PRESENTED TO THE UNIVERSITY
BY THE RHODES TRUSTEES

PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE ASSOCIATION

FOR PROMOTING

THE DISCOVERY OF THE INTERIOR PARTS OF

AFRICA;

CONTAINING

AN ABSTRACT OF MR. PARK'S ACCOUNT OF HIS

TRAVELS AND DISCOVERIES,

ABRIDGED FROM HIS OWN MINUTES BY

BRYAN EDWARDS, Esq.

ALSO,

GEOGRAPHICAL ILLUSTRATIONS

OF MR. PARK'S JOURNEY, AND OF NORTH AFRICA,

AT LARGE,

By MAJOR RENNELL.

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THE COMMITTEE.

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THE Committee have, at length, the pleasure to congratulate the Association on the safe return of Mr. Park. After an absence from his native country of two years and seven months: struggling with dangers and difficulties in the African Wilderness; and sustaining hardships, under which a man of a less vigorous constitution and enduring temper must inevitably have sunk, he is safely arrived in London; and the perseverance and fortitude, the prudence, ability and sagacity, he appears to have displayed in his progress through countries and regions, into many of which it is not known that a single European has ever before penetrated, abundantly justify and confirm the favourable opinion which the Committee entertained of his merit and abilities at the outset. From the notes and memorandums which he kept as he passed, and the materials he collected as occasion offered, it is proposed, that he shall himself prepare a Journal, or Narrative, of his Progress and Discoveries; the casualties he met with, and the observations which occurred to him in the course of his journey. The intelligence he gives is interesting and important;

and the knowledge he has acquired, cannot fail to promote, in an eminent degree, the views and purposes of the Association.

Such a work, drawn up by his own hand, with the plainness, perspicuity and fidelity which the subject demands, will doubtless afford more satisfaction to the reader than the ablest compilation from the pen of any other person. It is apparent, however, that the necessary collation and arrangement of the materials, and the labour of reducing the whole into regular detail, will require much time and attention. This consideration has given rise to the present Memoir. For, in order to gratify, in some degree, that powerful curiosity which Mr. Park's return cannot fail to have excited in the minds of the Subscribers, it is thought advisable, that an epitome, or abstract, of his principal discoveries, should be laid before them, while the larger work is preparing. This has been attempted accordingly; and it constitutes the subject matter of the following pages.

CHAPTER I.

From Mr. PARK's *leaving the* River Gambia, *until his Arrival at* Jarra, *the Frontier Town of the Moors—some Account of the Natives*, &c.

ON the 2d of December, 1795, as was related in a former Memoir, Mr. Park took his departure from the hospitable mansion of Doctor Laidley, at Pisania,* on the banks of the river Gambia, and directed his course easterly, for the kingdom of Woolli. He was accompanied by two Negro servants, natives of the country; one of whom spoke English tolerably well, and served him as interpreter; the other was a boy presented to him by Dr. Laidley. This benevolent friend procured him likewise a horse for himself, and two asses for his servants. His baggage was light, consisting chiefly of provisions for two days; and a small assortment of beads, amber, and tobacco, for the purchase of a fresh supply, as he proceeded: a few changes of linen, and other necessary apparel, an umbrella, a pocket sextant, a magnetick compass, and a thermometer, together with two fowling pieces, two pair of pistols, and some other small articles, made up the remainder.

The kingdom of Woolli, to which our traveller was now proceeding, is bounded by Walli on the west, by the Gambia on the south, by the small river Walli on the north-west, Bondou on the north-east, and on the east, by the Simbani Wildnerness. It is a flat,

* In lat. 13° 35′, about 200 miles from the mouth of the Gambia.

though not a swampy country, exceedingly woody; but at the same time affording excellent pasturage, as was apparent from the great number of its horned cattle. There were likewise fields of Indian corn; but neither wheat nor barley, nor any other of the grains of Europe.

The inhabitants are chiefly Mandingoes, and seem to be a well disposed and peaceable race. The religion of Mahomet has made a considerable progress among them; but a great majority, and the king himself, continue in the paganism of their ancestors, and are called Soninkees, or men who drink strong liquors. The Mahometans are called Bushereens.

The capital town is named Medina, and Mr. Park reached it on the third day; after passing through several villages, the principal of which were, Jendi and Kootacunda. The sovereign, or chief, was named Jatta; the same venerable old man, of whose attention and courtesy so favourable an account was given by Major Houghton, in his letter of March 10th, 1791.* He received Mr. Park with kindness, and treated him with hospitality, during two days that he remained in his capital; and as the strongest proof of his good will and sincerity, endeavoured, with great earnestness, to persuade him not to prosecute his journey any farther; by pointing out the dangers and difficulties he would have to encounter in his progress. Finding, however, that his remonstrances had no effect, he furnished our traveller with a guide to Bondou, and suffered him to depart.

Leaving Medina, Mr. Park proceeded onwards, nearly in Major Houghton's track; and on the 21st of December he reached Fatte-

* Vide Postscript to the former Memoir.

conda, the capital of the kingdom of Bondou (formerly part of the kingdom of Bambouk) on the eastern bank of the river Falemé.

Bondou is inhabited principally by Foulahs; a race of Negroes, who lead a wandering life, and employ themselves chiefly in the pasturage of cattle: there are however a great number of Mandingoes among them; by whom the trade of the country is chiefly conducted. The king was a Soninkee, or pagan, like the king of Woolli, but he had adopted the Moorish name of Almami; and, with the name, seems to have imbibed also somewhat of the Moorish disposition; for, although our traveller had presented to him his umbrella, and some other articles, he compelled him, as he had compelled Major Houghton, to strip in his presence, and surrender his coat; which, he said, he should reserve for his own wearing, on great and publick festivals. In return, however, he gave Mr. Park five minkallies (drams) of gold-dust, and loaded him with provisions.

Departing from Fatteconda on the 23d of December, our traveller proceeded, the two following days, to a place called Joag, in the kingdom of Kajaaga; a country which is bounded on the north by the Senegal river. The king's residence is at Maana, within a short distance of the ruins of Fort St. Joseph; where the French had formerly a small factory. The natives are called Sera-Woollies, and seem to be pure Negroes, without any Moorish admixture, and are naturally of a mild and docile disposition. The appearance of a white man among them excited infinite curiosity and speculation. The king commanded that he should be brought before him; and it was with some difficulty that Mr. Park, who had been cautioned to avoid him, declined the interview, and got out of his dominions with the loss of about one half of his goods and apparel.

The name of this rapacious chieftain was Bacheri. He had recently fallen out with a neighbouring monarch, the sovereign of Kasson, a country to the north-east: and it happened, that the king of Kasson's nephew was in Bacheri's capital, endeavouring, but in vain, to effect a reconciliation, at the time of Mr. Park's arrival at Joag. This young man coming to behold the wonderful stranger, and finding that he proposed proceeding to Kasson, kindly offered to take him under his protection; and to be answerable for his safety in his way thither. The offer was gratefully accepted, and they set out immediately; and after a journey of two days crossed the river Senegal at Kayee, the frontier village of the king of Kasson's dominions, near to which this river ceases to be navigable. From Kayee, Mr. Park was led, by his friendly conductor, to Teesee, the place of his abode, and the residence likewise of the king's brother, Tigetee-Sego; an old man of a venerable aspect, but of a selfish disposition. He had never seen, he said, but one white man before; and on describing the one he had seen, it was known to be Major Houghton. This was the first notice Mr. Park received that the Major had taken a northern route, having until that time believed that he had gone southward, to the country of Manding, through Gadou. The circumstance of having a white man under his roof, was so gratifying to the vanity of Tigetee-Sego, from the vast resort of the natives to behold him, that he compelled our traveller to remain with him twelve days, and afterward to take a journey of two days more, to present himself to the king, at his capital of Kooniakary, who detained him another fortnight; but, in other respects, behaved towards him with great kindness and hospitality. Of this prince, whose name was Demba Sego Jalla, Mr. Park received the first certain account of Major Houghton's death. The king said, he had presented him, at his departure, with a white horse, and ten minkallies of gold; and

that the Major had left his dominions in perfect health; but that, after passing through Kaarta, he had lost his life among the Moors—in what manner, the king could not, or would not, describe.

Being permitted, at length, to leave the capital of Kasson, Mr. Park prosecuted his journey eastward, and arrived in five days at Kemmoo; a large and populous town (since destroyed) at that time the metropolis of Kaarta. This is a considerable district, on the south-east of Kasson, bounded on the north by the Moorish territories, reaching south-east to the powerful and extensive kingdom of Bambara, of which, though little was hitherto known, much had been heard.

The sovereign of Kaarta, whose name was Daysi Koorabarri, received Mr. Park with great kindness. Major Houghton was the only European he had ever before seen; and he had conceived the highest idea of the superiority of the whites to the blacks, in all possible respects. The language of the country seemed to Mr. Park to be formed of a mixture of the Mandingo and Sera-Woolli; but the pure Mandingo, in the attainment of which by this time Mr. Park had made a considerable proficiency, was very generally understood; and with very little assistance from his interpreter, he found no difficulty in conveying his own sentiments, and comprehending theirs.

Having informed the king that he proposed going to Bambara, in search of the Joliba river, which was believed to take its course through the centre of that extensive kingdom, he was told that the Bambarrans being at that time in a state of warfare with the Kaartans, he could not, without extreme personal danger, venture into the Bambaran country; inasmuch, as, coming from Kaarta, he would probably be considered and treated as an enemy, or a spy. His only safe route was a northerly course to Ludamar, a territory of the

Moors, in alliance with Mansong, the king of Bambara, from whence, passing as a traveller from the Moorish country, he might venture by a circuitous journey to Bambara.

To this advice, which was undoubtedly well meant on the part of the king, he was obliged to submit, or give up all thoughts of prosecuting his journey in search of the Niger: and the king, as the last proof of his kindness, sent eight horsemen to convey him in safety to Jarra, the frontier town of the Moors, where he arrived the 18th of February, 1796. In the course of his journey, he passed through a village, not far from Jarra, called Simbing; the place from whence the unfortunate Major Houghton wrote his last dispatch, with a pencil; and of the name and situation of which, an erroneous conjecture was given in a former Memoir.

The territories which our traveller had hitherto explored, being very generally clothed with native woods, presented to the eye the appearance of great uniformity. In his progress eastward, the country rose into hills, and the soil itself varied to a considerable degree; but wherever the land was cleared, great natural fertility was observable. Bondou, in particular, may literally be pronounced "a land flowing with milk and honey." Both those articles, together with rice and Indian corn of two or three species, were to be obtained at a small expence. Of their honey, the unconverted or pagan natives make an intoxicating liquor, much the same as the mead, or methelegen, of Europe; and this, and the wine of the palm-tree, constitute their principal liquors. The Mahometan Negroes drink nothing but water or milk. The price of a fowl in Bondou, was a button, or a small bit of amber; goats' flesh and mutton were proportionably cheap; and for six or eight amber beads, Mr. Park might at any time have purchased a bullock.

Their domestick animals are nearly the same as in Europe. Swine are found in the woods, but their flesh is not esteemed. Probably the marked abhorrence with which this animal is held by the votaries of Mahomet, has spread itself among the pagans. Poultry of all kinds (the turkey excepted) is every where to be had. The guinea fowl and red partridge, abound in the fields; and the woods furnish a small species of antelope, of which the venison is highly and deservedly prized.

Of the other wild animals in the Mandingo countries, the most common are the hyæna, the panther, and the elephant. Considering the use that is made of the latter in the East Indies, it may be thought extraordinary that the natives of Africa have not, in any part of this immense continent, acquired the skill of taming this powerful and docile creature, and applying his strength and faculties to the service of man. When Mr. Park told some of the natives that this was actually done in the countries of the East, his auditors laughed him to scorn, and exclaimed *Tobaubo fonnio—a white man's lie!* The Negroes frequently find means to destroy the wild elephant by fire arms; they hunt it principally for the sake of the teeth, which they transfer in barter to those who sell them again to the Europeans. The flesh they eat, and consider it as a great delicacy.

The pastures of Bondou furnish an excellent breed of horses; but the usual beast of burthen in all the Negro territories is the ass. The application of animal labour to the purposes of agriculture is no where adopted. The plough therefore is wholly unknown. The chief implement used in husbandry is the hoe, which varies in form in different districts; and the labour is universally performed by slaves.

Besides the grains proper to tropical climates, the Mandingoes cultivate, in considerable quantities, ground-nuts, yams, and pompions.

They likewise raise cotton and indigo, and have sufficient skill to convert these materials into tolerably fine cloth, of a rich blue colour: and they make good soap from a mixture of ground-nuts and a lye of wood-ashes.

Their trade with the whites is composed of slaves, gold-dust, ivory, and bees' wax. Their inland traffick consists chiefly of salt, which is procured from the Moors; and of warlike stores, which are obtained from the European traders on the Gambia river. These articles are sold again to itinerant merchants, called Slatees, who come down annually from distant countries (some of which are unknown, even by name, to the natives of the Coast) with slaves, and a commodity called *Shea-toulou*; being a very excellent sort of butter, which is produced from the kernel of a nut, boiled in water. These traders bring down likewise small quantities of iron; an article which is manufactured in the interior districts; but such implements of this metal as are in general use among the natives of the Coast are made of iron from Europe.

The natives of the Gambia countries are also supplied, in considerable quantities, with sweet-smelling gums and frankincense, the produce of Bondou.

The government, in all these petty states (as the reader must have perceived) is monarchical; but it is no where absolute. The persons who are called chief-men, constitute a sort of aristocracy, which forms a great restraint on the powers of the sovereign. The king cannot declare war, nor conclude a peace, without their advice.

Every considerable town is under the immediate government of a magistrate, called the Alkaid; by whom the duties and customs on

itinerant traders, which are paid in kind (the only system of taxation) are levied. His office is considered as hereditary, and the son, if arrived at years of discretion, succeeds to his father's authority.

The lower orders, or that class which constitutes the bulk of the people, are in a state of slavery, or vassallage, to individual proprietors; but the power of the master is by no means unlimited. He may punish his slave corporally; but cannot deprive him of life for any offence, nor even sell him to a stranger, without first bringing him to a publick trial (termed a *Palaver*) before the chief-men of the town. On these occasions, the native Mahometans are generally desired to give their advice; and it is remarkable, that there are a sort of professional advocates, who offer their services to the party accused, and are allowed to plead in his behalf. These indulgences indeed extend only to native or domestick slaves: captives taken in war, and those unfortunate beings who are obtained in traffick, may be sold at pleasure, and treated as the owner thinks proper.

It were easy, from the notices which Mr. Park has collected, to enlarge on these and others of their publick institutions and customs; but of various particulars, common to all the African nations which our traveller visited, something will be said hereafter; and a more copious and detailed account given by himself, in the work which he is preparing. We shall therefore now follow him in his journey, and shall presently have the mortification to find him in a hopeless and austere captivity, among a barbarous race; in whom all the fierce and selfish passions of savage life, are inflamed and urged into action by a blind and remorseless fanaticism: but this will be the subject of a separate Chapter.

CHAPTER II.

Mr. Park is taken Captive by the Moors—his ill Treatment—some Particulars concerning Major Houghton's Death—Park receives Information concerning different Routes from the Mediterranean into the Interior of Africa—his Negro Boy sold into Slavery—his own Danger, and Escape from the Moors.

THE town of Jarra, at which Mr. Park had now arrived, is situated in the kingdom of Ludamar, a Moorish country; of which it is not known that any account has ever been given in any of the languages of Europe. The town itself is extensive; and the houses are built of clay and stone intermixed, the clay answering the purpose of mortar; but the major part of the inhabitants are Negroes, from the borders of the southern states; who prefer a precarious protection under the Moors, which they purchase by a tribute, rather than continue exposed to their predatory hostilities. The tribute they pay is considerable; and they manifest towards their Moorish superiors the most unlimited obedience and submission, and are treated by them with the utmost indignity and contempt.

The Moors of this, and the other states adjoining the country of the Negroes, resemble in their persons the Mulattoes of the West-Indies, to so great a degree, as not easily to be distinguished

from them: and in truth, the present generation seem to be a mixed race, between the Moors (properly so called) of the North, and the Africans of the South; possessing many of the worst qualities of both nations.

Of the origin of these tribes, as distinguished from the inhabitants of Barbary, from whom they are divided by the Great Desert, nothing more seems to be known than what is related by John Leo, the African, whose account may be abridged as follows:

Before the Arabian conquest, about the middle of the 7th century, all the inhabitants of Africa, whether they were descended from Numidians, Phœnicians, Carthagenians, Romans, Vandals, or Goths, were comprehended under the general name of *Mauri*, or Moors. All these nations were converted to the religion of Mahomet during the Arabian empire under the Kaliphs.

Among the Numidians were certain tribes, who, preferring a pastoral life to a fixed place of residence, retired southward across the Desert: "and by one of those tribes, (says Leo,) that of Zenhaga, "were discovered and conquered the Negro nations on the Niger." By the Niger, is here undoubtedly meant, the river of Senegal; which in the Mandingo language is called *Bafing*, or the Black river.

To what extent these people are now spread over the African continent it is difficult to ascertain. There is reason to believe that their dominion stretches from west to east, in a narrow line or belt, from the mouth of the Senegal (on the northern side of that river) to the confines of Abyssinia.

They are divided into petty tribes; the chief or king of each, exercising absolute jurisdiction over his own horde, without acknowledging any allegiance to a common sovereign. In their usual intercourse with each other, all distinctions of rank seem however to be forgotten: the king and his camel driver frequently eat out of the same bowl, and sleep in the same bed. Such of the tribes as live constantly in camps, pursue no sort of agriculture, but purchase of the Negroes corn and other necessaries of life, and even their clothing. Their chief medium of barter is rock salt, which they procure from the salt pits of the Great Desert.

The country affords sufficient herbage for black cattle, sheep, and goats; and the Moors possess an excellent breed of horses; but their usual beasts of burthen are the camel and the bullock. With the slaves which they obtain in their predatory excursions against the inland African nations, their traders purchase arms and gunpowder, of the Europeans: and their chief commerce of this kind, is with the French on the Senegal river. Their only manufacture is a coarse haircloth, of which they make their tents. It is spun from the hair of goats, by the women: but of these, and other particulars in their domestick economy, it is only necessary to observe that in their apparel, manners, and general habits of life, they resemble the roving Arabs, of whom many accounts have already been given. Being removed from all intercourse with civilized nations, and having to boast an advantage over the Negroes, by possessing, though in a very limited degree, the knowledge of letters, they are at once the vainest and proudest, and perhaps the most bigotted, ferocious and intolerant, of all the nations on the earth; combining in their character the blind superstition of the Negro, with the savage cruelty and treachery of the Arab. It is not probable that many of them had ever beheld a Euro-

pean before Major Houghton's arrival among them: but they had all been taught to regard the Christian name with inconceivable abhorrence, and to consider it nearly as lawful to murder a European as it would be to kill a dog.

Our traveller was not long in perceiving the dangerous situation into which he was unhappily brought; for the Negro, who had hitherto accompanied him from the Gambia as interpreter, after a few days residence in Jarra, desired earnestly to be discharged, and sent back to Pisania; expressing a strong apprehension that the Moors would seize on him, and sell him for a slave.

During his stay in Jarra, Mr. Park resided at the house of a Slatee trader named Daman, who was known to Dr. Laidley. By him Park was informed that he could proceed no further on his way to Bambara, without leave from Ali, the Moorish chieftain, or king of the country, who was then encamped at a place called Benowm; and that it was absolutely necessary a present should accompany the application, by which permission was to be obtained. Five garments of country cloth were accordingly purchased, by the sale of one of Mr. Park's fowling-pieces; and Daman undertook to negotiate the business. At the end of a fortnight permission arrived from Benowm. It was brought to Jarra by one of Ali's own slaves; who said, he was ordered to serve Mr. Park as a guide to Bambara. This had a favourable appearance; and although our traveller afterwards found that the permission to pass through the country, was nothing more than a feint to draw him onwards, in the view of preventing his escape back to Kaarta, and that Ali's slave was sent purposely to be a spy upon his motions, he had no suspicion of the treachery that was intended: and on the 27th of February took his departure from Jarra. He was

accompanied by his faithful boy, by the man sent down from Ali, and by a Negro belonging to Daman: the interpreter refusing to proceed any farther.

On the third day after their departure from Jarra, they reached a large town called Deena; on entering which, Park was surrounded by many of the Moorish inhabitants, who are here in a far greater proportion to the blacks than at Jarra. They harassed him with shouts of insult, spit in his face, and seized his baggage, robbing it of what things they fancied. He got refuge at length in the house of a Negro; and after experiencing much difficulty in persuading his attendants to proceed any farther, he set out on the second day for Sampaka, a large town, formerly belonging to the king of Bambara; but, with other towns as far as Goomba, given up, for the sake of peace, to the Moors.

