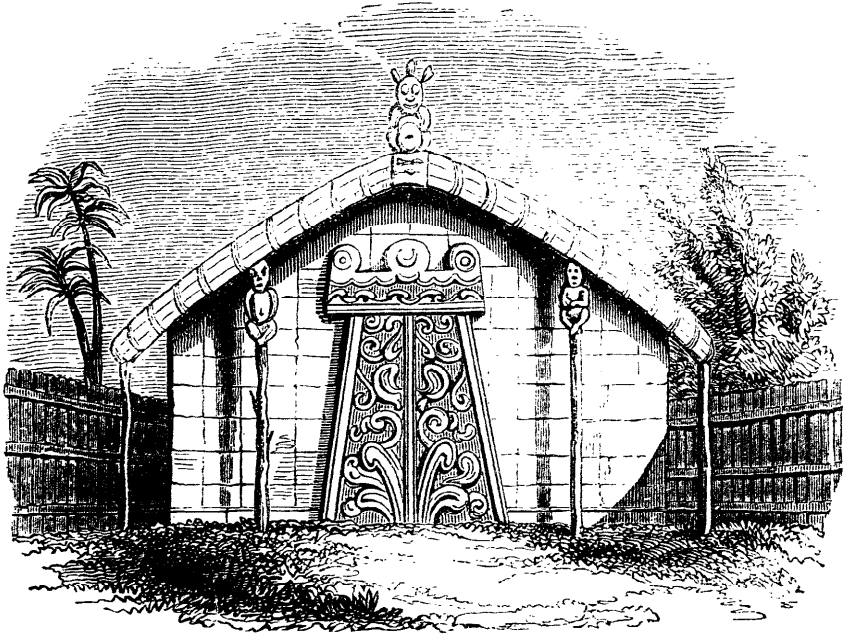
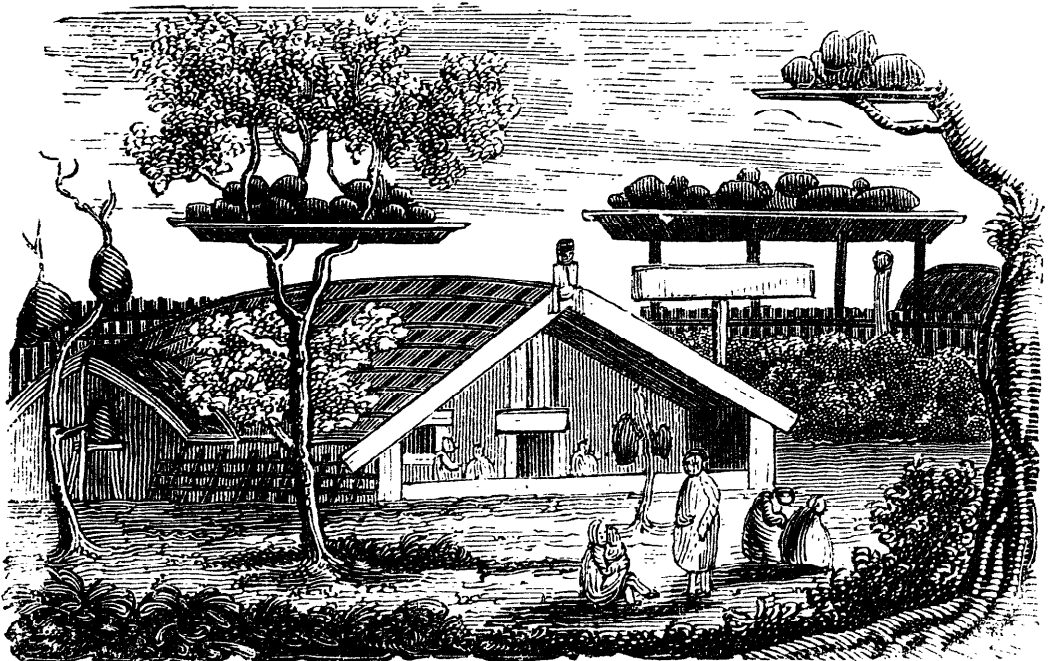


Stores for the *kumera* (potato) are constructed with great care and much taste, with raised floors, and boarded at the sides, to prevent the entry of rats. The verandah is carried from the roof round the building, supported by pillars, with grotesque figures, which remind us of



the extravagant figures in Gothic architecture ; except that the New Zealand figures are more emblematic, the length of tongue and protuberance of abdomen indicating, probably, the power of consuming the *kumeru*. The doors are not unlike the Egyptian in form, and they are curiously wrought.



