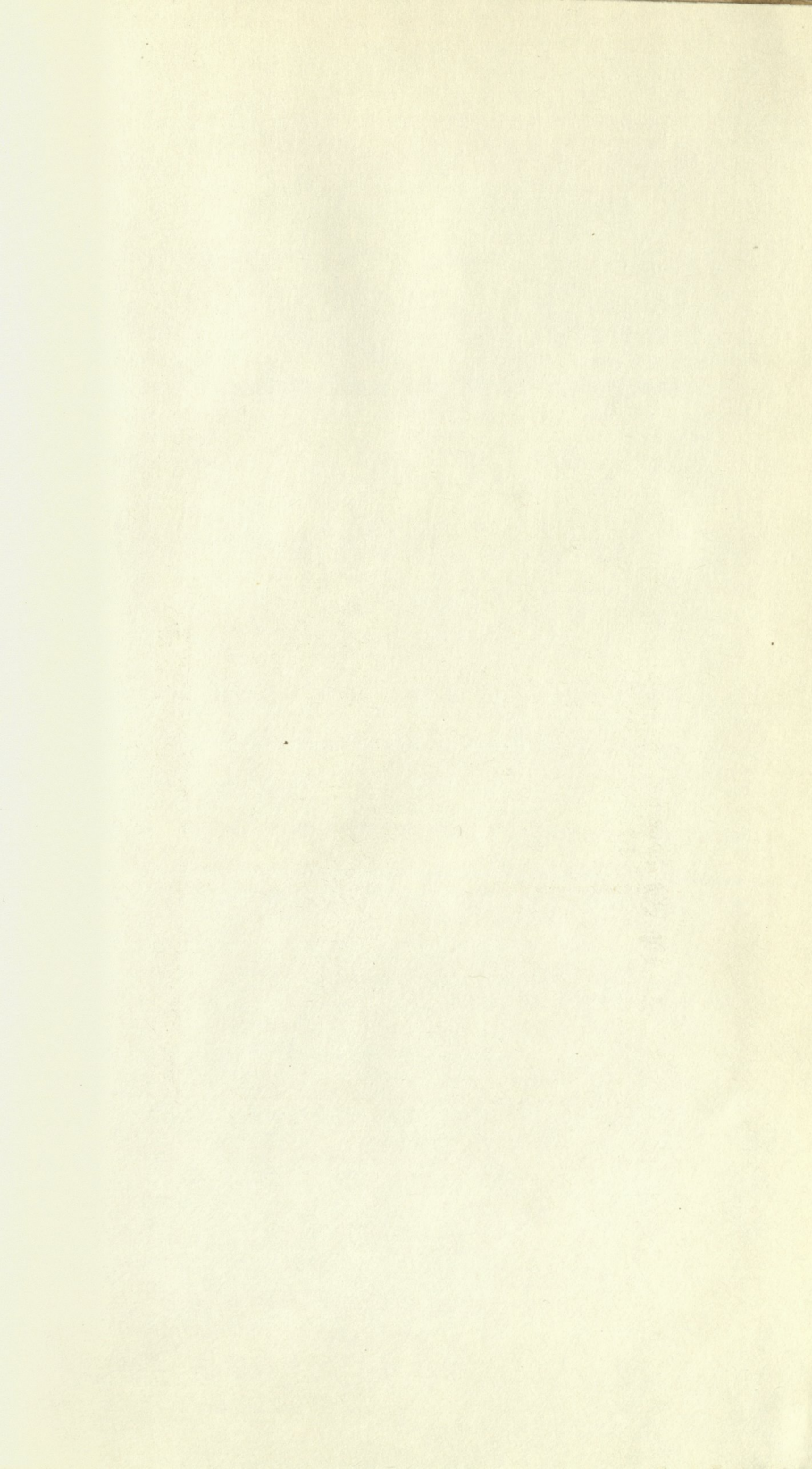




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DESCRIPTION OF
MESOPOTAMIA AND BAGHDĀD,

WRITTEN ABOUT THE YEAR 900 A.D. BY IBN SERAPION.

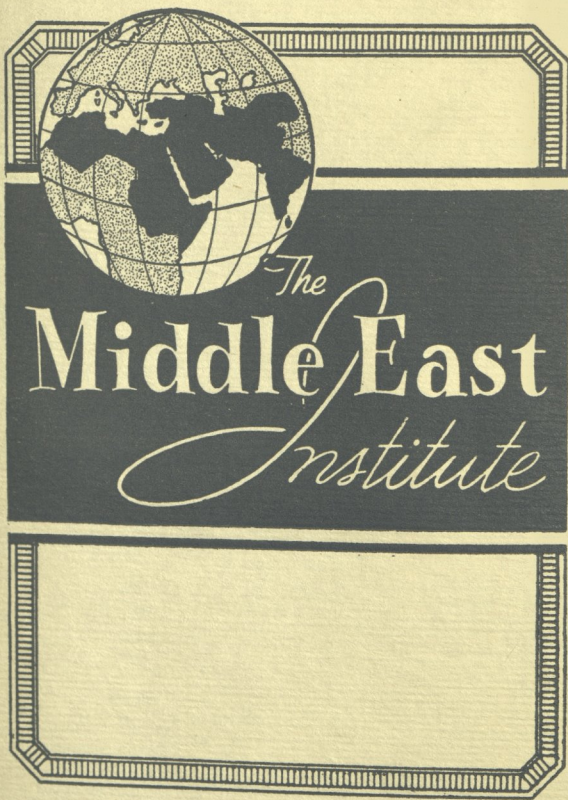
THE ARABIC TEXT EDITED FROM A MS. IN THE
BRITISH MUSEUM LIBRARY, WITH TRANSLATION
AND NOTES.

BY
GUY LE STRANGE.

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[From the "JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY," *January and April, 1895.*]



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JOURNAL

OF

THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

ART. I.—*Description of Mesopotamia and Baghdād, written about the year 900 A.D. by Ibn Serapion. The Arabic Text edited from a MS. in the British Museum Library, with Translation and Notes. By GUY LE STRANGE.*

INTRODUCTION.

THE Geography of Mesopotamia during the epoch of the Baghdād Caliphate has not, I think, received the attention which the subject deserves. With the exception of the small maps found in the Spruner-Menke Atlas, I believe no detailed description or delineation of the country at this date has been attempted. Yet it must be admitted that the history of the Abbasids is almost incomprehensible without such an aid; for the physical and political condition of the country was not then what it is now, as a glance at the accompanying map will show.

The basis of this map is the description of the two rivers, Euphrates and Tigris, with their affluents and inter-communicating canals, which was written by Ibn Serapion at the beginning of the fourth century A.H., corresponding with the tenth A.D. The text now published for the first time is from the unique MS. of one volume of his work preserved in the British Museum Library (Add. MS. 23,379). Of Ibn Serapion, personally, I believe

nothing is known; the date of his work, however, is fixed by the minute description he has given of Baghdād. Various palaces are described, the latest being the celebrated *Kaṣr-at-Tāj* (the Palace of the Crown), completed by the Caliph Al-Muktafī immediately after his accession in A.H. 289 (902). That Ibn Serapion wrote not later than the first part of the tenth century A.D. is proved by the fact that no mention is made of the palaces which were built in Baghdād by the Buwayhid princes, subsequent to the year 334 A.H. (945), when Mu'izz-ad-Dawla became master of both the capital and the person of the Caliph.

In regard to the Topography of ancient Baghdād—a subject which I hope to take up again and elucidate more fully in a future paper—the information given by Ibn Serapion is of much importance, for it enables us to complete the minute description of the city which we possess in the work of Ya'qūbī, written in A.H. 278 (891), a decade or so before the date of Ibn Serapion. Now Ya'qūbī describes Baghdād from the centre outwards, going along the main-roads; while, on the other hand, Ibn Serapion follows the course of the canals, beginning above and passing down to where each flows out into the Tigris. It will readily be understood that the canals and the high-roads, for the most part, cross each other, and interlace; hence by plotting out the palaces and quarters described by these two independent authorities, a net-work of points is gained, which, with the main course of the Tigris for a back-bone, enables us to reconstitute the ground-plan of Baghdād of the times of the Caliphate. This is what I have attempted in my plan, but full details concerning the various buildings given in Ibn Serapion, and of others mentioned by Ya'qūbī must be reserved for a future paper.

It will be convenient, in this Introduction, briefly to point out how the courses of the Tigris and Euphrates differed in the 10th century A.D. from what is at present found. Ibn Serapion describes the Tigris as rising at a spring and flowing down past Āmid, which is proof that

the eastern branch of the Tigris (and not the Bitlis river) was that regarded as the main-stream by the Arabs. Down as far as Samarrā, the towns given show that the course was then much what it is now. From this place, however, to a point a few miles above Baghdād, the river followed a shorter and more westerly channel than it does at the present day. The line of this older river-bed—which still has the ruins of the towns named by Ibn Serapion lying on its bank—is marked on our maps. After flowing through Baghdād and past Al-Madāin (Ctesiphon), the Tigris passed down to the latitude of Kūt-al-Amarah, and here the great alterations in its course are to be noticed. At the present day the Tigris follows an easterly channel down to Korna—this also, as we shall show (see Note 1 to Section xiv.), was its course in Sassanian times—and here its waters join the Euphrates to form the Shatt-al-‘Arab or Tidal Estuary of the combined streams. In the days of the Caliphate, however, the Tigris flowed due south from Kūt-al-Amarah, running down the channel now known as the Shatt-al-Hay, and passing through the city of Wāsīt, below which, by various canals and mouths, the stream spread out and became lost in the great Swamp, which is so important a feature in the geography, political and physical, of that epoch. From the great Swamp—into which, as we shall see later, the Euphrates also poured its waters—a canal flowed out direct into the Tidal Estuary, which thus served to drain off the waters of both the Tigris and the Euphrates. This Estuary, after passing to the eastward of Al-Başra, finally came to the open sea at ‘Abbadān, a town which, on account of the recession of the Persian Gulf, now lies nearly twenty miles distant from the present shore-line. In the account which Ibn Serapion gives of the Estuary of the Dujayl, as he calls the river Karun, there are some matters of importance which will be discussed in the notes appended to my translation.

The description of the Euphrates presents many points of interest. In the first place the Orientals then, as now, considered what we call the Western Euphrates, which

rises in the mountains to the north of Erzeroum, as the main arm of the great river. The Eastern Euphrates, now generally called the Murād-Sū, a name given to it by the Turks, Ibn Serapion and other mediæval geographers speak of as the river Arsanās. This latter name has, apparently, long since fallen into desuetude, but it is evidently identical with the classical *Arsanias Flumen*, which Pliny describes in the first century after Christ. It is curious to find another classical name, apparently, still in use in the tenth century A.D., although, as in the former case, this also has now been long forgotten; for the Nahr Lūḳīya, no longer to be found on our modern maps, is doubtless the river *Lycus* of the Roman geographer. In the time of Ibn Serapion, many of the other great tributaries of the Euphrates, as also their secondary affluents, bore names which are evidently not Arabic. As instances I may mention the rivers Salkit, Jarjāriya, and Ḳarākīs—possibly there are some others—all of which are now known under Turkish names, but which, in the tenth century A.D., evidently still kept the nomenclature of pre-Islamic times, and thus, in a modified form, preserved the original Greek or native denomination for these streams.

The main-stream of the Euphrates, after passing out from the mountains, received various affluents in the plain of northern Mesopotamia, and flowing south-east, followed its present course down to a point a short distance north of Al-Kūfa. Here the stream bifurcated. The branch to the right—considered then as the main-stream of the Euphrates, but now known as the Hindiyya Canal—ran down past Al-Kūfa, and a short distance below this city became lost in the western part of the great Swamp, which has already been spoken of as swallowing up the waters of the Tigris. The stream to the left or eastward, called the Sūrā Canal—which, in its upper reach, follows the line of the modern Euphrates—ran a short course and then split up into numerous canals whose waters, for the most part, flowed out into the Tigris above Wāsīt. Those canals which did not join the Tigris above that

city, joined its waters lower down, for they all drained into the northern part of the great Swamps.

The Arabs had inherited from the Persians, their predecessors in Mesopotamia, the system of canalization which joined the lower courses of the Euphrates and the Tigris, making the Sawād—or Alluvial plain to the south of Takrīt and Al-Anbār—one of the richest countries of the East. A glance at the map will show that the system adopted was to carry off the surplus waters of the Euphrates into the Tigris, for the purpose of irrigating the lands between the two rivers. On the other hand, the waters of the Tigris were, for the most part, tapped by canals on its further or eastern bank, in order more thoroughly to irrigate the lands which lay on the Persian border of its stream. The four great irrigation canals of the Euphrates were the ʿĪsā, Ṣarṣar, Mālik, and Kūtha, and these four with the Sūrā Canal (flowing eastward from the bifurcation above Al-Kūfa) carried off the greater part of the waters of the Euphrates to the Tigris. The distances separating these canals which Ibn Serapion mentions are of great importance, since they enable us to fix their positions. The main canal of the left bank of the Tigris was the great Kāṭūl-Nahrawān channel, dating from the days of the Chosroes; but a shorter line also existed on the right bank of the Tigris, formed by the Iṣḥākiyya and the Dujayl Canals, and this irrigated the lands immediately to the north of Baghdād.

With only a single MS. of the work of Ibn Serapion to consult, the reconstitution of the text has been a matter of some difficulty. Most of the place-names, it is true, occur again either in the works of the contemporary geographers of the third and fourth centuries A.H., or in the later compilations of Yāqūt and Bakrī; but in some instances places are mentioned once only in Ibn Serapion and by no other geographer, and often the reading of our MS. is corrupt or uncertain. For plotting out the names on my map, I have in most cases been able to fix the position of the towns along the various streams by a reference

to the distances given in the Road-books of Ḳudāma and other authorities, taking as fixed points the places therein mentioned which still exist. In the three sections describing the city of Baghdād, great help has been derived from the work written by Al-Khaṭīb on the "History of Baghdād," of which the British Museum possesses three fairly correct MSS. Al-Khaṭīb has often copied Ibn Serapion verbatim; and some portions of the work of Al-Khaṭīb have been incorporated by Yākūt, who thus quotes Ibn Serapion at second-hand; Abu-l-Fidā in his geography, on the other hand, appears to have copied some of the text of Ibn Serapion at first-hand.

With all these aids, however, a few corrupt passages remain over, which I have emended as best I could, and these, with minor verbal additions, have been marked by enclosure in square brackets []. The translation has been made as literal as possible, but to avoid ambiguity the antecedent proper-name has constantly been repeated in place of the pronoun; such additions, however, I have marked by enclosure in parentheses (). All dates are given in years of the Hijra; the succeeding, and higher, figures (in parentheses) represent the corresponding dates A. D. I have translated the term *Farsākh* by "league," with which measure it practically corresponds; for along roads, and counting the winding course of the rivers, three miles as the crow flies is above, rather than below, the fair estimate of the *Farsākh*. The Arab mile (*mīl*), the one used by Ibn Serapion, is equivalent to our nautical mile or knot—that is to say, about one English statute mile and a quarter. It must be remembered, however, that distances in those early days were not measured, but only estimated by time, being counted as so many *Farsākhs* (the League, or Hour), or so many *Marḥalas* (the Day's march); hence the Arab mile may, as a rule, be taken as roughly the equivalent of our mile. On the Map nineteen *Farsākhs*, or fifty-seven Arab miles, go to the degree of latitude.

I have divided up the text (and the translation) into sections, for convenience in adding the notes. These last

have been made as succinct as was compatible with giving translations of short passages from contemporary geographers, whose descriptions enable us to fix distances and positions.

The text of Ibn Serapion, which I now publish, occupies a little over eleven leaves (22 pages) of the MS., which contains in all 68 leaves of a folio-sized volume, written in a clear hand, and dated A.H. 709 (1309). The beginning of the volume contains a description of the various seas, islands, lakes, and mountains of the world, after which come the rivers. Following on the notice of the Euphrates and Tigris (now published) is a page devoted to a minute description of the course of the Nile, and this contains some curious information. The volume closes with an enumeration of various springs and minor streams. The whole of this volume by Ibn Serapion would, I believe, be well worth translating and editing. Apparently, however, in our present MS. we only possess a portion of the entire work, for Ibn Serapion refers to a chapter "On the Roads and Ways" (see Section XIV.), which is nowhere to be found in the volume in the British Museum.

In conclusion I add a list of the authorities quoted in my notes, with a sufficient bibliography to enable my readers to identify the editions of the texts from which my translations have been made.

- Ibn Kutayba, wrote about A.H. 250 (864). Edited by Wüstenfeld, 1850.
 Ibn Khurdābih, A.H. 250 (864). Edited by De Goeje. *Bibliotheca Geographorum Arabicorum*, vol. vi.
 Bilādhurī, A.H. 255 (869). Edited by De Goeje, 1866.
 Kudāma, A.H. 266 (880). *Bibl. Geogr. Arab.* vol. vi.
 Ya'qūbī, A.H. 278 (891). *Idem.* vol. vii.
 Ibn Rusta, A.H. 290 (903). *Idem.* vol. vii.
 Mas'ūdī, A.H. 332 (943). Edited by Barbier de Meynard. Nine vols. Paris, 1877.—*Tanbih*, by the same Author, in *Bibl. Geogr. Arab.* vol. viii.
 Iṣṭakhri, wrote about A.H. 340 (951). *Bibl. Geogr. Arab.* vol. i.
 Ibn Hawkal, A.H. 367 (978). *Idem.* vol. ii.
 Muḳaddasi, A.H. 375 (985). *Idem.* vol. iii.
 Nāsir-i-Khusraw, A.H. 438 (1047). Edited in Persian by C. Schefer, 1881.

Al-Khaṭīb, wrote about A.H. 450 (1058). Three MSS. of his *History of Baghdad* exist in the British Museum under the numbers Or. 1507, 1508, and Ad. 23,319. It is to the folios of the first of these copies that my references are made. There is also an excellent MS. at the *Bibliothèque Nationale* in Paris, No. 2128 of the new Catalogue, and this I have collated.

Bakri, wrote in A.H. 585 (1189). Edited by Wüstenfeld, 1876.

Yākūt, wrote in A.H. 623 (1225). Edited by Wüstenfeld. Six vols. 1873.

Epitome of the same, called the *Marasid*, written about A.H. 700 (1300). Edited by Juynboll. Six vols. 1859.

Dimashkī, wrote about A.H. 700 (1300). Edited by Mehren, 1866.

Fakhri, of about the same date. Edited by Ahlwardt, 1860.

Abu-l-Fidā, wrote A.H. 721 (1321). Edited by Reinaud, 1840.

Ibn-al-Athīr. Chronicle. Edited by C. J. Tornberg. Fourteen vols. 1876.

Z. D. M. G. refers to the Journal of the German Oriental Society.

Jones (Commander J. F. Jones, R.N.). Various papers in the *Records of the Bombay Government*. No. xliii. New Series, 1857.

Ritter. *Die Erdkunde*. The volumes relating to Western Asia of the second edition. Berlin, 1844.

The Maps I have used are those of Kiepert, namely *Provinces Asiatiques de l'Empire Ottoman*. Six feuilles, Berlin.—And the *Ruinenfelder der Umgegend von Babylon*. Published in the *Zeitschr. der Ges. für Erdkunde*. Vol. xviii.

An anonymous Arabic MS. in the *Bibliothèque Nationale* of a work on Geography, written for the Hamdanid prince Sayf-ad-Dawla, who died in A.H. 356 (967), gives some curious native maps, which have occasionally been of use to me in fixing the position of towns. This MS. bears the number 2214 in the new Catalogue.

ARABIC TEXT.

[I.] معرفة¹ نهر دجلة من اوله الى اخره * وذلك ان دجلة اولها من عين عند طول سدم سه اخرى لطة وعرض لحد ثم يمر فيها جبلان عند طول سدمه وعرض لزمه ثم يعدل مع الجبل الى طول سح² وعرض لحة ويمر بمدينة آمد مماسا لها ثم يمر الى جزيرة ابن عمر فيدور بها ويصير جزيرة في وسطها مدينة ثم يمر الى مدينة بلد مماسا لها ثم يمر الى مدينة الموصل مماسا لها ثم يمر بالحدیثة والسن والسوقانية وجبلتا وتكريت ثم يمر الى مدينة سر من رأى مماسا لها ثم يمر الى القادسية والاجمة والعلث والحظيرة والصوامع وعكبرا و اوانا وبصرى وبزوغى والبردان والمزرفة وقطربل والشامسية ويشق مدينة السلام وهى راكبة بشاطيئه ثم يمر الى كلوانى ثم يمر الى مدينة المداين ثم فى وسطها وهى راكبة بشاطيئه² ثم يمر الى السيب ودير العاقول والصفية ودير قنى وهمانية³ وجرجرى والنعمانية وجبل ونهر سابس وفم الصلح ثم يمر الى واسط ثم فى وسطها وهى راكبة بشاطيئه ثم يمر الى الرصافة ونهر بان والفاورث ودير العمال والحوانيت ثم يصب فى القطر⁴ فم البطيحة عند طول⁵ عحة وعرض لبة وذلك وسط البطيحة وسأذكر لك البطايح و

¹ MS. third line of f. 30 b. The Roman numeral refers to the Section of the Translation.

² MS. شاطيئه.

³ By an error of the MS. Dayr Ḥunnā and Humāniya are made to precede Dayr al'Āḳūl. The first name is more generally spelt دير قنة.

⁴ MS. without points.

⁵ F. 31 a.

كيف صفتها والانهار التي يصب اليها ويخرج منها بعد عمل نهر
الفرات والانهار التي بينه وبين دجلة ان شاء الله تعالى *

[II.] معرفة الفرات من اوله الى آخره * اول نهر الفرات من عين
في جبل اقرد خس عند طول سل وعرض ماك مبك ثم تمر
الى طرف جبل مسفيينا عند طول سك وعرض مبكه ثم تمر
بمدينة كهمخ¹ وبحصن المنشار ثم تمر على ميلين من ملطية وتمر
بمدينة هنزيط ثم تمر الى مدينة سميساط ثم الى جسر منبج و بالس
ثم تمر بمدينة الرقة مماسا لها ثم تمر بالمبارك² و فم نهر سعيد و
قرقيسيا والرحبة والدالية ثم تمر بين³ [الروابي] لامماسا للجبل يقال
له جبل القسوس ثم تمر الى عانة فتدور بها و تصير جزيرة فيها
مدينة ثم تمر الى الوسة والناؤسة ثم تمر الى مدينة هيت ثم تمر
بالغرب⁴ الانبار و هي مدينة و فيها جسر عليه ثم يمر الى مدينة
الكوفة مماسا لها ثم ينفرع منه بين الانبار و الكوفة انهار عظام و
سأذكرها فيما بعد ثم تمر الى موضع طولها عاه و عرضه لاه ثم تصب
في البطيحة عند طول عح^ه و عرض لال فاذا صار الفرات الى طول عاه
وعرض لاه افترق نهرين فيمر النهر الخارج منه بين نهر الفرات⁵ و بين
سواد الكوفة والبصرة حتى يصب في البطيحة قريباً من مصب
الفرات *

[III.] فاذا فرغت من عمل هذين النهرين العظيمين فابدأ
بالانهار التي تصب في الفرات والانهار التي تحمل منه و تصب في
دجلة نهراً نهراً من اوله الى اخره فافهم ما ابينه لك *

¹ MS. here and below كهمخ.