At Sampaka, he procured lodgings at the house of a Negro, who understood and practised the art of making gunpowder. The nitre was obtained, in considerable quantities, from the swamps or ponds; which are filled in the rainy season, and to which the cattle resort in the heat of the day for coolness. As the water of these ponds is slowly exhaled by the sun, the nitre appears in a white efflorescence on the mud, which is carefully scraped off in the form of small crystals. Sulphur is purchased of the Moors; and the several ingredients are blended together in such a manner, and in such proportions, as experience has shewn will answer the purpose; though the powder thus made is far inferior to that of Europe.

Pursuing his journey, under many inconveniencies from the heat of the weather, the scarcity of water, and the insulting conduct of the

Moorish inhabitants of the villages and towns through which he passed, Mr. Park, on the morning of the 7th of March, had reached a small village called Sami, within two days journey of Goomba, the frontier town of Bambara. He now pleased himself with the hopes of being speedily out of danger; when, as he was resting during the heat of the day in the hut of a friendly Negro, he was alarmed by the arrival of two Moors, who announced, that they came by the order of Ali, to convey him to the camp at Benowm. They added, that if he consented to go with them peaceably, he had nothing to fear; but that if he refused, they had orders to carry him by force.

Finding entreaty and resistance equally fruitless, for the messengers were joined by others, all of them armed, our traveller, guarded by the Moors, and accompanied by the Negro boy, (Daman's Negro having made his escape on seeing the Moors; and the slave sent by Ali having previously left him on the road) set out on the evening of the same day for the camp at Benowm; which, after a journey insupportably distressing, they approached on the 12th. It presented to the eye a great number of dirty looking tents, scattered without order over a large space of ground; and among the tents were seen herds of camels, bullocks, and goats. They reached the skirts of this camp a little before sunset, and with much entreaty, being absolutely perishing of thirst, procured a little water. The arrival at the camp of a white man was no sooner made known, than all the people who drew water at the wells threw down their buckets, those in the tents mounted their horses; and men, women, and children came running or galloping towards him. He soon found himself surrounded with such crowds that he could scarcely walk;—some pulled his clothes—another took off his hat—a third stopped him to examine his waistcoat buttons—and a fourth called out "la illa ill

" Allahi, Mahomed rasowl Allahi," * and signified, in a threatening manner, that he must repeat those words.

He reached at length the king's tent, who was sitting upon a black leather cushion, clipping a few hairs from his upper lip; a female attendant holding up a looking-glass before him: there were many other females in the tent. The king appeared to be an old man, of the Arab cast, with a long white beard; and he had a sullen and indignant aspect. He regarded our traveller with attention, and inquired of the Moors if he could speak Arabick; being answered in the negative, he appeared much surprised, and continued silent.

The surrounding attendants, and especially the ladies, were abundantly more curious and inquisitive. They asked a thousand questions; inspected every part of Mr. Park's apparel; searched his pockets; and obliged him to unbutton his waistcoat, and display the whiteness of his skin, &c. They even counted his toes and fingers, as if they doubted whether he was in truth a human being.

At length, the curiosity of the ladies being in some measure satisfied, Mr. Park was conducted to the tent of Ali's chief slave, into which however he was not permitted to enter, nor allowed to touch any thing belonging to it. He requested something to eat; and some boiled corn, with salt and water, was at length sent him in a wooden bowl; and a mat was spread upon the sand, before the tent, on which he passed the night, surrounded by the curious multitude. A hut was afterwards erected, wherein he was confined and strictly guarded.

* " There is no god but God, and Mahomet is his Prophet."

A ludicrous circumstance happened a short time afterward, which would hardly bear recital, if a just representation of national manners was not expected from every traveller that records his observations. Hearing one morning the sound of drums, and the shouts of rejoicing, Mr. Park was informed that the noise was occasioned by the celebration of a wedding in one of the neighbouring tents: soon after which an old woman entered his hut with a bowl in her hand, and signified that she had brought him *a present from the bride.* Before he could recover from the surprise which this message created, the woman discharged the contents of the bowl full in his face. Finding that it was the same sort of *holy water* with which, among the Hottentots, the Priest is said to sprinkle a new married couple, Mr. Park began to suspect that the old lady was actuated by mischief or malice, but she gave him seriously to understand, that it was *a nuptial benediction from the bride's own person,* and which, on such occasions, is always received by the young unmarried Moors as a mark of distinguished favour.

The Moorish ladies seemed indeed to commiserate his condition; and one of them once privately sent him a small supply of meal and milk; but their kindness extended no farther. If they pitied his situation, it is probable that they dared not administer to his wants, and his distress at length became almost insupportable. He was allowed only a single meal of Kouscous (a preparation of boiled corn) in the twenty-four hours. All his effects were taken from him, and he was not even indulged with a change of linen out of the few shirts he had brought in his portmanteau: oppressed at the same time with a burning fever, his situation was truly deplorable. In this condition "from sunrise to sunset (says he,) was I obliged to suffer, with "an unruffled countenance, the insults of the rudest savages on "earth."

A full recital of his sufferings, on this occasion, would occupy too large a space in this abridgement, and it is therefore reserved for the larger work. Some circumstances however occurred, during his confinement, which are too important to be overlooked.

Having sometimes an opportunity of conversing in the Mandingo language with the Negroes that attended the camp, he learnt the following particulars concerning his unfortunate predecessor Major Houghton. They related, that having reached Jarra, he there met with some Moors who were travelling to Tisheet, (a place by the salt pits in the Great Desert, ten days' journey to the northward,) to purchase salt; and that the Major, at the expence of a musket and some tobacco, engaged them to convey him thither. It is impossible to form any other opinion on this determination, than that the Moors intentionally deceived him, either with regard to the route, or the state of the intermediate country between Jarra and Tombuctoo. Their intention probably was to rob, and leave, him in the Desert. At the end of two days he suspected their treachery, and insisted on returning to Jarra. Finding him persist in this determination, the Moors robbed him of every thing he possessed, and went off with their camels. The poor Major being thus deserted, returned on foot to a watering place, in possession of the Moors, called Tarra. He had been some days without food, and the unfeeling Moors refusing to give him any, he sunk at last under his distresses. Whether he actually perished of hunger, or was murdered outright by the savage Mahometans, is not certainly known. His body was dragged into the woods, and Park was shewn, at a distance, the spot where his remains were left to perish.

To return to Mr. Park himself:—In about a month after he had been confined at Benowm, a Shereef arrived there with some salt, and

other articles, from Walet, the capital of the kingdom of Beeroo. As there was no tent appropriated for him, he took up his abode in the same hut with Park. He seemed to be a well informed man; and his acquaintance both with the Arabick and Bambara tongues enabled him to travel with ease and safety through a number of kingdoms; for though his place of residence was Walet, he had visited Houssa, and lived for some years at Tombuctoo. Upon Mr. Park's inquiring very particularly about the distance from Walet to Tombuctoo, he asked him if he intended to travel that way, and being answered in the affirmative, the Shereef shook his head, and said it would not do, for that Christians were looked upon there as the devil's children, and enemies to the Prophet. From him, Mr. Park learned also the following particulars:—That Houssa was the largest town the Shereef had ever seen: that Walet was larger than Tombuctoo; but being remote from the Niger, and its trade consisting chiefly of salt, was not so much resorted to by strangers. That between Benowm and Walet was ten days journey; from Walet to Tumbuctoo eleven days more. That there were many Jews at Tombuctoo, who all spoke Arabick, and used the same prayers as the Moors. He frequently pointed with his hand to the quarter of the south-east, or rather east by south, observing that Tombuctoo was situated in that direction; and though Mr. Park made him repeat this information again and again, he never found him vary more than half a point, which was to the southward.

Soon after this, another Shereef arrived at Benowm. His name was Sidi Mahamed Moora Abdalla, and he came from Santa-Cruz with five loads of salt. This man had formerly resided some months at Gibraltar, where he had picked up as much English as enabled him to make himself be understood. Our traveller requesting to be informed concerning his route from Morocco to Benowm, it was given

as follows:—To Swera, 3 days;—to Agadier, 3;—to Jiniken, 10;—to Wadenoon, 4;—to Lahaneig, 5;—to Zeeriwinzemiran, 5;—to Tesheet, 10;—and to Benown, 10; in all 50 days. But travellers, he said, usually rest a long while at Jiniken and Tesheet.

This information is recorded by Mr. Park, as rightly judging that, although he could not himself derive advantage from it, it was his duty, in promoting the purposes of the Association, to collect all the intelligence he could respecting every part of the geography of Africa, for the instruction of succeeding travellers.

At the expiration of eight or ten weeks, circumstances occurred, which, contrary to their first appearance, changed our traveller's situation for the better, and ultimately produced his deliverance. In the war which prevailed between the kings of Bambara and Kaarta, the Moors, at first, took no active part; but Ali having afterward undertaken to send 200 horse to the assistance of the fugitive Kaartans, he became panick struck at the approach of the king of Bambara towards Benowm; broke up his camp, and fixed his tent in a country to the northward. Mr. Park was compelled to follow him; and after a month's confinement at the new camp, was led by Ali to Jarra. At this place, he had the mortification to see the poor boy who had attended him from the Gambia, taken from him by Ali's command, for the avowed purpose of selling him into slavery. After this cruel circumstance, and the certain information which he received from Ali's own son, (a youth of ten years of age, who had conceived something like friendship for Park, or pity for his misfortunes,) that it was in contemplation to deprive Park himself of his life, or put out his eyes, he determined rather to risk perishing in the woods of hunger, or by the fury of the wild beasts, than remain any longer with a horde of

faithless barbarians, whose tenderest mercies were cruelty; and from whose caprice or fanaticism, he was hourly in danger of destruction. The occasion of which he availed himself to escape; the means by which he succeeded; the risks to which he was exposed; and the sufferings he underwent before he was fairly out of the reach of his oppressors, furnish a most interesting and affecting narrative. But it is presumed, that it will be more gratifying to Mr. Park (as it will certainly be more satisfactory to the reader) that he should relate the particulars in his own words. This part of the subject, therefore, is also reserved for the larger work.

CHAPTER III.

Park's Distress—obtains Relief from some Foulah Shepherds—discovers the Niger—Account of Sego, the Capital of Bambara—proceeds to the Eastward—Shea-toulou, *or the Butter-tree, described —arrives at Sansanding—is ill treated by the Moorish Inhabitants —proceeds down the River to Silla—his reasons for returning Westward.—Information collected concerning the further Progress of the Niger, &c.*

IT was early in the morning of the first of July, 1796, that Mr. Park broke the bonds of captivity. He had fortunately contrived to procure, at his departure, his own horse, saddle and bridle; a few articles of his apparel, and also his pocket compass. This last he had concealed in the sand during his confinement. He rode forwards the whole of the first day without stopping. "I felt (he observes) like "one recovered from sickness; I breathed freer; I found unusual "lightness in my limbs. Even the Desert looked pleasant; and I "dreaded nothing, but falling in with some wandering parties of "Moors, who might convey me back to the land of thieves and "murderers, from which I had just escaped."

The first emotions of his mind subsiding however into sober reflection, he soon found his condition to be very deplorable. His horse grew tired, and he experienced the torments of thirst, raging

beyond description. Whenever he came to a tree, he climbed it in hopes of discovering a watering-place, but in vain; he chewed the leaves, but found they were all bitter, and afforded no relief. In a vast wilderness of the African continent, without an attendant or guide, without food and water, or the prospect of procuring any; in a country where the lion and the panther, prowling for their prey, are less to be apprehended than man; what situation could be more forlorn and dreadful! He proceeded onwards, however, directing his route nearly east-south-east, in the view of reaching, by the shortest course possible, a district that might afford him shelter. A heavy rain about midnight enabled him to quench his burning thirst, by spreading his clothes on the ground, and sucking the moisture out of them; and a muddy pool, which he found soon afterwards, yielded relief to his horse. The rest of the night, and nearly the whole of the ensuing day, neither water nor food were to be found; and he must inevitably have perished, if he had not fortunately, towards evening, lighted upon a few scattered huts of some Foulah shepherds. Perceiving an aged Negro woman, among those who gazed on him with great earnestness, he tendered her his pocket handkerchief, and requested in exchange a little corn to eat. She gave him a kind answer; invited him into her hut, and immediately produced a large wooden bowl of kouscous, ready prepared. She procured likewise some corn and water for the horse. Those only who have suffered similar misery, can judge of his sensibility at this unexpected deliverance. But the village belonging to the Moors, our traveller had but a short time to rest. As he approached the territories of the Negroes however, his apprehensions diminished and his condition improved.

In this manner, procuring eleemosynary support from the charity of the most wretched of human beings, he wandered for the space of

fifteen days, still however proceeding onwards in the accomplishment of his mission. At length, in the morning of the sixteenth day, having been joined by some Mandingo Negroes, who were travelling to Sego, he had the inexpressible satisfaction to behold the great object of his wishes—the long-sought majestick Niger, glittering to the morning sun, as broad as the Thames at Westminster, and flowing majestically, but slowly, from west to east, through the middle of a very extensive town, which his fellow-travellers told him was Sego, the capital of the great kingdom of Bambara. His emotions were exquisite; and it were unjust not to give them in his own words: "I "hastened (says Park,) to the brink of the river, and having drank "of the water, lifted up my fervent thanks in prayer to the Great Ruler "of all things, for having thus far crowned my endeavours with suc- "cess."—Unhappily, he had yet to sustain many severe and bitter trials of his patience and fortitude.

Information of a considerable river flowing through the centre of Africa, between the latitudes of 15° and 20° north, had been received at very early periods from different quarters. At one time, it was believed (as we have seen) to be a part of the Senegal. The Gambia had the same honour ascribed to it at another; but sufficient proof was afterwards obtained that neither of these rivers was the Niger: and further inquiries confirmed the ancient accounts of a stream, that was not only of greater magnitude than either the Senegal or the Gambia, but which flowed *in a contrary direction*; running, not to the westward into the Atlantick, but from west to east, to regions unknown. The Moors described it by the name of *Nil il Abeed*, or the River of Slaves: the Negroes bestowed on it the appellation of *Joliba*, or the Great Waters.

Yet something of a doubt still remained. It was urged that the Moors might possibly speak of one river, and the Negroes of another; and the account of its direction towards the east, was received by our ablest geographers with much difficulty and hesitation. On both these points, Mr. Park's testimony is clear and decisive; the Moors, in his hearing, uniformly called it the Nil il Abeed; the inhabitants of Sego, the Joliba; and that it flowed from west to east, he had ocular demonstration, in a long and perilous ambulation of some hundred miles, which he afterward made on its banks.

Thus, therefore, is all further question obviated concerning the existence and direction of this great river. Its termination still continues unknown.

The city of Sego, at which our traveller was now arrived, consists of four divisions, or quarters, two on each side of the water; and each of them being surrounded by a mud wall, the appearance was that of four distinct towns. The houses are built of clay, and have flat roofs; but some of them have two stories, and many are white-washed. Besides these buildings, Moorish mosques are seen in every quarter. These objects, with the numerous boats on the river, a crowded population, and the cultivated state of the surrounding country, formed altogether a prospect of civilization and magnificence, which our traveller little expected to find in the bosom of Africa. From the best inquiries he could make, he had reason to believe that Sego contained altogether about 30,000 inhabitants.

The boats on the Niger are of a singular construction, each of them being formed of the trunks of two large trees, rendered concave, and

joined together, not side by side, but lengthways; the junction being exactly across the middle of the boat. They are therefore very long, and disproportionably narrow; and have neither decks nor masts: they are however very roomy; for Mr. Park observed in one of them four horses and a great many people, crossing from a ferry.

To this ferry he proceeded, intending to cross over to the largest quarter of the city, where he was informed the king of Bambara held his residence; but the number of people pressing for a passage was such, as to prevent his embarkation. *

The multitude gazed on the stranger with silent wonder; and he distinguished, with concern, a great many Moors among them. In the meanwhile, information that a white man was waiting at the water's side for a passage, was conveyed to the king; who immediately sent a messenger to inquire what brought him to Sego, and what he wanted. Our traveller, having given the best answer he could as to the motives of his journey, added that he was there in his way to Jenné, and having been robbed of all he possessed, implored the king's bounty and protection. The messenger told him to go to a distant village, which he pointed out, and wait for the king's further orders.

He complied with these directions, but found the inhabitants of the village either averse, or afraid, to give him lodging or entertainment; and, having turned his horse loose, he sought shelter, from a storm

* Mr. Park found the language of Bambara to be a sort of corrupted Mandingo. After a little practice, he understood and spoke it without difficulty.

of thunder and rain, under a tree. At length, as night approached, that kindness and humanity inherent in the female sex, to which he had often been indebted on former occasions, came to his relief on the present. A poor Negro woman, returning from the labours of the field, observed that he was wet, weary, and dejected; and taking up his saddle and bridle, told him to follow her. She led him to her cottage, lighted up a lamp, procured him an excellent supper of fish, and plenty of corn for his horse; after which, she spread a mat upon the floor, and said he might remain there for the night. For this well-timed bounty, our traveller presented her with two of the four brass buttons which remained on his waistcoat. *

He continued all the next day in the village, without receiving any orders from the king; and found himself the object of universal observation and inquiry. He soon heard enough however to convince him that the Moors, and Slatees, or slave traders, residing in Sego, were exceedingly suspicious concerning the motives of his journey, and in the highest degree hostile towards him. He learnt that many consultations had been held with the king, concerning his reception and dis-

* Mr. Park adds other particulars concerning his benefactress, which heighten the picture. He relates, that the good woman having performed the rites of hospitality towards himself, called in the female part of her family, and made them spin cotton for a great part of the night. They lightened their labour by songs: one of which must have been composed extempore, for our traveller was himself the subject of it; and the air was in his opinion the sweetest and most plaintive he had ever heard. The words, as may be expected, were simple, and may be literally translated as follows: "The "winds roared and the rain fell. The poor white man, faint and weary, came and "sat under our tree. He has no mother to bring him milk—no wife to grind his corn."—*Chorus*—"Let us pity the white man—no mother has he, &c. &c. Simple as these words are, they are natural and affecting; and contain a curious allusion to the state of manners in savage life, in which the women perform all the domestick duties.

posal; and the villagers frankly told him that he had many enemies, and must expect no favour.

On the third day, the messenger arrived, and, bringing a bag in his hands, signified to our traveller, that he must depart forthwith from the vicinage of Sego; but that Mansong (the king) wishing to relieve a white man in distress, had sent him 5000 *Kowries*,* to enable him to purchase provisions in the course of his journey. The messenger added, that if Park's intentions were really to proceed to Jenné, he had orders to accompany him as a guide to Sansanding.

Mr. Park had afterwards reason to believe that Mansong would willingly have admitted him to his presence, and conversation, but was apprehensive he might not be able to protect him against the blind and inveterate malice of the Moorish inhabitants. His conduct, therefore, was at once prudent and liberal. The circumstances under which our traveller made his first appearance at Sego, were undoubtedly such as to create in the mind of the king, a well-warranted suspicion, that the stranger concealed the true object of his journey. When Park told the messenger, that he came from a great distance, and through many dangers, to behold the Joliba river, it was naturally inquired, if there were no rivers in his own country, and whether one river was not like another? Notwithstanding this, and in spite of the jealous machinations of the Moors, this benevolent prince

* *Kowries* (or as the word is commonly spelt) *Cowries*, are little shells which are said to be found on the eastern coast of Africa, and various other places, and pass as current money in many parts of the East Indies, as well as of Africa. Compared with gold, they are but of little value; but in Bambara 100 of them would purchase a day's provisions for our traveller, and corn for his horse.

thought it sufficient that a white man was found in his dominions in a condition of extreme wretchedness, and that no other plea was necessary to entitle the sufferer to his bounty. It is gratifying to add, that it was not on this occasion only, Mr. Park derived advantage from the high estimation and honourable light in which the Tobauboes (or whites) are held throughout all the Negro territories in this part of Africa.