Every village has platforms constructed on the higher branches of strong trees, for depositing the food of the villagers, by which means

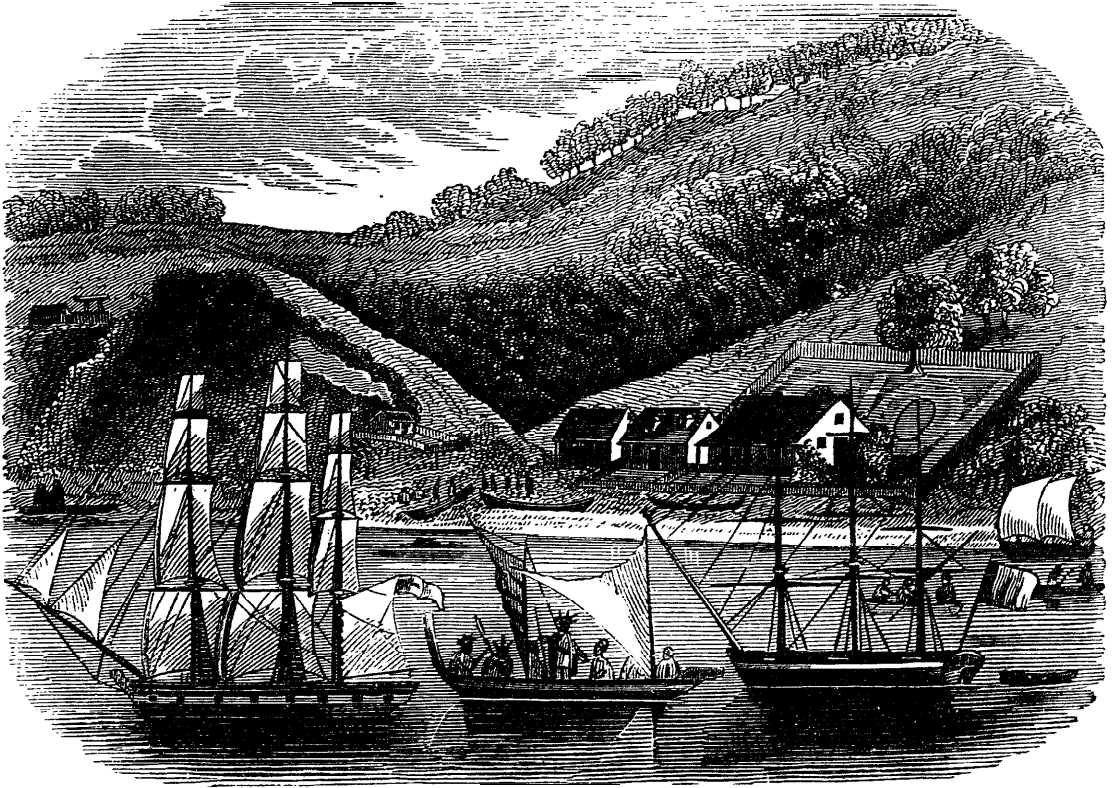
dogs, rats, and vermin are effectually precluded from purloining the viands. This species of storehouse is the more necessary, as no food is eaten in the house, the verandah alone being the customary place for their repasts. The interior of the house is therefore kept perfectly clean, and is considered a hallowed place ; the deserted house of a deceased person is, indeed, sacred in the eyes of the simple villagers, and any portion taken for fire-wood would subject the violater to the excommunication of the priest.

The fishing villages built close to the coast are not so neat as those of their agricultural brethren. Piscatory occupations are in great favour with t.he people, and large parties engage in fishing excursions at the proper seasons.