² MS. in error puts Karḳīsiyā above the Sa'īd Canal.

³ MS. رواور.

⁴ MS. بالعرب و الانبار.

⁵ F. 31 b.

من ذلك نهر يصب في الفرات من جبل اوله عند طول سبك
وعرض مآه ثم يمر بمدينة هنزيط واقليمها ثم يصب في الفرات عند
طول سال وعرض لطاك *

ويصب الى الفرات ايضا نهر يقال له ارسناس وهو نهر شمشاط
واوله من جبل في حد بلد طرون¹ ثم [يمر]² بباب مدينة شمشاط
ثم يمر بالقرب من باب حصن يقال له حصن زياد و على جنبتي
هذا النهر حصون ستة ثم يصب في الفرات فوق ملطية بمرحلتين في
الجانب الشرقي *

ويصب اليه ايضا نهر يقال له نهر لوقية اوله من جبل مرور في
حد بلد أبريق³ و عليه حصن واحد ومصبه في الفرات اسفل مدينة
كمخ بمرحلة فوق مصب ارسناس في الجانب الغربي *

ويصب اليه ايضا نهر أبريق مع جبل ماد الى مصبه في الفرات
اسفل من نهر لوقية بقليل في الجانب الغربي *

ويصب اليه ايضا نهر يقال له نهر أمجا اوله من جبل أبريق فوق
مخجة طريق ملطية بشئ يسير يمر بين جبال ويصب في الفرات
اسفل من مصب نهر ارسناس⁴ بمقدار خمسة فراسخ *

ويصب اليه ايضا نهر يقال له نهر جرجارية⁵ اوله من جبل مرور
قريب بحصن خرشنة في بلد الروم ثم يمر ممرا⁶ بعيدا في صحارى
ومروج ويصب في الفرات اسفل من مصب نهر أمجا⁷ بعشرة فراسخ
في الجانب الغربي *

¹ MS. طوون.

² Added.

³ MS. ابريق, below with diacritical points.

⁴ MS. اسناس.

⁵ Without points, below points given.

⁶ F. 32 a.

⁷ Without points, below points given.

ويصب اليه ايضا نهر يقال له قباقب وهو نهر عظيم كبير يصب اليه انهار كشميرة و ساذكرها فيما بعد و اول هذا النهر من جوف بلد الروم من نهر جيحان من اقصاه يمر بين جبال و حصون و صحارى و مروج ثم يخرج الى ارض العرب و يصب في الفرات اسفل من مصب نهر جرجاربه بثلثة فراسخ او اكثر و عليه قنطرة عظيمة تعرف بقنطرة قباقب في الجانب الغربى *

ويصب اليه ايضا نهر يقال له نهر البليخ اوله من ارض حران من عين تقال لها عين الذهبانية¹ يمر فيسقى ضياعا و رساتيق و بساتين و يمر بسا جدى و حصن مسلمة و باجروان² و يمر في ظهر مدينة الرقة و يصب في الفرات اسفل من الرقة السودا في الجانب الشرقى *

ويصب اليه ايضا نهران مجتمعان في موضع واحد يقال لاحدهما الخابور وللآخر الهرماس فاول الخابور من مدينة راس العين من عين الزاهرية و اول الهرماس من ارض نصيبين من موضع يقال له طور عمدين و الهرماس نهر نصيبين يمر فيسقى الضياع و البساتين و يخرج من العمارة الى البر و يمر بالخابور فيسقى ضياع راس العين ثم يجتمعان هو و الهرماس فى البرية و الهرماس منصب فيه فيصير نهرا واحدا و الغالب عليه الى مصبه الخابور فيمر فيسقى الضياع³ التى فى شمال قرقيسيا و يصب فى الفرات بقرقيسيا فى الجانب الشرقى و يخرج من الهرماس ايضا نهر يقال له الشرثار اوله من عند سكير العباس يمر فى وسط البرية و يصب فى دجلة اسفل من تكريت بعد ان يمر بالحضر و يقطع جبل بارما⁴ *

¹ MS. الدهانته.

² MS. باحروان.

³ F. 32 b.

⁴ MS. بارما.

ويصب اليه ايضا نهر من عين التمر يمر بارضها ثم يمر الى البرية
ويصب في الفرات اسفل من مدينة هيت في الجانب الغربى *
[IV.] فاما الانهار التي تستمد منها هذه الانهار الصابة في الفرات
فهي انهار كبيرة * فمنها نهر ارسناس يصب اليه نهر يقال له نهر الذئب
مخرجه من جبل في ناحية قاليقلا يدور فيمر بحصون كثيرة ويصب
في ارسناس فوق مدينة شمشاط بشئ يسير * ويصب الى هذا النهر
ايضا نهر يقال له السلقط¹ مخرجه من جبل مزور² يمر بحصون
كثيرة ويصب في ارسناس اسفل مدينة شمشاط وجبلها بقليل *
ويصب الى نهر ابريق نهر يقال له زمرة و مخرجه من جبل
مرور فوق مخرج نهر لوقمية بقليل و مصبه في نهر ابريق اسفل من
القعة بشئ يسير *
ويصب الى نهر جرجارية نهر يقال له نهر عوث مخرجه من جبل
في ناحية ابريق و مصبه في نهر جرجارية *
ويصب الى نهر قباقب نهر يقال له قراقيس³ مخرجه من بحر
بلاد الروم يجئ الى قريب من باب⁴ زبطة⁵ ويصب في قباقب *
ويصب في قباقب ايضا نهر الزربوق⁶ و مخرجه من جبل بين ملطية
و حصن منصور و مصبه في قباقب اسفل من نهر قراقيس و يحمل
من نهر الزرنوق نهر يقال له نهر ملطية فيسقى ضياعا و يصب في
قباقب اسفل من نهر الزرنوق و يحمل من هذا النهر قناة ملطية يمر
فيدخل المدينة و يخرج منها و يصب في قباقب اسفل القنطرة *

¹ MS. سلقط but below section XVIII. with the article.

² MS. مرور. See note to the translation.

³ MS. without points, below pointed.

⁴ F. 33 a.

⁵ MS. زبطة.

⁶ MS. in one place الزربوق, in another الزرنوق.

ويصب في قباقب ايضا نهر يقال له حوريث¹ اوله عين زنيثا
يصب الى بحيرات ويمر بالقرب من مدينة الحدت و يصب في
قباقب على سمته *

ويصب الى حوريث نهر يقال له العرجان اوله من جبل الريش
ويصب في حوريث ومن العرجان قناة الحدت واليه تصب *
[V.] معرفة الانهار التي تحمل منه و تصب في دجلة *

يحمل منه نهر سعيد اوله تحت القبة التي تعرف بقم نهر سعيد تمر
الضياح التي في غربى الفرات و تمر فتسقى ضياح الرحبة فتسقى
و تصب في الفرات فوق دالية مالك بن طوق بعد ما يتفرع منه
انهار في ضياح الدالية في الجانب الغربى *

ويحمل منه ايضا نهر يقال له دجيل اوله فوق قرية الرب بفرسخ
او اكثر ثم يمر في العراض² ويتفرع منه انهار كثيرة تسقى ضياح مسكن
وقطربل وما يليها من الرساتيق و يصب في دجلة³ بين عكبرا
وبغداد *

ويحمل⁴ منه ايضا نهر يقال له نهر عيسى اوله عند طول سحن
وعرض لبك وعلى فوهته قنطرة مهولة يقال لها قنطرة دوما و دوما
قرية رابية الفرات والنهر يمر النهر جاريا فيسقى طسوج فيروزسابور
ويمر بقرى و ضياح على جانبيه و اذا صار الى المحول يتفرع منه
انهار مدينة السلام و سنذكرة فيما بعد ثم يمر الى الياسرية و عليه
هناك قنطرة و هي قنطرة الياسرية ثم يمر في وسط بادوريا⁵ من جانبا
المشرقى ثم يمر الى الرومية و عليه هناك قنطرة تعرف بالرومية

¹ MS. here and below حوريث. See note to the translation.

² MS. العراض.

³ MS. الدجلة.

⁴ F. 33 b.

⁵ MS. نادرا.

ويمر الى الزياتين¹ [و عليه هناك قنطرة تعرف بالزياتين]
ثم يمر الى موضع باعة الاشنان و عليه هناك قنطرة تعرف بقنطرة
الاشنان ثم يمر الى موضع باعة الشوك و عليه هناك قنطرة
تعرف بقنطرة الشوك ثم يمر الى موضع باعة الرومان و عليه هناك
قنطرة تعرف بقنطرة الرومان ثم يمر الى قنطرة المغيض و المغيض ثم
يمر الى قنطرة البستان ثم يمر الى قنطرة المعبدى ثم يمر الى قنطرة
بنى زريق و يصب في دجلة اسفل من قصر عيسى بن موسى في
مدينة السلام في الجانب الغربى *

ويحمل منه ايضا نهر يقال له نهر صرصر اوله اسفل من دمما بثلثة
فراسخ وهو نهر كبير وهو ذوب² يسقى منه بدوالى و الشوايف
و عليه جسر و ضياع و قرى و يمر ببعض بادوريا و مصبه في دجلة
بين بغداد و المداين و هو فوق المداين باربعة فراسخ في الجانب
الغربى³ *

ويحمل منه ايضا نهر يقال له نهر الملك اوله اسفل من فوهة نهر
صرصر بخمسة فراسخ و هو نهر كثير الضياع خصب و عليه جسر و قرى
كثيرة و عمارات و يتفرع منه انهار كثيرة و هو طسوج من السواد
و مصبه في دجلة اسفل من المداين بثلثة فراسخ في الجانب
الغربى *

ويحمل منه ايضا نهر يقال له [نهر] كوئى اوله⁴ اسفل من نهر
الملك بثلثة فراسخ و هو نهر كثير الضياع و القرى و عليه جسر و
يتفرع منه انهار تسقى طسوج كوئى من كورة اردشير بابكان⁵ و بعض

¹ Added from Yāqūt IV. 842. MS. الزياتين.

² MS. ذوب. Cf. *Marāsīd* I. 368.

³ F. 34 a.

⁴ MS. اوله من اسفل.

⁵ MS. بابكان.

طسوج نهر جوبر¹ و يمر بكوثى ربا و يصب فى دجلة اسفل المداين
بعشرة فراسخ فى الجانب الغربى *

[VI.] فاذا جاوز الفرات نهر كوثرى بستة فراسخ انقسم قسمين
فيمر الفرات الى قنطرة الكوفة و يماس مدينة الكوفة و عليه جسر
هناك و يمر الى البطايح *

و يمر القسم الآخر نهرا عظيما اعظم من الفرات و اعرض و هو
النهر الذى يقال له سُورًا الاعلى يمر بقرى و ضياع يتفرع منه انهار
كثيرة تسقى طسوج سورا و بربيسما² و باروسما و يمر بازا مدينة قصر
ابن هبيرة بينهما اقل من ميل و هناك على النهر جسر و هو جسر
سُورًا و يحمل منه نهر ابى رحا اوله فوق القصر بفرسخ و يمر هذا النهر
مع مدينة القصر و يصب الى سورا اسفل من القصر بفرسخ و يمر نهر
سورا بين القصر مادا الى³ ستة فراسخ فيحمل منه هناك نهر يقال له
نهر سورا الاسفل و على فوهة هذا النهر قنطرة عظيمة يقال له قنطرة
القامغان و الماء فيها منصب عظيم يمر هذا النهر بقرى و عمارات
ويتفرع منه انهار كثيرة تسقى طسوج بابل و خطرنية⁴ و الجامعين
و الفلوجة العليا و السفلى و يمر هذا النهر فيما بين مدينة بابل و يمر
بالجامعين المحدث و القديم و يمر الى حمدا باد و خطرنية و يمر الى
تسين و يتفرع منه هناك انهار تسقى طسوج جنبلًا⁵ و ما والاها و
يصب فى النهر الذى ياخذ من الفرات و هو البداة اسفل من الكوفة
فى سوادها و يحمل من نهر سورا الاسفل نهر يقال له النرس⁶ اوله مع
الجامع القديم يمر بقرى و ضياع و يتفرع منه انهار تسقى سواد الكوفة

¹ MS. جوبر.

² MS. بربيسما.

³ F. 34 b.

⁴ MS. خطرنيه below with points.

⁵ حملا.

⁶ MS. المرس below with points.

او بعضه ويمر بالحارثية و بحمام عمرو من قنطرة القامغان الى فم
النرس ستة فراسخ و من فم النرس الى حمام عمر ستة فراسخ فيصب
في البداة التي في سواد الكوفة الذي في شرقي الفرات *
فانما جاوز سورا الاعلى قنطرة القامغان سمى هناك الصراة الكبيرة
يمر بالعقر و بقرى و ضياع ثم يمر الى صابرنيثا و يتفرع منه هناك
انهار تسقى الضياع التي في غربيه *

و يحمل منه نهر يقال له صراة جاماس¹ اوله عند النواعير و يمر
فيستقى الضياع هناك و يصب في النهر الكبير اسفل مدينة النيل
بثلثة فراسخ و تمر الصراة الكبيرة مدينة النيل و عليه² هناك قنطرة
يقال لها الماسى فانما جاوز النهر القنطرة سمى النيل فيمر بقرى و
عمارات الى موضع يقال له الهول بينه و بين النعمانية التي على
شاطئ دجلة اقل من فرسخ و منه يحول الى دجلة ثم يطيف³ النهر
من هناك فيمر الى نهر سابس القرية الراكبة دجلة و يسمى هناك
نهر سابس و يصب في دجلة اسفل من القرية بفرسخ *

فهذه الانهار التي تصب و تحمل من نهر الفرات و قد فرغ منها
و بقي عليك استخراج انهار دجلة التي تصب اليها و تحمل منها
و انا مبين لك ذلك ان شاء الله تعالى *

[VII.] فمن ذلك نهر يقال له نهر الذيب يصب الى دجلة
اوله من جبل عند طول سحر و عرض لطة و يجئ من ناحية ارزن و
يصب في دجلة عند طول سحر و عرض لول *

و يصب اليها ايضا نهر يقال له [فان]⁴ اوله من عين في جبل

¹ MS. جاماس.

² F. 35 a.

³ MS. بطق.

⁴ MS. فانس.

عند طول مطاة سطة¹ و عرض لطاك و مصبه في دجلة عند طول
سطة¹ و عرض لول *

ويصب اليها ايضا نهر يقال له نهر باسانفا² اوله من ارض ميافارقين
و مصبه في دجلة فوق جزيرة ابن عمر بخمسة³ فراسخ في الجانب
الشرقي *

ويصب اليها انهار الزوابي فاول احدها من جبل عند طول عال
و عرض لعل مصبه في دجلة عند طول سطل و عرض له ل في الجانب
الشرقي *

و الزاب الثاني اوله عند طول عب⁴ و عرض له⁴ و مصبه في
دجلة عند طول سطم و عرض له⁴ في الجانب الشرقي *

ويصب اليها ايضا نهر يقال له الشرثار اوله من نهر الهرماس
نصيبين يمر فيقطع جبلا معترضا له و يجئ في البرية و يمر بالخصر
و يجئ في بيرة ساجار و يصب في دجلة فوق مدينة تكريت بفرسخين
في الجانب الغربي *

ويصب اليها ايضا⁵ اسفل الحصن حصن كيفا [نهر سربط]⁶ لم تذكره
و ساتيد ماد⁷ و لم تذكره *

[VIII.] معرفة الانهار التي تحمل منها و اليها تصب كلها *
يحمل من دجلة من غربها⁸ نهر يقال له الاسحاقى اوله اسفل من
تكريت بشئ يسير يمر في غربي دجلة عليه ضياع و عمارات و يمر

¹ MS. مطاه or مطاه, without points.

² MS. باسانفا.

³ MS. خمس.

⁴ F. 35 b.

⁵ MS. اسل.

⁶ MS. س. مط.

⁷ MS. ساتيد ماد.

⁸ MS. شرقها.

بطيرهان¹ ويجئى الى قصر المعتصم بالله المعروف بقصر الجص ويسقى
 الضياع التى هناك فى غربى مدينة سر من راي المعروفات بالاولة و
 الثانية والثالثة الى السابعة ويصب فى دجلة بازاء المطيرة *
 ويحمل منه ايضا من شرقيها القاطول الاعلى الكسروى اوله اسفل
 دور الحارث بشى بسير مماس لقصر المتوكل على الله المعروف
 بالجعفرى وعليه هناك قنطرة حجارة ثم يمر الى الايتاخية وعليه
 هناك قنطرة كسروية ثم يمر الى المحمدية وعليه هناك جسر
 زواريق ثم يمر الى الاجمة قرية كبيرة ثم يمر الى الشاذروان ثم يمر الى
 المأمونية² وهى قرية كبيرة ثم الى القناطر وهذه قرى³ عامرة وضياع
 متصلة ثم يمر الى قرية يقال لها صولى⁴ وبعقوبا⁵ ويسمى هناك
 تامرا ثم يمر الى باجسرى⁶ ويجئى الى الجسر المعروف بجسر
 النهروان ويعرف النهر هناك بالنهروان ثم يمر الى الشاذروان الاعلى
 ثم يمر الى جسر بوران ثم يمر الى عبرتا ثم الى يزراطية⁷ ثم الى
 الشاذروان الاسفل وهذه قرى وضياع جلييلة ثم يمر الى أسكاف بنى
 الجنيد وهى مدينة فى جانبين والنهر يشقها ثم يمر بين قرى متصلة
 وضياع مادة الى ان يصب فى دجلة اسفل مادرايا⁸ بشى يسير فى
 الجانب الشرقى *

[IX.] ويحمل منه ايضا الثلثة القواطيل او ايلها كلها موضع واحد
 اسفل مدينة سر من راي بفرسخين بين المطيرة و بركوارا ويسمى

¹ MS. بطيران.

² MS. المأمونية below as corrected.

³ F. 36 a.

⁴ Below written صولى.

⁵ MS. ناعقوبا.

⁶ MS. باحسرى.

⁷ MS. possibly يزراطية. In the *Tanbih*, p. 53 يزراطيا.

⁸ MS. مادرايا.

الاعلى منها اليهودى و عليه قنطرة وصيف و يمر مادا الى ان يصب
 فى القاطول الكسروى اسفل المأمونية والثانى يقال له المأمونى وهو
 الوسط و يمر بقرى و ضياع و هو طسوج من السواد و مصبه فى القاطول
 الكسروى اسفل من قرية القناطر و الثالث يقال له ابو الجند و هو
 السفلى و هو اجلها و اعمرها شاطيا يمر بين ضياع و قرى و يتفرع منه
 انهار تسقى الضياع التى على شاطىء دجلة الشرقى و يصب اكثرها
 الى دجلة ثم يمر الى طفر و عليه هناك جسر ثم يمر فى القاطول
 الكسروى فوق صولى¹ باربعة فراسخ *

و يحمل من تامرا نهر يقال له الخالص يمر بين ضياع و قرى و يحمل
 منه انهار كثيرة² و هو نهر كبير تجرى فيه السفن و يصب فى دجلة
 اسفل الراشدية بفرسخين شرقى دجلة *

و يحمل من النهران نهر يقال له نهر ديالى اوله اسفل الجسر
 بميل يمر بقرى و ضياع و يصب فى دجلة اسفل بغداد بثلاثة فراسخ *
 و يحمل من دجلة انهار كثيرة فى اسفل مدينة واسط تصب كلها
 فى البطيخة و بعضها فى بعض اكبرها و اجلها ما قد ذكرناه * منها نهر
 يقال له نهر بان اوله³ اسفل واسط مع القرية التى تسمى نهر بان ثم
 يمر بقرى و ضياع و يقلب و يصب فى البطيخة * و يحمل منها ايضا نهر
 يقال له نهر قريش اوله من القرية التى تسمى نهر قريش يمر بقرى
 و ضياع و يصب فى البطيخة غربى [واسط]⁴ * و يحمل منه ايضا نهر يقال
 له السيب و هو سيب العقر و مدينة العقر راكبتة اوله اسفل نهر بان
 بفرسخين يمر فى قرى و ضياع و يمر بالجوامد و يتفرع منه ايضا انهار

¹ MS. صولى.

² F. 36 b.

³ MS. اول.

⁴ Added.

كثيرة ويقلب فيصب في البطيحة * ويحمل منها ايضا نهر يقال له
بُرْدُودى اوله مع القرية التى تسمى الشديديّة وهو نهر جليل ويصب
في البطيحة *

فهذه انهار دجلة الصابة اليها والحاملة منها وقد بينا لك
فافهمها *

[X.] فاما انهار مدينة السلام الجارية فيها ومنها شرب من يقرب
اليها فاول ما نبدأ به من ذلك الانهار التى فى الجانب الشرقى
وهو عسكر المهدي * من ذلك نهر يقال له نهر موسى اوله من النهر بين
فى ظهر قصر المعتضد¹ المعروف بالثريا واول النهر بين من النهروان
فوق الجسر بشئ يسير يمر جاريا ويتفرع منه انهار كثيرة تسقى سواد
بغداد ويمر فى شرقى الثريا وعليه قرى وضياع ويسقى بعض طسوج
كلواذى ويصب فى دجلة اسفل من مدينة السلام بأقل من
فرسخين *

ويحمل منه ايضا النهر المعروف بنهر موسى واوله فى الموضع
الذى تقدم ذكره يمر فيدخل قصر الثريا ويدور فيه ويخرج منه ثم
يصير الى موضع يقال له مقسم الماء فينقسم هناك ثلثة اقسام
فيمر الاول منها الى باب سوق الدواب ويجتاز بباب عمار ويحمل
منه هناك نهر يمر الى دار البانوجة² ويفنى هناك * ويمر نهر موسى
فيدخل من باب سوق الدواب ويمر الى باب مُقَيَّر الكبير فيحمل
منه هناك نهر يمر الى دار ابن الخصيب فى الشارع المعروف بسعد
الوصيف ويخرج الى العلافين فيصب فيه³ النهر الذى حفرة المعتضد

¹ F. 37 a.

² MS. المانوجه وبنى.

³ MS. فى.