Being, in the manner that has been related, compelled to leave Sego, our traveller, submitting with patience to what he could not prevent, applied himself to collect all the information he could from his guide. Though it was evident that this man was sent principally in the view of discovering the motives and objects of Park's mission, he was found to be very friendly and communicative. By him, our traveller was apprized of some of the particulars that have been stated, and withal was frankly told, that if Jenné was the place of his destination, which the guide seemed to have hitherto doubted, he had undertaken an enterprize of greater danger than probably he was apprized of; for although the town of Jenné was nominally a part of the king of Bambara's dominions, it was in fact a city of the Moors; the leading part of the inhabitants being Bushreens, or Mahometans, and even the governor himself, though appointed by Mansong, of the same sect. Thus was our unfortunate traveller in danger of falling again into the hands of men, who, he knew, would consider it not only justifiable, but meritorious, to destroy him; and his reflections on this occasion were aggravated by the circumstance that his danger increased as he advanced in his journey; for he learnt that the places beyond Jenné were under the Moorish influence, in a still greater degree than Jenné itself; and Tombuctoo (the great object of his research) altogether in the possession of that savage and merciless people.

Notwithstanding these disheartening reflections, our traveller persisted in what he conceived to be his duty; and the first town of note at which he arrived after leaving Sego, was called Kabba. It is situated in the midst of a beautiful and highly cultivated country, "bearing (says Park) a greater resemblance to the centre of Eng-"land, than to what I should have supposed had been the middle "of Africa;" and the season was that of the *shea* harvest, or the gathering in the fruit which produces the shea-toulou, or tree-butter, the great abundance of which, in this quarter, was astonishing. The tree itself very much resembles the American oak; and the nut, from the kernel of which the butter is prepared, by boiling it in water, has somewhat the appearance of a Spanish olive. The kernel is enveloped in a sweet pulp under a thin green rind; and it is Mr. Park's opinion, that the butter produced from it, besides the advantage of its keeping without salt, the whole year, is whiter, firmer, and of a richer flavour, than the best butter he ever tasted made from cow's milk. The growth and preparation of this commodity seem to be among the first objects of African industry, in this and the neighbouring states, and it constitutes a main article of their inland commerce.

On the afternoon of the second day, Mr. Park and his guide reached Sansanding, a very large town situated on the banks of the Niger, much resorted to by the Moors, who bring thither large quantities of salt, which they barter for shea-toulou and gold-dust. Apprized of this, our traveller desired to be conducted by the most private road; and, passing between the outskirts of the town and the river, he saw in a creek or harbour, twenty large canoes, most of them fully laden, and many others coming down the river, full of passengers or goods. The Negro inhabitants, as Park rode along, took him for a Moor; but the Moors themselves were not to be deceived. One of the latter,

casting his eyes on Mr. Park, made a loud exclamation, which immediately brought together all the Moors within hearing, and a large body of them pursued him to the house of the *Dooty*, or chief man of the town; a friendly Negro, who told the Moors that as he (Park) was the king's stranger, and under his protection, he should not be hurt. He promised however that he should be sent away in the morning; and to gratify the ungovernable curiosity and impatience of the multitude, he desired him to ascend an elevated seat at the door of a mosque, where he was exposed, for a considerable time, to the vile insults of the fanatick Moors. The friendly Dooty however offered him all the consolation and hospitality in his power, and killed a sheep to provide him a supper.

Leaving this place, early the next morning, he proceeded to a town called Nyara, and from thence to Modiboo, a delightful place on the banks of the River, which is here very broad, and enlivened with many small and verdant islands, all of them stocked with cattle, and crowded with villages. Here he was compelled again to set off abruptly for fear of the Moors, the Dooty giving him a guide to Kea; but his horse, which had been long reduced to a mere skeleton, dropped on the road, and he was obliged to quit him. At Kea, he embarked in a fishing canoe, and was landed in six hours at Silla, a large town on the southern side of the Niger. At this place, the Dooty was nearly as savage as the Moors, and it was with great difficulty our traveller could get shelter for the night. He was now convinced by painful experience, that the obstacles to his further progress were insurmountable, and that in attempting to reach Jenné, unless under the protection of some men of weight and influence among the Moors, which he had no possible means of obtaining, he should sacrifice himself to no purpose; for his discoveries would perish with him.

He considered at the same time, that by returning to the Gambia in a different route, he might still promote in some degree the purposes of his mission; for having discovered the Niger, at a great distance from its head, he should be adding considerably to the geography of Africa, in tracing this mysterious river, up the stream, to its source.

On these, and similar considerations, Mr. Park determined to return to Sego, and proceeding from thence along the banks of the river, trust for his support, to the hospitality of the Negroes in the southern states, out of the reach of Moorish fanaticism and malice:—and whoever shall condemn his conduct on this occasion, or accuse him of the want of sufficient fortitude in not proceeding onwards, would do well to bring their own resolution and firmness to as severe a trial.

Here then, our traveller must be said to have reached the end of his journey outwards: but before we enter on his return to the Gambia, it may be necessary to state the information he collected concerning the course of the Niger eastward, and the situation of the several places on its banks which he intended to visit, had he been enabled to continue his progress.

The town of Silla, from whence Mr. Park began his return homeward, is within two short days journey of Jenné, which is situated on an island in the river. At the distance of two days more, the river empties itself into a considerable lake, called Dibbie, (or the dark lake) concerning the extent of which all the information which could be obtained was, that in crossing over it from west to east, the canoes lose sight of land one whole day. From this lake the water issues in many

different streams, which terminate in two large branches, one whereof flows towards the north-east, the other to the east; but they join again at Kabra, one day's journey to the southward of Tombuctoo, and the port or shipping place of that city. The tract of land which the two streams encircle, is called Jinbala, and is inhabited by Negroes; and the whole distance, by land, from Jenné to Tombuctoo, is twelve days journey.

From Kabra, at the distance of eleven days journey down the stream, the river passes to the southward of Houssa, which is two days journey distant from the river;—and so far our information seems to be authentick. Of the further progress of this great river, and its final exit —whether it be the same which passes by Kassina*—whether (as ancient charts seem to indicate) it spreads into one or more inland lakes, or, at an immense distance, intermixes with the waters of the Egyptian Nile—these are questions which future discovery can alone resolve. On each of these points, inquiry of the natives was not neglected, but satisfactory and certain information could not be obtained.

Such is the intelligence that was collected by Mr. Park, concerning the course of the Niger, from its leaving Sego, where he first discovered it. Of the chief towns of Jenné, Tombuctoo, and Houssa, situated on its banks, the last was said to be the most considerable, and the least of them of far greater magnitude than Sego. But there is a place between Jenné and Tombuctoo deserving notice, as containing a very considerable pottery: it is called Downie; and the earthen ware, which Mr. Park frequently met with, appeared to be of

* Erroneously spelt in the former Memoirs *Cashna*.

extraordinary good consistency, but not glazed. He was told that caravans frequently arrive both at Tombuctoo and Houssa, from the countries on the Mediterranean, travelling across the Desert, by the way of Fezzan, with European goods and other merchandize. By one of these, the news was conveyed to the centre of Africa, of the capture by the French of the Mediterranean convoy in October, 1795. Mr. Park received this information from a Moor who had come from Fezzan.

CHAPTER IV.

Mr. Park leaves Silla on his Return—travels to the westward along the Niger—Means of Support—Rise of the Niger—arrives at Kamalia.—Sickness and long Stay at that Place—some Account of the Climate and its Productions—Lotus—*Agriculture and Manufactures—Manners of the Natives—Mr. Park's Return to the Gambia, and Departure for England by way of America.*

ON the third day of August, Mr. Park, for the reasons assigned in the preceding Chapter, left Silla, intending to return through Sego, in his way back to the Gambia; and at Modiboo he had the good fortune to recover his horse, which he found somewhat improved in condition. Here he learnt that Mansong, having been persuaded by the Moors that our traveller had come into his country with some mischievous intention, had given orders to apprehend him; he therefore thought it prudent to avoid Sego altogether; which he did accordingly, by taking a circuitous route, until he had got considerably to the west; when, turning again towards the Niger, he passed through many towns and villages on its banks, the largest of which, called Sammee, he left on the 14th August, and lodged that night at Benni. On the morning of the 16th, he arrived at Jabbee, a large town, with a Moorish mosque in it. The same day he passed through Yamina, and on the 20th reached Koolikorro, a great salt market. On the

day following he proceeded to Marraboo; and in two days more arrived at Bammakoo, the frontier of the kingdom of Bambara.

During the course of this peregrination through the king of Bambara's dominions, our traveller had to encounter the tropical rains in all their violence; and he was chiefly indebted for his daily support to the Dooty, or chief man, in the several towns through which he passed. This officer seems to possess in some respects the authority of Mayor in the corporate towns of England; and it reflects great credit on the police of the African kingdoms, or on the benevolent manners of the natives, that it is considered one part of the Dooty's obligation, to provide food for the necessitous traveller:—*To suffer the king's stranger to depart hungry* (such is the phrase) is an offence of a very heinous nature. On many occasions Mr. Park offered payment for what he received, out of the kowries that still remained of the king's present; and his offer was sometimes accepted, and sometimes refused. On others, he remunerated his host in a singular manner, the particulars of which are worthy recital. Among the various impostures practised by the Moors towards the poor Negroes, they frequently sell them scraps of paper with an Arabick inscription (commonly a passage from the Koran) which are called *saphies*, or charms. With one of these about his person, the fond possessor conceives himself invulnerable: neither the lurking serpent, nor the prowling tiger is any longer the object of his dread. In the circumstances to which Mr. Park was reduced, he had the good fortune to discover that the Negro natives ascribed to him the power of granting saphies of even more than Arabian virtue. "If a Moor's saphie is good (says the Dooty of Sansanding) a white man's must needs be better;" and Park, at his request, gave him one, possessed of all the virtues he could concentrate; for it contained the Lord's Prayer. The pen

with which it was written, was made of a reed; a little charcoal and gum-water, made very tolerable ink, and a thin board answered the purpose of paper. In his journey westward, this merchandize turned to extraordinary good account; and it is surely needless for Mr. Park to frame any apology, for having availed himself of such a resource in his situation.

At Bammakoo, the Niger ceases to be navigable. It takes its rise at a small village called Sankari, in the high lands of Jallonkondoo, about six days journey S. W. from Bammakoo; and the country becoming mountainous, our traveller, on the 22d, took the path for Sibidooloo, where he arrived at the end of two days. This is the first town in the state of Manding; the government of which is a republick, or rather an oligarchy. On the 30th, he came to Wonda, a fine village, regularly built, and surrounded by a wall. Here he was confined several days by sickness; and having nothing else to offer to the friendly Negro, in whose house he was accommodated, Mr. Park presented him at parting with his horse; now in truth become unable to proceed any farther. On the 8th of September, he set out on foot, for Kinneyeto, a considerable town, which he reached on the 11th; and in three days more, arrived at Kamalia. On the mention of this place, a pause is necessary;—for it was here that, worn down by fatigue, and the vicissitudes of the weather, having sometimes been plunged to the neck in rivers and swamps, and sometimes lost in woods and deserts, without shelter, clothing, or food, he fell into a severe and dangerous fit of sickness; in which the remembrance of past suffering, and the hopes of future enjoyment, had nearly been extinguished together. It must be observed that, on his arrival at Kamalia, he had still a space of 500 miles to traverse before he could reach any friendly country on the Gambia; and being informed that

great part of the way lay through a desert, which it was impossible he could cross, singly and unsupported, he had no other resource but to wait for the first caravan of slaves, that might travel the same track. Such a one was expected to pass through Kamalia at the end of three months, and the chief director of it resided in that place. To him therefore Mr. Park applied; and for the value of one slave, to be paid on his safe arrival at the Gambia, this worthy Negro, whose name was Karfa Taura, not only undertook to conduct him safe to Pisania, but offered him likewise the accommodation of his house, until the time of the caravan's departure. Under this man's roof, our traveller was confined to his mat (his only bed) by a severe and dangerous fever for upwards of a month. Five months longer was he detained for the caravan. During this long interval, not a murmur escaped the lips of Karfa, or of any of his wives, at the trouble and expence which their inmate brought upon them. To the kind attentions, the tender solicitude, the cheerful assiduity, and flowing hospitality of these poor Pagans, Mr. Park declares that he is indebted, not only for his safe return to Great Britain, but also for the preservation of his life; and he admits that he made his friend Karfa but an inadequate return (though the best in his power) by presenting him, on their arrival at the Gambia, with double the sum that he had originally promised.

One advantage however results to the African Association from this long confinement of Mr. Park in the interior of Africa. It afforded him frequent opportunities of collecting authentick information concerning many particulars, whereof a correct knowledge could not otherwise have been obtained. It is conceived that the true nature of those great branches of the African commerce, the trades in gold-dust and slaves, are even yet but little understood in Europe: of the

vegetable productions of Africa, many are unknown, even by name, to systematical writers; and the character of the natives; their agriculture and manufactures; their modes of living, manners, superstitions, wars, police and government, have never been described by any one writer competent to the task. On all, or most of these subjects, Mr. Park is capable of giving important and disinterested information, and proposes to attempt it. To enter deeply therefore on the discussion of them in this short abstract, were to anticipate what he naturally wishes to be allowed the honour to communicate in his own manner. Some observations, however, concerning the temperature of the climate; the productions and agriculture of the country, and the manners of the natives in some important particulars, will probably be expected by the Members of the Association; and for their satisfaction the following notices are selected.

The whole of Mr. Park's route, both in going and returning, having been confined to a tract of country bounded nearly by the 12th and 15th parallels of latitude, it must be imagined that he found the climate in all places extremely hot. On the borders of the Desert, where the fierceness of the tropical sun is reflected from the sands, the heat was scarcely supportable. Having been robbed of his thermometer, he had no means of forming a comparative judgment; but he well remembers that, in the dry season, when the wind blows from the east and north-east, across the Desert, the ground became so hot, in the middle of the day, as not to be borne by the naked foot. In the camp at Benowm, even the Negro slaves, accustomed as they were to this temperature, would not walk from one tent to another without their sandals. At this time of the day, the Moors lie stretched at length in their tents, either asleep or unwilling to move; and Mr. Park declares that as he lay listlessly along, after their manner, in his hut of reeds,

he could not hold his hand against the current of air which came through the crevices, without suffering very sensible pain from its scorching effect.

In the southern districts, which abound with wood and water, the climate improves; and in the mornings and evenings the air is serene, temperate, and pleasant.

During the rainy season, the prevailing wind is from the south-west. The monsoon commonly changes about the latter end of June; and the wind continues to blow from the south-west quarter until the middle or end of October. In this interval, the country is flooded; and the rains are preceded and followed by dreadful tornadoes or typhons. The commencement of this monsoon is the spring, or seed time; and its termination is commonly the season of harvest.

Of the chief objects of general cultivation, throughout the Negro territories, notice has already been taken: but the inhabitants are indebted to the spontaneous bounty of nature for some productions, which, by varying the enjoyments, add greatly to the comforts of life. Among these is the Shea-toulou, already described; and the *Lotus*, of ancient renown, is another. This last is rather a thorny shrub than a tree; and it abounds in all the countries which Mr. Park traversed, but flourishes most in a sandy soil. Its fruit is a small yellow farinaceous berry, about the size of an olive; which being pounded in a wooden vessel, and afterward dried in the sun, is made into excellent cakes, resembling, in colour and flavour, the sweetest gingerbread. The natives of all descriptions esteem it highly, and some of them prepare from it a liquor deliciously sweet: the same

perhaps which is fabled to have produced such extraordinary effects on the companions of Ulysses.

Most of the species of edible roots that grow in the West Indies, were likewise found in Africa; and, among the more important vegetable classes, Mr. Park could reckon indigo, cotton, and tobacco; but neither the sugar-cane, nor the coffee, nor the cacao tree, were seen by him in any part of his journey; neither could he learn on inquiry, that they were known to the natives. The pine-apple, and the thousand other delicious fruits, which the industry of civilized man (improving the bounties of nature) has brought to so great perfection in the tropical climates of America, were equally unknown. The orange and banana are sometimes seen on the coast; but whether they are indigenous, or were formerly introduced by the provident care of the white traders, Mr. Park could not learn.

Concerning property in the soil, it appeared to Mr. Park that in all the Negro dominions through which he passed, the lands in native woods were considered as belonging to the king, or (where the government was not monarchical) to the state. When any individual of free condition, had the means of cultivating more land than he actually possessed, he applied to the chief man of the district, who allowed him an extension of territory, on condition of forfeiture if the lands were not brought into cultivation, or pasturage, by a given period. The condition being fulfilled, the soil became vested in the possessor, and, for aught that appears, descended to his heirs.

Of one species of their corn, the Negroes make excellent beer, by malting the seeds, nearly in the same manner as barley is malted in England; and, the beer which is thus made, was to Mr. Park's

taste equal to the best strong beer he had ever drank in his native country.

The shrub which produces indigo is an object of particular attention; and the process which the natives have adopted of dying their cotton with its juice, is the simplest that can be imagined. The leaves being pounded and bruised into a mass, are mixed in a lye of wood ashes, and the cloth is steeped in the vat. Chamber-lye is sometimes added; and the blue colour thus obtained, is at once beautiful and lasting.

The cotton cloth in this manner prepared, though perhaps the most valuable of their manufactures, is however not the only one. The natives preserve the skins of their sheep and goats by tanning; and they have acquired the skill of staining the leather with lasting colours, both of yellow and red.

The inland countries abounding with rich iron-stone, the inhabitants have discovered the art of smelting and separating the ore by charcoal fires. The furnace in which this is effected, is extremely simple, but well suited to the purpose; and the metal, though too brittle for general use, furnishes spears, hoes, knives, cutlasses, and hatchets. The fabrication of fire-arms, is frequently attempted by some of the natives; but they acknowledge that it never succeeds. Every white man they suppose to be a gun-smith; and it was with difficulty Mr. Park could persuade them that he knew nothing of the matter.

But perhaps their ingenuity is most conspicuously displayed, in working their native gold; for they not only are well acquainted with

the preparation and use of an alkaline salt, to assist in liquefying the metal; but in the ornaments they make from it, such as bracelets, necklaces, and ear-drops to adorn their females, they display a variety of taste, and an elegance of fancy, which would excite admiration even among the best artists of Europe.

The whole continent of Africa, according to all the observations and inquiries Mr. Park could make, appears to be divided into petty states, which are independent of, and frequently engaged in wars with each other. The question, how far these wars are excited by the European commerce for slaves, is of deep and difficult investigation; into the full discussion of which, the writer of this abstract, from personal considerations, declines to enter: Mr. Park himself will, in due time, suggest what has occurred to him on this subject, with candour and impartiality. All that is necessary to observe in this place is, that wars, in the causes of which the European traders can have no possible concern, do certainly prevail among the natives to a very great extent, as well in the interior country, as on the coast; and are frequently productive of shocking cruelties and infinite slaughter. It is equally certain, that (on some occasions at least) the slave trade contributes to preserve the lives of the prisoners. In proof of both these assertions, our traveller relates some facts which came under his own observation. Soon after he had passed through Kasson, as mentioned in the first Chapter, the king of that country, Demba Sego Jalla, died; and the succession being disputed by his two sons, the youngest prevailed, and drove his brother from the country. He fled to Kaarta, and being pursued thither, the Kaartans took up arms; not, as they declared, to support the elder's claim, for they declined interfering in the quarrel, but solely for the maintenance of their own independency. In this contest, several towns were taken on

both sides; and the king of Kaarta made it a constant practice, to put all the able men that fell into his hands to immediate death; deriding, as mean and avaricious, the conduct of the king of Kasson, who, hearing of the French traders on the Senegal river, sent all the prisoners made on his part, in large caravans, to be sold at Fort Louis. If this opportunity of disposing of them to advantage, had not offered, it can hardly be doubted that these unfortunate captives would have been sacrificed as well as the former.

Of the religious institutions of the countries which Mr. Park visited, the few observations that have incidentally arisen in the course of this narrative, must satisfy the reader, until a more copious and detailed account can be given. It may be noticed however, on our traveller's authority, that, contrary to the general opinion, the votaries of Mahomet do not always trust *to the sword only* in the propagation of their tenets: they have introduced among the Pagans of Africa, a system of proselytism, much more efficacious and extensive. By establishing schools wherever it is practicable, in which the Negro children are taught to read, and instructed in the tenets of the Koran; they fix a bias on the minds, and form the character of their young disciples, which no accidents of life can ever afterward remove or alter. Mr. Park saw many of these schools in his progress, and could not but lament that none of the European governments (the laudable establishment at Sierra Leone being a private concern only) have introduced a similar system among these poor people, for inculcating the doctrines of Christianity: a measure which, in his opinion, many circumstances concur to render practicable.

To the mode of education established by the Moors, may perhaps be imputed the universal adoption, among all the African nations, of

the law of polygamy; for it is probable that many who reject or deride those precepts of the Koran, which inculcate the virtues of temperance in other cases, make no scruple to appeal to it, whenever the criminal indulgence of their passions can be justified by its authority.

