LONDON, April 28.

LEGH's VOYAGE UP THE NILE.

We present our Readers with a compendious abridgment of Mr. Legh's interesting "*Narrative of a Journey in Egypt, and the Country beyond the Cataracts.*" Towards the end of 1812, he visited Egypt, in company with Mr. Smelt; and finding there certain facilities, unexpected when they entered the country, he accomplished the long and arduous voyage up the Nile.

Our travellers disembarked at Alexandria, and proceeded to Cairo by the usual route of Rosetta and the course of the Nile. Mr. Legh notices, while ascending the river, the extreme wretchedness and poverty of the population along its banks; and this in a country fruitful of corn, and where fourteen fowls may be purchased for a dollar. The notices respecting Cairo are very brief.—During Mr. Legh's stay there, he visited the slave market of that city; and describes, in strong terms, the deplorable nature of the spectacle. The negroes are huddled together in small pens, like those of Smithfield; their enclosures in a state of the utmost filthiness; and equally so, the wretched beings who await here the brutal surveyors or purchasers to whom chance may consign them. Cairo is well known as the principal mart of negro slaves for the East; the annual caravans bringing them down in great numbers from the interior of Africa. Mr. Legh left Cairo on the 13th of January, 1813, to pursue his voyage up the Nile; accompanied by Mr. Smelt, and by an American of the name of Barthow, familiar, from long residence, with the languages and customs of Egypt. On the 21st they passed the Roman ruins of Antinoe, and a few leagues above this place, quitted for a moment the banks of the river, to visit the magnificent portico of the temple of the ancient Hermopolis. Arriving at Siout, our travellers thence continued to ascend the Nile at Gawel Kebir, the ancient Antæopolis, where 14 columns, covered with hieroglyphics, still remain of the portico of the temple of this city. Passing by Girzeh, Mr. Legh continued his voyage towards Dendera and Thebes. About Dendera crocodiles first began to show themselves in the Nile, and they appear to be most numerous between this place and Essouan; a consequence, probably, of the number of sand-banks in this part of the course of the river. Some of these animals were seen by our travellers, which appeared to be about 25 feet in length, the largest size, perhaps, which they attain in the Nile; though the fancy or invention of certain narrators have more than doubled it. Of Dendera, the ancient Tentyra, we have nothing more than a passing notice; and little is said respecting the vast remains which indicate the site of the Egyptian Thebes. This is, perhaps, judicious, considering the ample description we have received of these magnificent ruins from Norden, Denon, and Hamilton.

On the 13th of February, our travellers reached Essouan, the ancient Syene, and the frontier town of Egypt; having accomplished a voyage of 600 miles, in somewhat less than a month. Here they remained two days, to visit the Cataracts of the Nile, and the celebrated isles of Elephantian and Philæ.

The account Mr. Legh gives of the Cataracts, concurs with that of Norden, Pococke, and other modern travellers, in lessening the impression which common opinion has connected with this spot. The Cataracts of Egypt do not render the people in their vicinity deaf, as we have been told by some writers; nor do they, according to the political exaggeration of Lucan, "*vex the stars with their foam.*" The true description of the place is, that the Nile enters Egypt from Nubia, in a contracted channel among granitic rocks; which not only diminish the breadth of the river, but also form two or three ledges across its bed; thus producing what might better be called a rapid than a cataract. Though this natural feature in the Nile so little equals its reputation, yet the scenery along the river, where it enters Egypt from Nubia, is of the most remarkable and interesting kind. Mr. Legh describes it with considerable spirit.

"The view of the barrier which nature has placed between Nubia and Egypt, is in the highest degree magnificent. Passing upwards from Egypt, you leave the delicious gardens of the isle of Elephantina, which divides the Nile into two nearly equal parts; and on the left, the romantic and ruined town of Essouan strongly reminded us of the old Gothic castles in England. Beyond, the two chains of primitive mountains, lying on each side of the Nile, cross the bed of the river, and form innumerable rocky points or islands, to impede its course.—The wild disorder of the granite rocks, which present every variety of grotesque shape, the absence of all cultivation, the murmur of the water, and the savage and desolate character of the whole scene, form a picture which exceeds all power of description."

The interest connected with the vicinity of Essouan is further increased by the splendid ruins which crowd the small island of Philœ or Philoe, just above the Cataracts. The progress of Europeans up the Nile has, almost in every instance, been limited to Essouan; and the deserts of Nubia, with their precarious governments, and the predatory warfare of their scattered population, have appeared insuperable obstacles to further research in this quarter. The assurance of safety from the Shekh of Essouan, were the chief grounds on which Mr. Legh ventured to undertake this further journey. The Barabras, or native Nubians, were at this time at peace, with the Pacha of Egypt: the Mamelukes had been repelled from the frontier, and were not likely to offer any interruption to the traveller. Under these circumstances, he and his companion resolved to pursue their voyage up the Nile, leaving it to future contingencies to fix the limit to their progress. They were already, by the course of the river, nearly a thousand miles from Alexandria.