للبحيرة¹ ويمر في الشارع المعروف خلف الحوانيت الى العلافين
باب المخرم² ويمر في قنطرة العباس التي في باب المخرم ويمر في
الشارع الى المخرم ويفنى هناك *

ويمر نهر موسى الى قنطرة الانصار فيحمل منه هناك ثلثه انهار
يصب احدها في حوض الانصار والثاني في حوض هيلانة³ والثالث
في حوض داود ويمر نهر موسى الى شارع درب الطويل وقصر
المعتصم بالله فيحمل منه هناك نهر يمر الى سوق العطش مادا في
وسط شارع كرم العرش ويصب في⁴ دار الوزير على بن محمد بن
الفرات ويفنى هناك * ويمر نهر موسى ملاصقا لقصر المعتصم الى ان
يخرج الى الشارع الاعظم ثم يخرج الى شارع عمرو الرومي ثم
يدخل الى بستان الزاهر فيسقيه ثم يصب في دجلة⁵ اسفل البستان
بشي يسير *

ثم يمر النهر الثاني من المقسم الى باب ابرز فيدخل الى بغداد
من هناك ويسمى نهر المعلى ويمر بين الدور الى باب سوق الثلاثاء⁶
ثم يدخل قصر المعتضد المعروف بالفردوس ويدور فيه ويصب الى
دجلة مع القصر *

ويمر النهر الثالث من المقسم الى باب قطيعة موشجين⁷ ثم
يمر الى باب العامة ثم يدخل الى القصر المعروف بالحسنى فيدور
فيه ويصب في دجلة مع قصر المكتفى بالله المعروف بالتاج *

¹ MS. البحر. In place of this line the MSS. of Al-Khatib have the following: ويمر في حوض العباس الى حوض العباس.

² MS. here and below المخرم.

³ MS. هيلانه.

⁴ F. 37 b.

⁵ MS. الدجلة.

⁶ MS. الثلاثاء.

⁷ MS. موشجين, Al-Khatib, موشجين.

ويحمل من النهر بين نهر يقال له نهر على اوله فوق نهر موسى
 بشئ يسير يمر معترضا لطريق خراسان الى قرية الاثلة و يمر فيسقى
 طسوج نهر بوق و رستاق الأفروط و يصب في نهر من الخالص *
 ويحمل من نهر الفضل نهر يقال له نهر الجعفرية يمر بقرى و ضياع
 و يصب في سواد بغداد الذي في شمالها * و يحمل من نهر الجعفرية
 نهر يقال له نهر السور يمر مع سور بغداد اوله من نهر الجعفرية يمر
 بباب خراسان و باب البردان و يصب في نهر الفضل¹ الذي يصب
 بباب الشماسية *

ويحمل من نهر الخالص الذي قلنا يصب اسفل الراشدية نهر يقال
 له نهر الفضل يجئ الى باب الشماسية يمر فيسقى ضياعا عليه و قرى
 و يصب في دجلة مع باب الشماسية و يحمل من نهر الشماسية
 وهو² نهر الفضل نهر يقال له نهر المهدي اوله فوق الباب بشئ يسير
 يمر فيدخل الى مدينة السلام من باب الشماسية و يجئ الى سويقة
 جعفر و يمر في الشارع المعروف بشارع نهر المهدي ثم يجئ الى
 قنطرة البردان و يدخل في دار الروميين ثم يخرج الى سويقة نصر بن
 مالك ثم يدخل الرصافة في مسجد الجامع الى بستان حفص
 و يصب في جوف قصر الرصافة في بركة فيه *

ويحمل من هذا النهر نهر اوله في سويقة نصر مع الابواب الحديد
 يمر في وسط شارع باب خراسان ماذا الى ان يصب في نهر السور³
 بباب خراسان * فهذه انهار الجانب الشرقي و يبقى انهار الجانب
 الغربي و انا ابينها ان شاء الله *

1 MS. gives الخالص in error.

2 F. 38 a.

3 The MS. gives in error نهر الفضل.

[XI.] من ذلك نهر يقال له الصراة اوله من نهر عيسى فوق قرية المحول الكبير بشى يسير يمر هذا النهر فيسقى ضياع و بساتين بادوريا و يتفرع منه انهار كثيرة و يدخل بغداد فيمر بقنطرة العباس ثم يمر الى قنطرة الصينيات ثم يمر الى قنطرة رحا¹ البطريق و هي قنطرة² الزبد ثم يمر الى القنطرة العتيقة ثم يمر الى³ القنطرة الجديدة ثم يصب في دجلة اسفل الخلد⁴ بشى يسير*
 و يحمل من الصراة نهر يقال له خندق⁵ طاهر اوله من نهر الصراة اسفل من فوهته بفرسخ يمر فيسقى الضياع و يدور حول مدينة السلام مما يلي الحربية⁶ فيمر الى باب الانبار و عليه هناك قنطرة ثم يمر الى باب الحديد⁷ و عليه هناك قنطرة و يمر الى باب حرب و عليه هناك قنطرة و يمر الى باب قطرب و عليه هناك قنطرة رحا ام جعفر⁸ و يمر في وسط قطيعة ام جعفر و يصب في دجلة فوق دار اسحاق بن ابراهيم الطاهري بشى يسير*
 و يحمل من الخندق نهر⁹ يقال له الصراة الصغيرة يجيى قاطعا للساتين يمر ببعض بادوريا¹⁰ و يصب في الصراة الكبيرة اسفل من رحا البطريق بشى يسير*
 و يحمل من نهر عيسى نهر يقال له كرخايا اوله اسفل المحول الكبير

¹ MS. روحا.

² MS. الرد.

³ MS. قنطرة.

⁴ MS. الخلد.

⁵ MS. خندق.

⁶ MS. الحربية.

⁷ MS. الحديد.

⁸ F. 38 b.

⁹ MS. نهر.

¹⁰ MS. بادوريا.

بشئ يسير يمر في وسط طسوج بادوريا ويتفرع منه انهار ينبث في بادوريا تسمى وتعرف وعلى جانبيه قرى وضياع و بساتين مادا الى ان يدخل بغداد من باب ابي قبيصة¹ و يمر الى قنطرة اليهود و يمر الى قنطرة درب الحجارة و يمر الى قنطرة البيمارستان و باب محوّل فيتفرع منه هناك انهار الكرخ كلها *

فمن ذلك اذا جاوز كرخايا قنطرة البيمارستان فاول الانهار نهر يقال له نهر رزين يمر فيأخذ في روض حميد فيدور فيه ثم يمر الى سويقة ابي الورد ثم يمر الى بركة زلزل فيدور فيها ثم يمر الى باب طاق الحراني ثم يصب في الصراة الكبيرة اسفل من القنطرة الجديدة مع القنطرة و يعرف بنهر ابي عتاب *

و اذا صار نهر رزين باب سويقة ابي الورد يحمل منه نهر² يعبر في قورج على القنطرة³ العتيقة فيمر مادا الى شارع باب الكوفة فيدخل [نهر]⁴ من هناك الى بعض آثار مدينة ابي جعفر المنصور وينقطع فيها و يمر النهر من باب الكوفة مادا الى شارع القحاطبة يمر الى باب الشام و يمر في شارع الجسر الى طرف الزبيدية⁵ و يقنى هناك *

ثم يمر نهر كرخايا من البيمارستان⁶ فاذا صار الى الدرابات يسمى هناك العمود وهو النهر الذي يتفرع منه انهار الكرخ الداخلة فيمر النهر من هناك الى موضع قريب منه فيسمى هناك رحا ابي القسم الى موضع يعرف بالواسطيين ثم يمر الى موضع يعرف بالحققة⁷

¹ MS. قبصة.

² MS. نهر.

³ MS. قنطرة.

⁴ Added.

⁵ MS. الزبيده.

⁶ F. 39 a.

⁷ MS. بالحققة.

فيحمل منه هناك نهر¹ يقال له نهر البزازين² يعطف فيخرج في شارع
المصور ثم يمر الى دار كعب ثم يخرج الى باب الكرخ ثم يدخل
البزازين ثم يمر الى الخزازين ثم يدخل في اصحاب الصابون ثم
يصب في دجلة تحت دار الجوز*
ثم يمر النهر الكبير من الحففة³ الى طرف مربعة الزيات فيعطف
منه هناك نهر يقال له نهر الدجاج يمر فاخذ مادا الى اصحاب
القنى ثم يمر الى اصحاب القصب و شارع القيارين و يصب في
دجلة في اصحاب الطعام*
ثم يمر⁴ النهر الكبير من مربعة الزيات الى دوار الحمار فيعطف
منه هناك نهر يقال له نهر الكلاب⁵ ياخذ في شارع قطيعة الكلاب
مادا يصب [تحت] قنطرة الشوك⁶ في نهر عيسى بن موسى* ثم يمر
هذا النهر الكبير من دوار الحمار الى موضع يقال له مربعة صالح فيعطف
منه هناك نهر يقال له نهر القلائين⁷ يمر مادا الى السواقين ثم الى اصحاب
القصب و يصب هناك في نهر الدجاج و يصيران نهرا واحدا*
ثم يمر النهر الكبير من مربعة صالح الى موضع يعرف بنهر طابق ثم
يصب في نهر عيسى في موضع يعرف بمشعة الأس بحضرة دار
بطيخ فهذه انهار الكرخ وبقى انهار الحربية⁸ و انا ابينها ان شاء الله
تعالى*⁹

¹ MS. نهر.

² MS. البزازين.

³ MS. الحففة. The reading given is that of the MSS. of Al-Khaṭīb.

⁴ MS. يمر الى النهر.

⁵ MS. كلاب.

⁶ MS. الشولى. From Al-Khaṭīb.

⁷ MS. القلابين.

⁸ MS. الحربية.

⁹ F. 39 b.

[XII.] ومن ذلك نهر يحمل من دجيل يقال له نهر بطاطيا
 اوله من اسفل فوهة دجيل بستة¹ فراسخ يمر فيسقى ضياعا و قري و
 يمر في وسط مسكن و يصب في الضياع و يفنى فيها * و يحمل منه نهر
 اسفل جسر² بطاطيا بشئ يسير يجي نحو مدينة السلام فيمر على
 عبارة قورج قنطرة باب الانبار ثم يدخل بغداد من هناك فيمر في
 شارع باب الانبار و يمر في شارع الكبش و يفنى هناك *

و يحمل من نهر بطاطيا نهر³ اسفل من النهر الاول يجي نحو بغداد
 فيمر على عبارة يقال لها عبارة الكوخ بين باب حرب و باب
 الحديد و يمر فيدخل بغداد من هناك و يمر في شارع دجيل الى
 مربعة⁴ الفرس فيحمل منه هناك نهر يقال له نهر دكان⁵ الابنآ و يفنى
 هناك * و يمر النهر الكبير من مربعة الفرس الى قنطرة ابي الجون⁶
 فيحمل منه هناك نهر³ الى كتاب اليتامى الى مربعة شميب و
 يصب هناك في نهر الشارع سنذكرة * ثم يمر النهر الكبير من قنطرة ابي
 الجون⁶ الى شارع قصر هاني ثم يمر الى بستان القس و يصب في
 النهر الذي يمر بشارع القحاطبة *

و يحمل من نهر بطاطيا نهر اوله من قناة الكوخ يجي الى بغداد
 و يمر على عبارة قورج على قنطرة باب حرب و يدخل بغداد من
 هناك و يمر في وسط شارع باب حرب الى شارع دار ابن ابي عون

¹ MS. بست.

² نهر اسفل جسر.

³ MS. نهر.

⁴ MS. مدينة.

⁵ MS. مردكان الينا.

⁶ MS. الجون.

ويجئ الى مربعة ابي العباس ثم يجئ الى مربعة شبيب فيصب فيه النهر الذي ذكرناه ثم يمر الى باب الشام *

فهذه انهار مدينة السلام¹ قد بينها و هذه الانهار التي في الحربية هي قنى تحت الارض و اويلها مكشوفة فافهم ذلك ان شاء الله تعالى *

[XIII.] فاما انهار البصرة و صفة البطيحة و دجلة العوراء فانا ابين لك ذلك كله و بالله التوفيق * صفة البطيحة * و ذلك ان اول البطيحة القطر و هو زقاق قصب نابت و بعده هور و الهور هو ماء كثير ليس فيه قصب و اسم هذا الهور بحصى² و بعده زقاق قصب ثم الهور الثاني و اسمه بكمصى و بعده زقاق قصب ثم الهور الثالث اسمه بصريانا و بعده زقاق قصب ثم الهور الرابع و اسمه المحمدية و فيه منارة حسان و هو اعظم الاهوار و بعده زقاق قصب و هو ماد الى نهر ابي الاسد و يمر النهر بالحالة و قرية الكوانين و يصب الى دجلة العوراء *

[XIV.] صفة دجلة العوراء * و اذا الخارج من نهر ابي الاسد فان دجلة العوراء تستقبله معترضة له فالطريق الى البصرة على يمين الخارج و يسرته الى عبدسى و المذار و ليس لها هناك مصب و لا مخرج بل هي نهاية يلحقها المد و الجزر فاذا عطف الخارج من نهر ابي الاسد منه مر مادا الى الدسكرة و المفتح و عبادان و سليمانان³ و يصب في البحر اسفل عبادان و سا ذكر لك مواقع هذه القرى و المدن في جانبي دجلة العوراء في وقت الطرق و المسالك ان شاء الله تعالى *

¹ F. 40 a.

² MS. بحصى.

³ MS. سليمانان.

[XV.] صفة انهار البصرة¹ * و ذلك ان البصرة على فيض لها وهذه
 الانهار تصب اليه والمد والجزر يلحق الى اواخرها ويجزر منها *
 واول نهر يلتاق من نهر ابي الاسد يمناة وهو ماد الى البصرة نهر
 يقال له نهر المرأة وبينه وبين نهر ابي الاسد فرسخان * والثاني
 نهر يقال له نهر الدير وبينه وبين نهر المرأة ثلثة فراسخ *
 والثالث نهر يقال له بشق شيرين² وبينه وبين الدير ستة فراسخ *
 والرابع نهر يقال له نهر معقل وبينه وبين بشق شيرين فرسخان *
 والخامس نهر يقال له نهر الابلتة والابلتة هي فوهته وبينه وبين نهر
 [معقل]³ اربعة فراسخ * والسادس نهر يقال له اليهودى وبينه وبين
 الابلتة اربعة فراسخ * والسابع نهر يقال له نهر ابي النخيب وبينه
 وبين اليهودى فرسخ * والثامن نهر يقال له نهر الامير وبينه وبين نهر
 ابي النخيب فرسخ * والتاسع نهر يقال له نهر القندل وبينه وبين
 نهر الامير فرسخان *

وهذه الانهار التسعة كلها تصب الى فيض البصرة و اطوالها اربعة
 فراسخ و اقل و اكثر و الفيض يصب عند عبادان في دجلة العوراء في
 وقت الجزر وهو كثير * وعبادان قريبة من البحر والبحر قريب منها
 و ما في هذه الانهار نهر الا ويحمل منه انهار⁴ كثيرة تسقى تلك
 الضياع * فهذه انهار البصرة المشهورة العظام التى فى الجانب
 الغربى من دجلة العوراء وبقى ما فى الجانب الشرقى وانا ابين
 لك ذلك ان شاء الله تعالى *

¹ F. 40 b.

² MS. سمرين.

³ MS. in error, نهر الابلتة.

⁴ MS. انهارا.

[XVI] ومن ذلك اذا جاوز النحارج من نهر [ابى] الاسد فاؤل
 الانهار نهر يقال له نهر المذار¹ يحمل منه² انهار³ كثيرة و اخره سكر و
 طوله ستة فراسخ * والثانى نهر يقال له نهر الريان وبينه وبين المبارك⁴
 ثلثة عشر فرسخا و يحمل منه انهار كثيرة وقد كان طريقا الى الاهواز
 فسكر و طوله ستة فراسخ * و الثالث⁵ نهر يقال له نهر بيان⁶ و هو الان
 طريق الاهواز يمر من فمه الى حصن مهدي⁷ ثم الى فم دهستان و هو
 البحر ثم الى سوق بحر ثم يمر في نهر السدرة ثم الى البحر و من سوق
 بحر⁸ الى المسرقان نهر الاهواز مقدار يسير في العراض ثم يركب الى
 مدن الاهواز و سنذكر المسرقان فيما بعد ان شاء الله تعالى *

[XVIII.] فهذه انهار البصرة الكبار المشهورة فاذا فرغت من عملها
 فينبغى لك ان تعمل الانهار التى تصب الى الانهار الرومية و مدينة
 ملطية حتى تكون قد فرغت من جميع ما جازة هذان النهران
 العظيمان الشريهان و لا يبقى عليك فيهما شئ ان شاء الله تعالى *
 من ذلك نهر ارسناس يصب اليه نهر يقال له نهر الذئب اوله من
 جبل في ناحية قاليقلا يدور فيمر بحصون كثيرة و يصب في ارسناس
 فوق شمشاط بشئ يسير *

و يصب الى ارسناس ايضا نهر يقال له نهر السلقط⁹ و مخرجه من

¹ MS. المنار.

² F. 41 a.

³ MS. انهارا.

⁴ Query to read المذار.

⁵ MS. الرابع.

⁶ MS. بيان.

⁷ MS. مصدى.

⁸ MS. here بحر and below بحر.

⁹ Above section IV. سلقط.

جبل مزور¹ يمر بحصون كثيرة ويصب في ارسناس اسفل من مدينة
شمشاط بميل مع جبلها المحيط بها *
ومن ذلك نهر ابريق ويصب اليه نهر يقال له نهر زمرة² مخرجه
من جبل مرور فوق مخرج نهر لوقية³ بقليل ومصبه في نهر ابريق
اسفل من القلعة بشئ يسير *
ومن ذلك نهر جرجارية ويصب اليه ايضا نهر يقال له نهر عوث
مخرجه من جبل ناحية ابريق ومصبه في نهر جرجارية في وسط
مرج⁴ هناك *

ومن ذلك نهر قباقب يصب اليه نهر يقال له نهر قراقيس
مخرجه من تخوم بلاد الروم يجئ الى قريب من باب زبطرة⁵ ثم
يصب في قباقب * ويصب اليه ايضا نهر يقال له نهر الزرنوق و
مخرجه من جبل بين ملطية وبين حصن منصور ومصبه في
قباقب اسفل من نهر قراقيس *

ويحمل من نهر الزرنوق نهر يقال له نهر ملطية يمر فيسقى ضياع
ملطية ويصب في قباقب اسفل من نهر الزرنوق *

ويحمل من نهر ملطية نهر وهو قناة نهر ملطية يمر فيسقى بساتين
لها ويدخل الى رضى ملطية ويشق المدينة ويخرج منها ويصب
في قباقب اسفل من قنطرة قباقب مع القنطرة *

تمت انهار العراق دجلة والفرات وما يصب اليهما ويحمل
منهما بعون الله وقوته *

¹ MS. مرور.

² MS. زمرة.

³ F. 41 b.

⁴ MS. مرج.

⁵ زبطرة.

[XVII.]¹ معرفة نهر دجيل² الا هواز * وذلك ان اوله من جبل
بارض اصفهان يمر بمدن الاهواز ويصب في البحر الشرقى ويصب اليه
ايضا نهر جنديسابور الذى عليه قنطرة الروم [اوله من]³ ناحية اصفهان
ثم يصب في دجيل الاهواز ويحمل من دجيل الاهواز نهر يقال له
المسرقان اوله فوق الشاذروان⁴ ويصب في البحر الشرقى *

¹ From f. 47 a. of the MS.

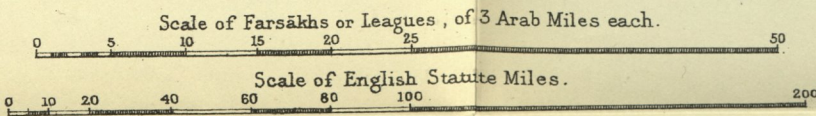
² MS. جيل.

³ Added.

⁴ MS. الشاذروان.



MAP
OF
MESOPOTAMIA
as described by
IBN SERAPION
— A.D. 900. —



Names of places which still exist, thus; Ar-Rakka. Modern names, thus; (Palu).
Names of places which no longer exist, thus; Al-Mubarik.
N. or Nahr = River; Hisn = Fortress; Jabal = Mountain.
Kantara = Bridge of arches, marked thus \times . Jisr = Bridge of boats, thus \equiv

TRANSLATION.

[SECTION I.]

ACCOUNT OF THE RIVER TIGRIS FROM ITS SOURCE TO ITS MOUTH.

Now the source of the Tigris is at a spring in longitude $64^{\circ} 40'$, or 65° , or another (says) $39^{\circ} 5'$, and in latitude $38^{\circ} 30'$. Passing to longitude $64^{\circ} 45'$, and latitude $37^{\circ} 45'$, with mountains to either side, it flows on even with the mountains to longitude $68^{\circ} 5'$ and latitude $38^{\circ} 5'$, going by the city of Āmid, which lies upon the stream.¹ Thence it passes on to Jazīra-Ibn-'Omar, surrounding the same, so that the city is as an island in the midst of the stream. Thence it passes to the city of Balad, which lies on its bank; and thence to the city of Al-Mawṣil (Mosul), likewise on the river side. Then it passes by the following:² Al-Hadītha, As-Sinn, As-Sūdaḳāniyya, Jabiltā, and Takrit. Next it comes to the city of Surra-man-raa (Samarrā),³ which lies on its bank. After this it passes the following: Al-Kādisiyya,⁴ Al-Ajama, Al-'Alth, Al-Ḥazīra,⁵ Aṣ-Ṣawāmi', 'Ukbarā, Awānā, Buṣrā,⁶ Bazūghā, Al-Baradān, Al-Mazrafa, Kaṭrabbul, Ash-Shammāsiyya, and next divides the City of Peace (Baghdād), which lies across the river on either bank. After this it runs on to Kalwādhā, and next to the city of Al-Madāin,⁷ passing through the midst of the same, which lies across on either bank of the stream. After this it flows by the following: As-Sīb,⁸ Dayr-al-'Āḳūl, Aṣ-Ṣāfiyya, Dayr Kunna, Humāniyya, Jarjarāy,⁹ An-Nu'māniyya, Jabbul, Nahr Sābūs, Fam-aṣ-Ṣilh, and thence it reaches Wāsiṭ,¹⁰ passing through the midst of the town, which lies across the stream and on either bank. From here it passes on to the following: Ar-Ruṣāfa,¹¹ Nahr Bān, Al-Fārūth, Dayr-al-'Ummāl, Al-Ḥawānīt, and then in longitude $78^{\circ} 5'$ and latitude $32^{\circ} 5'$ it flows out, at Al-Kaṭr, into the head of the Swamps, and this same place is in the midst of them.

Further on, if it please Allah Almighty, I will give an

account of these Swamps, and a description of the same, and of the streams which fall into them and which flow out of them, but this will be after concluding the subject of the Euphrates, and of the streams lying between it and the Tigris.

¹ The Arabs call the Tigris *Dijla* (without the article), and under this name (with certain modifications of pronunciation) the river has been known in all ages. In the Jewish Targums the word occurs under the form *Diglath*, which corresponds with the latter part of *Hiddekel*, the name under which the Tigris is mentioned in Genesis ii. 14.