To the same source however cannot be ascribed the introduction of the rite of circumcision, which also prevails universally in this part of Africa; for it is known to prevail in many of the Negro nations, by whom the religion of Mahomet has never been received. The Jaloffs alone confine it to the males: the Mandingoes, both Soninkees and Bushreens, extend the ceremony to both sexes, as the ancient Egyptians did before them; and the operation is performed at the commencement of puberty. It did not indeed appear to Mr. Park, that the Negroes in general, consider this painful rite as an act of religious duty, and, as such, essential to their future salvation; but rather as an operation of physical necessity; without which the marriage state could not, in their opinion, be prolifick. That they firmly believe however in a life beyond the grave, and a state of retribution after death, wherein good men will be rewarded, and bad men punished, Mr. Park has not the shadow of a doubt. He conversed with the natives of all descriptions on this important subject, and pronounces, without the smallest hesitation, that a conviction of this great truth among the Negroes, is entire, hereditary and universal.

Such are the few observations which it has been thought proper to select, in a cursory manner, from the materials in Mr. Park's possession; and from oral communications had with him personally. Nothing now remains, but to accompany him to the end of his journey; and on this head a few words will suffice.

In the latter end of April, 1797, the *coffle*, or caravan, being at length completed, and our traveller's health perfectly re-established, he set out from Kamalia, in company with seventy persons, of whom thirty-seven only were slaves for sale: the whole, under the direction of Karfa. In nine days they came to Maana, bordering on a branch of the Senegal. In ten days more, they reached the small, but fertile, state of Dentilla, and crossed in their journey some of the streams that contribute to the great river of the Gambia. On the 4th of June they fell in with that river, about two days journey above the falls of Baraconda; to which place it is navigable for canoes from its mouth. In six days more, on the 10th day of June, Mr. Park, to his infinite satisfaction, (having undergone in his journey, from the heat of the weather, from fatigue, and from hunger, more than he can find words to describe) entered the hospitable mansion of Dr. Laidley, from which he had set out eighteen months before.

On the 15th of the same month, he embarked in a slave ship bound to America; which being driven, by stress of weather, into the island of Antigua, Mr. Park took his passage from thence, in a vessel bound to Great Britain, and on the 25th day of December, arrived safely in London.

GEOGRAPHICAL ILLUSTRATIONS

OF

MR. PARK'S JOURNEY.

BY

MAJOR RENNELL.

GEOGRAPHICAL ILLUSTRATIONS.

CHAPTER I.

Concerning the Ideas entertained by the Ancient Geographers, as well as the Moderns, down to the Times of Delisle and D'Anville, respecting the Course of the River Niger.

THE late journey of Mr. PARK, into the interior of WESTERN AFRICA, has brought to our knowledge more important facts respecting its Geography (both *moral* and *physical*), than have been collected by any former traveller. By pointing out to us the positions of the sources of the great rivers SENEGAL, GAMBIA, and NIGER,* we are instructed where to look for the elevated parts of the country; and even for the *most elevated* point in the western quarter of Africa, by the place from whence the Niger and Gambia turn in opposite directions to the east

* I here use the word NIGER, as being the best understood by Europeans; but the *proper* name of this river in the country seems to be *Guin* or *Jin*. (Hartmann's Edrisi, p. 32, 48, 51). At the same time, it is more commonly designed by the term JOLIBA, meaning the *Great Water*, or great river. In like manner, the GANGES has two names, *Padda*, the proper name; *Gonga*, the great river.

The Moors and Arabs call it NEEL ABEED, the *River of Slaves;* but they have also a name to express the great water, that is, NEEL KIBBEER. *Neel* appears to be employed in Africa, as *Gonga* in India, to express any great river.

By *Niger*, the ancients meant merely to express the River of the Black People, or *Ethiopians*. The term was Roman: for the Greeks believed it to be the head, or a branch, of the *Egyptian Nile*.

and west. We are taught, moreover, the common boundary of the desert and fruitful parts of the country, and of the MOORS and NEGROES; which latter is the more interesting, as it may be termed a boundary in *moral* geography; from the opposite qualities of mind, as well as of body, of the Moors and Negroes: for that physical geography gives rise to habits, which often determine national character, must be allowed by every person, who is a diligent observer of mankind.

It must be acknowledged, that the absolute extent of Mr. Park's progress in Africa, compared with the amazing size of that continent, appears but small, although it be nearly 1100 British miles in a direct line, reckoned from its eastern extremity, Cape Verd. But considered in itself, it is no inconsiderable line of travel; being more extensive than the usual southern tour of Europe.

But moreover, it affords a triumph to the learned, in that it confirms some points of fact, both of geography and natural history, which have appeared in ancient authors, but to which our own want of knowledge has denied credit. I allude more particularly to the *course* of the *Niger*, and the history of the *Lotophagi*. That the Greeks and Romans, who had formed great establishments in Africa, and the latter in particular, who had penetrated to the Niger,* should have had better opportunities of knowing the interior part of the country, than we, who live at a distance from it, and possess only a few scattered factories near the sea coast, is not to be wondered at: but the proof of such facts should teach us to be less hasty in decrying the authority of ancient authors; since the fault may arise from a want

* Pliny, lib. v. c. 4.

of comprehension on our parts, or from an assumption of false principles on theirs.

Few geographical facts have been more questioned in modern times, than the course of the great inland river of Africa, generally understood by the name of NIGER; some describing it to run to the *west*, others to the *east*; but of these opinions, I believe the former has been espoused by the most numerous party, by far.* Although Mr. Park's authority, founded on ocular demonstration, sets this question *for ever* at rest, by determining the course of the river to be from *west* to *east*, as Major Houghton's information had previously induced a belief of, yet it may not be amiss to trace the history of the opinions, concerning the course of this celebrated river, from the earliest date of profane history.

HERODOTUS,† more than twenty-two centuries ago, describes, from the information of the Africans, a great river of Africa, far removed to the south of the Great Desert, and abounding with crocodiles. That it flowed from *west* to *east*, dividing *Africa*, in like manner as the Danube does *Europe*. That the people from the borders of the Mediterranean, who made the discovery, were carried to a great city on the banks of the river in question; and that the people of this quarter were *black*; that is, much blacker than their visitors. Our author, indeed, took this river to be the remote branch of the Egyptian Nile, and reasons on the circumstance, accordingly: but even

* M. J. Lalande, almost at the moment of Mr. Park's investigation, has determined its course to be to the west; notwithstanding the forcible reasoning of his countryman D'Anville. (Mémoire sur l'Intérieur de l'Afrique.) Mr. Bruce was of the same opinion. Vol. iii. p. 720, 724.

† Euterpe, c. 32.

this argument serves to express in a more forcible manner, the supposed direction of its course.

PLINY also believed that the *Nile* came from the west; but he is far from identifying it with the *Niger*, which he describes as a distinct river. But we have at least his negative opinion respecting its western course; for he speaks of the *Bambotus* river as running into the Western ocean; meaning to express by it either the Gambia or Senegal river, and not the Niger.*

PTOLEMY is positive in describing the Niger as a separate stream from the Senegal and Gambia, which two rivers are designed by him under the names of *Daradus* and *Stachir;* and they are by no means ill expressed; falling into the sea on different sides of the *Arsinarium* promontory, or Cape Verd.† The Niger of Ptolemy is made to extend from west to east, over half the breadth of Africa, between the Atlantic ocean, and the course of the Nile.

These may suffice for the ancient authorities, which in very early times fixed the course of the Niger in the systems of geography, to be *from west to east.* Who it was that first led the way, in the opposite opinion, I know not; but we find EDRISI, in the twelfth century, not only conducting the *Nile of the Negroes,* or Niger, *westward,* and into the *Atlantic,* but also *deriving* it from the *Egyptian* Nile; which is diametrically opposite to the opinion of Herodotus.

Such an opinion marks the very imperfect state of his knowledge

* Lib. v. c. 9.

† Probably a corruption of *Senhagi*; or *Assenhagi*, as the early Portuguese discoverers write it. These were a great tribe.

of African geography; and should induce a degree of caution in receiving other opinions of the same author, where they rest absolutely on his own authority. It is very probable that the waters which collect on the *west* of *Nubia*, may *run to the west*, and be lost in lakes: and it is possible, though very improbable, that a branch of the Nile may take the same course: but fortified by the present state of our knowledge, we may certainly pronounce the general scope of the intelligence communicated by Edrisi, respecting the course of the Niger, to be erroneous.

I conceive however, that his error may easily be accounted for, in this way. He was probably told, that the waters on the west of Nubia, &c. ran westward. He also knew that a great river (the Senegal) discharged itself into the Atlantic, nearly in the same parallel; and moreover, that a great river whose *line of direction* lay between the *east* and *west*, and between Nubia and the just mentioned *embouchure*, watered a very extensive tract, in the midland part of Africa. Now, what so natural (admitting the fact of the western waters from Nubia, and which I trust, I shall go near to prove, in the sequel) as to suppose, when he had found a *head*, and a *tail* of a great river, together with a long extent of course of a river between them, that they were parts of each other? It must also be taken into the account, that he supposed the continent of Africa to be about 1000 miles narrower than it really is, in the line between Nubia and the mouth of the Senegal.

ABULFEDA followed Edrisi in the same opinion, respecting the Niger; which he calls a *twin* river with that of Egypt. He also calls it the *Nile of Gana*. Abulfeda also knew, and has described, the general form of the continent of Africa: and, of course knew that it

was surrounded by the sea.* But his descriptions are limited to the north and north-east parts. He wrote in the fourteenth century.

It was Edrisi, probably, who influenced and determined the opinions of the moderns, respecting this question. An author, long supposed to be of the same region with that which he describes,† and who had entered more into the *detail* of the African geography, than any other, would, according to the usual mode of decision, on such pretensions, be preferred to those who went before him, and had treated the subject in a more general way. Mankind had no criterion, by which to judge of the truth.

Since then the Arabian geographer, who had written the most extensively on the subject, had conducted the Niger into the Atlantic, we cannot wonder that the early Portuguese discoverers, who doubtless learnt from the Arabian authors the particulars of African geography, should adopt the same idea; and that they should regard the *Senegal* river as the *Niger;* as we find it, in the histories of their discoveries in the fifteenth century. The Portuguese, who at this period took the lead, in matters of navigation and discovery, might well be expected to set the fashion, in what related to African geography. So that in despite of Ptolemy, and of the ancients in general, the great inland river of Africa was described to run *to* the *west;* and to form the head of the Senegal river. Nay more, it was at last supposed to be the *parent stock* of all the great *western* rivers of Africa.

* This was previous to the Portuguese discoveries.

† He was commonly called the *Nubian* Geographer.

Sanuto, whose Geography of Africa, is dated 1588, describes one branch of the Niger to be the *Rio Grande*, the other the river of *Sestos*; regarding the Senega as a different river.

M. DELISLE's map of Africa (1707) gives the Niger a direct course through Africa, from *Bornou*, in the east, and terminating in the river of Senegal on the west. But in his maps of 1722 and 1727, this was corrected: the source of the Senegal was placed at a shallow lake named *Maberia*, between the 14th and 15th degrees of longitude east of Cape Verd; and in latitude 12°; whilst the river of TOMBUCTOO, named *Guien*, was described to issue from another lake, in the same neighbourhood, and to flow *towards* Bornou, where it terminated in a third lake.

The cause of this change, may be easily traced, in the intelligence collected by the French traders and settlers in GALLAM: * the substance of which is to be found in Labat's collection, published in 1728; although the detail differs in some points. He says, vol. ii. p. 161, *et seq.* that the MANDINGA merchants report that the Niger (by which he always means the Senegal river) springs from the lake Maberia, whose situation could not be ascertained. That the Gambia river was a branch of the Niger; separating from it, at Baracota (a position also unknown) and that it passed through a marshy lake, in its way to *Baraconda*; where the English and Portuguese had settlements. That the Niger, at a point below Baracota, sent forth another branch, namely the *Falemé* river; which encompassed the country of *Bambouk*, and afterwards joined the *Niger* in the

* Gallam is one of the names of the country in which Fort St. Joseph is situated; and is often applied to the settlement itself.

country of *Gallam*. And finally, that the same Niger, by its separation into two branches, formed a very considerable island, above Kasson. It may be remarked, that a belief of these circumstances, manifests a gross state of ignorance respecting the interior of the country; since such derivations from rivers, are found only in *alluvial* tracts: and it happens, that scarcely any levels vary more than those, through which the rivers in question pass; as will appear in the sequel.

They likewise report (p. 163,) that on the east of the lake Maberia lies the kingdom of *Guinbala;* within which, is the river of *Guien*, which passes near the city of Tombuctoo. Again (vol. iii. p. 361 to 364) it is said that Tombuctoo is not situated on the bank of the Niger, but at about 6 leagues inland from it: and that in passing to it, from Gallam (which is reported to be a journey of thirty-two days only), they go through Timbi, five journies short of Tombuctoo; where they leave the bank of the river, to avoid too great a *detour*.

Labat does not state in positive terms that the Niger or river of Senegal affords a continuous navigation, from the falls of Govinea (above Gallam) to Tombuctoo: but that he believed it, is strongly implied, by what appears afterwards, in p. 367, 368; that is, a project of a trade to Tombuctoo; " by keeping an establishment of vessels above the falls; which vessels might ascend the Niger to a point opposite to Tombuctoo, thereby saving the great expence and fatigue of a land journey."

Here then, we trace the idea of the lake of Maberia, the supposed head of the Niger; and the river of Tombuctoo, under the name of Guien; and moreover, (although these are not expressly said to

communicate) a continued navigation from Gallam to Tombuctoo. But it must surely have struck those on the spot, to inquire, whether any boats ever descended from Tombuctoo to the falls of Govinea?

It is certain that Delisle, (as well as D'Anville, whose general ideas are much the same, in this particular *) regards the river Guien, as having no communication with the lake Maberia, but makes it to flow from a distant lake, at no great distance to the northward: so that these geographers certainly understood the matter right; and denied the practicability of a continuous navigation to Tombuctoo: but then, they erred most greatly in placing the head of the Senegal, either so remotely, or in the eastern quarter; since it rises in the south-east.

We must regard the geography of M. D'Anville, as the most perfect of all, previous to the inquiries made by the AFRICAN ASSOCIATION. The researches made under the direction of this Association, have already established on record, from the reports of Major Houghton, and of Mr. Magra, although in a vague way, the general position of the sources of the Joliba, or Niger, in or near the country of Manding; as well as its easterly or north-easterly course, towards Tombuctoo; the position of Bammakoo, situated near the highest navigable point of its course; of Sego, and Jenné, along its banks; the separation of its waters, into two channels, in the quarter of Tombuctoo; together with a vague idea of the position of that city itself. It will be shewn, in the sequel, that Mr. Park's observations

* D'Anville differs from Delisle in extending very greatly, the distance between Gallam and Tombuctoo; and by representing the Maberia lake, as one source alone, and that the least distant of those of the river Senegal.

do not contradict, but establish these positions; drawing them out of the obscurity in which, by the very nature of the information, they were necessarily involved; and fixing, in some degree of just relative position and proportion, those particulars which before remained at large, considered in a geographical sense.

Concerning the errors of former geographers, they are more easily detected than the *causes* of them. They must, however, be ascribed, partly, to the ignorance of the African merchants; but, in all probability, in a much greater part, to the want of understanding each other's language; a defect that has led to many errors, that are oftentimes charged to the account of wilful falsehood, or, at least, to an indifference to the cause of truth.

I can easily conceive that the caravan merchants, in passing from Tombuctoo to Gallam (or the contrary), might have *deceived themselves* into a belief, that the principal rivers which they had either crossed or skirted in their way, might communicate with each other: for it appears clearly, by Mr. Park's observations, that the eastern branch of the Senegal, and the western branch of the Joliba, approach very near to each other, in the early part of their courses; so that, during the whole journey, the merchants might never be farther distant from *a river* to the southward of them, than a few journies.

As to the story, so long credited, of the Niger being the parent river, from whence all the western rivers were derived, we may remark, that ignorance, in every country through which large rivers take their course, is very ready to derive them *all* from *one source*; and that source, very probably, a *lake*. Within our own times, the *Burrampooter* and *Ava* rivers were thus described in the maps. Pliny reports,

that the Euphrates and Tigris are united in Armenia, by the medium of a lake:* and Edrisi, as we have seen, derived the Nile and Niger, from one and the same lake.†

It will appear that the lake Maberia, taken by D'Anville and Delisle for the head of the Senegal river, or that which runs to the *west*, is meant for no other than the lake of *Dibbie*, formed by the river Joliba, or that which runs to the *east*; and which Mr. Park's inquiries have brought to our knowledge. Again, we recognize the river Guien, or Guin, of Labat, of D'Anville, and of Delisle, in the northern branch of the same Joliba, issuing out of the lake Dibbie; and which, together with the southern branch from the same lake, forms an island, reported to be 90 or 100 miles in length, named Jinbala by Mr. Park. There is a town on the side of the northern branch named also Jinbala; but whether the island may take its name from this town, or from the river, whose *proper name*, from about this point, seems to be *Guin*, or *Jin*, I know not. M. D'Anville has described, in this position, the country of Guinbala, subject to Tonka Quata; the same who is said by Labat to be sovereign of the country which contains the lake of Maberia, and the river of Guien.‡

Here, then, we have an explication of the error of those, who, from the supposed information of the Mandinga merchants, supposed the lake Maberia (answering to the Dibbie of Park), to form the source

* Pliny, lib. vi. c. 27.

† Thomson believed it. After speaking of the Nile, he says,—

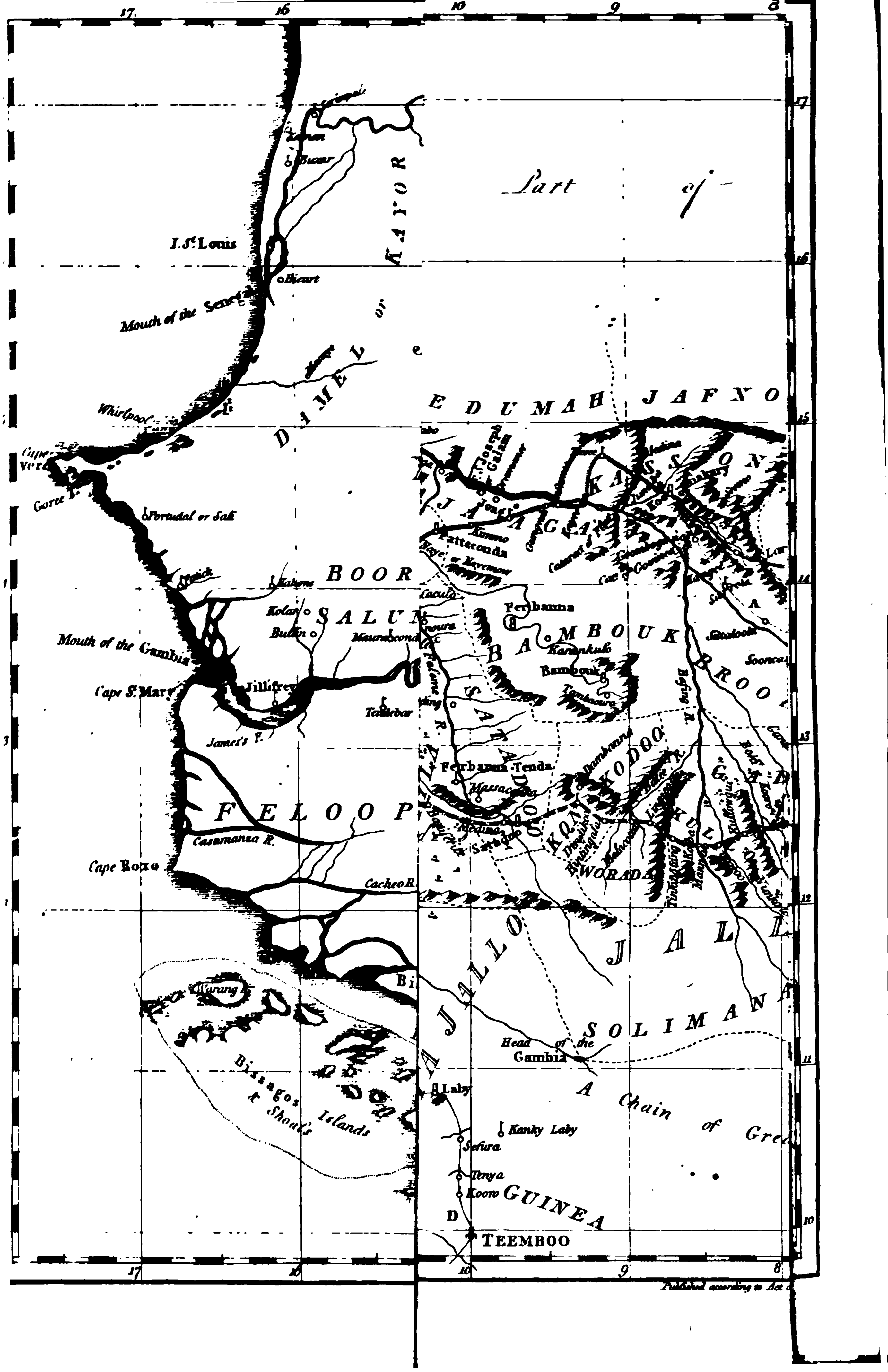
> His *brother Niger* too, and all the floods
> In which the full-form'd maids of Afric lave
> Their jetty limbs.—— *Summer*, 811.