Their canoes are of various lengths, from six to eighty feet, formed of a single tree, hollowed by the action of fire, and dressed and carved with stone axes. The large war canoes are manned by double banks of rowers. Mr. Polack speaks of having seen some of their old canoes made of *rushes*, sixty feet long, capable of holding as many men.

But we must bring our remarks to a close, not, however, without affording our readers a view of Parramatta, (so called from the native name of a town in New South Wales,) Kororarika Bay, (Bay of Islands,) the residence and property of Mr. Polack, the intelligent author of the work before us.



May success attend the noble efforts of our countrymen for the colonization of this beautiful country ; \* may they remember that it is their sacred duty, as well as their personal interest, to preserve and civilize the fine race of men called New Zealanders—that the eyes of European nations are fixed on their proceedings—and that a fearful responsibility will devolve on them, if the Christian should destroy the Pagan, instead of converting him from the errors of his ways, and adding him as another valuable adjunct to the vast, and, we trust, still increasing empire, of Britain.

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\* Since this article was written, the Lord Mayor has convened and held an important meeting in the city of London, relative to the colonization of New Zealand. The statements made at that meeting justify all we have *advanced in the first number of the COLONIAL MAGAZINE* relative to the necessity of a Colonial Board in Downing-street, to protect, promote, and advance our colonial interests.

## COMMERCE AND CIVILIZATION OF AFRICA.

Continued from Vol. I. p. 462.

## EASTERN AFRICA.

IN giving a short sketch of the principal ports of the Red Sea, it is necessary that we should dwell more particularly and fully on those first in importance to us as a commercial people, and as affording the best and safest entrances into the vast continent of Africa, through Abyssinia and the eastern coasts, bounded by the Indian Ocean : in **treating** of these **places**, we write from the authority of others in many **instances**, but more frequently give the results of personal observation as communicated to us. Before commencing, we may remark, that Isaac Vossius, in the seventeenth century, had arrived at the opinion, that the easiest access to the interior of Africa, is from the eastern coast.

The principal ports on the Arabian shores are, Aden, now permanently occupied by us ; Makullah, a small insecure station without the straits ; Mocha, a walled town of sufficient strength, if properly fortified, to withstand the united forces of Arabia ; Lobkeih, a small unwallied town, difficult of approach, and the best market to purchase coffee, it being 50 per cent. cheaper than at Mocha, the natives taking in exchange jawarrie, corn, glue, butter, arms, ammunition, cottons, and a few European trifles ; Confidia, an insignificant place, of little importance as a place of trade, and very difficult of approach.

Djeddah is, from its central position, considered a place of considerable importance. It was formerly governed by a pasha of three tails, appointed by the Porte, but those officers soon became mere tools in the hands of the shérifs of Mecca, (of which town it is the port,) who eventually usurped the entire management of affairs, and, in defiance of the Porte, appropriated the customs to their own coffers. The second expedition of Mehemet Ali into the Hejáz, commanded by his son Toussun, which proved successful, placed Djeddah in his possession. The power of Mehemet Ali is, however, by no means great, and its continuance extremely precarious. In fact, from the very nature of things, it is almost impossible to hope for a quiet or settled government in Djeddah. It is estimated by the authorities there, that 80,000 pilgrims visit this town annually on their journey to the holy city of Mecca, which is fourteen **days'** journey from thence, through a