Āmid, the Roman Amida, is the capital of the province of Diyār Bakr. The town is now more generally known by the name of the province, Diyār Bakr, which means "the habitations of the Bakr," an Arab tribe who had already settled here in Sassanian times. Yāḳūt (I. 66) says that Āmid was a very ancient city, on a height, being built of black stone, from which fact, doubtless, its modern name of Kara (or Black) Āmid is derived.

Jazīra-Ibn-'Omar, "the island of the son of Omar," is still a flourishing town. According to Yāḳūt (II. 79) it took its name from a certain Al-Ḥasan Ibn-'Omar of the Taghlib tribe, who founded this place, taking a wife from among the women of the country. The city has the Tigris going round it in a semicircle on the one side, and on the other side a ditch has been dug and filled with water, so that the town stands on an island.

Balad was the first stage, and seven leagues north of Mosul, and therefore at the place now marked by the ruins of Eski Mosul, where the road to Āmid and the one running west to Sinjār forked (Kudāma, p. 214). According to Yāḳūt (I. 715) the name was often written Balat, and it occupied the site of the ancient Persian town of Shahrābādh.

Al-Mawṣil (Mosul) became the capital of Upper Mesopotamia under the Omayyads; and Marwan II., the last Caliph of this dynasty, rebuilt the town and surrounded it with walls. According to Yāḳūt (IV. 682) the ancient Persian name of Mosul was Nawardashīr or Bawardashīr, and opposite, across the river, were the ruins of Nineveh.

² Between Mosul and Baghdād the high road lay along the eastern side of the Tigris, and it did not therefore pass through Takrīt, which stood on the western bank. The distances are given by Kudāma (p. 214) and others.

Al-Ḥadītha, "the New Town," stood at the junction of the Upper, or Greater Zāb, with the Tigris. The city was restored by the last Omayyad, Marwan II.; and according to Yāḳūt (II. 222) it was in Persian times also known as Nawkird, or "New City."

As-Sinn lay on the Tigris, according to the *Tanbih* (p. 53), one mile below the junction of the Lower or Lesser Zāb. It is, however, described by Muḳaddasi (p. 123) as having the latter river on its eastern side. According to Yāḳūt (III. 169) there were many Christian Churches here. The positions of Al-Ḥadītha and As-Sinn are fixed respectively by the two rivers Zāb, but no trace of either appears on the modern maps.

As-Sūdaḳāniyya was a stage on the high road, 10 leagues south of As-Sinn, and 14 north of Samarrā. Jabiltā lay five leagues south of As-Sūdaḳāniyya. Both of these towns have disappeared from the map, but by the distances in Kudāma (p. 214) Jabiltā must have been situated not far from, and nearly opposite to, Takrīt. The name of Jabiltā (or Jabultā), from the lack of diacritical points in the MS., has often been incorrectly read Ḥabultā (*e.g.* Muḳaddasi p. 135, but *cf.* Ibn Khurdādbih p. 93, note *k*); the initial *j* is, however, very clearly pointed in the MS. of Ibn Serapion. Jabiltā is further a mint city, but the

name on the coin-die was unfortunately likewise engraved without points. The town is not given in the Geographical Dictionaries of Yāḳūt or Bakri, where its position in the alphabetical list would have settled the question of the initial *j* or *h*; but under the form *Gebhiltā* the place is repeatedly mentioned in the Syriac Chronicle of Thomas of Margā (see *The Book of Governors*, E. A. W. Budge, II. 290), and this confirms the reading of Ibn Serapion.

Takrīt, with its strong castle, stands on the western bank of the Tigris. According to Yāḳūt (I. 861) the town dated from Persian days, having been founded by King Sābūr (Sapor), son of Ardashīr. It received its name from Takrīt, daughter of Wāil, ancestor of the Arab tribe of that name.

³ Samarrā, sometimes written Sāmīrā, was an ancient Persian town, the name of which the Caliph Al-Mu'taṣim changed, for the sake of good augury, into Surra-man-raa, meaning "Who sees it, rejoices." Samarrā, during more than half a century, was made the capital of the Caliphate, dating from A.H. 221 (836), when Al-Mu'taṣim betook himself thither with his court and body-guard; and Baghdād only regained its former pre-eminence in A.H. 279 (892), on the accession of Al-Mu'taḍid. Ya'ḳūbī (pp. 255-268), writing about the year 278 (891), has left a long and detailed account of Samarrā, and of the various palaces which adorned it. The city proper stood on the eastern bank of the Tigris, while on the western bank were many of the palaces and pleasure-grounds. The houses of the city, on the left bank, extended for a distance of seven leagues along the river, and fabulous sums, of which Yāḳūt (III. 18) gives the details, were spent on the palaces. These all fell to ruin when the seat of government was removed back to Baghdād, and Samarrā became what it had been before—a provincial town; remaining, however, a place of pilgrimage to the Shī'a Muslims,

for here were to be seen the tombs of two of their Imāms, also the Mosque with the underground chamber, from which the promised Mahdi, Al-Ḳāim, is to appear in the fulness of time.

- ⁴ Al-Ḳādisīya, also on the eastern bank of the Tigris, some three leagues below Samarrā, still exists. It must not be confounded with the place of the same name, where the great battle was fought between the Arabs and the Persians, which last lay in the plain to the westward of the Euphrates, near Al-Kūfa. Al-Ḳādisīya, on the Tigris, is said by Yāḳūt (IV. 9) to be famous for its glass works.

Al-Ajama, meaning "the Thicket," is not marked on the map, and apparently is not mentioned by any other authority. Ibn Serapion later on (Section VIII.) states that it lay on or near the Nahrawān Canal.

Al-'Alth is still found on the map, and Muḳaddasi (p. 123), who, however, writes the name without the article, speaks of it as a large town lying on a canal derived from the Tigris. Its wells of sweet water were easy of access and its men were handsome. Yāḳūt (III. 711) notes it as the first place in Al-'Irāḳ on the east side of the Tigris coming from Persia. By the change of bed, however, Al-'Alth now lies on the *western* bank of the river. From below Al-Ḳādisīya, and down almost to Baghdād, the Tigris in the tenth century A.D. flowed by a more westerly course than it does at the present day. The old river-bed, with the ruins of 'Ukbarā, Awānā, and Buṣrā, all lying on its eastern bank, is still marked on the maps. At the present time, however, owing to the change of course, these places stand at a considerable distance from the *western* bank of the Tigris. That the western course was the one followed by the river in Ibn Serapion's day admits of no doubt, for the great post-road from Baghdād to Samarrā, and the north, passed up the eastern

bank of the Tigris, going through Al-Baradān and 'Ukbarā to Al-Ḳādisīya; further, among other early authorities, Bilādhurī (p. 249) in the ninth century A.D. couples together 'Ukbarā and Al-Baradān as lying to the east of the Tigris, and the two towns are so marked in the native map of the Paris MS., a work of the tenth century A.D. When the river changed over to its present western course, I have been unable exactly to ascertain. As early as the date of Mas'ūdi, A.H. 332 (943), the bed appears to have begun to shift, for in his *Meadows of Gold* (I. 223) this author refers to the law-suits to which this changing of the stream had given rise, between the landowners of the eastern and western banks immediately above Baghdād. The first clear mention of 'Ukbarā as lying (as at the present day) to the west of the Tigris is, I believe, given by the author of the *Marāsid* (II. 270), who wrote about the year 1300 A.D. This author, correcting Yāḳūt, remarks that both 'Ukbarā and Awānā stood in his day at a considerable distance to the west of the Tigris, that being a consequence of the changing of the river bed, eastwards, into the course then known as Ash-Shuṭayṭa—"the little Shaṭṭ" or Stream. The exact date of this change, however, he does not give; but he adds that the Caliph Al-Mustansir, between A.H. 623 and 640 (1226-1242), had dug a canal to irrigate the lands which the Tigris, by its shifting, had left dry—at this epoch, therefore, the change must have been complete.

⁵ Neither Al-Ḥaḏīra, meaning "the Enclosure," nor Aṣ-Ṣawāmi, "the Cells," have left any trace of their names on the present maps, and the latter place is not apparently mentioned by any other authority. Yāḳūt (II. 292) states that Al-Ḥaḏīra was a large village on the Dujayl Canal (see Section V.), where cotton stuffs, called *Kirbās*, were manufactured for export; and in another passage (II.

235) he speaks of it as lying opposite to Ḥarbā. This last place still exists on the western side of the Dujayl Canal, where there is a magnificent stone bridge, now partly in ruin, built by the last Abbasid Caliph but one, Al-Mustanşir, in A.H. 629 (1232). This has been drawn and described, and its dedicatory inscription copied, by Commander J. F. Jones, R.N. (*Records*, p. 252). In another passage Yāḳūt (I. 178) speaks of Al-Ḥazīra as lying near the village of Balad, a place which like Ḥarbā still exists.

⁶ The ruins of ‘Ukbarā, Awānā, and Buşrā, lying one close to the other, still exist on the left bank of the old bed of the Tigris, as has been already mentioned. Yāḳūt (III. 705, I. 395, and I. 654) describes these towns as of the Dujayl District, lying some ten leagues distant from Baghdād, being very pleasant places surrounded by gardens.

Bazūghā, Al-Baradān, and Al-Mazrafa, all three, lay on the eastern bank of the Tigris. Al-Baradān, which gave its name to a gate and bridge in eastern Baghdād (see Section X.), Kudāma (p. 214), gives as the first stage on the north road, and it was four leagues distant from the capital. The existing ruin at Bedran doubtless represents the older name. Bazūghā has apparently disappeared entirely; according to Yāḳūt (I. 606) it lay near Al-Mazrafa and about two leagues from Baghdād. Of Al-Mazrafa the name is apparently preserved in the district of Mazurfeh, marked on the map as immediately to the north of eastern Baghdād. According to Yāḳūt (IV. 520) Al-Mazrafa was a large village lying three leagues above the city.

Ḳaṭrabbul was the name of the district on the western bank of the Tigris, and up-stream, lying between Baghdād and ‘Ukbarā (Yāḳūt IV. 133). On the eastern bank, also up-stream, lay Ash-Shammāsiyya, meaning “The Deaconry,” the northernmost

suburb of eastern Baghdād, which gave its name to the gate opening in this direction (see Section X). Kalwādhā was the outlying suburb on this same eastern bank, but down-stream. Kudāma (p. 193) gives it as two leagues below Baghdād and five above Al-Madāin. In the present maps its site is marked by the village of Gerāra.

⁷ Al-Madāin, meaning "the Cities," a plural form of the word *Madīna*, was the name by which the Arabs called the remains of the twin cities of Ctesiphon and Seleucia. Ya'qūbī (p. 321) at the close of the ninth century A.D. describes three towns as standing on the eastern bank among the ruins of Ctesiphon. Of these one was Al-Madīna al-'Atīka, "the Old Town" (which also occurs as a mint city), where was to be seen "the White Palace" of the Chosroes, and here was the Great Mosque. One mile south of this lay the town of Asbānbur, with the great Arch of the Chosroes (still standing at the present day) and the equal of which there was none in all Persia for height, seeing that its summit was 80 ells above the ground. Adjoining these two towns lay Ar-Rūmiyya, built by the Greeks when they conquered Persia, and here the Caliph Al-Manṣūr took up his abode for some months of his reign. These three cities on the eastern bank covered ground measuring two miles from end to end. The towns on the western bank (the ancient Seleucia) were Bahurasīr, and a league to the south of this, Sābāt. Ibn Rusta (p. 186) speaks of a fire-temple as existing on this western side, which, in Sassanian days, had been endowed with the revenue of half the land-tax of Fārs.

⁸ As-Sīb, surnamed for distinction Sīb of the Bani Kūmā, was a place noted for its olive trees (Ibn Rusta, p. 186). It was the site of the battle where, in A.H. 262 (876), Ya'qūb the Saffarid was

routed by the troops of the Caliph Al-Mu'tamid. As-Sīb is not marked on the maps, but according to Kudāma (p. 193) it lay seven leagues below Al-Madāin.

Dayr-al-'Āḳūl, "the Convent of the (river) Loop," is still marked on the map, and the name is descriptive of the Tigris course at this point. Yāḳūt (II. 676), writing in the thirteenth century A.D., states that in his day the Convent, which originally had lain on the river bank, then stood solitary in the middle of the plain, a mile distant from the water's edge, by reason of the shifting of the Tigris bed. In former days a populous town had (he says) stood there, with good markets, but this had fallen to ruin with the decay of the District of An-Nahrawān. Ibn Rusta (p. 186), in the beginning of the tenth century A.D., alludes to the Great Mosque here, and says that across the Tigris at this point were set toll-barriers, such as will be described below (see under Hawānīt, note 11), and that this was a Station for the Officials for Travellers and Customs.

Aṣ-Ṣāfiya is described by Yāḳūt (II. 687, and III. 362) as a small town overhanging the Tigris, and of which in his day (thirteenth century A.D.) nothing but the walls and some ruins remained standing. It lay over against Dayr Ḳunnā, which last stood near Dayr-al-'Āḳūl.

For Dayr Ḳunnā (more usually spelt Dayr Ḳunna), otherwise called the Convent of Marmārī as-Salīkh, "the Impotent," Yāḳūt (II. 687) quotes the description left by Ash-Shabushtī, who died A.H. 388 (998). The Convent lay sixteen leagues down stream from Baghdād, on the eastern bank, and stood at the distance of a mile from the river. Ash-Shabushtī describes it as a huge monastery, surrounded by a high, solidly-built, wall, so as to be impregnable and almost like a fortress. Within

this wall there were a hundred cells for the monks, and the right to a cell was only to be bought for a price ranging from 200 to 1000 Dīnārs (£100 to £500). Surrounding each cell lay a garden, irrigated by a small canal. Every garden was planted with fruit trees, the crop of which brought in yearly a sum of from 50 to 200 Dīnārs (£25 to £100). Neither Aṣ-Ṣāfiya nor Dayr Kunnā have apparently left any trace on the map; but judging from the description of Yāḳūt—who says that Dayr-al-Āḳūl lay fifteen leagues from Baghdād, that “near it” and sixteen leagues from Baghdād lay Dayr Kunnā, this last standing a mile distant from the Tigris, on whose bank was Aṣ-Ṣāfiya—it seems probable that Dayr Kunnā and Aṣ-Ṣāfiya occupied a position on the eastern bank about halfway between Dayr-al-Āḳūl and Humāniya. In accordance with these data I have changed the order of names in the Arabic text, placing Dayr Kunnā and Humāniya *after*, instead of *before*, Dayr-al-Āḳūl and Aṣ-Ṣāfiya.

Humāniya is marked on the present maps as lying on the western Tigris bank, in a great loop of the river, about two leagues to the south-east of Dayr-al-Āḳūl. Yāḳūt (IV. 980) describes it as a large village standing in the midst of cultivated lands and on the river bank. In the beginning of the ninth century A.D. it must have been a place of some importance, for after the death of the Caliph Al-Amīn in Baghdād, his two sons and his mother, Zubayda, widow of Hārūn-ar-Rashīd, were brought down the river in boats and kept prisoners at Humayniyā (as the name is otherwise spelt) before being despatched into Khurāsān to Al-Mamūn (see Ibn-al-Athīr, VI. 207).

⁹ Jarjarāy, more generally spelt Jarjarāyā, still exists. According to Yaḳūbī (p. 321) this was the capital of the district of Lower Nahrawān; and in his day (ninth century A.D.) it was still inhabited by many

Persian nobles. Yāḳūt (II. 54) says that it lies on the eastern river-bank, but had become a ruin, as, in fact, had most of the other towns of the Nahrawān district.

An-Nu'māniyya, Yāḳūt (IV. 796) counts as the half-way stage between Baghdād and Wāsīt. It lay four leagues down stream from Jarjarāyā, and five leagues above Jabbul (compare Kudāma, p. 193, with Abu-l-Fidā, p. 305). By this reckoning An-Nu'māniyya probably occupied the position marked Tell Na'aman of Kiepert's larger map of *Babylon*. Ya'ḳūbī (p. 321) counts An-Nu'māniyya as the capital town of the district of the Upper Zāb Canal, and mentions a convent here called Dayr Hizkil, where mad persons were treated. Ibn Rusta (p. 186) adds that the lands of An-Nu'māniyya lay, mostly, on the western bank of the Tigris; that it was counted one of the dependent cities of Al-Hīra, and that the celebrated carpets of Al-Hīra were really made at An-Nu'māniyya.

Jabbul is, apparently, the place now called Jambil. It lies on the eastern bank, and Ibn Rusta (p. 187) speaks of it as a large town with a great mosque, where there were bakehouses belonging to the Government. Yāḳūt (II. 23) says that in his day (thirteenth century A.D.) the former town had sunk to the size of a large village.

Nahr Sābūs was the name of a town occupying the western bank of the Tigris and situated on the canal of the same name (see Section VI.). Ya'ḳūbī describes it as lying opposite the town of Al-Mubārik, which was on the eastern bank of the Tigris. It was one day's journey above Wāsīt, and is mentioned by Yāḳūt (II. 903) as being the chief city of the district of the Lower Zāb Canal. Nahr Sābūs is not marked on the present maps, but according to Kudāma (p. 194) it was situated seven leagues below Jabbul and five leagues above Fam-aṣ-Ṣilḥ.

Fam-aṣ-Ṣilḥ was situated seven leagues above Wāsiṭ. *Fam* in Arabic means "mouth," but applied to a canal designates what we should call the "head" or point of origin, where the canal branches from the parent stream—not the place where it runs out to join the river again, which in English would be the usual acceptance of the term "mouth" as applied to a canal. Fam-aṣ-Ṣilḥ, therefore, is "the Head of the Ṣilḥ," the place where that canal left the Tigris, and it was also the name of a town on the eastern river-bank. Ibn Rusta (p. 187) speaks of its Great Mosque and markets. The place also was famous in Arab history for the palace built here by Ḥasan ibn Sahl, Wazīr of Al-Mamūn, and in which he celebrated the espousals of his daughter Būrān with the Caliph his master, spending fabulous sums in banquets and gifts (*cf.* Mas'ūdi VII. 65). Yāḳūt (III. 917), in the 13th century A.D., found the town and neighbouring villages already gone to ruin.

¹⁰ Wāsiṭ, the "middle" city, was so called because it lay equidistant (about 50 leagues) from Al-Kūfa, Al-Baṣra, and Al-Ahwāz. It was the capital of the district of Kaskar, and was founded in A.H. 84 (703) by Ḥajjāj, the great viceroy of Al-'Irāq, in the reign of the Omayyad Caliph 'Abd-al-Mālik. The city occupied both banks of the Tigris, and the two quarters were connected by a bridge of boats. According to Ya'ḳūbī (p. 322) the eastern quarter had been a town before the days of Ḥajjāj, and here the population was for the most part Persian. In the western quarter stood the Great Mosque, the palace of the Governors, and the celebrated Green Dome (the *Khadrā* of Wāsiṭ), which Ibn Rusta (p. 187) states was so high that it could be seen from Fam-aṣ-Ṣilḥ. There was also a great mosque in the eastern quarter. The lands round Wāsiṭ were extremely fertile, and their crops

provisioned Baghdād in times of scarcity. Some idea of the richness of the Wāsiṭ District may be gathered from the statement made by Ibn Hawḳal (p. 162), who was here in A.H. 358 (969), when the revenue paid into the Baghdād treasury was being collected; he says that the yearly total then amounted to a million of Dirhams, about £40,000. The ruins of Wāsiṭ, lying on what is now called the Shatt-al-Hay, were examined in 1831-2 by Messrs. Ormsby and Elliott (see Col. Chesney's *Report of the Euphrates and Tigris Expedition*, I. p. 37), but their exact position is not given. In the accompanying map, Wāsiṭ is placed to agree with the distances given in Kudāma.

¹¹ Ar-Ruṣāfa—"the Causeway"—surnamed for distinction Ruṣāfa of Wāsiṭ, was a village or small town lying ten leagues below Wāsiṭ, and twelve leagues above Al-Ḳaṭr (Kudāma, p. 194). The next place mentioned is Nahr Bān, which Idrisi (A. Jauber's translation, I. 368) gives as lying half a day's journey by water below Wāsiṭ, or a whole day's journey by land; it would thus have been situated but a short distance south of Ar-Ruṣāfa. It must be noted that neither these nor the following places on the Tigris below Wāsiṭ are any of them marked on the present map. Nahr Bān is the name of a small town at the head of the *Nahr* or canal of the same name, which according to Ibn Rusta (p. 184) lay on the eastern bank of the Tigris. The name is variously spelt, Nahr Bān or Bīn, also Nahrawān and Nahr Ābān, the last being the form given by Yāḳūt (IV. 758), who states that it took its name from Ābān, a Persian woman, to whom the Chosroes had granted the land in fief. This canal is again mentioned by Ibn Serapion (Section IX.), but it must not be confounded with either the great Nahrawān (Section VIII.) or the Nahr Bīn of Baghdād (Section X.).

Al-Fārūth is mentioned by Yāḳūt (III. 840) as

a large village, with a market, lying on the bank of the Tigris in the country between Wāsiṭ and Al-Madhār. It stood, therefore, on the eastern bank.

Of Dayr-al-'Ummāl, "the Monastery of the Governors" (in the singular 'Āmil), apparently no mention is made, elsewhere, sufficient to determine its position.

Al-Ḥawānīt means "the Booths," and according to Ibn Rusta (p. 184) both this place and Al-Kaṭr lay on the eastern bank of the Tigris. Near Al-Ḥawānīt (at the beginning of the 10th century A.D.) toll-barriers were moored across the river, and placed under the superintendence of Government officials called *Aṣḥāb as-Sayyāra wa-l-Maaṣir*—"Masters of Travellers and Barriers"—such as have already been mentioned as existing up the river at Dayr-al-'Ākūl (see above, note 8). The description of these, as given in Ibn Rusta (p. 185), is as follows:—"The toll-bar (called al-Maaṣir in Arabic) is the name given to the place on the Tigris where two boats have been moored on the one bank of the river, opposite two other boats on the further bank, which two likewise are firmly moored. Then across the stream they have carried cables, their two ends being fastened to the boats on either bank, and these prevent ships from passing by night without paying toll. Now at Al-Kaṭr the Tigris divides into three arms, which flow out into the Swamps."

The Swamps will be described in Section XIII.

[SECTION II.]

ACCOUNT OF THE RIVER EUPHRATES FROM ITS SOURCE TO ITS MOUTH.