‡ Labat, Vol. ii. p. 161, 163. and iii. p. 361.

of the Senegal river; and who took the river of Guin, or Jinbala, for a distinct river, instead of a branch, issuing from that lake. The Mandingas might very truly have informed the French settlers, that the lake Maberia, and the rivers Joliba and Guin (Jinbala) would convey them to Tombuctoo: but did they say also that the river of Senegal would convey them to the lake Maberia? The French merchants, perhaps, taking for granted that the navigation was continuous, might never inquire whether their informants were speaking of *one*, or of *two* rivers: and the others might at the same time be speaking of *two* distinct rivers, and be ignorant of the prepossessions of their inquirers!

It may be added, that, whether from the difficulties that grew out of the subject, when the geographical documents came to be analyzed, or whether it was from actual information, both Delisle and D'Anville describe *two* lakes, near each other; one at the supposed head of the Senegal river, the other at that of the Tombuctoo river. I think it most probable, that it was occasioned by the want of their being made to comprehend, that the waters ran *eastward to*, and not *westward from* the lake Maberia; so that when they were told that the Tombuctoo river issued from a lake, they concluded it must be a different one from that at the head of the Senegal. Certain it is, however, that these geographers believed, that the waters ran to the *west*, from this lake.

I have now brought to a conclusion, what was meant to be said on the subject of the descriptions, and mistakes, of former geographers; in the course of which it may be observed, that a period of twenty-two centuries has brought matters round again to the same point. And having thus cleared the ground, I next proceed to the more important part of the subject, the proper discoveries of Mr. Park.


Part of
KAYOR
I. St. Louis
Bieurt
Mouth of the Senegal
DAMEL
Whirlpool
Cape Verd
Goree I.
Portudal or Sali
EDUMAH
JAFNO
KASSON
BOOR
SALUM
Kolar
Bullin
Mouth of the Gambia
Cape St. Mary
Jillifrey
James's F.
Patteconda
Ferbanna
BAMBOUK
Kanankulo
Bambouk
Tambaoura
Ferbanna Tenda
Massacenna
Medina
Satadoo
KONKODOO
WORADA
FELOOP
Casamanza R.
Cape Roxo
Cacheo R.
JALLO
Bissagos Islands & Shoals
SOLIMANA
Head of the Gambia
A Chain of Gre
Laby
Kanky Laby
Sefura
Tenya
Kooro
GUINEA
D
TEEMBOO
Published according to Act

CHAPTER II.

Concerning the Geographical Discoveries of Mr. Park.

SINCE the scope and design of Mr. Park's routes have been already set forth in the beginning of the present work, it would be useless to say more on that head; and as the particular map of his progress will explain the relative circumstances of the Geography, nothing more will be necessary, than to call the attention of the reader to such particulars as may not readily occur to him, on inspection of the Map; or which, from their nature, cannot well be inserted in it.

The discoveries of this gentleman (as has been said before), give a new face to the *physical* geography of *Western* Africa. They prove, by the courses of the great rivers, and from other notices, that a belt of mountains, which extends from west to east, occupies the parallels between 10 and 11 degrees of north latitude, and at least between the 2d and 10th degrees of west longitude (from Greenwich). This belt, moreover, other authorities extend some degrees still farther to the west and south, in different branches, and apparently of less height. One of these, follows the upper part of the Gambia river; another the Rio Grande, to a low point of its course; and a third appears to shut up the western coast of Guinea.* Accordingly, this chain

* Meaning Serra Leona, &c. &c.

approaches much nearer to the equatorial parts of Africa, than was before supposed; and thus we are enabled to understand fully what Abulfeda* meant, when he said, that after the continent of Africa has extended southward† from the Strait of Gibraltar, to the neighbourhood of the Equator, it turns to the east, *passing at the back of the mountains of Komri*, which give rise to the *Nile*.‡ The mountains in question, then, must be conceived to be those meant by *Komri*, although no such name appears in the narratives of travellers. It may indeed be a name imposed by the Arabs alone. As Abulfeda supposed the source of the Nile to be very far to the south or south-west (in which I agree generally with him), this chain may be supposed to pass onward from the abovementioned quarter, to the *east*, and *south* of *east*, shutting up Abyssinia on the south. This, at least, seems the only way in which we can fairly understand Abulfeda; in confirmation of whose description, *a part* of the ridge has been actually found by Mr. Park.§ According to Leo (p. 249.), the country of *Melli* is bordered on the south by mountains; and these must be nearly in the same parallel with the mountains of *Kong*, seen by Mr. Park.

* Prolegomena.

† Abulfeda in effect, *literally* meant *southward*; for, like Ptolemy, and Strabo, he had no idea that the coast of Africa projected to the *westward*, beyond the Straits, but rather supposed it to trend to the *eastward*.

‡ When the above is considered, we can understand that Abulfeda supposed the bays of Benin and St. Thomas to be 11 or 12 degrees more to the *east*, than they really are; and he might well suppose that "the sea came in at the back of the mountains that give rise to the Nile."

That the *Nile of Egypt*, and not the *Niger*, is meant, we learn in another place in the same author, where he speaks of the *Egyptian* Nile, and traces it to Egypt. Prolegomena, article Rivers.

§ The mountains of Kong were seen by Mr. Park; but no other part of the chain.

Mr. BEAUFOY was informed that the countries on the south and south-west of the Niger, lying opposite to, and to the westward of, Kassina, were also *mountainous* and *woody*. In particular in the line between Kassina and Assentai, the country is said to be formed of a succession of hills, with woods of vast extent, and some mountains of a *stupendous height.**

As the source of the Nile is confessedly very far to the south of the parallel of 10 degrees north, this chain of mountains, admitting it to continue uninterruptedly eastward, must *dip* considerably to the southward, after it passes Kong and Melli, in order to pass *above* the sources of the Nile; the principal of which I conceive to be situated in the country of DARFOOR.†

The highest part of the portion of this chain, pointed out by Mr. Park's discoveries, is situated between the 5th and 9th degrees of west longitude; for within this space are situated the sources of the Gambia, which run to the west-north-west; of the Senegal, running to the north-west; and of the Joliba (or Niger) to the east-north-east. ‡ There is, however, a general slope of the country, extending to a great distance northward, formed by a gradation of summits of lesser

* African Association, 1790, and 1791, quarto ed. p. 117, 123; octavo, 176, 186. Also, quarto, 174; octavo, 260.

As two editions of this work are in the hands of the public, I have referred to both throughout this work; distinguishing them respectively by Q. and O.

† The Mountains of the Moon, as they are called, should of course, be a part of this ridge.

‡ The Rio Grande has its source very far to the south of this chain; first running to the north, till it touches the foot of this very ridge of mountains, by which it is turned to the west. [Vide Mr. Watt's Plan and Journal.]

mountains and hills, as is shewn by the early part of the courses of the rivers; in particular, that of the Niger, which appears to run near 100 miles on a northerly course, before it turns finally to the eastward.

A large portion of the tract bordering on the northern foot of the mountains, from whence the branches of the Senegal river issue, is covered with thick forests. Mr. Park's track on his return lay through these woods; one part of which is named the *Jallonka Wilderness*, in which no habitations were seen during nine days of forced marching. The hardships endured, even by the *free* men of this caravan, almost exceed belief.*

The head of the principal branch of the Senegal river is about 80 geographical miles to the west of that of the Joliba; and the head of the Gambia, is again, about 100 west of the Senegal. The branches of the latter are very numerous, and intersect the country for about 200 miles from east to west, in the line of the caravan route: and it was this circumstance that detained Mr. Park, during a great part of the periodical rainy season, in Manding; a state of things, perhaps little expected, in a country regarded *here*, as the most thirsty on the globe.†

We may conclude that similar circumstances take place, with respect to the Joliba; only that as its course is such, as to intercept all the streams that descend from the Kong mountains on the south, whilst Mr. Park's travels along it, were confined to the northern bank,

* The caravan in question was composed chiefly of slaves going from Manding to the ports of the Gambia.

† There is in Africa, a rainy season; and also a periodical change of wind, as in the same latitudes in India: in effect, a MONSOON.

he had no opportunity of knowing it, any farther than by seeing various openings on that side; and by being told that he could not possibly *make his way* there. No doubt, it receives some large streams also, when its course diverges so far from the mountains, as to allow the waters room to collect.

At the lowest point to which Mr. Park traced it, and which (although about 420 British miles in direct distance from its source) could only be reckoned the early part of its course, it was a very considerable body of water; the largest, he says, that he had seen (in Africa,) and it abounded with crocodiles. The rainy season was but just begun; and the river might have been forded at Sego, where its bed expands to a vast breadth. Still, however, we must not estimate the bulk of the Niger, that *Niger* which was in the contemplation of Pliny and the Romans, by the measure of its bulk at Sego, and Silla.* If we suppose it to be the same river which passes by Kassina, (and we know of no other) which place is 700 miles, or more, to the eastward of Silla, it would doubtless receive by the way great additional supplies of water, and be at least a much deeper river than where Mr. Park saw it. And here it may not be amiss to remark, for the use of those who are not conversant with the subject, that rivers make the greatest display of their waters, in proportion to their bulk, at a

* It may be conceived that the Romans, who according to Pliny, (lib. v. 4), held the dominion of the countries as far as the Niger, penetrated to it by the route of Gadamis, Fezzan, Taboo, and Kassina, as the most direct, and convenient one, from the Mediterranean. There are very clear proofs of the conquest of the three former by Balbus. (Pliny, lib. v. 5.) It was known to Pliny that the Niger swelled periodically like the Nile, and at the same season; which we have also in proof from Major Houghton's *Report*; and from Mr. Park's *Observations*. Pliny says, moreover, that its productions were the same with those of the Nile. [Lib. v. c. 8.]

moderate distance from their sources; and are often wider *above*, than *below*.*

There can be no doubt but that the *Joliba*, is a noble stream; and the prince of the *western* rivers of Africa, as the *Nile* of the *eastern*: but the African rivers, however, rank lower than those of Asia and America.

Mr. Park judged that the Senegal river below the falls of *F'low*, or *Félou* (as Labat writes it), was about the bulk of the *Tweed* at *Melross*, in summer. This was indeed, in the dry season (Christmas); but as the river does not swell periodically till many months after that, Mr. Park, did not of course see it, at its lowest pitch. And yet this was the assemblage of all the principal branches of the river, save the *Falemé*, which was itself about three feet deep, at the same season. But the

* In the Proceedings of the African Association, (Q. p. 122; O. 183 *et seq.*) the river of Kassina is described to run *to the west*, and *to pass on to* Tombuctoo; where it is said to be named *Gnewa*; possibly intended for Joliba; for the *n* and *l* are more commonly interchanged than the *m* and *n*.† It will very probably turn out that there is an error in the above statement, and that it was from W. to E. in the country of Kassina as well as at Tombuctoo. It would seem also to be a larger river in the *east*, than in the *west*; a presumption in favour of an eastern course. But perhaps, the best argument is, that it certainly runs *from* Tombuctoo to the *east*. It must then either be one and the same river, or there must be a receptacle common to both, lying between Tombuctoo and Kassina! and we have not heard of any such. Much more will be said concerning this subject, in the latter part of the Memoir.

† Abderachman Aga calls it Gülbi; (or Julbee). Hartmann's Edrisi, quarto ed. p. 22.

It is incumbent on me to acknowledge the obligations I owe to M. Hartmann, for his arrangement of the matter of Edrisi's Africa; and for his invaluable Elucidations, and Notes.

Senegal is even fordable in some places *below* the conflux of the Falemé, according to Labat:* for the Moors cross it in the dry season, and commit depredations on some of the lands to the south. However, almost the whole of the towns and villages are placed on the south side, with a view of being in security for the longest possible term.

The Senegal river then, is by no means a very capital stream, except in the rainy season; when, like all the other tropical rivers, its bed is filled, and very commonly will not contain the additional waters. Mr. Park observed by the mark of the highest point of swelling of the river *Kokoro* (or eastern branch of the Senegal), that it had been twenty feet higher than when he crossed it, in the line of the southern route. The *main* branch of this river, the *Ba-fing*, or Black River, was *not* fordable, and was crossed over a temporary bridge of a very singular construction. Alligators, or crocodiles, are found in all these branches, at the height at which Mr. Park passed them.

The Falemé river has also a remote source, and drains a great extent of country.

Concerning the Gambia, Mr. Park had fewer notices. It is remarkable that the position pointed out to him for the source of this river, agrees very nearly with that found in Dr. Wadstrom's map; from notices collected from another quarter. This is very satisfactory. I learn also from Dr. Afzelius that the distance across, between the approximating parts of the courses of the Gambia and Rio Grande, is four journies.

* See Labat, vol. ii. p. 172, where the impediments to the navigation are described. They do not appear to arise from differences in the general level, but to a ledge of rocks.

Mr. Park crossed in his way, six different streams that fall into the Gambia from the north-east. Amongst these the principal one is the Nerico, which flows from the quarter of Bondou; and is reckoned the eastern boundary of a tract which the Africans of this region style the Country of the *West*, expressed by that of the *setting sun*. This tract is on a lower level than that to the east; is flat, and the soil composed of clay and sand. It appears that the whole tract through which Mr. Park *returned* is covered with wood, cleared only in certain inhabited spots (*Numidian fashion*): of which, the great tract, named the Jallonka Wilderness, is composed of primeval forests.*

The Bambara and Kaarta countries are also exceedingly woody, but less so than the other tract; and the woods are of an inferior growth.

According to the ideas collected from Mr. Park's observations, the general levels of the countries, near the sources of the great rivers, are thus distributed:

Between the countries of Bondou and Neola on the west, Bambara and Kaarta on the east, the country forms a very elevated level, falling *rapidly* to the eastward; but only *by degrees*, to the westward: and narrowing in breadth, from 330 miles in the south (in the line between Bambara and Neola) to the narrow space of 60 or 70 in the north, between Kaarta and Kajaaga; and probably diminishing to nothing, as it advances into the *Great Desert*; thus forming a great

* Thomson seems to have understood this, when he says,

—— Beneath *primeval* trees, that cast
Their ample shade o'er NIGER'S yellow stream.

Summer, v. 705.

triangular space, whose vertex is on the north of the little kingdom of Kasson. This vast upland tract is again subdivided into other degrees of level, of which the highest comprizes the eastern and largest part of the whole. The eastern boundary of this particular level, is, of course, that of the upper level, generally; in the part where it overlooks Kaarta and Bambara: and its termination, in the opposite quarter, is at a *great descent*, west of the principal branch of the Senegal river, in Woradoo; from which place, the edge of it may be conceived to run northward, to join *another descent* of the same kind, which forms the falls of *Govinea*, over which the great body of the Senegal river is precipitated, from this *upper* level, to the intermediate one.

The upper level contains the political divisions of Manding, Jallonkadu, Fooladu, Kasson, Gadou, and some other smaller states. And the second, or intermediate level, contains Bambouk, Konkadoo, Satadoo, Dentila, and some others; and is bounded on the SW, by the great slope of country at Kirwanney, where the waters first begin to flow towards the west. On the north-west it is bounded by the great descent which forms the *second* or *lower* fall of the Senegal river, named F'low. This fall is about thirty miles below Govinea, forty-eight above Fort St. Joseph: and here the river being arrived at the lowest level of the country, continues navigable with little interruption, to the sea.* The Falemé river of course, must run on a far lower level than the other heads of the Senegal river.

The Gambia has a small impediment to its navigation at Baraconda, in the country of Woolli; but although this is usually termed a *fall*,

* Labat, Vol. ii. p. 172. See his description of the navigation.

Mr. Park was informed that it did not impede the passage of canoes: so that it ought more properly to be termed a *rapide*, according to the *American* phrase; that is to say, a *slope*, down which the water runs, with more than ordinary rapidity, but which does not however, totally impede the passage of canoes, or small boats.

The Joliba (Niger) descends from the high level of Manding, into Bambara, on the eastward, with a rapid and furious course, at Bammakoo, about 150 miles below its source; after which it glides smoothly along, and affords an uninterrupted navigation to Houssa, and probably by Kassina to Wangarah; by the two first of which places, a very large and navigable stream does certainly pass, under the same name as is applied by the Arabs and Moors to the Joliba, that is, Neel Abeed, or River of Slaves: a name that marks the idea of the people of the country through which it flows, in the minds of those people.

Mr. Watt was informed, when at *Teembo*, the capital of the FULLAH kingdom, in 1794, that in the way from thence to Tombuctoo, (concerning which his inquiries were pointed) a part of the road, lay along the side of a *Great Water*, to which they came in about thirty days from Teembo. There can be no question but that the *Great Water* was the *Joliba* river; whose very name, as we have said, in the Manding language literally imports the same meaning: or more properly, the *Great River*. Some have concluded that the Fullahs intended by it, a great *inland sea;* but this is highly improbable, although there may, no doubt, be such in other quarters of Africa, which may serve as receptacles for such rivers as do not reach the sea. But, in the present case, the distance itself points to the Joliba; for, a month's journey from Teembo, would reach beyond Yamina,

and short of Sego: and we are told from the same authority, that in order to go to Tombuctoo, they pass through the countries of Beliah, Bowriah, Manda, Sego, &c. Beliah, we know not the situation of, but may conceive it to lie on the NE or ENE of Teembo; because Mr. Park points out Bowriah, under the name of Boori, adjacent to Manding, which is obviously recognized in the Manda of Mr. Watt: and Sego, there can be no doubt of. What is farther said concerning the great breadth of the water, may either apply to the lake Dibbie, or may be African hyperbole. The sense appears clear enough.

I have extracted in a note, the intelligence concerning the Great Water: and also that, concerning the *Nyalas*. Mr. Park has also heard of the Nyalas, or *Gaungays*, but is clearly of opinion that the interpreter of Mr. Watt, either misunderstood the story, or was himself misinformed.*

* "I had a good deal of conversation with some men of a particular tribe of Mandingas called *Nyalas*. These are great travellers, and much respected by all the nations of Africa. It is from *this nation* that all the *Gaungays* or workers in leather, come; and they are likewise employed as the speakers on all embassies: as they are not only good orators, but are so far privileged, that no one, not even kings, can take offence at any thing they say. Any one who travels with them, is sure of being protected; and to use their own terms, they can pass between contending armies, who will defer the battle till they have passed. I inquired about Tombuctoo," &c.—One of them said, that "about a month's journey beyond Teembo, we should come to a *large Water*, which our eyes would not be able to reach across; but which to the taste was sweet and good: that we should then coast along, touching at different towns for refreshment; but that there was one country inhabited by bad people, who would rob and murder us, if they could; where we should not stop, but keep far out, at a distance from the shore;" &c. They engaged to carry him thither for the price of *four slaves*. [Watt's Journal, MS. p. 181.]

CHAPTER III.

Construction of the Geography of Mr. Park's Expedition into Africa.

I NEXT proceed to the detail of Mr. Park's geographical materials. Should it be objected that I have been too diffuse and particular, in this part, I can only say, that since the information itself could not, from its nature be correct, it became the more necessary to investigate it closely; and also to place, not only the *result* but the *detail* of the investigation, together with the *original documents* themselves, in the form of notes, in the hands of the public, that the true grounds of the construction, might be known. For whether it may happen, that no further lights should ever be obtained, concerning the subject; or whether some other traveller, more *fortunate*, (for he cannot possess more zeal, enterprize, temper, or firmness) should complete Mr. Park's work; in either case, the original documents, as well as the mode of working them up, should be recorded; in the *former*, that we may know how to *appreciate* them; in the *latter*, how best to *improve* them. The successor of Mr. Park, cannot have too extensive a knowledge of the detail of his predecessor's work; in order that he may know what parts require correction; and how to avoid delays, from a useless attention to objects, that are already attained.