Mr. Legh and his party left Essouan on the 13th February; embarking above the Cataracts in a smaller boat than that which brought them from Cairo. Their progress in Nubia was attended with much less difficulty than had been apprehended in leaving Essouan. The Cacheff of the first tribe of Barabras which they met with, about twenty miles above the Cataracts, received them with civility and exchange of presents; and the same hospitality they every where experienced from the thinly scattered population along the banks of the Nile. The mountains still border upon the river; and, at El-Umbarakat, they approached so closely as to form a narrow and difficult pass.—Near the village of Abon-ghor, forty miles above the Cataracts, the Nile crosses the Tropic of Cancer. Here Mr. Legh states, that the thermometer stood at 96° in the open air; in the shade, we presume, though this is not mentioned, it rose to 125° when the bulb was buried in the sand of the shore. Passing the ruins of Guerfeh Hassan, our travellers stopped to examine the temple of Sibhoi, which Mr. Legh cites as corresponding perfectly with the description Strabo has given of the sacred edifices of Egypt. This temple of Sibhoi, as well as the other remains of antiquity in Nubia, are found in a state of much better preservation than most of those in Egypt; and the probable causes of which, as the mode of architecture does not explain the fact, are the uniformity of Nubian climate, and the greatest security against the changes effected by the hand of man. The desert, however, is gradually closing in upon them; and walls, and porticoes, and columns, still almost entire, will eventually be lost under the accumulation of sand, which appears to be taking place in this part of the Continent of Africa.

On the ninth day after leaving Essouan, our travellers arrived at Dehr; the residence, at this time, of Hassen Cacheff; one of the most powerful of the Nubian chieftains.—This man, when they first saw him, was half intoxicated, and received them with much grossness; asking them what they wanted in the country, and whether they wanted to visit the tombs of their ancestors. He was propitiated, however, at their second interview, by a fine Damascus sabre, opportunely given; in return for which he presented Mr. Legh with a young negro boy, and granted him permission to pursue his journey to Ibrim, twenty miles above Dehr.—This point, to which our travellers went by land the following day, formed the limit of their journey southwards. Ibrim, or the ruins of what lately bore this name, stands at the south extremity of a ridge of hill bordering on the Nile, and rising very abruptly from the water's edge. It was formerly the capital of Nubia; and the remains of a fortress are seen on the brow of a cliff, which rendered the position one of the strongest in the country. But it did not escape the desolating march of the Mamelukes, when six years ago, they fled from the power of the Pacha of Egypt. The town was completely destroyed by them; and it presents now merely a few solitary ruins, without a single inhabitant, scarceley even a date tree scattered among its remains. The Nile here is described as nearly a quarter of a mile in breadth. Ibrim was known to the Ancients under the name of Previs Parva; and the Roman Arms, during the reign of Augustus, were carried considerably further into the Ethiopian Desert.

Mr. Legh's stay in Nubia being merely that occupied in his passage up and down the Nile, we cannot look to his narrative for any minute account of the country, or of its inhabitants. The population appears to be very small, even along the banks of the river; and the modern capital of Dehr is only a more numerous group of mud cottages, scattered among date trees, and with a single brick house of two stories, the residence of the Cachen. The number of inhabitants is doubtless thus limited, by the scanty means of subsistence which the country affords. The same cause has probably led, as elsewhere, in the North of Africa, to their divisions into tribes, which frequently transfer their residence from one district to another. The leaders of these tribes support their authority by an armed force of negro slaves, who fight their petty battles, levy contributions, and guard their harems. Hassen Cacheff, the most powerful at present of the Nubian leaders, maintains nearly 3000 of these black soldiers, either about his person, or scattered over the country.—In their persons, the Barabras are thin; the features of the men are animated; their skin is sleek and fine; and the colour, though dark, by no means of the negro hue, and even lighter than that of the population near Essouan. Little commendation is given to the Nubian women; who are described as ugly, and passing almost immediately from childhood to decrepitude.

Leaving Ibrim, Mr. Legh and his party returned to Dehr; and thence, after exchanging other presents with the Cacheff, recommenced their voyage down the Nile towards Egypt. At Dakki they stopt to examine a temple, which they had not visited when ascending the river. This edifice, with its Propylon, is remarkably perfect; and the hieroglyphics are better preserved than in any other ruin between Essouan and Dehr. On the Propylon are several Greek inscriptions, more or less legible; and the two which were occupied by our travellers, merely record the religious pilgrimages to this temple of two persons of authority in Upper Egypt, during some period of the Roman Empire.