The source of the River Euphrates¹ is at a spring in Jabal Akradkhis in longitude 60° 30' and latitude 41° 20' or 42° 20'. Flowing thence, it passes by the spur of Jabal Misfīnā, in longitude 60° 20' and latitude 42° 25'. Then

it passes the city of Kamkh and by Ḥiṣn-al-Minshār. Next, after flowing past Malaṭya,² which is two miles distant from its bank, it comes to the city of Hinzīt, next to the city of Sumaysāt,³ after which come Jisr Manbij and Bālis. Next it flows beside the city of Ar-Raḳḳa,⁴ which stands upon the river, and then it passes Al-Mubārīk, and the head of the canal called the Nahr Sa'īd. Next follow Karkīsiyā,⁵ Ar-Raḥba, Ad-Dāliya, and then it passes* [between hillocks but not] skirting the mountain, which is called Jabal-al-Kūsūs, from whence it passes on to 'Āna,⁶ and the same it surrounds, forming an island, on which stands the city. Thence it passes to Alūsa and An-Nāwusa, coming next to the city of Hīt, from whence it flows by the westward of Al-Anbār,⁷ which is a city, and here there is a bridge over the (canal of the Nahr 'Īsā). Thence it passes to the city of Al-Kūfa,⁸ which stands upon the river-bank. Now between Al-Anbār and Al-Kūfa there divide from the Euphrates many great canals, and these I will describe in what follows. After this the river passes on to a place in longitude 71° 5' and latitude 31° 5', and thence to longitude 78° 5' and latitude 31° 30', where it falls into the Swamp.

Now when the Euphrates is in longitude 71° 5' and latitude 31° 5' aforesaid, there is a division of its waters into two streams; and from here the outermost (or eastern) stream passing onwards, flows between (the main arm of) the river Euphrates and the Sawād (or plain) of Al-Kūfa and of Al-Baṣra, till finally it likewise flows out into the Swamp near by where (the main arm of) the Euphrates flows out.

¹ To Ibn Serapion, the main stream of the Euphrates was the branch which is now known to the Turks as the Kara Sū (Black River), but which is still called Frāt by the Arabs, and which we designate the Western Euphrates. The mountains of Jabal Akradkhis (no longer bearing this name) must be

* MS. corrupt, translation tentative.

those near Erzeroum, where the river takes its rise. Akradkhis is not given in the Dictionaries of Yākūt or Bakri. By omitting a diacritical point, Mas'ūdi (I. 214) writes the name Afradkhis, and in his *Tanbih* (p. 52) Afradkhamish, adding that the Euphrates rises in the Kālīkalā country, of which mention will be made in a subsequent note (Section IV. note 1). Kudāma (p. 233), in the corresponding passage, gives the name of the mountains as Barūjis. It is possible that this word Akradkhis may be the Arab form of the native name, which the Roman geographers gave as *Caranitis*.

Jabal Misfīnā is mentioned by Kudāma (p. 233), but by no other authority. The name is not Arab in form, and the mountain range referred to is apparently that lying to the north of Arzinjān, and called Ak Dāgh and Kashīsh Dāgh at the present day.

Kamkh is the city on the left or south bank of the Euphrates, which the Greeks called *Kamacha*, and which still exists. Yākūt (IV. 304) says that its inhabitants pronounce the name Kamakh, and that it lies one day's journey from Arzinjān. It is perhaps worth noting that in the MS. of Ibn Serapion the name is invariably written Kamḥ (not with the *kh*).

Hiṣn-al-Minshār, "the Fort of the Saw," has apparently disappeared from the map. Yākūt (IV. 661) mentions it as one of the fortresses near the Euphrates.

² Malatya, which the Greeks called *Melitene*, is still a flourishing town, and was in early days one of the most important of the Muslim fortresses of the Greek frontier. The garrison, according to Bilādhurī (p. 187), held the military post at the bridge, three miles distant, over the river Kūbāqib (see Section III. note 5). Iṣṭakhrī (p. 62), among others, describes Malatya as a large town, having over it

one of the strongest of the frontier fortresses, and one of the most important in the matter of both garrison and armament.

Hinzīṭ, which appears to have been a place of note in early times, is difficult to identify. Ibn Serapion locates it near the Euphrates, between Malatya and Sumaysāt, and in this he is confirmed by Kudāma (p. 233). Ibn Serapion (see Section III.) speaks of one of the affluents of the Euphrates (unnamed) as flowing past Hinzīṭ, and Yākūt (IV. 993) counts the town as of the Greek frontiers—by which a place lying to the west of the Euphrates is evidently indicated. Further, he says, that Hinzīṭ lay near Sumnīn, and in other passages the same author (III. 146, IV. 168) speaks of Sayf-ad-Dawla, the Hamdanid prince, as passing Hinzīṭ in A.H. 335 (947), when he made his expedition against Kulūniya (query *Sinis Colonia*). Bakri (p. 832) counts Hinzīṭ as of the frontier fortresses of Mar'ash, and mentions it in connection with Malatya and Sumaysāt. In another passage (p. 495) he couples it with Kharshana (see Section III. note 4).

These indications seem to point to some strong place on the present Kakhta Sū (possibly the ruins near the town of Kakhta), or else Hinzīṭ may be identified with Karkar (Gerger), which is described as a magnificent Saracenic ruin occupying a commanding position (see Ritter, X. 870, 872). Both Kakhta and Karkar are mentioned by Abu-l-Fidā (p. 385) as castles situated near Malatya, but neither names, I believe, occur in the works of the earlier Arab geographers; hence the name Hinzīṭ may have been replaced by one of these two in the later Middle Ages.

³ Sumaysāt (not to be confounded with Shimshāt), below Hinzīṭ, is the well-known town which the Greeks called *Samosata*. It lies north, and on the right

bank of the Euphrates. Mas'ūdi (I. 215) states that its fortress was called *Ḳal'a-at-Tin*, "the Clay Castle," and according to Yāqūt (III. 151) one of its quarters was inhabited exclusively by Armenians.

Jisr Manbij, Bālis, and Ar-Raḳḳa are all marked on the map. The fortress of Jisr Manbij, otherwise called *Ḳal'a-an-Najm*, "the Castle of the Star," stood on a hill, according to Yāqūt (IV. 165), which overlooked the eastern bank of the Euphrates, where the high road from Manbij to Ḥarrān crossed the river. Bālis is the ancient *Barbalissus*, also on the western bank of the Euphrates. Iṣṭakhrī (p. 62) counts it as the first Syrian town after crossing from Mesopotamia, and he says that it was the river-port of Syria on the Euphrates. Yāqūt (I. 477) remarks that Bālis, which in former times lay on the Euphrates, in his day (13th century A.D.) stood four miles distant from the stream, by reason of the shifting of the course.

⁴ Ar-Raḳḳa, on the left (northern) bank of the Euphrates immediately above where the Balikh river flows in, was counted the capital of the province of Diyār Muḍar. The name Ar-Raḳḳa, in Arabic, is applied to any plain beside a river that is at times covered by the inundation, and the word occurs in many other place-names. This Ar-Raḳḳa occupies the approximate site of the ancient *Callinicus* or *Nicephorium*.

It is curious that Ibn Serapion should here make no mention of Ar-Rāfiḳa, the town built by the Caliph Al-Manṣūr in A.H. 155 (772) as a place of garrison for his Khurāsān troops. It lay close beside Ar-Raḳḳa, being only 300 ells distant, and its ground-plan resembled that of Baghdād. Bilādhurī (pp. 179 and 297) relates the above particulars, and says that Hārūn-ar-Rashīd added to the town, building many palaces, and himself lived there, preferring its climate to that of Baghdād. Yāqūt

(II. 734) states that with the rise of Ar-Rāfiqa, Ar-Raḡḡa fell to ruin, so that in time the very name even of Ar-Raḡḡa passed to the younger city, the whole of the intervening lands having come to be built over and occupied by markets, which last took the place of a shallow lake that formerly had existed here.

Al-Mubārik is a station on the high road down the right bank of the Euphrates, and is given by Kudāma (p. 217). He says it lay eight leagues below Ar-Raḡḡa, while the beginning of the Sa'īd Canal was eight leagues above Karkīsiyā. Nothing further is recorded of Al-Mubārik, a name common to many localities (see Section I. note 9), and meaning "the Blessing." This Al-Mubārik is omitted in Yāqūt.

The Nahr Sa'īd, which is more particularly described in Section V., according to Bilādhurī (pp. 179 and 332), was dug by Sa'īd, son of the Omayyad Caliph 'Abd-al-Mālik, and at one time governor of Al-Mawṣil. He was a man of great piety, and was surnamed Sa'īd-al-Khayr, "the Good." Where the canal was dug there had been originally a thicket and swamp infested by lions; and the reclaimed lands were granted in fief to Sa'īd by his brother, the Caliph Al-Walīd.

⁵ Karkīsiyā, the ancient *Circesium*, was a town of some importance, standing at the angle formed by the Euphrates and the inflowing river Khābūr. It lay therefore on the eastern side of the Euphrates, and, according to Yāqūt (IV. 66), stood six leagues distant from Ar-Raḡḡa.

The remains of Ar-Raḡḡa, "the Square," are shown on the map, lying on the western bank of the Euphrates. Both this place and Ad-Dāliya, meaning "the Water-wheel," were surnamed for distinction Raḡḡa, and Dāliya of Mālik-ibn-Ṭawḡ, who Bilādhurī states (p. 180) was a man of the Taghlib tribe, and lived in the reign of Al-Mamūn. From what

Yāḳūt (II. 538, 764) says, Ar-Raḥba and Ad-Dāliya must have stood very near each to the other, but the distance between the two is not given.

The range of hills called Jabal-al-Ḳusūs—a name mentioned by no other authority, and signifying “the Hill of the Priests”—is marked on the map above ‘Āna. Ritter (XI. 711) names part of the range Al-Muhadiya, and other heights appear now to be called the Sultan ‘Abd-Allah Hills. The reading, however, of the MS. of Ibn Serapion in this passage is very uncertain, and the words which are translated “between hillocks, but not skirting the mountain,” are emended conjecturally.

⁶ ‘Āna is still marked on the map, and represents the ancient *Anatho*. Yāḳūt (III. 595) speaks of it as a celebrated town, having a strong castle, that overhung the Euphrates.

Alūsa and An-Nāwusa are places frequently mentioned in the history of the Arab Conquest (cf. Bilādhurī, p. 179). Kudāma (p. 217) places Alūsa seven leagues above An-Nāwusa, which last lay seven leagues above Hit. Alūsa is marked on the map under the name of El Uz, and it appears to be identical with the place which the ancients called Olabus (Ritter, XI. 731). Yāḳūt (I. 352, IV. 734) speaks of Alūsa as a small town, and adds that An-Nāwusa was one of the villages of Hit.

Hit still exists, and, according to Yāḳūt (IV. 997), was celebrated for its palm groves.

⁷ Al-Anbār, “the Granaries,” stood above, and to the north of where the first great canal, the Nahr ‘Īsā (see Section V.), flowed off from the Euphrates to the Tigris (cf. Kudāma, p. 234). It was a mint city, and a town of great importance in the days of the Caliphate. In Sassanian times it was called Firūz Sābūr (Perisabor), after King Sapor, its founder, and this name the Arabs applied to the district. The first Abbasid Caliph, As-Saffāh, for a time made Al-

Anbār his capital, and he died in the palace which he built there. Yākūt (I. 367) states that the name Al-Anbār, "the Granaries," was derived from the fact that of old the Persian kings stored the wheat, barley, and straw, for the rations of their troops in this town. The site of Al-Anbār appears to be that marked on the modern maps by the ruins named Sifeyra.

The ancient main-stream of the Euphrates, which flowed down to Al-Kūfa and then became lost in the Swamps, is called Al-'Alkamī by Kudāma (p. 233), and in the *Tanbih* (p. 52). Branching off westwards below Musayyib from what is the present main-stream, the old main-stream corresponds with the channel now known as the Nahr Hindiyya, and flowed past Al-Kūfa, the ruins of which lie on its western bank. The present main-stream of the Euphrates, below Musayyib, is the Nahr Sūra of Ibn Serapion, which will be described in Section VI.

⁸ Al-Kūfa, the sister-city and rival of Al-Başra, was founded by the Arabs at the time of the first conquest of Persia, and was intended to serve as a permanent camp on the Arab, and desert, side of the Euphrates. It occupied an extensive plain lying above the river-bank, and in its immediate vicinity was the Persian city of Al-Ĥīra. Fronting Al-Kūfa was the Bridge of Boats across the Euphrates arm, over which, during the times of the Abbasid Caliphate, lay the great pilgrim road running from Baghdād southward to Mecca and Medina.

[SECTION III.]

AFFLUENTS OF THE EUPHRATES.

And since now thou art free in the matter of these two great rivers (the Euphrates and Tigris), I will begin with the streams which flow into the Euphrates and the streams

which are carried from the same and run into the Tigris, proceeding from its source to its mouth, stream by stream: so do thou give heed to what I shall explain to thee.

Of these is a river which falls into the Euphrates, flowing down from a mountain where its source lies in longitude $62^{\circ} 20'$, and latitude $41^{\circ} 5'$. It passes the city of Hinzīt and the province thereof, falling into the Euphrates in longitude $61^{\circ} 30'$ and latitude $39^{\circ} 20'$.

There also¹ falls into the Euphrates a river called Arsanās, and this is the river of Shamshāt. Its source is in a mountain in the limits of the country of Ṭarūn. It flows by the gate of the city of Shamshāt, and then passes near the gate of a fortress called Hiṣn Ziyād, and on the banks of this river are six other fortresses. Finally it falls into the Euphrates about two marches above Malatya, and on the eastern bank.

There also falls into (the Euphrates) a river called Nahr Lūkīya.² Its source is in Jabal Marūr in the frontiers of the country of Abriḳ. On its bank stands a single fortress. Its point of junction with the Euphrates is at a point one day's march below the city of Kamkh, but above the mouth of the river Arsanās, and on the western bank (of the Euphrates).

There also falls into (the Euphrates) a river called Nahr Abriḳ.³ It has a mountain extending right down to its point of junction with the Euphrates, which lies a short way below the mouth of the Nahr Lūkīya, and likewise on the western bank (of the Euphrates).

There also flows into (the Euphrates) a river called the Nahr Anjā. Its source is in the mountain of Abriḳ, a little way above the crossing of the high road from Malatya. It flows between mountains, and falls into the Euphrates at a distance of five leagues below the mouth of the Nahr Arsanās.

There also falls into (the Euphrates) a river called the Nahr Jarjāriya.⁴ Its source is in the mountain of Jabal Marūr, near the fortress of Kharshana in the Greek country. From thence it passes, traversing a long course

through plains and meadows, and falls into the Euphrates, on its western bank, at a point ten leagues below the mouth of the Nahr Anjā.

There also falls into (the Euphrates) a river called the Nahr Kūbākib.⁵ This is a great and mighty stream, into which many lesser rivers flow, and these I will mention later. The source of the Nahr Kūbākib is in the interior of the Greek country, beyond the Nahr Jayḥān. Its course is between mountains, passing by fortresses, plains, and meadows, till finally it comes out into the Arab dominions, falling into the Euphrates on its western bank at a point three leagues or more below the mouth of the river Jarjāriya. Here there crosses it a great bridge called Kantara Kūbākib.

There falls into (the Euphrates) also a river called Nahr-al-Balikh.⁶ Its source is in the land of Ḥarrān at a spring called 'Ayn-adh-Dhabāniyya. It waters many domains, hamlets, and gardens, passing by Bājaddā, Ḥiṣn Maslama, and Bājarwān. Then, after flowing round at the back of the city of Ar-Raḳḳa, it falls into the Euphrates on the eastern bank of the same, below Ar-Raḳḳa, which is surnamed As-Sawdā (the Black).

There also flow into the Euphrates, at one spot, the waters of two rivers that have joined above (to form one stream). One of these is called Al-Khābūr,⁷ and the other Al-Hirmās. The source of the Khābūr is near the city of Rās-al-'Ayn at the spring called 'Ayn-az-Zāhiriyya; the source of the Hirmās is in the land of Naṣībīn at a place called Ṭūr 'Abdīn. Now the Hirmās is the river of Naṣībīn, and in its course it waters the domains and gardens of that city; then, leaving the cultivated lands, it passes out to the plain. Here it meets the Khābūr, which has watered the domains of Rās-al-Ayn; and the waters of the Khābūr together with those of the Hirmās form one stream, which flows on through the plain. It is the Hirmās which thus flows into the Khābūr, for the chief river down to the junction of the two streams is the Khābūr. Passing on, this single stream, formed by

the united rivers, irrigates the domains which lie to the north of Ḳarḳīsiyā, and finally flows into the Euphrates, on the eastern bank near Ḳarḳīsiyā.

From the Hirmās, also, there flows off a river called Ath-Tharthār.⁸ Its origin is at Sukayr-al-'Abbās. It passes through the midst of the plain, and runs into the Tigris below Takrīt, after passing Al-Ḥaḍr, and cutting through the hills called Jabal Bārimmā.

There also flows into (the Euphrates) a river coming down from 'Ayn-at-Tamr.⁹ It passes through the lands of the same, and then flows on through the plain, falling into the Euphrates, on its western bank, below the city of Hit.

¹ The River of Hinzīt has been noticed above (Section II. note 2).

The Eastern Euphrates, which by some geographers is considered the main source of the great river, is given in Pliny (Nat. Hist. Bk. V. 24, Teubner's edition) as the *Arsanias Flumen*, and this is evidently identical with the Nahr Arsanās of Ibn Serapion. The name is apparently now entirely lost, for this stream, at the present time, is known by the Turkish name of Murād Sū (or Tehay), being so called, it is said, in honour of Sultan Murād IV., the conqueror of Baghdād, in A.D. 1638. The name Arsanās, however, is given by Yākūt (I. 207), who refers to the coldness of its waters, and by Bakri (p. 91), who gives the pronunciation as Arasnās. It would appear, therefore, that this name was in use from the time of Pliny in the first century A.D. down to the 12th or 13th century A.D.

The Ṭarūn country, where the Arsanās took its rise, is mentioned by both Kudāma (pp. 246, 251) and Bilādhurī (p. 201). The name is identical with the Armenian *Daron*, which in earlier times occurs in Strabo as *Taronites*, and in Tacitus as *Taurantium*.

At the present day, however, the name Ṭarūn has completely disappeared from the maps,

The town of Shamshāṭ (or Shimshāṭ) was, during the early centuries of the Hijra, a place of much importance; it is frequently mentioned in the histories of the Arab Conquest, and in the works of the earlier geographers. It has been suggested that the name represents the *Arsamosata* of Pliny (*op. cit.* Bk. VI. 9). Shamshāṭ on the Arsanās has frequently been confounded with Sumaysāṭ* on the Euphrates, a totally different town, which, as already mentioned, is the classical *Samosata*. Shamshāṭ has completely disappeared from the maps. Its site, however, may be fixed by the indications of Ibn Serapion (see below, Section XVIII.) and Yāḳūt (III. 319). Yāḳūt prefaces his account by noting that this town must not be confounded with Sumaysāṭ. He writes that, in his day, Shamshāṭ was already in ruins and had but few inhabitants; adding that the city had Khartabirt (modern Kharput) to the west of it, and Balūya (modern Palu) to the east, and that it was a town of Armenia. Ibn Khurdābih (p. 123) refers to Shamshāṭ as lying close to Ḥiṣn Ziyād, which fortress Yāḳūt (II. 276) says is identical with Khartabirt (*i.e.* Kharput). The ruins of Shamshāṭ are to be sought for on the right or northern bank of the Murād Sū, one mile above where the Nahr-as-Salkiṭ (see Section IV.), the modern Peri Tchay, flows in, and they must lie somewhere near the village marked Pistik on Kiepert's map.

² The river Lūḳīya, flowing into the Euphrates one day's march below Kamkh, corresponds fairly with the modern Tchalta Irmak. The name Lūḳīya is not found on our maps, neither is it mentioned by any other Arab geographer. The name is evidently not Arabic, and it is remarkable that Pliny (*op. cit.* Bk.

* *E.g.*, Ritter X. 931; and in many places of Jaubert's translation of Idrisi, *e.g.*, II. 129, 137, 314.

V. 24) names a river *Lycus* as one of the affluents of the Euphrates. Possibly this is the same stream, which in the 10th century A.D. still preserved the name under which it was known in classical times.

³ The Nahr Abriḳ is the river now called Sari-tchitchek Sū; and the Nahr Anjā corresponds with the stream at the mouth of which is the village of Tchernik as marked on Kiepert's map. The Castle of Abriḳ (see Section IV.) is the fortress which the Byzantines called *Tephrikē*, corresponding to the modern Divrigi; it is mentioned in the *Tanbih* (p. 183), and by Yāḳūt (I. 87), who quotes a curious description of the place, which is said to have been a sanctuary venerated both by the Christians and the Moslems. He spells the name Al-Abrūḳ.

⁴ The Nahr Jarjāriya is the river now called Kuru Tchay. The fortress of Kharshana is mentioned by Yāḳūt (II. 423) as situated at no great distance from Malatya, in the Greek country, but no trace of it is to be found on the present maps. Kharshana is the place so frequently mentioned in the Byzantine Chronicles under the name of *Kharsianon Kastron*.

⁵ The Nahr Ḳubāḳib, which is described by both Yāḳūt (IV. 26) and Bakri (pp. 657 and 726), is the river of Malatya, and except for the Arsanās is by far the most important affluent of the Upper Euphrates. The Greeks called it the river *Melas*, and its present Turkish name is the Tokhma Sū. The Jayḥān, beyond which the Ḳubāḳib takes its rise, is the ancient *Pyramus*, which flows out into the Mediterranean in the Bay of Alexandretta. Ḳubāḳib may mean "babbling" in Arabic, or as the plural of *Ḳabḳab* is the name given to the "wooden-clogs" worn in the bath; in either case the word is evidently onomatopœic.

⁶ The river Al-Balikh is the *Bilecha* of the Greek geographers; while Ḥarrān represents the ancient *Carrhæ*. Yāḳūt (II. 231) counts Ḥarrān as the

capital of the district of Diyār Muḍar. According to tradition, this was the first city built after the Flood, and was the original home of the Sabæans, also called the Harrānians.

The spring at the source of the Balīkh, Yāqūt (I. 734) names the 'Ayn-adh-Dhahbāniyya, which name Ibn Rusta (p. 90) writes Ad-Dahmāna, and Ibn Khurdābih (p. 175, but cf. note *k* for other readings) Adh-Dhahbāna. Of the three places lying on this river, Ḥiṣn Maslama took its name from Maslama, son of the Omayyad Caliph 'Abd-al-Mālik. Yāqūt (I. 734, II. 278) writes that this fortress stood five miles from the source of the Balīkh, nine leagues from Harrān on the road to Ar-Raḳqa, and about a mile-and-a-half from the actual river-bank. From this latter point a canal brought water to the fortress, in which Maslama had dug a cistern, 200 ells square by 20 ells deep, lined with stone, in order to supply the wants of the garrison. This cistern needed only to be filled once a year, and at other times the canal served to irrigate the lands round Ḥiṣn Maslama. The fortress itself covered an area of a *Jarīb* (an Arab land-measure equivalent to about a third of an acre, it being a plot of land measuring 60 ells by the like), and the walls of the fortress were of fifty ells in height.