Two new Maps have been constructed for the occasion. The one contains the PROGRESS OF DISCOVERY AND IMPROVEMENT in various

parts of north Africa; the other, the GEOGRAPHY OF MR. PARKE'S EXPEDITION, as well as the result of his particular inquiries in the same quarter; on a more extended scale. The *present* remarks and discussions refer particularly to the latter.

In the construction of this map, it is first required to state those points, on which Mr. Park's *outset* depends; as also those which affect the position of Fort St. Joseph, near to which he passed; as they differ from the maps in present use. And, as some positions in the journey of Mess. Watt and Winterbottom, serve very much to aid the improvement of the geography, it will be proper to speak of them also.

Cape Verd, and Fort St. Louis, at the mouth of the Senegal river, are placed according to the observations and results of M. Fleurieu.*

Jillifrey, on the Gambia river is, from the mean of the longitudes set forth by D'Anville, D'Apres, and Woodville, and which do not differ amongst themselves, more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ minutes.†

The detail of the coasts, as well as the lower parts of the rivers between Cape Verd, and Cape Verga, are also from the charts of M. Woodville. That part between Cape Verd and latitude 18°, is adjusted to M. Fleurieu's result of longitude, whilst the particulars are from D'Anville's and Woodville.

* That is, Cape Verd in latitude 14° 48′, longitude 17° 34′ west of Greenwich: St. Louis in latitude 16° 5′ (by D'Anville), longitude 16° 8′ by Fleurieu.

† D'Anville 16° 9′ 30″
D'Apres 16 5 0
Woodville 16 8 3
} Mean, 16° 7′

Latitude 13° 16′

The course of the Rio Grande from the sea to the *break* near the river Dunso, is from Dr. Wadstrom's map. The Dunso river, crossed by Mr. Watt, appears evidently to be a continuation of the same river; several branches of which flow from the south-east. And the high tract of mountainous land beyond it, is no doubt a branch of the great ridge above commemorated, under the name of Komri, in the work of Abulfeda.

The route of Mr. Watt is described from a sketch communicated by the late Mr. BEAUFOY,* in which the scale appears, on a reference to the original journal, to be intended for *British* miles. I have regarded them accordingly; whence Laby and Teembo are placed much nearer to the coast, than Dr. Wadstrom's map represents: for it appears by the journal, that Kissey, at the head of the river of the same name, is no more than eight journies from Teembo. Nor has the map more than 120 geographic miles between them, admitting the scale to be British miles, as I have concluded.†

The nearest point in Mr. Park's route falls at 112 G. miles to the

* It is impossible to mention the name of this gentleman, and in this place, without recollecting the obligations which are due to him from the public, on the score of his persevering industry, and laudable zeal, in the work of extending our knowledge of the interior parts of Africa. Accordingly his loss to society, in this department, is likely to be felt for some time, if not for ever: the researches in Africa being a path of his own choosing; a path which, more than any other person, he had contributed to open, and to render smooth; and in which he seemed destined to succeed!

† Dr. Afzelius supposes that the town of Kissey may be, in direct distance, about 36 geographical miles to the N E b. E of Serra Leona. Hence, Teembo should be no more than 156 from Serra Leona. On the general map it is 170. I have adhered to the bearing lines on Mr. Watt's map; but think it probable that Teembo, and the whole route may be *more to the south*.

northward of the extreme point of Mr. Watt's; and the river Gambia lay nearly midway between them. Thus, the map of Mr. Watt forms a most useful point of comparison; and adds confirmation to the report of the natives, respecting the course of the Gambia; for Mr. Park was told, that it was *crossed* in the way from the Falemé river, to Foota Jallo, of which Teembo is the capital.

Pisania, on the Gambia (called also Kuttijar Factory), the place of Mr. Park's outset* is stated by D'Anville to be 170 G. miles above Jillifrey, by the difference of longitude, but by M. Woodville's map, no more than 156; which answers better to the statement of the land journey; for Mr. Park was told that it was no more than $6\frac{1}{2}$ journies, of a messenger.†

Pisania then, is placed in longitude 13° 28′, according to this result; and in latitude 13° 35′ north, according to Mr. Park's observation, by sextant.

The causes of the *apparent wanderings* of Mr. Park having been explained in the former part of this work, it will be no farther neces-

* This is the residence of Dr. LAIDLEY, a gentleman to whom Mr. PARK and the ASSOCIATION are under great obligations. He received Mr. Park into his house, and treated him more like a child of the family than a stranger. He cured Mr. Park of a serious illness, which confined him for many weeks: and when Mr. Park was disappointed of the goods necessary for his expences, which were to have been sent out with Consul Willis, the Doctor supplied him with every possible necessary, he had occasion for; taking his bills upon the Association for the amount.

† A journey of an ordinary traveller may be taken at about 17 geographical miles in direct distance; that of messengers in India, is equal to about 25, or 100 English miles by the road, in three days.

sary to trace his course, than merely to explain the connection of the different parts of the *data* for the general construction.

Since the scale of the map is fixed by the computed distances arising on the intervals of time employed in Mr. Park's route, it is possible that some readers may be startled at the idea of following such an apparently, vague authority. Those, however, who have been much in the habit of observing their rate of travelling, will be easily convinced that distances *may be* approximated; and those in particular who have been much accustomed to travel in countries, where *time* regulates the *distance;* or who have been in habits of working up geographical materials of this kind, will be the most easily convinced. It will of course be understood, that calculations of this kind can only be received from persons of judgment and experience: and also, that when opportunities of checking them, occur, they are always resorted to; after which, of course, no alternative remains, but to adopt the corrected distance.

In the present case, the *rate of travelling of camels*,* does not apply; as Mr. Park's journey outwards was made on horseback, and his return chiefly on foot. Nor are camels, indeed, in use in that line of route. The checks to be employed, are the number of journies reported by the travelling merchants, from different points of Mr. Park's route to Sego and Tombuctoo: and also those from the quarters of Morocco, Tunis, and Fezzan, to Tombuctoo; using as a scale, the rate arising on the route between Fezzan and Egypt, Morocco and Jarra, as the *best known* lines of distance. These, altogether, furnish such kind of authority as will, I trust, lead to a

* See Phil. Trans. for 1791.

satisfactory conclusion; as the general coincidence is certainly very striking.

My mode of procedure has been, to calculate, in the first instance, Mr. Park's bearings and distances, and then to correct the bearings by his observed latitudes, as far as these extend: and beyond that, I have taken his bearings by compass, and allowed the *supposed quantity* of variation.

The result of these calculations, together with the addition of his line of distance from Sego to Tombuctoo, was then compared with the popular report of the distance between the several stations of Woolli, Fort St. Joseph, Bambouk, and Tombuctoo. It was found that these reports did not materially differ from the aggregate distance given by Mr. Park; although they fell short of it; a difference which might naturally have been expected, and which I have ventured to alter. The difference, however, does not exceed twenty-four geographic miles; a mere trifle in African geography. The position of Tombuctoo, so obtained, differs only half a degree in latitude, and still less in longitude, from that arising from the intersection of the lines of distance from Morocco on the NW, and Fezzan on the NE: of which a particular account will be given in the sequel.

A great part of Mr. Park's geographical memorandums are totally lost: but fortunately his bearings by compass during a great part of the way, are preserved. In other parts, he has preserved only the calculation of latitude and longitude, arising from them; which, however, of course furnish the means of obtaining the bearings, if necessary. He allowed no variation of the compass in his map after he lost the means of correcting his course by observations of latitude,

which was at Jarra, about midway in his route: * and as he omitted to take observations to determine the quantity of the variation, it becomes a question of some importance, what quantity to allow on those long lines of distance between Jarra and Silla; Silla and Manding.

It appears on inquiry, that the quantity of variation is no more known, any where *within* the continent of *Africa*, than within that of *New Holland*. And it happens moreover, that the *lines of equal quantities* of variation, do not run across Africa with that degree of regularity and parallelism, which takes place over great part of the Atlantic and Indian oceans (at least, this is what appears clearly to my judgment): so that it became necessary to inquire, what quantity prevails in the surrounding seas; and what the *general direction*, as well as the *particular nature*, and *tendency* of the curves, of the lines of equal quantities?

The variation lines on the globe have occupied a good deal of my attention, at different periods of my life, and therefore the application of such new observations as the assiduity and kindness of my friends had procured for me, on this occasion, was less difficult, than if the subject had been new to me. A dissertation on the subject, would be out of place here; and therefore I shall only give the result of my inquiries, in abstract; after premising, that the theoretical part, belonging to the interior of Africa, is founded on a *supposed continuation* of those lines of equal quantities, whose *tendency* has been already ascertained, in the surrounding seas. I am perfectly aware, that some may regard the assumption as too great: but they will no doubt admit, at the same time, that it is difficult to conceive a more

* The places of observation are marked on the Map by asterisks.

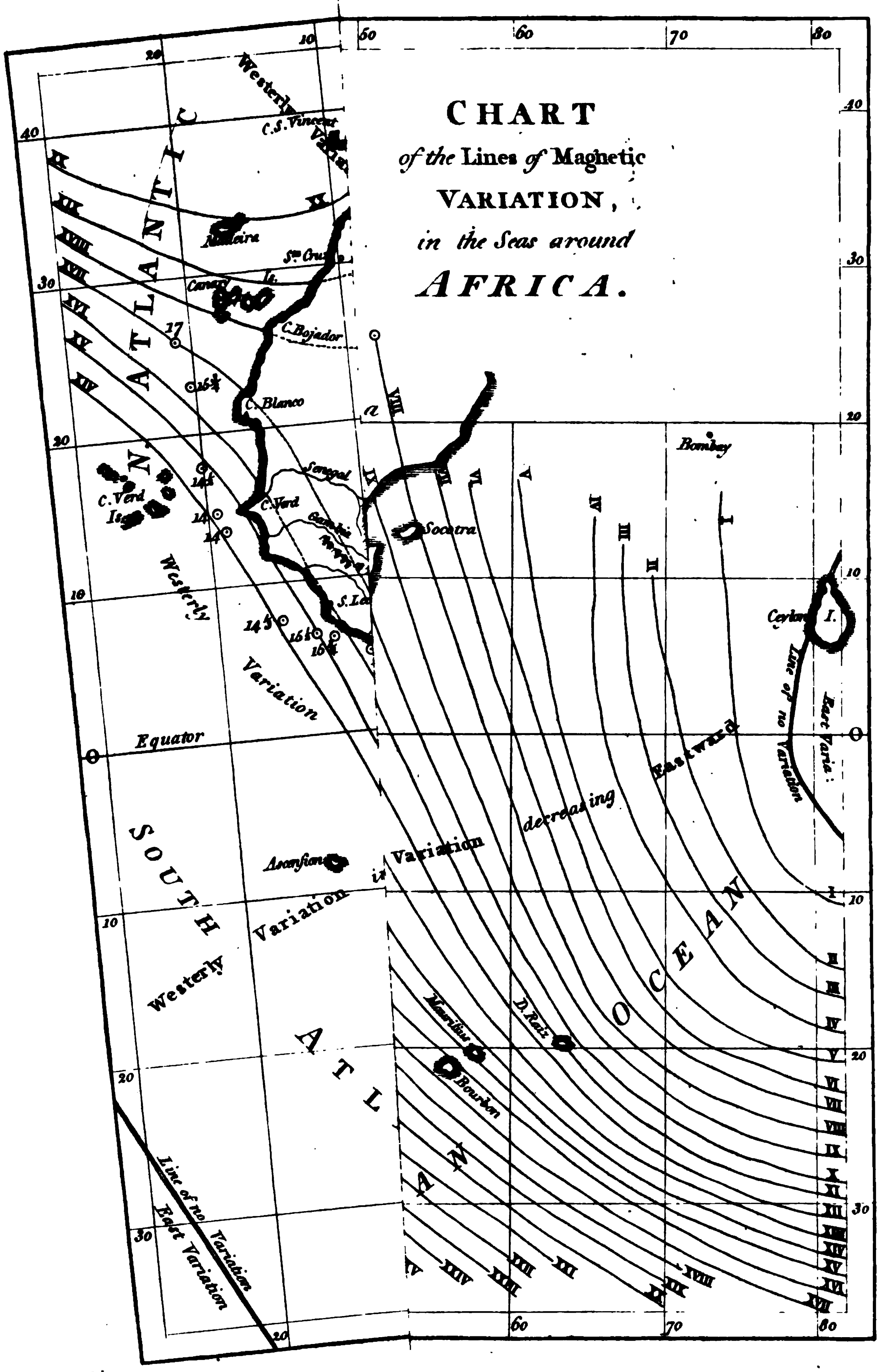


CHART
of the Lines of Magnetic
VARIATION,
in the Seas around
AFRICA.
ATLANTIC
SOUTH ATLANTIC
OCEAN
Westerly Variation
Westerly Variation
Equator
Variation decreasing Eastward
Line of no Variation
East Variation
Line of no Variation
East Varia:
C.S.Vincent
Madeira
Canary Is.
C.Bojador
C.Blanco
Senegal
C.Verd
C.Verd Is.
Gambia
S.Leo
Ascension
Socotra
Bombay
Ceylon I.
Mauritius
D.Rais
Bourbon

probable arrangement: and what is much more to the purpose, is, that if we are compelled to abandon the system, in the gross, the quantity of variation in the line of Mr. Park's travels, cannot be greatly different from what we have assumed. For, whether the line of 18° in the *south Atlantic*, be a continuation of that in the north Atlantic, or of that in the *Indian sea*, much the same result will follow: only that in the former case, the quantity will be somewhat greater.

It would appear, that between the East Indies and South America, Europe and South Africa, there are *four* distinct sets of what may be termed *concentric curves* of variation lines, on the globe, and whose highest points of convexity are opposed to each other, within the great body of northern Africa. The accompanying sketch will best explain it.* It would appear, moreover, that from the place of

* This sketch is not pretended to be minutely accurate; it being morally impossible to procure recent observations in every part, from the rapid change that takes place in the quantity of the variation, in one and the same spot. However, the observations that determine the course of the lines in the Atlantic (and which are marked on the sketch) are from observations so late as 1793. The same is to be said of those in the western quarter of the Mediterranean: and those beyond the Cape of Good Hope, to longitude 30° east, are of the year 1789.

It is obvious that a critical knowledge of the *quantity* of the variation in any particular place, and at a given time, is of less importance to the present question, than that of the *bearing* of the *lines* of equal quantities, at any *recent* period: and this object is, I think, tolerably well obtained, by the materials before me. Any change that may have taken place since 1793, is in favour of a greater quantity of variation, within the limits of Mr. Park's travels.

In the Atlantic, the increase appears to be about a degree in seven years. In the Indian ocean, less: and in the Red Sea, there seems to have been little alteration between 1762, and 1776.

The lines, as far as they are founded on *authority*, are *continuous*; but *broken* in the parts *assumed*.

opposition of these curves, in Africa, where the quantity of variation is 18°, it *decreases* with great rapidity, and finally to nothing, in going *eastwards* to *India*, or *south-westward* to *South America*: and that from the same point, it *increases*, in going to the *NNW*, towards *Ireland*, or to the *opposite quarter*, towards the coast of *Caffraria*. But the change is not in any proportion so rapid in the *increase*, in going *north* or *south*, as in the *decrease*, in going *east* or *west*. Such are the outlines of this system; by which, if a person was to set out from Cape Verd, or Cape Blanco, to traverse Africa from W S W to E N E, to Upper or Lower Egypt, he would find at setting out, from $15\frac{1}{2}$ to $16\frac{1}{2}$ degrees of westerly variation, which would increase to 18° about the centre of the continent, and afterwards decrease to a less quantity than at his setting out. Mr. Park's travels being comprized between Cape Verd and the centre of Africa, will therefore be in the quarter that has from 16 to 18 degrees; and the part more particularly, where, from the want of observations of latitude, we must depend on his compass bearings, nearer 18° than 17°.* I shall now proceed to the detail of Mr. Park's materials.

Leaving Pisania, Mr. Park proceeded eastward to Medina,† the capital of Woolli; and thence to the E N E, through the countries of Bondou, Kajaaga, and Kasson; the two latter of which are separated by the river of Senegal.

* It is in proof of the existence of this quantity of variation, that, on closing Mr. Park's route at Woolli, there appeared to be only a small deficiency of distance on the Map, when 17° variation were allowed. Had the quantity allowed been less, this ought not to have happened, as Jarra is placed according to its latitude.

† Major Houghton's point of outset in 1791 was Medina. His route falls into that of Mr. Park at several points, and finally branches off from it about 30 miles short of the Falemé river, which the Major crossed at Cacullo, near 20 miles higher up than Naye, where Mr. Park crossed it.

In his way, he took observations of latitude at Kolor, Koorkoorany, and Joag, on this side the river; by which means we are enabled to correct the parallels. The *distance* at *present* is left as it stands in the Journal, with a view of correcting it afterwards. The result of these corrected bearings and distances (the particulars of which appear below),* places Joag at 247 miles east of Pisania; and the latitude, by two different observations, was found to be 14° 25′.†

At Joag Mr. Park was informed that Dramanet, which is about 2½ miles to the *eastward* of Fort St. Joseph, was 10 miles to the *westward* of him. That fort is said to be in 14° 34′, or 9 min. N. of Joag;

	Hours	G. Miles direct.	Bearings by compass.	Country.	Lat. by obs.	REMARKS.
*Pisania to Jindey	6	16	SE by E	Yani	13° 35′	On these bearings 17° westerly variation were allowed. The diff. lat. was then 89; departure easterly 237. But the diff. lat. by obs. being only 50, the course should be E. 11¼ N. instead of E. 20¼, as before; and the departure 247. But I have finally corrected the easting, by reducing it 24 miles, or to 223.
Kootacunda	5	13	E			
Tabajang -	2½	6	E ¼ N			
Medina -	5¼	15	ditto			
Konjour -	3	8	E ¼ S			
Mallaing -	2	6	E by S	Woolli		
Kolor -	5	12	ENE	- -	13° 49′	
Tambacunda	5¼	14	SE by E			
Kooniakarry	5	13	E by N			
Koojar -	3	9	E ¼ N			
At a well -	13	34	E by N	Woods		
Tallica -	4	10	E			
Ganada -	4	10	E ¼ N			
Koorkoorany	4½	12	ESE	- -	13° 53′	
Dooggi -	1	3	E by N			
Buggil -	4½	14	E ¼ N	Bondou		
Soobroodka	7	18	E by N			
Naye - -	7	16	ENE			
Fattyacunda	3¼	7	ditto			
Kimmoo -	4½	12	ditto			
Joag - -	6	16	E by N	Kajaaga	14° 25′	

† According to this result, Joag would be in longitude 9° 12′, and Fort St. Joseph in 9° 21′; which is about 38 min. more easterly than M. D'Anville's Map of the Senegal allows: of which more in the sequel.

so that it ought to lie to the north-west, rather than to the west: and accordingly, there is found, in the map in Labat,* a place named Gacouva, no doubt meant for Joag, on the S E of St. Joseph; and in point of distance answering to it. Other places, in the same map of Labat, are also recognized in the route of Mr. Park; so that the connection between it and the French settlement on the Sengal, is very clearly made out; which is a circumstance of some importance in this geography.

It will appear that the *reckoning* kept by Mr. Park gave 89 min. difference of latitude between Pisania and Joag, whilst the observation gave 50 only. About 9 minutes may be placed to the account of *excess of distance*, and 30 will then remain, on the whole distance of 253 geographic miles. In other words, the *dead reckoning*, corrected by allowing 17 degrees of westerly variation, gave a course of E 20°½ N; which, however, by the observations of latitude, is shewn to be E 11°¼ N (or E by N) making a difference of 9¼ degrees. But this I regard as coming very near, considering the circumstances under which the reckoning was kept.

From Joag we accompany Mr. Park to Kooniakarry and Jarra. The reckoning between the two first gives about 23¼ min. difference of latitude, 55 of easting.† And hence the latitude of Kooniakarry

* In Vol. iv. p. 92.

	Hours	G. miles direct.	Bearings by compass.	Lat. by observ.	Country.
† Joag to Sammee	7	18	E by N	14° 25′	Kajaaga
Kayee - -	3½	9	Ditto		
Teesee -	7½	18	NE by N		
Medina -	—	12	SE by E		Kasson
Jumbo -	—	12	Ditto	14° 34′	
Kooniakarry	—	3	E by S		

will be 14° 48′ by account; but the observation taken at Jumbo, in its neighbourhood, giving only 14° 34′, the account is 14 to the north; equal to about a point and quarter in bearing. The same mode of correction has been applied here, as in the former part of the route; that is, the *whole distance* has been (for the present) allowed, with the difference of latitude by observation; and hence Kooniakarry will fall 59½ geographic miles to the east of Joag.