dry and scorching desert : the road is distinctly marked out by the bones of men and camels who have perished in their progress. The men are, too often, murdered by their companions for the sake of a few trifling baubles ; indeed, many of these miserable wretches undertake this journey, so full of difficulty and danger, more in hope of plunder, than from an ambition to have affixed to their names ever after the sacred title of Hadjee. Filled with characters like these, most disgustingly licentious and depraved, and ever ready to join or commence a movement, if likely to find profit in it, it cannot be supposed that the governor of Djeddah has a sinecure office. Disturbances are continually breaking out, which nothing but the presence of troops can quell. In 1831, when intelligence reached Djeddah that Ibrahim Pasha, in his operations against Syria, had sustained a severe defeat, before the walls of Acre, a great part of the troops, headed by two officers of distinction, Turkey-bel-Mass and Zemen Aga, took the opportunity to demand their pay, which was in arrear for twenty months, and the refusal became the signal for revolt. In the town this revolt was suppressed, but Turkey-bel-Mass and his followers, after plundering the treasury and magazine, seized on the pasha's ships in the harbour, and sailed for Mocha, which they took possession of and fortified. Here they remained for two years, bidding open defiance to Mehemet, but a naval force sent out by the latter, destroyed the insurgent ships, and some months afterwards, the Assair Bedouins stormed and retook the town, killing the greater number of the Turks, or driving them into the sea. Turkey-bel-Mass escaped in an open boat, which was picked up while drifting out to sea, by one of the East India Company's cruisers. He was afterwards sent to India, and from thence to Syria. Djeddah would be an important acquisition to England, being the central sea-coast town in the Red Sea, and, as such, is a post of communication, a valuable depôt for merchandise, commanding the only route to Mecca, and the trade of the northern portion of the Red Sea. The principal imports of Djeddah are plain and printed cottons and silks, scarlet and blue cloth, coarse kurwarrás, jawarrié, necklaces, rings, Mocha stones and cameleon, attar of roses, tobacco ; pearl and pearl shell, tortoise-shell, brought from the islands of the Red Sea, civet and ostrich feathers from Massowah ; dates and other productions from various parts. The most profitable venture to the Djeddah market is grain ; the most profitable returns, pearl and pearl-shell, and Persian attar of roses. The surrounding country is desert, producing nothing but a few water-melons, and these only in the neighbourhood of the wells. Djeddah is at present a wretched place for an European to

reside in ; its harbour is bad, and large vessels cannot approach with safety within two miles, it might, however, be improved.

The next port, to which our attention is called, is Yembo ; it is a poor miserable-looking town, partly built of stone, and partly of reeds covered with grass. As Djeddah is the key to Mecca, so Yembo is the key to Medina. The inhabitants of Yembo are fiery zealots, fond of wine and brandy ; disliking, or rather despising Europeans. The harbour is good and safe ; vessels of moderate burden are able to anchor within a stone's throw of the shore. The inhabitants purchase grain and coarse cloths, for which they pay in Medina slates, which are considered sacred, and therefore highly prized ; ulwaar, a kind of blanc-mange, made of camel's milk and pounded almonds ; and a few other trifling commodities.

Besides the ports and harbours in the Red Sea, there are numerous coral islands dotting its surface, sometimes in continuous chains, at other times separated from each other for a considerable distance. Few of these islands could be rendered inhabitable ; none of them could support their inhabitants ; all depend on the main for provision and water. The chains of reefs are extremely serviceable to dows and vessels not exceeding 200 tons, for within them the waters are almost always calm, and vessels may proceed even in very tempestuous weather : it is necessary, however, that the commanders have a perfect knowledge of the shoals and sunken reefs, which are exceedingly numerous. The islands of the Red Sea are, many of them, used as fishing stations ; two or three Arabs are left on shore with a jar of water and provisions for a month, they employ their time in catching turtle, which, as fast as caught, they bury in the sand, to remain there until their dow returns. Should accident delay its appearance beyond the prescribed period, the unfortunate wretches left on the island generally perish, unless timely relieved by strangers. North of Djeddah, the Red Sea abounds with sponge, unsurpassed in quality by that of any other sea. It also abounds with the coral of commerce, which is found in shallower water than in the Mediterranean, and is, we are inclined to think, much superior to it in quality. The pearls found are generally of a golden hue : the pearl shells are large and clean, at Djeddah they may be purchased picked and cleaned at from seven to eight dollars per thousand. Black fish are very abundant in the deeper waters, and large quantities of oil might be annually extracted from them. Fish of many kinds are abundant ; but few of those disporting among the coral reefs are worth eating, having jackets as thick as an African

elephant. The whole extent of the sea is filled with corals of many orders, and of surpassing beauty, which, carefully collected, would sell to very great advantage in Europe ; the shell-fish are very beautiful also, and exceedingly numerous ; some of the shores are covered with myriads of soldier-crabs, inhabiting a great variety of shells, and it is a most amusing sight to see, to appearance, so many and various animals of the sea disporting on the sands.