Bājaddā is described by Yāqūt (I. 453) as a large village lying near Ḥiṣn Maslama, and between Rās-al-'Ayn and Ar-Raḳqa. Maslama had granted this land in fief to one of his captains, named Asīd, of the Sulaym tribe, who surrounded the place with a wall and built the village. Springs abounded here, and the gardens were celebrated.

Bājarwān, Yāqūt (I. 454) mentions as a village of Diyār Muḍar, on the Balīkh. According to Kudāma (p. 215) Bājarwān lay three leagues northward of Ar-Raḳqa on the high road to Harrān,

which last was eleven leagues from Bājarwān, while from Bājarwān it was seven leagues to Ḥiṣn Maslama on the road to Rās-al-'Ayn in a north-easterly direction. (For Ar-Raḳḳa, see above, Section II. note 4.)

⁷ The Khābūr is the river which the Greeks called *Chaboras*. The origin of the name *Hirmās* appears to be unknown. The Greek geographers called this river either *Saocoras* or *Mygdonius*. The Khābūr has kept its name to the present time, but the river of Naṣībīn, the *Hirmās*, is now generally known as the *Jaghjagha*.

The town of Rās-al-'Ayn, meaning in Arabic the "Spring-head," bore this name long before Arab days, being mentioned in *Resaina* by the Latin geographers. The place was noted for its numerous springs, and their waters made the surrounding country a garden. The 'Ayn-az-Zāhiriyya, by Yāḳūt's account (II. 731, 911), was fathomless, and the stream flowing from it was in old times sufficiently deep to carry small pleasure-boats, in which people went from garden to garden, and down to Ḳarḳīsiyā. In the 13th century A.D., however, the *Hirmās* was no longer navigable.

Naṣībīn is the Roman *Nisibis*, which Yāḳūt (IV. 787) says was celebrated for its white roses and its forty thousand gardens. It was counted the capital of the district of Diyār Rabī'a, and is still a flourishing town.

Ṭūr 'Abdīn, "the Mountain of (God's) Servants," is the hilly district still bearing this name, which is so celebrated in the annals of the Jacobite Christians. According to Muslim tradition (see Yāḳūt III. 559) *Jabal Jūdī*, a mountain of this district, was the place where the Ark of Noah came to rest, as related in the *Ḳurān*, chapter XI. verse 46. (For Ḳarḳīsiyā see above, Section II. note 5.)

⁸ The account of the river *Ath-Tharthār* is repeated below

in Section VII. At the present day its stream is so shrunk in volume that it no longer forms a natural water-way between the Euphrates and the Tigris. According to Ibn Serapion, it flowed out from the *Hirmās* at *Sukayr* (the "little Dam" of) *al-'Abbās*. *Yāḳūt* (III. 109), however, describes this place as a small town on the *Khābūr*, where there is a mosque. Further, both *Kudāma* (p. 216) and *Ibn Khurdābih* (p. 96) likewise place *Sukayr* on the *Khābūr*, and give it as lying on the high road, fourteen leagues from *Sinjār*, and eighteen leagues from *Ḳarkīsiyā*. These distances (especially the latter) are difficult to fit in with what is shown on the present map. The *Tharthār* river must have cut through the *Sinjār* mountains (the *Jabal Bārimmā*) at the gap to the west of the town of that name; but possibly the point of junction of the *Khābūr* and *Hirmās* was not in the tenth century A.D. where it now is. *Yāḳūt* (I. 921) describes the bed of the *Tharthār*, in his day (13th century A.D.), as running in flood when the rains were plenteous, but in summer as showing only pools of warm water, with here and there brackish springs. He had himself travelled along its course, and adds that of old, as it was reported, boats could pass up its stream, and that many villages lay along its banks in the midst of well-cultivated lands.

Al-Ḥaḍr is the ancient *Hatra*, still standing, with the ruins of a Parthian palace. *Yāḳūt* calls it the city of a certain *As-Sāṭirūn*, adding (II. 281) that it is built of squared stones, which form chambers, with their roofs and doors likewise of stone. There were originally sixty towers, with three turrets in between each tower, and a castle stood over against each.

Jabal Bārimmā, *Yāḳūt* says (I. 464), is also known as *Jabal Ḥumrīn*, and this is the chain of hills which stretches across Upper Mesopotamia from west to east,

till it reaches the mountains of Persia. Through this chain the Tigris cuts its way at As-Sinn. The hill-chain here spoken of is evidently that at present called Jabal Sinjār, from the town of Sinjār, which also gave its name to the plain referred to by Ibn Serapion (Section VII.). Sinjār city still exists, and Yākūt (III. 158) describes it as a fine town with magnificent gardens that were celebrated for their crops of dates, oranges, and lemons. It was from this city that the famous Saljuk Sultan, Sinjār, took his name, it having been his birth-place.

⁹ The town of 'Ayn-at-Tamr, meaning "the Date Spring," was a place of importance in the days of the first Muslim conquest, but its site is apparently lost. Yākūt (III. 759) says that it lay near Al-Anbār, and to the west of Al-Kūfa on the borders of the Arabian desert, but unfortunately no authority gives its distance from either of these towns. Further, near 'Ayn-at-Tamr was a place called Shafatha, and from both towns great quantities of sugar-cane and dates were exported to neighbouring lands. Kudāma (p. 236) counts 'Ayn-at-Tamr as one of the six sub-districts of the Astān, or District, of Upper Bihku-bādh, coupling it with Bābil (Babylon) and other neighbouring territories. The stream on which it stood is apparently either the present Wādī-al-'Amīh of Kiepert's map, or the Wādī Burdān. The town of Shafatha referred to by Yākūt may be the place marked under the name of Shethatheh on the above-mentioned map.

[SECTION IV.]

STREAMS FLOWING INTO AFFLUENTS OF EUPHRATES.

And now regarding the streams which are the affluents of these rivers flowing into the Euphrates, they too are great rivers, and among them are the following :—

Into the Nahr Arsanās flows a river called the Nahr-adh-Dhīb¹ (the "Wolf River"). Its source is in a mountain in the neighbourhood of Kālīkalā. It turns and passes many fortresses, falling into the river Arsanās a short distance above the city of Shamshāt.

There also flows into the Arsanās a river called As-Salkīt. Its source is in the mountains called Jabal Marūr (or Mazūr). It turns passing many fortresses, and falls into the Arsanās a little below the city of Shamshāt and the mountain near it.

Into the river Abriḳ flows a river called Zamra.² Its source is in the mountain called Jabal Marūr, a little above the source of the river Lūḳīya, and it falls into the river Abriḳ a little below the Castle (of Abriḳ).

Into the river Jarjāriya flows a river called the Nahr Ghawth.³ Its source is in a mountain in the neighbourhood of Abriḳ, and it falls in the Nahr Jarjāriya.

Into the river Kubāḳib falls a river called Karāḳīs.⁴ Its source is in a lake in the Greek country. It passes near the gate of Zibatra, and it falls into the Kubāḳib.

There also falls into the Kubāḳib the river called Nahr-az-Zarbūḳ (or Zarnūḳ). Its source is in a mountain lying between Malatya and Hiṣn Manṣūr. It falls into the Kubāḳib below the mouth of the river Karāḳīs.

From the river Az-Zarnūḳ there is carried a stream called the Nahr Malatya; it waters various domains, and falls into the Kubāḳib below (the mouth of) the river Az-Zarnūḳ. From this stream are brought the water-courses of Malatya, which, entering the city, afterwards pass forth and fall into the Kubāḳib below the Bridge.

There also falls into the Kubāḳib a river called Jūrīth (or Hūrīth).⁵ Its source is at (the Spring of) 'Ayn Zanīthā; its course lies through certain lakes, and it passes near the city of Al-Ḥadath, falling out into the Kubāḳib at a point in the direction of this town.

Into the Jūrīth (or Hūrīth) there falls a river called Al-'Arjān. Its source is in the mountains of Jabal-ar-Rīsh, and it flows into the Jūrīth (or Hūrīth). From the river

Al-'Arjān are brought the water-courses of Al-Ḥadath, and their waters flow back into the same.

¹ It will be seen that Ibn Serapion has given this section, describing the tributaries of the affluents of the Euphrates, in duplicate (see below, Section XVIII.); but since some additional information is to be found in the second account, it has seemed worth while to print the texts and the translations in full.

The two tributaries of the Arsanās serve to fix the site of Shamshāt, as already stated (see Section III. note 1). Nahr-adh-Dhīb, the "Wolf River," is a common name for streams, and there is an affluent of the Tigris which is likewise so-called (see below, Section VII.). This Nahr-adh-Dhīb is evidently the stream now known as the Gunek Su. Kālīkalā, where it is said to rise, according to the somewhat vague statement of Yākūt (IV. 19), was the name by which the Arabs called the chain of mountains in Greater, or Fourth, Armenia, and it was of the province of Mināzjird (modern Melasgird) or of Khilāt (Akhlāt). Further, Ibn Serapion (MS. folio 46*b*) says that the river Ar-Rass (the Araxes) "has its source in the mountain between Khilāt and Kālīkalā, being from the Kālīkalā district." Ibn Rusta (p. 89) and Ibn Khurdābih (p. 174) both confirm this, and the latter authority gives Kālīkalā, also, as the country of the head-waters of the (western) Euphrates. The name has entirely disappeared from the maps, but from the above Kālīkalā evidently represents the mountainous district lying between the various sources of the Eastern and Western Euphrates and those of the Araxes.

The river Salkat (or As-Salkit), which (see Section XVIII.) joined the Arsanās "one mile below Shamshāt," is the stream now called Peri Tchay, with its numerous tributaries. The statement that this

stream rises in the Jabal Marūr is puzzling. By our author's account, repeated more than once, these mountains were in the Abriḳ Country, that is to the *westward* of the Euphrates, while the present passage evidently refers to the district lying *eastward* of the great river, and between the two great arms of the Eastern and Western Euphrates. The name Marūr, to my knowledge, occurs in no other author, and I am inclined to think that the MS. in this and the corresponding passage (Section XVIII.) may be in error, for by the addition of a diacritical point Marūr becomes *Mazūr*, and this, written Mezour Dāgh, is the mountain which, at the present day, gives its name to a tributary stream of the upper waters of the Peri Tchai. Jabal Marūr may mean "the Mountain of the Passage," while *Mazūr* is a name applied to any place "visited" by pilgrims.

² The tributary of the Abriḳ, called Zamra, is probably the modern Miram Tchai, which flows into the Sari Tchitchek Sū, a little below Divrigi, "the Castle of Abriḳ," mentioned in the text and referred to in Section III. note 3. A place called Zimarra is marked on Kiepert's map at this spot.

³ The Nahr Ghawth must be the tributary stream shown on the map as flowing from the northward past the village of Mirlabey into the Kuru Tchai, the Jarjāriya of our author.

⁴ The tributaries of the Ḳubāḳib (the ancient *Melas* and the present Tokma Su) are of importance, since they give us the sites of two places of much note in early days, namely, Zibaṭra and Al-Ḥadath. The Nahr Ḳarāḳis, on which stood Zibaṭra, is evidently the present Sultān Su, and Zibaṭra itself I feel inclined to identify with the remains now called Virān Shahr, "the Ruined City" (see Ritter, X. 850). Zibaṭra was a frontier fortress of great importance in mediæval times. According to Bilādhuri (p. 191) it was an

ancient Greek fortress: possibly it may be identical with *Sosopetra*, which is, I believe, mentioned in the Byzantine Chronicles. Bilādhurī tells us that it was conquered at the same time as Al-Ḥadath (see below, note 5), that it was rebuilt by the Caliph Al-Manṣūr, after having been destroyed during an incursion of the Greeks; later on it was strongly fortified by Al-Mamūn, and since that date had been dismantled and refortified several times over. Abu-l-Fidā (p. 234), who had visited Zibaṭra in A.H. 715 (1315), describes it as a ruin, of which only the line of the walls remained:—"Its fields are all wasted; it lies in a plain surrounded by mountains, and the vegetation grows close up to its walls. It stands two marches southward of Malatya, and the same distance westward of Ḥiṣn Manṣūr." Kudāma (p. 97) states that from Malatya to Zibaṭra was five leagues, and thence on to Al-Ḥadath it was four leagues.

The river that flows by Malatya (see also Section XVIII.) is called Nahr-az-Zarnūḳ or Az-Zarbūḳ by Ibn Serapion, for both these readings are given in the MS., and I have been unable to find the name in any other authority. This stream, whose waters irrigated the plain round the city (see Ritter, X. 851) is now known as the Shakma Sū.

Ḥiṣn Manṣūr, now more often called Adiamān, lies immediately to the north of Sumaysāt. According to Bilādhurī (p. 192) this fortress took its name from a certain Manṣūr ibn Ja'wana, who commanded some troops here, and rebuilt the fortifications in the days of Marwān II., the last Omayyad Caliph. Hārūn-ar-Rashīd restored the buildings, and Istakhri (p. 62) describes it as a small fortified town with a Friday Mosque.

⁵ The site of Al-Ḥadath and the streams on which it lay, are difficult to identify. Al-Ḥadath was conquered by the Muslims in the reign of 'Omar, and Bilādhurī (p. 189) states that the name was originally *Darb-al-*

Hadath-as-Salāma, that is "the Road of the News of Safety." This, in course of time, was shortened to Al-Ḥadath, meaning "the News" (of Safety), and held as of good augury. The town was rebuilt by the Caliph Al-Mahdi, and again later by Ar-Rashīd, when its garrison was fixed at 2,000 men. Istakhri (p. 62) mentions its arable fields and excellent fruit-trees, and relates how this frontier-fortress was taken and retaken alternately by the Greeks and Muslims. Yāḳūt (II. 218) speaks of the town, with its strong castle, as lying between Malatya, Sumaysāt, and Mar'ash. It was surnamed Al-Ḥamrā, "the Red," and its Castle crowned a hill called Al-Uhaydab. Dimashki (pp. 208, 214) says that Al-Ḥadath, on being rebuilt by Al-Mahdi, took the name of Al-Muḥammadiyya, after that Caliph, being called by the Armenians Kaytuk. Abu-l-Fidā (p. 263) states that this Castle stood twelve miles distant from a point on the river Jayhān (the Pyramus), where this stream was crossed at "the Ford of the Alide." Ibn Khurdādbih (p. 97) writes that between Al-Ḥadath and Mar'ash was a distance of thirty miles, but Kudāma (p. 216) gives it as five leagues, or about fifteen miles.

Turning now to the rivers of Al-Ḥadath, the name of the Nahr Jūrīth is very clearly so written by Ibn Serapion, *i.e.* with an initial *j*. Yāḳūt (IV. 838), however, gives the name as Ḥūrīth, placing it among the Hs in his alphabetical list, and, as usual, specifying the exact pronunciation. He goes on to state that the river Ḥūrīth "flows out of the Lake of Al-Ḥadath, near Mar'ash," but adds (and I believe in error) that "flowing on, it finally falls into the Nahr Jayhūn," the *Pyramus*, which runs to the Mediterranean. The spring of 'Ayn Zanīthā and the tributary Nahr-al-'Arjān, flowing down from the mountains of Jabal-ar-Rīsh, are none of them, to my knowledge, mentioned by any other authority. On an examination of the map,

the only tributary of the Tokhma Sū, which at all satisfies the requirements of the case, is the Gurun Sū (see Ritter, X. 841), on which lies Gurun, an important town, in Byzantine days called *Gauraina*, at or near which I am inclined to place Al-Ḥadath. The Gurun Sū I conclude to be the mediæval Jūrith or Hūrith, and the 'Arjān would be one of its tributaries, possibly that now called the Inja Sū.

[SECTION V.]

ACCOUNT OF THE CANALS WHICH ARE BROUGHT FROM (THE EUPHRATES OR TIGRIS), AND WHICH FLOW BACK INTO (THE SAME OR OTHER RIVER).*

From the Euphrates is taken (the canal called) the Nahr Sa'id.¹ Its origin is just below the Dome (Al-Kubba), which is called Fam (or Mouth of the) Nahr Sa'id. It flows watering the domains which lie to the west of the Euphrates, and, passing on, next irrigates the domains of Ar-Raḥba, and then falls into the Euphrates on the western bank, and above Dāliya of Mālik ibn Ṭawḳ, after various canals have branched from it, which water the domains of Dāliya aforesaid.

From the Tigris is taken a canal called Dujayl.² Its beginning is a league or more above the village of Ar-Rabb. Then it passes cross-wise, and from it branch many canals which water the domains of Maskin and Kaṭrabbul, and the hamlets pertaining thereto, and finally it falls into the Tigris between 'Ukbarā and Baghdād.

From the Euphrates is taken a canal called the Nahr 'Īsā.³ Its beginning is in longitude 68° 50' and latitude 32° 20'. At its head is a wonderful bridge, called Kaṭara Dimimmā, Dimimmā being the name of a village lying on the

* The Arabic is ambiguous, but this, from what follows, is evidently the sense.

Euphrates and on the canal. The canal passes on, with running waters, and irrigates the districts of Fīrūz Sābūr, flowing by villages and domains which lie on both its banks. When it reaches Al-Muḥawwal the canals of the City of Peace (Baghdād) branch from it, but these we will detail later. From Al-Muḥawwal it passes to Al-Yāsiriyya, and here there crosses it the bridge called Ḳanṭara-al-Yāsiriyya. Thence it passes through the midst of (the district of) Bādūrayā, which lies (mostly) to the eastward of it. Thence it passes to Ar-Rūmiyya, and there is here a bridge over it called Ḳanṭara-ar-Rūmiyya. Thence it passes to (the Place of the Oil-sellers, called) Az-Zayyāṭīn [and here there is a bridge over it called by the same name];* and thence to the Place of the Sellers of Alkali (Ushnān), where over it is a bridge called Ḳanṭara-al-Ushnān. Thence it passes to the Place of the Sellers of Thorns (Shawk), where over it is a bridge called the Ḳanṭara-ash-Shawk; from thence to the Place of the Sellers of Pomegranates (Rummān), where over it is a bridge called the Ḳanṭara-ar-Rummān. Thence it goes to (the bridge called) Ḳanṭara-al-Maghīd, and (the place called) Al-Maghīd. Then it passes to Ḳanṭara-al-Bustān (the Garden Bridge); then to (the bridge called) Ḳanṭara-al-Ma'badī; next to (another called) Ḳanṭara Bani Zūrayḳ, and finally falls into the Tigris on its western bank, below (the palace called) Ḳaṣr 'Īsā-ibn-Mūsā, of the City of Peace (Baghdād).

From the Euphrates also is taken the canal called the Nahr Ṣarṣar.⁴ Its origin is three leagues below the village of Dimimmā. It is a great canal, with running waters, and the lands (adjacent) are irrigated from it by means of the (water-wheel called) Dāliya and the (lever called) Shadūf. Over it is a Bridge-of-Boats (Jisr), and there are domains and villages (on its banks). It passes through part of (the District of) Bādūrayā, and finally flows into the Tigris, on its western bank, between Baghdād and Al-Madāin, and at a point four leagues above Al-Madāin.

* Supplied from Yāqūt, IV. 842.

From the Euphrates also is taken a canal called the Nahr-al-Mālik.⁵ Its point of origin is five leagues below the head of the Nahr Şarşar. It is a canal that has along it numerous domains and fertile lands. There is also a Bridge-of-Boats over it; and further many villages and fields (along its banks). From it branch numerous other canals, and its lands form a District of the Sawād. Finally it flows out into the Tigris on its western bank, three leagues below Al-Madāin.

From the Euphrates also is taken a canal called the Nahr Kūthā.⁶ Its point of origin is three leagues below that of the Nahr-al-Mālik. It is a canal watering numerous domains and villages. There is a Bridge-of-Boats over it, and from it branch other canals, irrigating the District of Kūthā—which is of the province of Ardashīr Bābakān—also part of the District of Nahr Jawbar. After passing by Kūthā Rabbā, it finally flows out into the Tigris on its western bank, ten leagues below Al-Madāin.

¹ The canal of Sa'id has been described in Section II. note 4.

The word Dāliya, in Arabic, besides meaning "a grape-vine," or "bunch of grapes," is also the name for "a water-wheel," being the synonym of *Nā'ūra*. This last is the more common term for these instruments of irrigation, and under the plural form of An-Nawā'ir this occurs as a place-name (see Section VI.)

² The Dujayl, or "Little Tigris," is the name given to the canal above Baghdād, on the right or western bank of the Tigris, whose waters irrigate the district called Maskin, which lies immediately to the north of the Katrabbul district. The village of Ar-Rabb is not, I believe, mentioned by any other geographer. According to Yākūt (II. 555) the Dujayl Canal begins opposite Al-Kādisiyya. Its course may still be traced on the modern maps.

³ The Nahr 'Īsā is the first of the four great canals which carry the surplus waters of the Euphrates into the Tigris, and irrigate the intervening lands, called the Sawād (or "black" alluvial plain) of lower Mesopotamia. The Nahr 'Īsā left the Euphrates immediately below Al-Anbār, and so much of its waters as was not diverted by the Ṣarāt—and the other minor canals, which branched from its left bank—flowed out at last into the Tigris some distance below Baghdād at a place known as Al-Farḍa, "the Harbour" (see Ya'kūbī, p. 250). In general the Nahr 'Īsā followed the line of the modern Saklawiyya Canal. Dimimmā is described by Yākūt (II. 600) as a large village on the Euphrates near the hamlet of Al-Fallūja; and these two villages with Al-Anbār were the chief places of the district of Firūz Sābūr, the *Perisabor* of the Greek geographers (see Section II. note 7). The whole of this section of Ibn Serapion has been copied almost verbatim by Yākūt (IV. 842).

Al-Muḥawwal, meaning the "Place of Unloading," is described by Yākūt (IV. 432) as a fine township, one league distant from Baghdād, and celebrated for its gardens and markets. The name *Al-Muḥawwal* is explained by the account in Ibn Hawkal (p. 166), who says that ships could float unimpeded down the Nahr 'Īsā from the Euphrates to the Tigris, but that, by reason of the bridges and weirs, their cargoes had to be "unloaded" into small boats in order to pass into the Ṣarāt, the canal (see Section XI.) which branched from the Nahr 'Īsā, immediately below Al-Muḥawwal, and flowed into Baghdād.

The District of Bādūrayā is described by Yākūt (I. 460) as comprising the lands lying to the westward of Baghdād. It is divided, he says, from the Kaṭrabbul District by the Canal of the Ṣarāt, the lands to the west (and north) of this being

Ḳaṭrabbul, while Bādūrayā is to the east (and south) of this canal.