The route from Kooniakarry to Jarra* may be divided into two parts; first, to Feesurah, a place of *observation*, south-eastward; and second, to Jarra, north-eastward.

The account to Feesurah agrees very nearly with the bearings and distance. The latitude by observation was 14° 5′, and the easting from Kooniakarry, corrected, 47 miles. Then, to Jarra, the account also

* The register of the bearings and distance between Kooniakarry and Jarra, being lost or mislaid, Mr. Park gave them from memory only; but the observations of latitude at two places within that space, were preserved, as well as the latitude by account at two other places.

	Hours	G. miles direct.	Bearings by compass.	Lat. by observ.	Country.
Kooniakarryto	—	—	—	14° 34′	Kasson
Soomo -	—	17	SE ½ E		
Kanjee	—	17	Do.	14° 10′	
Leekarago	—	8	Easterly		
Feesurah -	—	14	E by S	14° 5′	Kaarta
Karancalla	—	18	Easterly		
Kemmoo	—	8	E by N		
Marina -	—	13	Northerly		
Toordah -	—	8	Do.		
Funingkeddy	—	12	N by E ½ E		
Simbing -	—	16	N by E		Ludamar
Jarra -	—	2	NNE	15° 5′	

agrees very nearly; the latitude was 15° 5′, that is, just one degree north of Feesurah; and the easting from thence 33 miles.

The aggregate of easting, between Joag and Jarra, is then 139½ miles.*

It may be observed, that throughout this journey, generally, the reckoning has been to the northward of the observations; and that, by about *ten* degrees on the *whole* traverse, when 17 degrees of variation have been allowed. It will hardly be supposed that the difference arises from allowing too much variation by *ten* degrees; but it is singular, that the error should, in all cases but *one*, lie the same way. I do not by any means regard the error as considerable, circumstances considered;† nor is it of any consequence in the parts where the observations of latitude serve to correct it; as between Pisania and Jarra.

Mr. Park was plundered of his sextant at Jarra, which accident of course put an end to his observations of latitude; and thus, unfortunately, left the remaining *half* (very nearly) of his geography in a state of uncertainty, as to parallel. This point, therefore, must be regarded as the most advanced geographical station, that rests on any *certain basis* of parallel. However, the remaining part of the route

* Equal to 144 min. of longitude; whence Joag being by account in long. 9° 12′
Add 144 min. - - - 2 24
Long. of Jarra, by Mr. Park's original calculation - 6 48

† Mr. Carmichael came within 6 or 7 degrees in the bearing between Aleppo and Bussorah, on a distance of 720 British miles. But the advantages were prodigiously in his favour; the road being straight, the country open, and the camel walking an equable pace. (See Phil. Trans. for 1791.)

will not appear to be much out, when it is seen how nearly the bearing of Sego, as determined by Mr. Park, agreed with the line of direction pointed out from Jarra.

It is, no doubt, a favourable circumstance, that the instrument was not lost at an earlier period, and before the commencement of the intricate route between the pass of the Senegal river and Jarra: to which may be added, the advantage of a *known parallel*, from whence to set off the very important bearing of Tombuctoo. In effect, though the bearing was pointed out from Benowm, but this place being directly east from Jarra, and distant one day's journey only, no error of any magnitude can be looked for.

Jarra (called also Yarra), has already appeared in the Maps drawn for the Association, and was originally taken from M. Delisle's Map; but was neglected, or overlooked, by M. D'Anville. In the former Map it was placed somewhat more to the west, and in a higher parallel by about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a degree.

Between Jarra and Wassiboo, Mr. Park's reckoning, as it appears wrought up in his table of day's works, gives 41 min. diff. of latitude N, and 1° 31′ diff. longitude E; which reduced to departure, in miles, is 89, and produces a course of E 26° S. But he allowed *no variation* after he left Jarra: and as I allow 17°, the course must be taken at E 9° S, distance 96$\frac{1}{2}$ geographic miles. From this arises a diff. lat. of

16′ only; departure 95: and, hence, Wassiboo should be in latitude 14° 49′, and 95 east of Jarra.*

Mr. Park was so lucky as to preserve his original bearings,† between Wassiboo, and Diggani (a place about 15′ short of Sego); and

	Diff. Lat. S.	Diff. Lon. E.		N.	E.
*Jarra to			Doolinkeaboo - -	7	24
Queira - - -	11′	25′	Diggani § - -	19	8
Sherilla - - -	14	40	Seracorro - -	5	9
Dama - - -	11	4	Sego - -	6	3
Wawra - - -	5	8	Lat. by account 13° 4′	121 S	281 E
Dingyee - - -	—	7	Diff. lon. 4° 41′ E -		
Wassiboo ‖ - -	—	7	Sansanding - -	10N	15 E
Satile - - -	18	31	Sibiti - - -	—	7
Galloo - - -	1	21	Nyara - - -	3	16
Moorja - - -	4N	14	Modiboo - -	3	19
Datiliboo - - -	9S	38	Silla - - -	2	12
Fanimboo - - -	12	24	Lat. by account 13° 22′	18N	69 E
Jiosorra - - -	7	18	Diff. lon. 1° 9′ E -		

No variation was allowed in this calculation.

† Original bearings between Wassiboo ‖ and Diggani. §

Places.	Dist.	Bearings.
Wassiboo to		
Satile - - -	30	SE b E
Galloo - - -	20	ESE
Moorja - - -	15	E b N
Datiliboo - - -	25	SE b E
Fanimboo - -	35	ESE
Jiosorra - - -	20	ESE
Doolinkaboo - -	15	SE b E
Lions - - -	18	SE b S
‡ Diggani - -	7	South

‡ On working these bearings over again, it appeared that Mr. Park had made a mistake; and thence inferred a wrong position for Diggani, Sego, &c. in his table of latitudes and longitudes. I mention this, to shew that he has acted fairly, in exposing his whole process; and even his errors.

these alone, out of all that were taken during the route. These give a course of E 27°½ S, 174 geographical miles; so that when 17° of variation are allowed, the true course will be E 10½ S; the diff. lat. 31° 7′; departure 171,1; whence Diggani should be in lat. 14° 17′, and 266,1 east of Jarra.

Between Diggani and Sego (returning again to the table of latitude and longitude), Mr. Park's account gives E 43 S 15′; or corrected E 26 S, which gives diff. lat. 6,6; departure 13,5: so that Sego, the capital town of Bambara, falls, by this account, in lat. 14° 10′ 30″ and 279,6 east of Jarra.*

In this position, it bears E 10½ S from Jarra, distant 284 geographical miles. It is important to mention, that whilst at Jarra, the bearing of Sego was pointed out to Mr. Park by compass, E S E, or E 22°½ S. His route made it E 27°½ S, or 5° more to the south. This difference, so trifling in a distance of about 330 of our miles, on a straight line (in other words, the distance from London to Edinburgh), is not worth investigating. If we could suppose the report of the natives to be true, it would place Sego nearly 25 minutes more to the north. For my own part, I do not believe that any person, from mere judgment, unassisted by geographical records, and so far removed as to be out of the hearing of cannon, and of the view of conflagrations, (two circumstances that aid the most in fixing the line of direction between distant places), could ever come nearer than *several* degrees of the bearing of two places that are 330 British miles asunder.†

* This being equal to 4° 47′ difference of longitude, Sego, by Mr. Park's reckoning, would lie in 2° 1′ west of Greenwich.

† The informant might possibly be influenced by the bearing of *that portion* of the road *nearest* to him, which is more *easterly* than the part towards Sego.

Having at length reached the banks of the *long sought for* river NIGER (or JOLIBA), near which the city of Tombuctoo stands, Mr. Park proceeded along it several days' journey, towards the city in question, on a course of E $15\frac{1}{2}$ N by compass, but corrected E $32\frac{1}{2}$ N 70 G. miles; which giving a diff. lat. of $37'\frac{1}{2}$, departure 59, places Silla, the extreme point of his expedition, in latitude $14° 48'$; and longitude by reckoning $0° 59'$ west of Greenwich; but, as will be hereafter shewn, when corrected, $1° 24'$ west. Here, then, terminates his journey eastward, at a point somewhat more than 16 degrees east of Cape Verd, and precisely in the same parallel. The line of distance arising from this difference of longitude is about 941 geographical miles, or 1090 British, within the western extremity of Africa; a point which, although short by 200 miles of the desired station, Tombuctoo, the attainment of which would unquestionably have been attended with great *eclat*, was yet far beyond what any other European, whose travels have been communicated to the European world, had ever reached.*

* It may not be known to the generality of readers, that, in the former part of this century, Tombuctoo was as much the object of geographical research amongst the French, as it has of late been with the English; D'Anville was particularly anxious about it, as may be seen in the Mem. of the Academy of Insc. vol. xxvi. p. 73.

CHAPTER IV.

The Construction of the Geography continued.

At Silla, Mr. Park was informed that Tombuctoo was yet fourteen journies of the caravan distant from him; and these he has calculated at 200 geographical miles only, in a direct line from Silla; as it appears that a bend in the course of the river, prevents a direct line of route towards it. As to the bearing, he unfortunately could not, as at Jarra, obtain a consistent account of it. The natives always pointed *along the general course of the river*; although, as it may be supposed, it occasionally deviated to the right and left. It has been seen, in the bearing of Sego, how nearly it was given by judgment; but then the two cases differ very widely. The route is entirely by *land*, from *Jarra* to *Sego*, by which the idea of the general line of direction is better preserved, than when broken into so many small parts, by a *river navigation*, the more ordinary mode of communication (as it appears) between Silla and Tombuctoo. There were, no doubt, people, could Mr. Park have been able to meet with them, who having made the journey by land, could have furnished him with better information; but the reader, who already knows under what suspicious circumstances Mr. Park travelled in this quarter, will easily conceive that he was precluded from any communication with *those*, who alone could have given the information: that is, the *Moorish merchants*, and their dependants.

The bearing of Tombuctoo from Benowm, was pointed out to Mr. Park, by a merchant of some consideration, who had resided at Walet, and had visited both Tombuctoo and Houssa. But the *exceeding great distance* of Tombuctoo from Benowm, (it being nearly twice the distance of Sego from Jarra), will not admit such a degree of confidence in the report, as to allow it to *supersede* all other authorities, however it may *aid* the task of approximating the position. But, notwithstanding, it will appear, that on the whole, it coincides most wonderfully with the other *data*.

The bearing in question, pointed out at different times, was commonly E by S, by compass: and Mr. Park never found his informant vary more than half a point, which was to the southward, or E by S $\frac{1}{2}$ S. But the idea left on his mind, was E by S; which, allowing 17 degrees variation, is about east half north; or more correctly, E $5\frac{3}{4}$ N. And hence, admitting the distance of 200 geographical miles between Silla and Tombuctoo, which supposes a space of about 500 such miles between Benowm and Tombuctoo, this latter would fall at about 50 minutes of latitude northward from Benowm (whose parallel is the same with that of Jarra, 15° 5′), and consequently in 15° 55′. The *obliquity* of the intermediate meridians, might increase the parallel some minutes, and we may call it roundly, 16°.

Such then was the received opinion at Benowm, concerning the *parallel* of Tombuctoo: for, it will appear, that the distance on the *Rhumb*, which determines the difference of latitude, cannot be taken lower, than has been stated.

If the *general course* of the Joliba, after its escape from the mountains, may be admitted to have any weight in the determination of

the question (since Mr. Park says, that they always pointed *along it*, to express the line of direction, in which Tombuctoo lay), this will point to a higher parallel, by about half a degree, than the bearing from Benowm; that is, to $16\frac{1}{2}$ degrees. And, it may be remarked, that the difference between these results falls yet short of what would have arisen on an error of 5 degrees in the bearing; such as was experienced in that of Sego from Jarra.

Mr. Park was informed whilst at Benowm, that Walet, the capital of Beeroo, was ten journies distant, and this latter eleven journies short of Tombuctoo. According to Mr. Park's information, Walet stands at about 240 G. miles, to the eastward of Benowm; (which would require no less than 24 such miles per day, and appears out of rule, unless meant for journies of *couriers*, which is possible enough.) But what is most to our point, is, that by the information he received, concerning the position of Walet, it appears to lie from Benowm, in the same line of direction which points to Tombuctoo, when placed in $16\frac{1}{2}$. Now, as Walet lies in the shortest route from Benowm to Tombuctoo, one might infer, of course, that it lies also the *nearest* to the line of direction towards Tombuctoo, of any of the places pointed out: and, I confess, I am strongly inclined to adopt the highest parallel, on this very account.

These alone, are the authorities for the position of Tombuctoo, derived from Mr. Park's observations and inquiries; and which differ, as we have seen, no more than half a degree in the parallel: that is, from 16°, to $16°\frac{1}{2}$. The reader may recollect, that these are very far indeed to the southward of those assigned to it, by M. D'Anville and myself, in former publications; as we mistook its position so far, as to place it between 19°, and 20°.

Before I proceed to state the authorities for its position, derived from the northern stations, it will be proper to compare the calculation of distance made by Mr. Park, with the reports of merchants and travellers; in order finally to deduce the longitude of Tombuctoo from the west; and afford a fair ground of comparison, between the authorities from the opposite quarters.

It has appeared that Sego, *according to Mr. Park's calculation*, falls in latitude 14° 10′, longitude 2° 1′, west of Greenwich: and accordingly, the direct distance between it and Medina, the capital of Woolli, will be by this account 618 G. miles. Now, the merchants reckon 36 journies between them. The daily rate between Fezzan and Egypt having come out by construction 16,3* per day, on 53 days, and about 16¼ between Morocco and Jarra, on 50 days, I may venture to assume the highest of the two rates on 36 days; and this gives about 587, or only 31 short of Mr. Park's result.

Again, between Fort St. Joseph and Tombuctoo, M. D'Anville (Mem. Insc. vol. xxvi. p. 73.) allows 240 French leagues. These are rated at 2,64 geographical miles, or 23¾ to a degree, on his scale; consequently there results a distance of 634 geographical miles. M. Lalande (Afrique, p. 23.) allows 250 leagues, which give about 660 miles. Ben Ali went from St. Joseph to Tombuctoo, by way of Tisheet and Aroan, in forty-eight days. The detour may be taken at eight days more than the direct road (for Mr. Park furnishes the positions of Tisheet and Aroan very satisfactorily), whence 40 remain, which at 16,3, produce 652 miles.

Lastly, although the following be a very vague kind of computa-

* Strictly 16,292.

tion, it may not altogether be useless. Major Houghton's guide undertook to carry him to Tombuctoo, from Ferbanna in Bambouk, and to return again in ninety days. Ferbanna is much about the same distance, as St. Joseph, from Tombuctoo. Perhaps no more than ten days can well be allowed for rest and refreshment, and then forty days will be the length of the journey.

The mean of the three first reports, is about 649: and on the Map, the space between St. Joseph's and Tombuctoo, according to Mr. Park's result, is 667, or 18 more.

There is then, a difference of 31 only, on the accounts between Woolli and Sego: 18, between St. Joseph and Tombuctoo, both pointing to an excess, on the part of our traveller. I am however far from offering these results, on the ground of inducing a belief that such *small differences* can be *ascertained* by such *coarse* materials; but rather to shew that in the general scope of the authorities, there was more of coincidence, than of disagreement, if the circumstances are rightly appreciated.

As it appears, however, that Mr. Park and Major Houghton formed different estimates of the distance between Medina and the river Falemé; and that the former exceeds by about 36 miles; and moreover, that on Mr. Park's return by the southern route, he found by the number and scale of his journies, that he had allowed too great an extent to the space between the rivers Falemé and Gambia; I say, it clearly appears that an excess may be admitted in this part. It may be added, that according to the report of the African travellers, at Pisania, concerning the arrangement of the journies, there is an excess on the west of Kasson; whilst the space on the east of it, agrees

pretty well. Or, strictly speaking, perhaps the space is a *little under*-rated on the east, and *much over*-rated on the west. If the mean of the differences between Pisania and Tombuctoo, Fort St. Joseph and Tombuctoo, 31, and 18, that is, 24 miles be taken off, the result will be satisfactory; as it agrees pretty well with the excess found in the southern route, on Mr. Park's return.

This naturally leads me to the discussion of the position of Fort St. Joseph, as a point connecting the upper and lower part of the Senegal river: or in other words, the routes of the French *below*, with those of the English, in the *interior* of the country.

The French report concerning this position also points to an excess of distance from the westward; even more than that arising from the difference between Mr. Park's reckoning and the reports of the merchants; for it amounts to about 37 miles.

Could it be ascertained that a measured survey of the Senegal river, to the height of Fort St. Joseph, had been taken, as Labat says (vol. ii. p. 157.) was actually done, by the order of the Sieur Brüe, this would settle the matter at once. But *cursory* surveys have so often been called *actual* and *measured* ones, that one must be in possession of better authority, before the survey of the Senegal river can be relied on, as an absolute measure of distance. Nor is there, in the list of places in the *Con. de Temps*, any intimation of the longitude of St. Joseph by triangles, or measurement. Here follows a statement of the means used in fixing the position of this place.

M. D'Anville, in his map of the Senegal and Gambia rivers (1751) places St. Joseph 7° 44′ east of Ferro, which being in 17° 35′ west of

Greenwich, Fort St. Joseph should be in 9° 51′. This is 30′ to the west of the position arising on Mr. Park's route; which gives 9° 21′. But M. D'Anville supposes a difference of longitude of 6° 9′ 15″ only, between Fort St. Louis, at the mouth of the Senegal river, and Fort St. Joseph: and as I have followed M. Fleurieu's ideas in placing St. Louis in 16° 8′ longitude, St. Joseph of course falls in 9° 59′, rejecting the seconds; making a difference of 37 G. miles, or 38 min. from Mr. Park; that is 13 miles more than the mean of the differences between the authorities for the position of Tombuctoo.*

It is obvious, that as neither St. Louis nor Jillifrey, are exactly determined, in respect of Cape Verd, or of each other, it would be idle to attempt a critical adjustment of them; and therefore I have adopted the position arising from Mr. Park's route, corrected by 24 miles, or 25 min. of longitude, more to the west; so that Fort St. Joseph stands in the map in lon. 9° 46′, lat. 14° 34′.

In consequence of this correction, all the eastern positions, Joag, Jarra, Sego, &c. must of course *recede* 25 minutes to the westward of the arrangement heretofore made, on the construction of Mr. Park's geographical materials. Hence I place

Joag, in	9° 37′	west, instead of	9° 12′
Jarra, in	7 13	——	6 48
Sego, in	2 26	——	2 1

* It is proper to remark that M. D'Anville took the longitude of Cape Verd 18½ min. more to the east, in respect of Ferro, than M. Fleurieu: and Fort St. Louis, more to the west in respect to Cape Verd, by 10½ min.

M. D'Anville moreover, allows no more than 3° 2′ 30″ diff. lon. between Pisania and Fort St. Joseph, which by the *corrected distance* of Mr. Park, is no less than 3° 42′.

Silla, in 1° 24′ west, instead of 0° 59′
And Tombuctoo, in 1 33 east, —— 1 58*

I now proceed to state the reports of the distance to Tombuctoo, from the NW, N, and NE.

From Tatta† on the southern frontier of Morocco, 9½ journies to the SSE of the capital, (equal to 157 G. miles) the distance is 50 journies of the caravan, according to Mr. Matra.

From Mourzouk, the capital of Fezzan (taken to be in latitude 27° 48′, and longitude 15° 3′ east, or directly south of Mesurata), 64 journies, according to the report of Ben Ali. And from Tunis, 77 journies, through Kabes and Gadamis, according to Mr. Magrah.

On the route between Mourzouk and Cairo, as well as between Morocco and Jarra, it has been already stated (p. 94), that 16,3 and 16,25 were the mean rates: and the former was accordingly adopted between Woolli and Sego. At the same rate, the 50 days from Tatta, give 815 G. miles, and the 59½ from Morocco, 970. The 64 from Mourzouk give 1043; and the 77 from Tunis, 1255.

Now the above assumed position of Tombuctoo, falls exactly at the given distance from Morocco through Tatta; and 18 short of that from Fezzan (Mourzouk); but 61 beyond that from Tunis. The coincidence therefore of the three lines of distance from the Gambia, from Morocco, and Fezzan, may be regarded as complete, since, in

* The latitudes remain as they were.