Below Djeddah, many of the islands exhibit traces of volcanic action, all are sterile and forbidding, and incapable of production, beyond mangroves and a short wiry grass. The whole of the waters of the Red Sea are continually decreasing, from the rapid growth of coral, and accumulating relics of marine, animal, and vegetable life, and from the amazing evaporation of the waters, adjoining a vast extent of desert, and exposed to the continued action of a vertical sun : it is by careful observations in this sea, that many of the beautiful phenomena of nature are explained to the geologist and philosophic observer.

Our permanent occupation of Cape Aden secures a safe haven for our ships of war; enables us to overawe the wild tribes bordering the eastern coasts of Arabia Felix ; to guard the entrances to the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea, and to keep a vigilant eye upon the movements of the Imaun of Muscat, who, however friendly disposed towards Great Britain in the present day, is too much of the barbarian to be altogether implicitly trusted, especially when exposed, as he now is, to the intrigues of the United States traders and government. But however desirable Cape Aden may be to us as a naval station, there is little probability at present of its ever becoming a place of commercial importance ; the greater portion of the country near the coast is sterile and desolate, and although farther inland its capabilities of production are great, still it will require many years before these capabilities can be called forth, the Arabs being generally averse to the labours of the field, and of wandering habits.

TO advance our commerce, and to guard more effectually the entrance of the Red Sea, it is necessary that we should turn our attention to the opposite coast of Eastern Africa. Berbera, the country of the Soumaulié tribe, is situate without the Straits of Babel-Mandeb. It is a vast plain, bounded on two sides by the ocean, and in the interior, by the mountains of Abyssinia; it is partly inhabited by the Gallas, and other predatory tribes, who rove about the country, plunder the caravans, and even venture near enough to annoy the trade on the coast, keeping the Soumauliés in a constant state of

alarm. The whole country is extremely fertile, abounding with the celebrated gum-myrrh, and the finest gum-arabic in the world; corn and cattle are abundant, and the coffee plant is cultivated extensively near the coast, the produce being shipped off from the port of Berbera to Mocha and Muscat, and known to us in common with all coffees, the produce of these parts, under the general denomination of Mocha coffee. Its sheep are fine and large, and excellent eating, equal, in fact, to any of the East; but they partake more of the nature of the goat than sheep, being almost tail-less, and having hair in the place of wool. The interior of the country is very well watered, and abounds with deer and other game; herds of wild elephants occasionally traverse the plains.

The caravan route from the interior of the Soumaulié country to the shores of Berbera, has been trodden since the commencement of history. The harbour and mart of Berbera is situated on the western side, just without the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb; it was scarcely known to Europeans previous to 1826, although long celebrated as a place of great trade with Mocha, and the dominions of Muscat, Our intercourse commenced in hostility, and terminated in friendly habits. The plunder of the brig *Mary Ann*, when part of the crew were barbarously murdered, first brought it into notice. This melancholy occurrence coming to the ears of the Bombay government, they immediately despatched an expedition for the purpose of making reprisals, and to enforce satisfaction. The seamen and troops landed on the coast with little opposition, ravaged the country for some distance in the interior: and so intimidated the chiefs, that they entered into an agreement, by which they bound themselves to refrain from any future attack, and to pay the sum of 30,000 dollars, by annual instalments, as a compensation to the owners for the vessel destroyed. Since this period the coast has been occasionally visited by trading vessels from Europe and America; and individuals have found opportunities of exploring some distance into the interior, but still the observations of these men being limited, the information is of necessity meagre and unsatisfactory. The principal information concerning the trade and resources of the country, is collected from those intelligent Arab brokers, through whom all dealings take place between the natives of the interior and foreigners. Berbera can be scarcely termed a town, as, with the exception of a few families who are constant residents, it is entirely deserted during the hot season. In the month of September, the caravans from the interior begin to arrive, and the plain soon assumes the appearance of a vast encampment, containing



a floating population of from 10 to 70,000 persons, being greatly increased by the arrival of numerous dows and other boats, of from 40 to 200 tons burden, from Mocha, Hodeika, Makullah, Muscat, and other ports. In the year 1833, one caravan alone amounted to upwards of six thousand people. The natives of the interior bring down butter, coffee, sheep, gums, ostrich feathers, gold dust, horns and hides, honey, bees-wax, cardamoms, civet, and slaves ; exchanging these commodities for juwarrie, a **kind** of pea much prized in these parts, rice, iron, lead, Indian cottons, Madras handkerchiefs, guns, pistols, knives, beads, and European or Indian trifles ; cottons dyed black are much in request, and will readily fetch one and a half dollars a piece of seven yards ; guns are purchased by the span of the barrel, and fetch one dollar the span ; the Arab broker, to profit by this, is in the habit of cutting the tendon between the thumb and forefinger, in order to obtain a longer span.