In regard to the various bridges over the Nahr 'Īsā, Yāḳūt gives particulars of the following. The Yāsiriyya (IV. 1002) was called after a man named Yāsir, and the village of this name lay about one mile from Al-Muḥawwal, and two miles from Baghdād, on the canal bank. It was famous for its gardens. Ibn Hawkal (p. 165) mentions the gate called Bāb-al-Yāsiriyya as marking the westernmost limit of Baghdād, adding that formerly five miles of streets intervened between this point and the Khurāsān Gate to the north-east, which lay at the boundary of the Eastern quarter of the city, on the Persian side of the Tigris (see Section XI. note 1). *Ushnān*, Yāḳūt (I. 284) says, is the substance (*alkali*) used for washing clothes, and he adds that the bridge of this name was a well-known quarter of Western Baghdād. The bridge of Ash-Shawk is noticed in like terms (IV. 191). Here dwelt the clothes-merchants (Al-Bazzāzūn) and other hucksters. Ḳaṭara-al-Maghīd means the Bridge of "the Place which-lacks-water," but is not otherwise specified. Ḳaṭara-al-Ma'badī, Yāḳūt says (IV. 191), was called after a certain 'Abd-Allah ibn Muḥammad Al-Ma'badī, who possessed fiefs here, and built this bridge, with a mill and a palace (Dār) which were all called after him. These buildings afterwards came into the possession of Muḥammad Az-Zayyāt (the Oil-man), who was Wasir of the Caliph Al-Wāthiḳ. The Bridge of the Bani Zurayḳ is described (IV. 190) as having been built of marble. The family of Zurayḳ were celebrated architects, and of Persian origin.

The great Nahr 'Īsā was named after an 'Abbasid

Prince whom Ibn Serapion calls Ibn (son of) Mūsā, but whom all other authorities call Ibn 'Alī. This canal was, however, far more ancient than Arab times, and its upper portion, according to Kudāma (p. 234), was originally called Ad-Dakīl, while its lower reach was apparently known as the Nahr Rufayl (compare Yāqūt, IV. p. 839, with pp. 117 and 190 of the same volume). In regard to the Prince 'Īsā, who re-dug this canal, and whose palace stood just above its point of junction with the Tigris, if he be called 'Īsā-ibn-Mūsā (as in the text of Ibn Serapion), he was *nephew* to the Caliph Al-Manṣūr, founder of Baghdād, who at one time appointed him to be his successor in the Caliphate. This 'Īsā was governor of Al-Ahwāz and Al-Kūfa, at which latter city he died, after having been ousted from his right to the succession by Al-Manṣūr, who proclaimed his own son, Al-Mahdi, heir-apparent in his stead. It seems likely, however, that Ibn Serapion has here made a mistake, and that it was 'Īsā, son of 'Alī, and *uncle* of the Caliph Al-Manṣūr, who (as all other authorities concur in stating) was the person from whom the Nahr 'Īsā took its name. Yāqūt (IV. 117) says that his palace (Kaṣr) was the first of those built by the 'Abbasids, during the reign of Al-Manṣūr, after Baghdād had been founded; and though no traces of it remained in the thirteenth century A.D., a great quarter of the city, with its markets and streets, was still known as the Kaṣr 'Īsā. Apparently this palace had changed its name in A.H. 278 (891), when Ya'qūbī wrote his description of Baghdād, for the only palaces he mentions (p. 245) at this point are those of 'Īsā and Ja'far, *grandsons* of Al-Manṣūr, their sister, Zubayda, being the famous wife of Hārūn-ar-Rashīd. The following table makes clear

Roughly speaking, it followed the line of the modern Radhwāniyya Canal. The Bridge-of-Boats crossed it, on the Baghdād Kūfa high road, at the town, likewise called Nahr-al-Mālik, and according to Ibn Rusta (p. 182) this lay seven miles distant from the Şarşar bridge. The town of Nahr-al-Mālik, Ibn Hawkaġ (p. 166) states, was larger by a half than the town of Şarşar; both districts were famous for their corn-lands and date-palms.

⁶ The Nahr Kūthā is represented by the line of the modern Ḥabl Ibrāhīm. The city of Kūthā dates from biblical days, for in II. Kings, xvii. 24, there is mention made of *Cuthah*, one of the important places near Babylon. According to Muslim tradition Kūthā is the place where Abraham was thrown into the fire by the tyrant Nimrod (see G. Weil, *Biblische Legenden der Muselmänner*, p. 74); and Yāqūt (IV. 317) asserts that Kūthā, who dug this canal, was the grandfather of Abraham. Ibn Hawkal (p. 168) states that Kūthā consisted of two cities called respectively Kūthā-at-Tarīk, "of the road," and Kūthā Rabba, which latter was a city larger than Bābil (Babylon). He adds:—"Here are great mounds of ashes which, they say, are those of the fire made by Nimrod, son of Canaan, into which he threw Abraham, the Friend of God." Muḳaddasi (p. 121), repeating the above, adds that near the high road might be seen a building resembling a minaret (or tower) about which the people related many strange legends. The site of Kūthā is still marked by the mound called Tell Ibrāhīm, "the Hill of Abraham." The Bridge-of-Boats, mentioned by Ibn Serapion, lay on the Baghdād Kūfa high road, and it was four miles, according to Ibn Rusta (p. 182), below the town of Nahr-al-Malik. The point where the Kūthā canal joined the Tigris

(stated to have been ten leagues below Al-Madāin) would bring it out nearly opposite Dayr-al-Ākūl (see Section I. note 8). The canal of Nahr Jawbar is mentioned incidentally by Yākūt (I. 324 and II. 141), and in Kudāma (p. 236) Nahr Jawbar is given as one of the five districts of the rich province (Astān) of Ardashīr Bābakān, which last was called after the founder of the Sassanian monarchy, whom the Greeks knew as Artaxerxes, son of Babek.

[To be continued.]

JOURNAL
OF
THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

ART. I.—*Description of Mesopotamia and Baghdād, written about the year 900 A.D. by Ibn Serapion. The Arabic Text edited from a MS. in the British Museum Library, with Translation and Notes. By GUY LE STRANGE.*

(Continued from page 76.)

[SECTION VI.]

CANALS OF THE LOWER EUPHRATES.

Now six leagues after the Nahr Kūthā has been led off from the Euphrates, this last divides into two branches.¹ Of these the (true) Euphrates passes on down to (the town called) Kaṅṅara-al-Kūfa, then it runs past the city of Al-Kūfa, where there is a Bridge-of-Boats over it. And after this it flows into the Swamps.

The other branch (of the River) is also a mighty stream, which is greater even than the Euphrates itself and more broad.² This is the channel called the Upper Sūrā Canal. It passes by many villages and domains, and from it branch numerous canals which water the Districts of Sūrā, Bar-bisamā, and Bārūsmā. It passes in front of the city of Kaṣr Ibn Hubayra, and between it and the town is less

than a mile of distance. Here there is a Bridge-of-Boats over the same, which is called the Jisr Sūrā.

From the (Upper Sūrā) is brought (a canal) called the Nahr Abu Raḥā. Its beginning is at a place one league above the city of the Kaṣr, and it falls into the Sūrā again one league below Kaṣr (Ibn Hubayra).

The Nahr Sūrā runs on past the town of the Kaṣr for a distance of six leagues, and then there is taken from it a canal called the Lower Sūrā. At the head of this canal there is a great bridge called the Kaṣṭara-al-Kāmighān, and the water pours through it with a mighty rush. This canal next passes by villages and cultivated lands, and from it branch numerous channels which water the districts of Bābil,³ of Khuṭarniya, of Al-Jāmi'ān (the Two Mosques), and of Upper and Lower Al-Fallūja. Now the (Lower Sūrā) Canal passes through the ruins of the city of Bābil, and afterwards by the (town of the) Two Mosques (Al-Jāmi'ān), the New and the Old, and then it comes to Ḥamdābād and Khuṭarniya and it passes Kussīn. From here there branch from it the channels which water the Districts of Junbulā and those that lie adjacent thereto. Finally, some way below Al-Kūfa and its Sawād (or Plain) the (Lower Sūrā) falls into the canal which is brought from the Euphrates, and which is called Al-Badāt.⁴

From the Lower Sūrā, aforesaid, is taken a canal called the Nahr-an-Nars.⁵ Its beginning is at the Old Jāmi' (Mosque). It flows by villages and domains, and from it divide the channels which irrigate the Sawād of Al-Kūfa, or some part thereof. It passes by Al-Ḥārithiyya and by Ḥammām 'Omar. Now from the bridge of Al-Kāmighān to the head of the canal of An-Nars is six leagues, and from the head of the Nars Canal to Ḥammām 'Omar is likewise six leagues. Finally, the canal of An-Nars falls out into the canal of Al-Badāt, in the Sawād of Al-Kūfa, which lies to the eastward of the Euphrates.

Then after the Upper Sūrā has passed the bridge of Al-Kāmighān it receives the name of the Great Ṣarāt,⁶ and it flows near Al-'Akr and by (many) villages and domains.

After passing Šābarnīthā there branch from it the channels which water the domains lying to the west of the canal. From it also is taken a canal called the Nahr Šarāt Jāmās. Its point of origin is at (the waterwheels called) An-Nawā'ir, whence it flows, irrigating the domains in those parts, and finally rejoins the Great Šarāt at a point three leagues below the city of An-Nīl.⁷ The Great Šarāt itself flows past the city of An-Nīl, and there is here a bridge over it called Kaṅṅara-al-Māsī. After the canal has passed this bridge it takes the name of (the Canal of) An-Nīl. It flows next by villages and cultivated lands to a place called Al-Hūl, between which and (the town of) An-Nu'māniyya, on the bank of the Tigris, is less than a league's distance, and from this point they transport (goods to other boats) on the Tigris. But the canal (of An-Nīl) turns off here, and passes towards Nahr Sābus, which is the name of a village lying on the Tigris bank; and the (canal) takes here the name of the Nahr Sābus, flowing out into the Tigris one league below the village (of Nahr Sābus).

These, therefore, are the streams which flow into, and are derived from, the river Euphrates, and these having now been described, there remains over for thee the specification of the streams which fall into, and are derived from, the Tigris. And these I will also explain clearly to thee, if it please Allah. May He be exalted!

¹ The distances here given agree very fairly with the point on the modern map where the Hindiyya Canal, by Ibn Serapion regarded as the main stream of the Euphrates (see Section II. note 7), branches from the Sūrā arm, which, in his day, was the name given to part of what is the present main channel of the Euphrates. On the Western or Kūfa arm lay the town of Al-Kaṅṅara (the Bridge), where one of the roads from Baghdād to Al-Kūfa crossed the stream. This place, according to Ibn Rusta (p. 182), who names

the town under the plural form of the word, viz. Al-Ḳanāṭīr, lay twenty-seven miles southward of the Bridge-of-Boats at Sūrā, and twenty-eight miles above the city of Al-Kūfa. The town of Al-Ḳanṭara, or Al-Ḳanāṭīr, is, I presume, the place which Yāḳūt (IV. 180) names Ḳanāṭīr of the Bani Dārā, for distinction. The city of Al-Kūfa has already been noticed (Section II. note 8).

- ² The eastern arm of the Euphrates, and its present main-channel, was formerly called the Nahr Sūrā, a name which in Ibn Rusta always appears under the older form of As-Sūrān. This canal irrigated the Sūrā district, which, according to Kudāma (p. 236), together with Barbīsamā and Bārūsmā, formed part of the great province (or Astān) of Middle Bihkubādh.

The city of Ḳaṣr Ibn Hubayra lay on the Baghdād-Kūfa high-road, and according to Ibn Rusta (p. 182) it was fifteen miles south of Kūthā, and two miles above the Bridge-of-Boats over the Sūrā Canal. The ruins of Ḳaṣr Ibn Hubayra are identified by M. de Goeje (Z.D.M.G. XXXIX. 6) with those now called Tubayba. Ibn Hawkal (p. 166) writes that in his day (tenth century A.D.) Ḳaṣr Ibn Hubayra was the largest town between Baghdād and Al-Kūfa, and one of the most populous places of the Sawād District. It took its name from the Castle or Palace (Ḳaṣr) built here by Yazir-ibn-‘Omar Ibn Hubayra, governor of Al-‘Irāk, under Marwan II., the last Omayyad Caliph. This castle, according to Yāḳūt (IV. 123), Ibn Hubayra never finished, but after the fall of the Omayyads, the first of the Abbasid Caliphs, As-Saffāh, taking up his residence here, proceeded to roof the chambers and enlarge the half-finished buildings, to which he gave the name of Al-Hāshimiyya, in honour of his ancestor Hāshim. The people, however, preferred the old name, and Ḳaṣr Ibn Hubayra it continued to be called.

The Canal of Abu Raḥā (meaning probably “the

Canal of the Mill," unless Abu Raḥā be taken as a man's name), is apparently mentioned by no other authority; and the same remark applies, I believe, to the Bridge of Kāmighān, where the Upper Sūrā Canal bifurcated, forming the Lower Sūrā and the Great Ṣarāt. In general terms the Upper and Lower Sūrā correspond with what is now the course of the Euphrates from Musayyib to Lamlūn, while the Ṣarāt is the present Shatt-an-Nīl.

³ Bābil (the ancient Babylon), Khuṭarnīya, and the two Fallūjas (not to be confounded with the Al-Fallūja near Al-Anbār) were four out of the six districts of the Province of Upper Bihkubādh, according to Kudāma (p. 236). Al-Jāmi'ān,* "the Two Mosques," is what subsequently came to be known as Al-Ḥilla, called for distinction Ḥilla of the Bani Mazyad. Yākūt (III. 861) says that the river at Al-Ḥilla was the Nahr Sūrā, and at another place (II. 322) he relates how Al-Jāmi'ān came to be called Al-Ḥilla, "the Settlement," for it appears that Sayf-ad-Dawla of the Bani Mazyad, fleeing hither with his people for refuge in A.H. 495 (1102), his descendants after his days "settled" permanently at this place.

Ḥamdābād is mentioned in Mas'ūdi (I. 215) as Aḥmadābād, but no details are given. Kussīn is written Kīssīn in Yākūt (IV. 100), who states that it is a district of Al-Kūfa; and he mentions Junbulā (II. 126) as a station lying between Wāsiṭ and Al-Kūfa, "from whence you go to Qanāṭir of the Bani Dara" (see above, note 1).

⁴ The point where the Canal of Al-Badāt leaves the Euphrates is unfortunately not fixed by Ibn Serapion. Yākūt (I. 770, II. 31) and some other authorities give the pronunciation as Al-Budāt, but this is probably incorrect. Kudāma (p. 236) mentions Al-Badāt as a sub-district of the Astān of Middle

* Dual form of *Jāmi'*, a Congregational-Mosque for the Friday Prayers.

Bihkubādh; and M. de Goeje gives good reasons (Z.D.M.G. XXXIX. 12) for thinking that, while the total length of this canal was about 22 leagues, the place where it left the Euphrates main-channel was at a short distance south (and west) of the Sūrā Bridge. Below Niffar doubtless it finally flowed out into the Swamps.

⁵ The digging of the Nahr-an-Nars, Yāḳūt (IV. 773) ascribes to Narsi-ibn-Bahrām, that is to the Sassanian Narses, son of Varahrān, King of Persia, who came to the throne in 292 A.D. It was, Yāḳūt writes, a canal taken from the Euphrates, and on its banks lay many villages; no mention, however, is made of Al-Ḥārithiyya in this position. Ḥammām 'Omar is mentioned by Muḳaddasi (p. 134), who, however, gives the name as the Bath of *Ibn 'Omar*; it lay one march below Ḳaṣr Ibn Hubayra and a like distance above Al-Kūfa. The line of the Nars Canal beginning at Ḥilla, is fixed by the town of Niffar, whose ruins still exist, and which Yāḳūt (IV. 798) says lay on its bank.

⁶ The line of the canal called the Great Ṣarāt, with its continuation, the Nīl Canal, is (as already mentioned) marked on the modern map by the Shaṭṭ-an-Nīl, and the ruins of the city of An-Nīl also exist (see below, Note 7). The Ṣarāt Jāmās is that which Bilādhurī (p. 254) and Yāḳūt (III. 379) call the Ṣarāt of Jāmāsb, and which was dug by Hajjāj, the celebrated Governor of Al-'Irāḳ, under the Omayyads. Jāmāsb, or, in Persian, Jāmāsp, is the name of the great Mobed, or Fire-priest, who was Minister of King Gushtasp, and who helped to introduce the religion of Zoroaster into Persia. Why a canal should be called after him in Mesopotamia is not stated.

The village of Al-'Aḳr, meaning "the Palace," is probably that mentioned by Yāḳūt (III. 695) as of the Bābil district, lying on the road towards Ḳarbalā,

and which Al-Ḥusayn, the Prophet's grandson, passed by as he went to the place of his martyrdom. Šābarnīthā the same author mentions (III. 359) as of the Kūfa District and on the Upper Sīb Canal, by which name, apparently, part of the Nil Canal was known in the thirteenth century A.D.

⁷ The city of An-Nīl, according to Bilādhurī (p. 290), was founded by the Governor Ḥajjāj, and made the chief town of the province when he dug the Nīl Canal. Yākūt (IV. 861) says that the canal was named after the Nile of Egypt, which it was supposed to resemble. I believe that no other authority mentions the bridge called the Kanṭara-al-Māsī. It is perhaps worth noting that, according to Abu-l-Fidā (p. 53), it was the reach of the canal *below* (not above, and west of) the city of An-Nīl, which in his day bore the name of Aṣ-Šarāt.

Al-Hūl, or Al-Hawl, near An-Nu'māniyya, is not mentioned by any other authority. As will be explained below (Section XIII. note 1), this name is applied to a place where a canal spreads out to form a lake of clear water, free from reeds. The village of Nahr Sābus, on the canal of this name, has been already mentioned (Section I. note 9). From Yākūt (II. 903) we learn that in his day (thirteenth century A.D.) the Nīl Canal, from the town of An-Nīl to opposite An-Nu'māniyya, was known as the Upper Zāb Canal, while the Lower Zāb Canal was what Ibn Serapion here calls the Nahr Sābus.

[SECTION VII.]

AFFLUENTS OF THE TIGRIS.

Among these is a stream called Nahr-adh-Dhīb,¹ and it flows into the Tigris. Its source is in a mountain in longitude 68° 30', and in latitude 39° 5'. Coming down

from the district of Arzan, it falls into the Tigris under longitude $68^{\circ} 20'$, and latitude $36^{\circ} 30'$.

There also flows into the (Tigris) a river called [Fāfān].*² Its source is at a spring in a mountain under longitude $49^{\circ} 5'$, or $69^{\circ} 5'$, and latitude $39^{\circ} 20'$. Its junction with the Tigris is in longitude $69^{\circ} 55'$ (or $15'$), and latitude $36^{\circ} 30'$.

There also falls into the (Tigris) the river called Bāsānfā.³ Its source is in the country of Mayāfārikīn, and it falls into the Tigris on its eastern bank, five leagues above the town of Jazīra-Ibn-'Omar.

There likewise falls into the (Tigris) the (two) rivers called Az-Zāb.⁴ The source of one of them is in a mountain under longitude $71^{\circ} 30'$, and latitude $38^{\circ} 30'$. It falls into the Tigris on its eastern bank, under longitude $69^{\circ} 30'$, and latitude $35^{\circ} 30'$. The second Az-Zāb has its source in longitude $72^{\circ} 5'$, and latitude $38^{\circ} 5'$, and it falls into the Tigris, on its eastern bank, under longitude $69^{\circ} 40'$, and latitude $35^{\circ} 5'$.

There also falls into the (Tigris) a river called Ath-Tharthār. It flows out from the river Al-Hirmās, which is the river of Naṣībīn; and passing on it cuts through a mountain which lies across its course. Thence flowing through the plain it passes Al-Ḥaḍr, and on through the plain of Sinjār. Finally it falls into the Tigris, on the western bank of the same, at a distance of two leagues above the city of Takrīt.

Now [below]† the Fortress of Ḥiṣn Kayfa,⁵ there also flows into the (Tigris) [the river called Sarbaṭ†], but we need not describe it; also (the river) Sātīdamād, but this neither do we need to describe.

¹ Nahr-adh-Dhīb, "the Wolf River," is evidently the stream now called Arzan Sū, on which lie the ruins of

* Conjectural reading, MS. Fāfās or Fākas.

† Conjectural emendations.

the city of Arzan. This town must not be confounded with Arzan-ar-Rūm or Erzeroum. Yāḳūt (III. 68), who does not mention this Nahr-adh-Dhīb, calls the river of Arzan the Wādī-as-Sarbaṭ, and the same name is given to it in a note to the text of Istakhri (p. 76, note *k*); where Arzan is described as a city without walls, but defended by a strong castle. Yāḳūt (I. 205) counts this town as of Armenia, but says that in his day (thirteenth century A.D.) it was already a ruin.

² In the MS. this name is written without diacritical points on the third letter, which may therefore be either *f* or *k*, Fāfas or Fākas. Neither of these names, however, occur in any of our authorities, and I am inclined to believe that Fāfān (as printed in my text) is the true reading. The spring called 'Ayn-Tall-Fāfān is mentioned by Muḳaddasi (pp. 141, 145), who gives this river the name of Razm. The town of Tall-Fāfān lay between the Tigris and this river, and was noted for its gardens, its cheap food, and good markets. The houses were built of sun-dried bricks. From the description of Yāḳūt (II. 552, 773, III. 845) it is evident that the river of Fāfān, which he names (following Muḳaddasi) the Wādī-ar-Razm, is the Buhtan Sū of our maps, often called the Eastern Tigris—of which one tributary is the river from Bitlis. The waters of the Razm (Yāḳūt writes) so increase the stream of the Tigris as to make it navigable for boats below Fāfān.

³ From the distance of five leagues above Jazīra-Ibn-'Omar, the Bāsānfā is evidently identical with the river called Bā'aynātha by Yāḳūt (II. 552) and Bakri (pp. 151, 168). The MS. of Ibn Serapion is here rather uncertain, but Abu-l-Fidā (p. 55) has copied this paragraph verbatim, and in the Paris edition of his text the word Bāsānfā is clearly printed. This name apparently occurs in no other

authority. The country of Mayāfāriḳīn, it will be seen on the map, lies a very long way from this river, which is that on which the modern town of Manṣūriyya stands (see Ritter, XI. 120). Yāḳūt (I. 472) describes Bā'aynāthā (in the thirteenth century A.D.) as a village almost as large as a town, lying at the junction of its river with the Tigris. The gardens here were so extensive as to recall those of Damascus.

⁴ The two Zābs have already been mentioned (Section I. note 2). The Greater, or Upper, Zāb, according to Yāḳūt (II. 552), flows down from the Adharbayjān mountains, and joins the Tigris at Al-Ḥadītha; while the Lesser, or Lower, Zāb, whose source is in the country of Shahrazūr, flows into the Tigris at As-Sinn. Both these towns have disappeared from our modern maps. The river Ath-Tharthār has already been described (Section III. note 8).

⁵ The last paragraph of this section is corrupt in the MS. Hiṣn Kayfa is the well-known fortress still marked on our maps, and which was called *Kīphas* and *Cephe* by the classical geographers. Muḳaddasi (p. 141) writes that it is a place full of excellent things, with a strong castle and many churches. If Nahr Sarbaṭ be the true reading of the MS., this according to Yāḳūt (II. 552, III. 68) is the name of the river which flows past Arzan, and which Ibn Serapion has already mentioned under the name of Wolf River (see above, Note 1.) This is said (by Yāḳūt) to flow down from a place in Armenia, which the MSS. variously give as Khūwīt, Khūnat, or Khūdīt.