Below Dakki are the still more remarkable ruins of the temples at Guerfeh Hassan, and Kalaptshi; rivalling, it is said, some of the finest specimens of Egyptian architecture. These ruins are described with some minuteness; particularly the excavated temple Guerfeh Hassan; which Mr. Legh considers to surpass, as a monument of ancient magnificence, any thing he had seen either above or below Essouan.

Early in March our travellers re-entered Egypt, and continued their voyage down the Nile. Between Siout and Miniet, an incident occurred, the narrative of which is, perhaps, the most interesting part of the volume. This is the perilous adventure in the mummy pits; but as we extracted it some months ago, we refer the curious to the number of our paper which contains it.

The remainder of Mr. Legh's narrative offers nothing that is interesting. After some detensions from the presence of the plague in Lower Egypt, he reached the mouth of the Nile, and embarked at Alexandria for Malta.

BOMBAY, January 4.

THE PLUNDERING PINDARIES.

We have much gratification in laying before our readers the following official account of Maj. Lushington's persevering pursuit, and successful rout of a very large body of the Pindaries.

To the Honorable M. Elphinstone, British Resident at Poonah.

SIR,

Having received intelligence at 10, P. M. on the night of the 25th, that the Pindaries had made their appearance at Sogaum, early on that day, I put the regiment in motion from Peepulwarree, towards that place, at 1 o'clock on the morning of the 26th. Three miles from Peepulwarree one of the galloper guns upset, and the axle-tree broke. I left it behind, taking along with me the limber and leaving four troopers to see it conveyed to Peepulwarree by the villagers. At Rajoory, after descending a stony pass one of the wheels of the remaining galloper gun fell to pieces. I left it at Rajory with two troopers, and desired the head man of the place to get it conveyed within the walls of the fort.

I reached Rogaum at seven o'clock—28 miles; and learnt that a body of Pindaries, between 2 and 3000, had attacked that place, and been beat off, on the morning of the 25th, and left it about noon, taking the road to Kame in an easterly direction. Having made the necessary arrangements, I directed the sick, recruits, led horses, heavy baggage, and followers, to remain at Sogaum, under the protection of the gun troops and rear guard, consisting of 1 jemadar, 1 havildar, 2 naiques, 40 paivates; and at half-past 7 o'clock, A. M. I proceeded on to Kame, 20 miles, with 300 rank and file, and arrived there precisely at noon. I was here informed the Pindaries had halted during the night close to the place, and had marched at day-light, and were supposed not to be very far distant, having been employed during the day firing and plundering several villages in the neighbourhood.—Having already marched 43 miles, I halted for three quarters of an hour, to water and refresh the men and horses as well as that short time would allow, and then proceeded in the same direction the Pindaries had taken.

At Pepree, 7 miles from Keme, I learnt with much satisfaction, that the whole body of Pindaries were halted at Cowah, distant about 3 miles from Pepree, and were said that moment to be taking their meal.

I pushed on at a brisk pace, and on ascending a rising ground found the information literally correct, and the regiment within 1000 yards of the enemy.

The surprise was complete, the success was proportionate, and though the Pindaries were not two minutes before they were on their horses, and flying in various directions, yet the ground was so favourable to pursuit, and it was kept up by the pursuing divisions for 10 miles, with such ardor, that I cannot estimate their loss from the several reports I have received, at less than 700 or 800 killed and wounded, together with a great number rendered incapable of pursuing their plundering excursion, by the loss of their horses. Battiah, the person who was at the head of the party, escaped with about 200 of the best mounted and went off in a southerly direction, and I am of opinion that he will scarcely be able to re-assemble at the utmost, more than 4 or 500 of his late party, and which I learn was estimated at 3000. Including the pursuit, and return to Cowah, I estimated the distance gone over by the regiment from 1 in the morning to 6 at night, on the 26th, at 70 miles.

Though I have only one casualty to report to you, yet I feel it a most painful duty; for in Capt. Darke, the service has lost a gallant and excellent officer, and the regiment has been deprived of a brother officer, highly respected and esteemed. He fell shortly after I ordered the pursuit to commence, by a thrust from a spear, which proved almost instantly fatal.

I marched from Cowah to this place this morning, and expect that part of the regiment with the baggage left at Sogaum, to re-join me to-morrow morning, as after the fatigue the regiment has undergone, a halt is most desirable, especially for the horses, several of which have died from fatigue.—I shall halt at this one or two days, and then proceed by easy marches towards Ahmednuggur. I have the honour to be, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. L. LUSHINGTON,
Major Commanding 4th reg. L. C.

Camp at Kame, 27th Dec. 1816.

(A true Copy)
JOHN BRIGGS,
Third Assistant.

Bombay Castle, 3d of Jan. 1817.

The plundering excursions of the Pindaries have been more daring and adventurous this season than ever known before.—The communication between Seroor and Poona, and the latter place and Panwell, have been for this last fortnight unsafe without a guard. On Friday evening accounts were received from Caranja that the Pindaries were in the Concan, and devasting the villages