The Soumauliés are a bold, generous race, eager for intercourse with Europeans, in whom they repose the greatest confidence ; they have no prejudices to overcome, no deep-rooted vices to combat against, nothing, in short, to prevent a close and intimate union with foreigners. The trading season terminates in the month of April. When the Elphinstone visited Berbera a few years since, Shunraki, a Soumaulié chief, was very anxious that some of the officers of the vessel should visit the sultan at Hurra, who, he was convinced, would be delighted to receive and entertain them. He offered to remain as a hostage for their safe return, and to furnish them with a sufficient guard. Since then, many of the supercargoes of English merchant vessels have been invited to visit the interior of the Soumaulié country.

The Soumauliés are divided into tribes, and, like all other people in this quarter of the globe, are constantly at variance with each other, the most trivial causes provoking quarrels and bloodshed ; this arises from the absence of one potent acknowledged head : a sense of common danger from their idle predatory neighbours unites them, however, to each other much more intimately than in the semi-christian country of Abyssinia. At Hurra, eight days' journey from the coast, there is a regular government, and the people there are peaceful and comparatively civilized : it is in this district the coffee plant is most extensively cultivated, as also gum-myrrh. The country does not appear to have many fruits, but the forests are extensive, and contain quantities of fine timber, although their nature and qualities are at present unknown to us : horses are numerous, but camels are their beasts of burden, and the common medium of communication with the

interior. At Hurra the inhabitants reside in large and commodious stone houses, constructed much after the same manner as those at Mocha. Unprotected in their frontier, they are at present much subjected to incursions from the vagabond roving hordes dwelling between their country and Abyssinia ; these lawless semi-savages scour the country, lie in wait for, or hang on the rear of the caravans, and rob and murder all those who are unprepared for resistance. They have much the appearance and habits of Bedouins, and many of them speak the Arabic language ; it can scarcely be doubted that they are the same people. So numerous and daring are they at times, that they will approach-within two hours' journey of the town, to the infinite loss and annoyance of the peaceable inhabitants : it is certain that their numbers, thus collected at times, cannot be less than 20,000 men.

In conjunction with the occupation of Cape Aden, Zeyla, Massowah, and Mocha, British interests require that we should take possession of, or obtain ascendancy in, Berbera. There we find already an extensive trade in full operation, a brave and intelligent people, who are prepared to receive us with open arms, and furnish in their persons the means of civilizing the native tribes around them. United to a few British troops, instructed in European discipline, well fed, well clothed, and well treated, they would rival the seapoys of the Honourable East India Company in courage and fidelity, without our having the difficulties of caste to overcome. Through this country the passes into Abyssinia, and thence into the interior of Africa, are more open and less dangerous than by any other route, for it is much more easy to elude the roving tribes, who have no fixed habitation, and no means of obtaining information of the route of a caravan, than it is to be compelled to pass through many cities, towns, and villages of semi-barbarians, who destroy in detail. This country belongs in reality to no one power ; and the standard of England unfurled on its coasts, we doubt not that the natives would gladly take shelter beneath it. The introduction of European houses, of many new commodities, of the sugar-cane, indigo, cotton, tobacco, &c. would soon give a new feature to its commerce, beneficial to the native trader, and advantageous to the European, by doing away with banyans, or middle-men, who here, as in India, plunder both parties. The occupation of Berbera would give us a command of the immediate entrance to the Red Sea : it would give us a safe and commodious harbour for our shipping, a most excellent and profitable market for our goods, a high-road into the interior of Africa, and, as such, be a means of diffusing the blessings of the Chris-