† For further particulars respecting Tatta, see Afr. Assoc. Q.; p. 225: and Q. 333.

using the same rate nearly across the whole continent of Africa, from Cape Verd to Egypt, a difference of 18 miles only, arises. And hence, the public mind may well be satisfied at present respecting this important position. Whichsoever of the two determinations may be right, is of little consequence: but I hold it to be more prudent to adhere to that line which is the result of computation in detail, and corrected as above, than to the long lines given in the aggregate, and in which there is more risk of error. And thus I close the subject of the position of Tombuctoo; placing it in latitude 16° 30′, longitude 11° 33′ east of Greenwich.

Something, however, is proper to be said, concerning the rate of travelling adopted on the present occasion, as it differs materially from that allowed on long lines of distance, in the Proceedings of the Association, in 1790. I there allowed $16\frac{1}{2}$ for a single day, but diminished the rate according to the *length* of the lines of distance. It would appear that the proportion of diminution allowed, although proper enough in countries, where obstacles interpose to change the line of direction, is not applicable to that part of Africa, where the great Deserts are crossed in so straight a line, as hardly to increase the *simple* winding, arising on each day's course, in any considerable degree; and that even the *simple* winding is less than elsewhere. And hence $16\frac{1}{4}$, or more, arises on the camel routes, on long lines of distance, across the Desert; and on the pilgrims' routes, where it appears the camels travel with light burthens. It was through misconception of this rate, that I placed Tombuctoo, so far to the north. The cause of M. D'Anville's error, I am ignorant of.

The particulars of the geography between Silla and Tombuctoo, are copied exactly from Mr. Park's map; and require but little elucidation.

Jinné, a large town, is two short journies below Silla: and Tombuctoo, twelve still lower down. It would appear that all the journies were conceived to be *short*, as Mr. Park allows only 200 G. miles for the aggregate of the 14.

Two days below Jinné, the Joliba expands itself into a considerable lake, already mentioned by the name of Dibbie; from whence the river again issues in a number of streams. These unite at a lower point, and then form *two* large branches, which separating widely from each other, form an island near 100 miles in length, whose name being Ginbala, or Jinbala, we recognize in it, the Guinbala country of M. D'Anville; as in the northern branch of the river that bounds it, the river of Guin, mistaken by him for the original head of the Tombuctoo river (or Niger); as he also mistook the lake of Dibbie for that of the Senegal river. Such were the errors in the African geography, to the date of the AFRICAN ASSOCIATION: one of which errors, assigned above 500 miles of the course of the Niger, to that of the Senegal!

The position of Houssa will be adjusted in the map of Africa.

The important station of Tombuctoo, being adjusted, together with the positions dependent on it, I proceed with Mr. Park, on his return by the south, to his original point of outset in the west: taking it up at Sego, by which he passed in his way.

Along this line, an account of the bearings by compass was kept, as well as circumstances would permit, until the instrument was rendered useless, by robbers, near Sibidooloo. This was, however, the most important part of the route, as it lay along the side of the Joliba,

the knowledge of whose course is, by this means, prolonged to about 350 British miles. Mr. Park moreover committed to paper, a tracing of its general windings; and obtained notices respecting the place of its source, during his long residence at Kamaliah, in the country of Manding, (commonly called Mandinga.)

Kamaliah is about forty G. miles SW of Sibidooloo;* and to this place Mr. Park contrived to extend his line of bearings from Sego. He also learnt, that Jarra lay ten journies to the north-westward of Kamaliah; which agrees satisfactorily to the result from Sego, as it leaves 154 G. miles, for the ten journies; and Kamaliah itself falls in lat. 12° 46′; 227½ from Sego, in a direction of W 21 S; corrected, by the allowance of 17° variation.

The town of Bammako, where the Joliba first becomes navigable (or perhaps to which point, it is navigable upwards, in a continuous course from Tombuctoo), lies about fifty miles short of Kamaliah. † It is reckoned by the natives, ten journies only from Sego. ‡

At Kamaliah the source of the Joliba (or Niger), was pointed out to Mr. Park, at a bearing of south, a very little west, seven journies distant; and for these, he allows 108 geographical miles. The name of the place is Sankary, and seems meant by the Songo of D'Anville; which, however, he supposed to be at the source of the Gambia river,

* It lies nearly midway between the Joliba and Senegal rivers.

† Bammako, by Mr. Park's original bearings, lies from Sego W 8° S, 178 geographic miles: and Kamaliah W 7°¼, N 51¼. These are corrected to W 25° S, and W 9°¼ S.

‡ Perhaps the long journies of the slave caravans, such as Mr. Park experienced, to the westward of this place.

in the kingdom of Mandinga. Such were the crude ideas heretofore entertained of this geography.

Here it may be proper to mention, that Mr. Park, whilst at Kooniakarry, in Kasson, meditated a route to the south-eastward, through Kasson, Fooladu, and Manding; which route was to have brought him to the Joliba in twenty days. The place on the Joliba is not mentioned: possibly it might be Yamina. This route, however, he was not permitted to take. Had he pursued it, his personal sufferings might probably have been less; but our knowledge of the geography, would probably have been less, also.

It has been mentioned, that the space between Jarra and Kamaliah, is checked by the report of the road distance between them. It is proper also to state, as a further proof of the consistency of the respective positions of Jarra and Kong, that the distance across, agrees generally with the report of the Shereef Imhammed, who says, that Yarba, meant for Yarra, or Jarra, is eighteen to twenty days journey to the NW of Gonjah, meaning Kong. (Proc. Af. Assoc. chap. xii.) Mr. Park was told that Kong was ten journeys to the southward, or S S W of Sego; and he saw a part of the great ridge of *blue mountains* of Kong, as he coasted the Niger westward. These notices agree very well with the Shereef's report.

Between Kamaliah and Woolli, there is yet a greater degree of uncertainty respecting the *data* for the geographical construction; for in this long line of near 400 geographical miles, the line of direction is collected from the places of the sun and stars; the compass being useless, whilst the traveller was in motion. Besides, the rapidity of the march, and the height of the woods, were unfavourable to any

attempts of that kind, had bodily fatigue and hunger, left him either the inclination or the ability: for, in effect, it was one long forced march through the Jallonka Wilderness, under the terrors of famine, or being left behind to perish, by wild beasts.

Under such circumstances, it was full as much as could reasonably be expected, to obtain some general idea of the line of direction, on which he travelled; together with the proportional lengths of the several intervals, by keeping an account of the time; leaving the *absolute scale* to be determined by the extent of the space. In this, he succeeded so well, that the middle part of the line, when produced to the capital of Woolli, appears to be no more than half a point out of the bearing; as is shewn by Labat's map of Bambouk (vol. iv. p. 92), in which the course of the river of Falemé, which Mr. Park crossed in his way home, as well as out, is described; and affords much assistance in adjusting his position on that river, on his return.

It is first necessary to state, that M. D'Anville, in his map of Senegal, &c. (1751) has totally disregarded the scale of Labat's map, as well as most of the bearings in it; having preferred to it some other authority; perhaps some tracing of the two rivers. M. D'Anville allows no more than thirty-seven geographical miles between the two passes Naye and Kayee on the Falemé and Senegal rivers; when Mr. Park allows sixty-two. Now Labat's scale agrees with the latter: for he allows 28¾ French leagues for this interval, equal to 2,16 geographical miles per league, according to Mr. Park's calculation. The leagues were therefore probably of road measure; as a league in direct distance appears to be equal to 2,64. Hence M. D'Anville seems to have misconceived the matter; and has applied the same erroneous scale to the course of the Falemé river, upwards; which he

has shortened by about twenty-six geographical miles; carrying that part no higher than to latitude 13°, which, by the original (or rather the proportioned) scale, should be extended to 12° 34′.

This map of Labat, then, gives the position of Ferbanna on the Falemé river;* as also the southern boundaries of Bondou and Bambouk, with other particulars. Mr. Park, when at the pass of the Falemé river, between Satadoo and Medina,† obtained some general notices concerning his position, in respect of the above points. For he learnt that Ferbanna (Tenda) lay at some distance lower down the river: that Bondou (by the account of a fellow-traveller who was on his way thither) lay six journies to the northward; and he learnt also the general position of Bambouk. To this may be added, that he kept on his right hand (to the N), and even touched the foot of it at Dindikoo, a ridge of mountains, answering to those, which in Labat's map, crosses the Falemé *above* Ferbanna; and are also found precisely at the corresponding point, with Dindikoo. Moreover, it preserves in Labat, the same distance from the southern boundary of Bambouk, as that seen by Park. And finally, it appears, by the description of the southern route pointed out by the King of Bambouk (see Mem. 1793, p. 11.), that Mr. Park passed to the *southward* of Ferbanna, and yet *not far* from it. For the king's road from Ferbanna (Tenda) led eastward, through Concoudou (the Konkodoo of Park, a province) as also through Silloumana, Gangaran, Gadou, and Manding. Now there is every reasonable proof that (bating Ferbanna) this is the very

* Not the Ferbanna of Bambouk, at which Major Houghton resided; but Ferbanna Tenda, through which the King of Bambouk described the southern route of the Slatees to lead, from Woolli to Manding. (See Mem. Af. Assoc. 1793; p. 11.)

† There are several places of this name. The one in question lies to the south of Bambouk.

route by which Mr. Park returned. His route went through Gangaran (Gankaran), on the one hand, Konkodoo on the other. Sillou-Mana is very probably Kullo-Manna,* a famous pass over the *Black River*, or main stream of the Senegal, where a bridge of a very singular construction is thrown across occasionally, for the use of the caravans. It is unlikely that bridges should occur at *two* places in the southern route, and more particularly as the one at Manna is placed there, because the steep rocky banks, and narrow channel of the river, are peculiarly adapted to that kind of bridge.

It may therefore be concluded, that from Konkodoo, the king's road, instead of turning to the SW to Satadoo, leads straight on to the westward to Ferbanna, and thence into the Woolli road, either at Baneserile or Kirwanny; being a branch, only, of the great southern road, leading directly across the mountains; whilst the other makes a bend to the south, to avoid them; which bend, according to Mr. Park's description of his route, is so much like that in Labat's map above Ferbanna, that I cannot help suspecting the Dambanna of Labat to be meant for the Dindikoo of Mr. Park. I return to the construction of the route.

Ferbanna, in Labat, is placed 33 leagues on a bearing of S 11° E from Cacullo, another pass on the same river Falemé, in latitude 13° 54′, by Major Houghton's observation; and which is about 20 miles south of Naye, where Mr. Park crossed it in his way out. The 33 leagues according to the *proportional* scale furnished by Mr. Park's route (2,16 each) give 71¼ G. miles for the distance of Ferbanna from Cacullo; or latitude 12° 46′. From this point, Labat describes the

* Kullo is a province of Jallankadoo, occupying both banks of the Ba-fing, or Black River; and Manna, the name of the town. [Park.]

course of the river 24 miles higher up, in a SE by E direction. About this place, we may suppose that Mr. Park crossed the Falemé on his return; since it agrees with the circumstances of the mountains, the bend of the road above described, and the distance of Bambouk and Bondou; to which may be added, the general accordance of the bearing from Manding. Medina, a village, stood on the west bank of the Falemé, at the pass; and Satadoo, the capital of the province, at two miles to the eastward of it. It is certain that neither Satadoo, nor Konkodoo, appear in Labat's map. In that, Macanna is the name of the country bordering on the south of Bambouk; but Mr. Park calls it Konkodoo, which means the *country of mountains;* and appears very characteristic. (These mountains extend through Bambouk and Kasson, and are productive in gold.) Again, Combregoudou in Labat, occupies the places of Satadoo and Dentila in Mr. Park's descriptions: and we must therefore conclude, that either these countries have more than one name, or have changed their names, in the course of the century.

On the whole, it cannot well be doubted that the adjustment of the southern route, to the northern, in this place, is tolerably exact; and it is indeed a matter of the first importance to the geography. One circumstance is very much in its favour: at Kirwanny on this route Mr. Park was told, that the course of the Gambia river lay three journies southward, or one journey within the boundary of Foota-Jallo: and Dr. Afzelius was informed, that the same river runs at the distance of four journies from the mountains which skirt the Rio Grande on the north-east. These notices accord perfectly with the relative positions of Kirwanny, and the course of the Rio Grande, which are about 112 G. miles asunder, on the construction.

This adjustment, moreover, goes as well to the proportioning of the

longitudinal distance, on the line between Kamaliah and Woolli, by means of the course of the river Falemé, extended from a known point in the northern route.

On Mr. Park's original map, I find 201 G. miles on that portion of the southern line, east of the Falemé river; 181 on the west: whilst the respective intervals on my construction, are 211, and 185. But Mr. Park observed, that there was a greater portion of distance to be travelled through, on his return, than he had expected. His reckoning was, according to the sea phrase, *ahead of the ship*: which was, no doubt, occasioned by his omitting to take the variation of the compass into the account, after he had lost his sextant at Jarra.

It appears on the examination of his journal, that between the river Falemé and Baraconda, in Woolli (a few miles short of Medina), they employed nine whole days, and part of a tenth; a great part of which journey lay through the wildernesses of Tenda and Simbani. Six of the days are remarked to be either *long* or *very long*: and one in particular was a *very hard day's work*. Allowing six miles for the fraction of the day, the nine whole ones require 19 G. miles of direct distance, each: and as the road diverged considerably from the *direct line* (to the southward, falling in with the Gambia pretty high up) they may be taken somewhat higher. The five forced marches through the Jallonka wilderness are also calculated at 19 each, direct; and which may produce 25 road miles: I should conceive those through the Tenda and Simbani wildernesses to be equal to 26, at a medium; and some of them more than 30.*

* Mr. Park seems to reckon 18 G. miles, in direct distance, a long journey: and 16 to 17 seems to have been his ordinary rate, when left to himself. This is also the ordinary rate of travelling, with those who perform journies on foot, or with loaded beasts.

Thus I have brought the grand outline of Mr. Park's Geography to a conclusion; and cannot do otherwise than sympathize with him in his feelings, when he arrived at "*the hospitable door of* Dr. LAIDLEY," at Pisania, after an absence of eighteen months, unheard of, during the whole time; whether enjoying the triumphs of exploring new paths; whether pining in hopeless captivity, amongst the barbarous Moors of Jarra; or fostered by the kind hands of Mandinga Negroes.

It remains that something should be said regarding the connection of Mr. Park's Geography with that of Labat, between the rivers Senegal and Falemé; as well as concerning the positions of the *falls* of the Senegal river.

Labat's scale has already been adjusted to Mr. Park's, in p. 103, where 2,16 G. miles were found equivalent to one of Labat's leagues, in direct distance.

Kayee, the pass on the Senegal river, where Mr. Park crossed it, is given at $16\frac{2}{3}$ leagues above Fort St. Joseph, in Labat's Map, (Vol. iv. p. 92.) and the falls of F'low (Felou in Labat), $5\frac{1}{2}$ still higher up. Kayee may therefore be taken at 36 miles, and F'low 48, above St. Joseph; the bearing a *point or more* to the southward of east.

F'low is the *lower* fall, (below which the river continues navigable generally, to the sea) and Govinea, the *upper* fall. The distance between them, is very differently represented, by different persons; but I believe, is from 12 to 14 leagues, perhaps 30 G. miles,

direct. It is true that Labat says, in more than one place,* that they are 40 leagues asunder; but as his Map in (vol. iv. p. 92) has less than 12 leagues; and as M. P. D. also says (p. 78) 12 leagues: and as, moreover, the King of Kasson's residence is said to be *midway between* the two falls; and that residence appearing to be Kooniakarry, a place visited by Mr. Park; and which is no more than about 22′ from the lower fall, and at 13′ distant from the north bank of the river; it cannot well be otherwise than that the two falls are within 30′ G. miles of each other. And hence it may be concluded, that *quatorze* and not *quarante*, was in the original manuscript.

The distance between Kooniakarry and the Senegal river, 13 miles, points to a WNW course, or thereabouts, of the river between the falls; not much different from its general course, lower down. But as the Ba-fing, or principal arm of this river, must run almost directly to the north, from the place where Mr. Park crossed it, in Jallonka-doo, it is highly probable that the two great branches unite at no great distance above the upper fall; the same ridge of mountains that occasions the fall may, perhaps, occasion a junction of the different streams above it.

These falls are said by Labat to be from 30 to 40 *toises* perpendicular; or 180 to 240 French feet. We must recollect that P. Hinnepen states the fall of Niagara at 600 feet, which subsequent accounts have reduced to 150.† The reader will, however, find very curious descriptions of these falls, and of the river itself, in Labat, vol. ii. p. 156, 160.

* Vol. ii. p. 156; vol. iii. 290, and 358. † See Ellicott's Letter in Europ. Mag. vol. 24.

CHAPTER V.

Construction of the New Map of North Africa.—New Arrangement of the Course of the Nile—Its distant Fountains yet unexplored by Europeans.—A central Position in Africa, determined.—Edrisi's Line of Distance, consistent.—Errors of Leo.

In order that the reader may be enabled to judge of the improved state of the new map of North Africa, I shall set before him a list of the authorities, together with an outline of the construction. To enter into a detail of both, would require a volume: I shall therefore barely *specify* the authorities for the sea coasts, and for such parts of the interior as have been aforetimes described by geographers; and confine the *detail* to modern discoveries, and to such parts, as those discoveries have helped to improve: and more especially to the points which determine the courses of the Niger and Nile.

The western and southern coasts from the Strait of Gibraltar to the Equator, have been newly constructed for the present purpose. M. Fleurieu's authorities have been followed in respect of Cape Verd, Cape Blanco, and the Canary Islands. The coasts of Morocco and Fez, rest on the authorities of Don Tofino's charts, in the Spanish atlas: and between these and Cape Blanco, various authorities have been admitted, in the different parts: as it appeared to

me, that M. Fleurieu had not rightly conceived the position of Cape Bajador.*

The coasts on the south and east of Cape Verd, are drawn in conformity to the ideas of Captain Price. This gentleman, in the Royal Charlotte East India ship in 1793, had an opportunity of adjusting the

* Table of the principal latitudes and longitudes in the Map.

	In the map.		By M. Fleurieu.	Con. de Temps.	Bruce.
	Latitude.	Longitude.	Longitude.		
*Cadiz	36° 21′ N	6° 19′ W	6° 19′		
C. Spartel	35 48	5 57	6 2	5 54	
C. Cantin	32 33	9 15	9 11		
C. de Geer	30 28	9 54	10 31	9 53	
C. Bajador	26 20	14 17	14 49	14 28	
*I. Ferro	27 51	17 37‡	17 37		
C. Blanco	20 47	16 58	16 58		
*C. Verd	14 48	17 34	17 35		
†C. Palmas	4 30	7 41			
†I. St. Thomas	0 18 N	6 37 E			
Tunis	36 44	10 20			
Tripoly	32 54	13 15	— —	13 20	
Mourzouk	27 48	15 3			
*Suez	30 2	32 28			
Cairo	30 3	31 20	— —	31 29	
Koseir	26 8	34 8	— —	— —	*31 4
Sennar	33 30 30″	13 35			
Source of the Nile in Abyssinia	10 59	36 55	— —	— —	*36 55
†C. Gardufui	11 43	51 12			
Syene	24 —	33 30	— —	— —	*33 30

* The longitudes thus marked, are from celestial observation, either at the place, or in the vicinage.

† From timekeepers: the two first by Capt. Price, the latter by Capt. Richardson.

‡ The reader will please to correct, in p. 96, line the last, 17° 35′ to 17° 37′. Also, in same sentence, 9° 51′ to 9° 53′: and in the succeeding one, 30′ to 32′.

longitudes of some important points; which longitudes Mr. Dalrymple applied to the correction of the existing charts of the coast, and with his accustomed liberality and zeal for the improvement of science, permitted me to avail myself of the use of these corrections, previous to his own publication of them, in a different form. It is to the same invaluable Journal of Capt. Price, that I am indebted for some of the most important notices respecting the variation of the compass, along the coast of Guinea, &c.; and without which notices, the approximation of the quantity of variation in the interior of Africa, could not have been accomplished. (See above, page 80.)

The result is, that the coast of Guinea has several degrees *more* of *extent* from east to west; and that the breadth of south Africa at the Equator, is *less*, than M. D'Anville had supposed.

No alteration has been made in the coasts within the Mediterranean, save in the form and position of the Gulf of Alexandretta, and the adjacent coasts.

The Red Sea, or Arabian Gulf, as well as the *whole* course of the Nile, have been re-constructed for the present purpose. For the former, a great collection of new materials has been furnished by Mr. Dalrymple. This includes a new chart of the whole Gulf by Captain White, made in 1795: but I have not followed either *that*, or any other *single* authority *throughout:* but have made such alterations as appeared to be warranted, on an examination and comparison of the different materials.

The upper part of the Gulf, between Suez and Yambo, is however preserved entire, as Capt. White drew it.