Sātīdāmād (written in the MS. without diacritical points) is evidently the river Sātīdamā of Yāḳūt (II. 552, III. 7), which rises in the mountain of the same name, which, according to Yāḳūt, is a continuation of the Bārimmā range (see Section III. note 8). From his description the Sātīdamā, which

had many tributaries, may be identified with the present Batman Su, one of whose affluents is the river flowing down from Mayāfāriḳīn.

[SECTION VIII.]

ACCOUNT OF THE CANALS WHICH ARE BROUGHT FROM THE (TIGRIS) AND WHICH FLOW BACK ENTIRELY INTO THE SAME.

From the western* side of the Tigris is taken a canal called Al-Ishākī.¹ Its beginning is a short distance below Takrīt, and it passes to the westward of the Tigris, having on its banks both domains and cultivated lands. It flows on by [Tīrhān],† and then comes to the Palace of Al-Mu'tasim, known as Kaṣr-al-Jaṣṣ. Here it irrigates the domains extending westward of the city of Surra-man-raa (Samarrā), which are specified as the First, the Second, the Third, and so on up to the number Seven. Finally the (canal) flows out into the Tigris opposite Al-Maṭīra.²

From the (Tigris) also, but from its eastern side, is taken the canal called the Upper Al-Kāṭūl-al-Kisrawī³ (of the Chosroes). Its point of origin is a little way below Dūr-al-Hārith. From here it flows on, skirting the Palace of Al-Mutawakkil, which is known as Al-Ja'farī, and here there is over it a stone bridge. From this place it passes on to Al-Ītākhiyya⁴ and here there is over it a bridge called Kaṭara Kisrawiyya (of the Chosroes). Thence it passes on to Al-Muḥammadiyya, and here there crosses it (the Bridge-of-Boats called) Jisr Zawārīḳ. Thence it passes on to Ash-Shādhurwān, and thence to Al-Mamūniyya, which is a large village, next it reaches Al-Kanāṭīr. Now all these are fertile villages, and domains lying contiguous each to the other. Thence the (canal) passes on to a village called Ṣulā (or Ṣalwā),⁵ and next to Bā'akūbā, and here it changes its name to Tāmarrā. From this place it passes on to Bājisrā,

* The MS. reads "eastern" in error.

† Conjectural emendation, MS. Ṭayrān.

and comes to the Bridge-of-Boats called Jisr-an-Nahrawān.⁶ Here the canal is itself known as the Nahrawān. From thence it flows by the Upper Ash-Shādhurwān, then on to Jisr Būrān, next, passing by 'Abartā, it comes to Yarzatiya, and thence to the Lower Ash-Shādhurwān. Now these are all beautiful villages and domains. From these the canal passes on to Uskāf-Bani-l-Junayd,⁷ which is a city lying on both its banks, for the canal divides the same into halves. Thence it passes on between villages that lie contiguous each to the other, and domains which extend down to where its waters finally flow out into the Tigris, on the eastern bank of the same, a short distance below Mādhārāyā.⁸

¹ I have been unable to discover after whom the Ishāki Canal takes its name. It is only mentioned in Yāqūt's Dictionary once (IV. 844), incidentally; and among early authorities, Yā'kūbī (p. 264) is the only reference I can give. This author, when describing Samarrā, refers to the Nahr-al-Ishāki, which (he writes) irrigated the gardens and lands on the western side of the Tigris opposite Samarrā. In the MS. of Ibn Serapion the canal is said to "pass by Ṭīrān," a place-name which is mentioned by no other authority. For this I propose to read Ṭīrhān, which was one of the districts near Samarrā. Yā'kūbī (pp. 255 and 257) mentions Aṭ-Ṭīrhān as the name of the plain on part of which Samarrā was built, and Ibn Kurdādbih (p. 94) includes it among the districts belonging to Mosul. Written Ṭīrhān, the name is often mentioned in the Syrian Chronicle of Thomas of Margā (see E. A. W. Budge, *The Book of Governors*, II. 290).

Ḳaṣr-al-Jaṣṣ, "the Gypsum Palace," is described by Yāqūt (IV. 110) as situated above the Palace named Al-Hārūnī, which the Caliph Al-Wāthiq built at Samarrā (*cf.* Bilādhurī, p. 297).

² The position of Al-Maṭīra is fixed by Ibn Serapion (see below, Section IX.). Ya'qūbī also refers to it, in several passages, as the limit reached by the buildings of Samarrā, down stream, on the eastern bank; Ya'qūbī further (p. 259), confirming Ibn Serapion, also states that it lay two leagues distant from Samarrā. According to Yāqūt (IV. 568) Maṭīra took its name from a certain Maṭar, son of Fazara of the Shaybān tribe, who was of the sect of the Kharijites. The place (he says) was originally called Al-Maṭariyya, after him; which name in course of time became changed into Al-Maṭīra.

³ The line of the great Kāṭūl-Nahrawān Canal still exists, and has been surveyed (*cf.* papers by Captain F. Jones, R.N., *Records*). This great canal, originally dug by the Sassanian Kings, was brought into working order by the Caliphs and served to irrigate the lands on the eastern bank of the Tigris, from a point more than a hundred miles north of Baghdād, to a like distance down stream, to the south-east of the capital. The greater number of the places mentioned by Ibn Serapion as lying on the canal, unfortunately, now no longer exist, and the numerous ruins which stud its banks are apparently for the most part nameless.

Dūr, where the canal took its origin, still exists. This name was common to many places in Al-'Irāk. Yāqūt (II. 615) mentions seven Dūrs, and there were two between Samarrā and Takrīt. This Dūr, which Ibn Serapion surnames, of Al-Ḥārith, Bilādhuri (p. 297) gives as Dūr-al-'Arabāyā.

The ruins of the Palace of Al-Mutawakkil (called Al-Ja'fari from the name of that Caliph) still exist. Bilādhuri (p. 298) says that a city, called Al-Mutawakkiliyya, grew up round the palace, with which were incorporated both the neighbouring town of Dūr (mentioned above) and the village of Al-Māhūza.

⁴ Al-Ītākhiyya took its name from Ītākḥ, the Turk, a captain of the Body-guard of Al-Mu'taṣim. Yāqūt (IV. 430) states that the name of the place was originally a monastery called Dayr Abi Ṣufra, being called after one of the Kharijites, and that Al-Mutawakkil at a still later period changed the name a second time from Al-Ītākhiyya to Al-Muḥammadiyya, in honour of his son Muḥammad, afterwards the Caliph Al-Muntaṣir. Possibly this may be the Muḥammadiyya, mentioned by Ibn Serapion as coming next below Al-Ītākhiyya.

Other authorities make no mention of either Kaṅṅara Kisrawiyya, "the Bridge of the Chosroes"; or of Jisr Zawārīḳ, "the Bridge-of-Boats."

The village of Al-Ajama, "the Thicket," is mentioned above (Section I. note 4), but the name apparently occurs in no other author; the same remark applies to the three villages of Ash-Shādhurwān, "the Weir," Al-Mamūniyya, and Al-Kanāṭir, "the Bridges."

⁵ The name spelt Ṣūlā, in this passage of the MS., is written Ṣalwā a few lines below. Ibn Rusta (p. 90) calls it Bāb Ṣalwā, and this is shortened in the *Tanbih* (p. 53) to Bāṣalwā. Ibn Khurdābih (p. 175) also gives the name as Ṣalwā, but Abu-l-Fidā (p. 55) has Ṣūlā, as in the first passage of Ibn Serapion. Other authorities do not mention this town. Hence, except that it lay on the Kāṭūl Canal, nothing is known of it. It is not marked on the modern maps, but its position is more or less fixed by the fact that it stood four leagues below the junction of the Abu-l-Jund Canal with the great Kāṭūl (see below, Section IX.).

Bā'aḳūbā, according to Yāqūt (I. 472), is a large village belonging to the Upper Nahrawān district, and lies ten leagues distant from Baghdād. The place still exists. Following the same authority (I. 454), Bājisrā is a small town also about ten

leagues distant from Baghdād, but rather more to the eastward of the capital, on the Hulwān road. It stood in a well-cultivated district, and was surrounded by palm-trees.

⁶ At the Bridge-of-Boats called Jisr-an-Nahrawān stood the town of Nahrawān, which Ibn Rusta (p. 163) describes as occupying both banks of the canal, there being markets and a mosque in both quarters of the town, eastern and western. Round the mosques, especially that in the eastern quarter, were rest-houses (*Khāns*) for travellers and pilgrims. Nahrawān town lay four leagues distant from Baghdād, on the Hulwān road, and its site is marked in modern times by the town called Sifwa.

Ash-Shādhurwān-al-A'lā, "the Upper Weir," and the Bridge-of-Boats at Jisr Būrān, are neither of them mentioned by other authorities. 'Abartā, however, still exists. Yāḳūt (III. 604) describes it as a town of Persian origin, where there was a great market. Razāṭiya, or Yarzāṭiya (for the MS. is indistinctly written), mentioned as below 'Abartā, is possibly wrongly placed in the MS. of Ibn Serrapion, and should come *above* 'Abartā. None of the other geographers mention this town, except Mas'ūdi in the *Tanbih* (p. 53), who gives the name as Burzāṭiyā, and he places it below 'Abartā. A place called Zateriyeh, however, is marked in Kiepert's map *above* and west of 'Abartā, and Jones (p. 38) gives this name as Resatiyeh. Ash-Shādhurwān-al-Asfal, "the Lower Weir," is not marked on the maps or mentioned by other authorities.

⁷ Uskāf of the Banī-l-Junayd has been identified with the ruins marked Semak, or Sumakeh (Jones, p. 97). Yāḳūt (I. 252), who pronounces the name Iskāf, says the Banu-l-Junayd were chiefs of this district and celebrated for their hospitality. He adds that there were two places of this name, Upper and Lower Iskāf, both of the Nahrawān District, whose lands,

in his day (thirteenth century A.D.), had completely fallen out of cultivation, for the Nahrawān Canal (Yāḳūt adds) had gradually silted up, and the Saljuk Sultans had been too much occupied in their disputes to find time for dredging and mending the dykes; "further, their armies made a road-way of this same canal, whereby the district and the canal have gone to ruin."

- ⁸ Mādharāyā, where the Nahrawān ran out into the Tigris, is placed by Yaḳūbī (p. 321) immediately to the south of Jabbul, and before you come to Al-Mubārik, which last lay opposite Nahr Sābus. He adds that Mādharāyā was in former times inhabited by Persian nobles. Yāḳūt (IV. 381) adds that the village in his day was for the most part in ruin, that it lay opposite Nahr Sābus, and was of the Fam-aṣ-Ṣilḥ district.

[SECTION IX.]

From the Tigris also are taken the Three (lesser) Kātūls. The beginning of all three is at one place, namely some two leagues below Surra-man-raa, at a point between Al-Maṭira and Barkuwārā.¹ The Upper Kātūl of the (three) is called Al-Yahūdī. There is over it the bridge called Kanṭara Waṣīf. From this point it passes on for some length, till (finally) it falls into the (great) Kātūl-al-Kisrawī (of the Chosroes) below Al-Mamūniyya.

The second (Kātūl), which is called Al-Mamūnī, and is the middle one, passes along by villages and domains which form a district of the Sawād, and (finally) falls into the (aforesaid) Kātūl-al-Kisrawī, below the village of Al-Kanāṭir.

The third (Kātūl), which is called that of Abu-l-Jund,² and is the lowest of the three, but the finest of them all, and the best cultivated along both its banks, flows between many villages and domains. From it branch channels which irrigate the domains lying on the eastern bank of

the Tigris, and in this way the most part of its waters flow back into the Tigris. The main canal passes on to Ṭaffir, and here there is a Bridge-of-Boats over it. From thence it passes on to the Kāṭul-al-Kisrawī, (joining it) at a point four leagues above Ṣūlā (or Ṣalwā).

From the Tāmarrā is taken a canal called Al-Khāliṣ.³ It runs between villages and domains and many (minor) canals are derived from it. It is a great waterway, and boats can pass up and down. It falls ultimately into the Tigris on its eastern bank, some two leagues below Ar-Rāshidiyya.

From the Nahrawān also is taken a canal called the Nahr Diyālā.⁴ Its point of origin is one mile below Al-Jisr (the Bridge-of-Boats at Nahrawān). It flows by villages and domains, and finally falls into the Tigris three leagues below Baghdād.

Now from the Tigris, at various points below the city of Wāsiṭ, are taken many canals which either fall into the Swamp or else flow one into the other. Of these we have already mentioned (the main-channel, which is) the largest and finest (see Section I.). Among the rest is a canal called Nahr Bān, which begins below Wāsiṭ at a village known as Nahr Bān. Thence it passes by villages and domains, and turning about it finally flows out into the Swamp.

There is also taken from the Tigris a canal called the Nahr Kūraysh. Its point of origin is at a village likewise called Nahr Kūraysh. It flows by villages and domains, and finally falls into the Swamp to the west of [Wāsiṭ].⁵

There is also taken from the Tigris a canal called As-Sīb.⁶ This is Sīb-al-'Ukr, and the city of Al-'Ukr lies on its banks. Its point of origin is two leagues below Nahr Bān. It flows on through villages and domains, passing by Al-Jawāmid, and from it many (minor) canals are derived. Finally, after turning about, it falls into the Swamp.

From the Tigris also is taken the canal called Burdūdā. Its point of origin is at a village called Ash-Shadīdiyya. It is a fine canal, and it flows out into the Swamp.

Such, therefore, are the Canals which fall into the

Tigris and which are derived from the same; and we have so detailed them unto thee that thou shouldst understand the matter.

- ¹ Barkuwārā, where the three lesser Kāṭūls branch from the Tigris, lay close beside Al-Maṭīra (see Section VIII. note 2). Barkuwārā is mentioned by Ya'qūbī, where the name is spelt Balkuwārā (p. 265 and *cf.* note *d*, where other readings are given). The variant Bazkuwār occurs in Yāqūt (I. 605), and Jones (p. 47) gives Bez-guara as the name of a place at this spot. Possibly, therefore, Bazkuwārā is the correct reading, for the difference in Arabic between *z* and *r* lies in the addition of a diacritical point.

The bridge called Kaṭara Waṣīf doubtless took its name from Waṣīf, a celebrated captain of the Turk Body-guard under Al-Mu'taṣim.

- ² The third and lowest of the minor Kāṭūls is apparently the only one of which any trace is found on our maps. According to Bilādhurī (p. 297) it derived its name of Abu-l-Jund, "Father, or Supplier, of the Soldiers," from the fact that the crops, raised on the lands watered by it, served to supply the rations of the troops. It was dug by Hārūn-ar-Rashīd, who built a palace here while superintending its construction. In regard to the name Kāṭūl it may be mentioned that Yāqūt (IV. 16) asserts that the word etymologically signifies "a cut," and hence it was applied to a trench dug or cut in the ground.

Ṭaffir is apparently the place mentioned by Jones (p. 47) under the name Tafra. Yāqūt (III. 539) says that he had himself visited Ṭaffir, which was a waterless and pastureless plain, where wild animals dwelt, lying between Bā'aqūbā and Daḳūḳā, on the road from Baghdād to Arbil. No habitations were here to be met with, and Yāqūt adds that his guide,

when the caravan travelled by night over this plain, "was wont to take his direction by the Pole-Star, until, with the day, the plain had been crossed."

³ The point where the Nahr-al-Khālīṣ left the Tāmarrā is not specified. Ar-Rāshidiyya, the place two leagues above which the Khālīṣ flowed out into the Tigris, is not mentioned by any other geographer, but possibly may be identified with the present Khor Rāshidiyya, immediately to the north of the ruins called Bedran (Al-Baradān). From this passage and what our author adds further of the Nahr-al-Khālīṣ when describing the canals of Eastern Baghdād (see Section X.) it is evident that the Khālīṣ of the tenth century A.D. is not identical with the canal of that name marked in Kiepert's map, which last flows at some distance to the north-west of Bā'aqūbā; hence a good deal higher up than the Khālīṣ of Ibn Serapion.

⁴ The Nahr Diyālā of Ibn Serapion coincides generally with the lower reach (south of Sifwa) of the present stream of the same name. But from our texts it is evident that the names Diyālā, Tāmarrā, and Khālīṣ were applied at different epochs to different streams. The account in Ibn Serapion (tenth century A.D.) does not agree with what is given in Yāqūt (thirteenth century A.D.), still less with the nomenclature of the modern map. Yāqūt (I. 812 and II. 638) says that the Tāmarrā is identical with the Khālīṣ Canal, which also is identical with the Diyālā; and he goes on to describe, how the bed of the Tāmarrā was artificially paved, for a length of seven leagues, in order to prevent its waters cutting through the soil, and how seven streams were taken from its lower course to irrigate a like number of districts on the hither side of Eastern Baghdād.

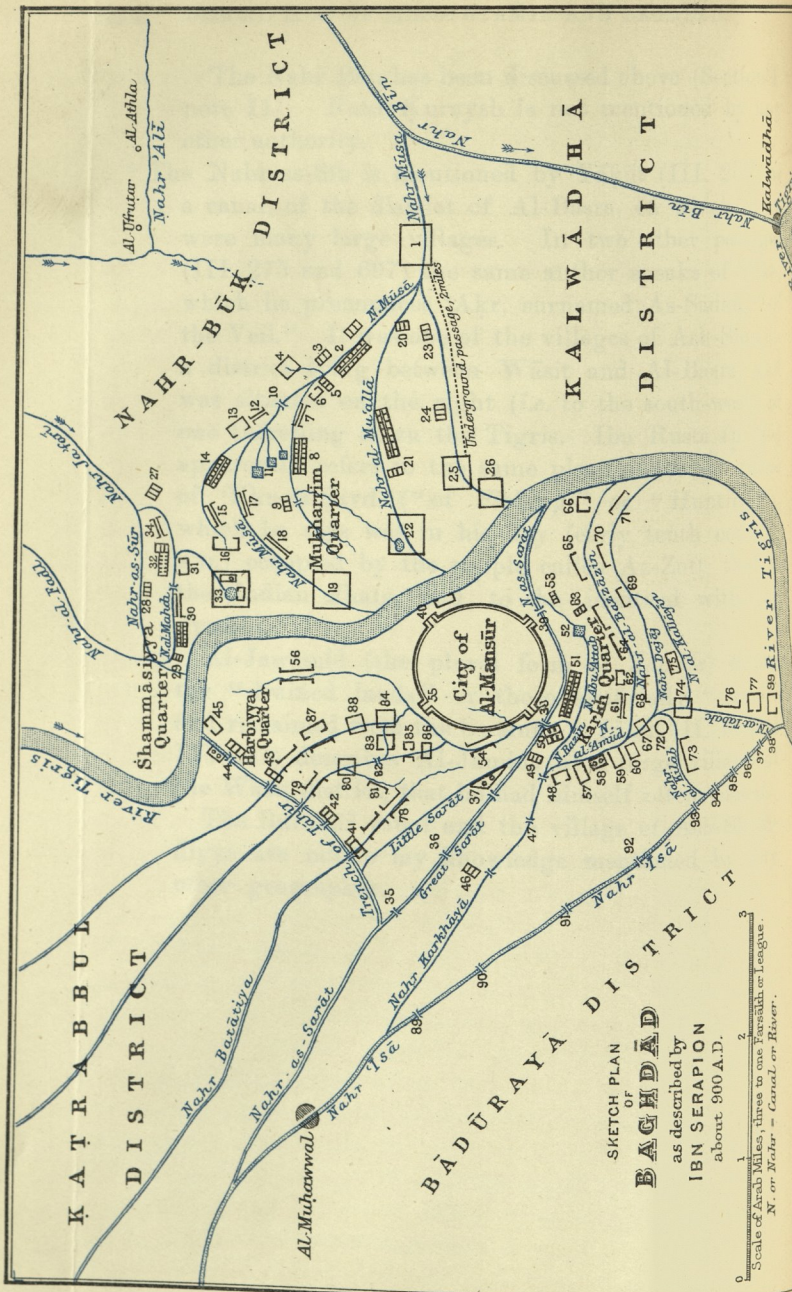
⁵ Although there is no blank space left in the MS., the name of a place must have dropped out at this point, and I have supplied "Wāsiṭ" in the text for want of any better suggestion.

The Nahr Bān has been discussed above (Section I. note 11). Nahr Ḳuraysh is not mentioned by any other authority.

- ⁶ The Nahr-as-Sīb is mentioned by Yāḳūt (III. 209) as a canal, of the district of Al-Baṣra, on which there were many large villages. In two other passages (III. 275 and 697) the same author speaks of 'Uḳr, which he pronounces 'Aḳr, surnamed As-Sadan, "of the Veil." It was one of the villages of Ash-Shurṭā, a district lying between Wāsiṭ and Al-Baṣra, and was situated on the right (*i.e.* to the south-west) of one travelling down the Tigris. Ibn Rusta (p. 95) apparently refers to the same place under the name of 'Uḳr-aṣ-Ṣayd ("of Fishing," or "Hunting"), which he says was in his day (early tenth century A.D.) occupied by the people called Az-Zuṭṭ, that is the Indian Jhats, said to be identical with the gypsies.

Al-Jawāmid (the plural form of *Jāmida*) means the "drained lands" or those artificially "dried," and reclaimed from the Swamps. Yāḳūt (II. 10 and IV. 217) describes Al-Jāmida as a large village of the Wāsiṭ district, that he had himself often visited.

The Burdūdā canal and the village of Ash-Shadiyya are not to my knowledge mentioned by any other geographer.



DISTRICT

NAHR-BŪH

KALWĀDHĀ
DISTRICT

KĀTRĀBBUD
DISTRICT

BĀDŪRAYĀ DISTRICT

City of
Al-Mansūr

Shammāsīyā
Quarter

Harbiyyā
Quarter

Mulhārīn
Quarter

Harbiyyā
Quarter

Harbiyyā
Quarter

SKETCH PLAN
OF
BĀGH DĀD
as described by
IBN SERAPION
about 900 A.D.

0 1 2 3
Scale of Arab Miles, three to one Farsakh or League.
N. or Nahr = Canal or River.

REFERENCES TO SKETCH-PLAN OF BAGHDĀD.

EASTERN BAGHDĀD, OR 'ASKAR-
AL-MAHDĪ.

1. Kaṣr-ath-Thurayyā (Palace of the Pleiades).
2. Bāb Sūk-ad-Dawābb (Market for Beasts of Burden and the Gate).
3. Gate called Bāb 'Ammār.
4. Palace called Dār-al-Bānūja.
5. Bāb Muḳayyar-al-Kabīr (the great Pitched Gate).
6. Dār (or House of) Ibn-al-Khaṣīb.
7. Road of Sa'd-al-Waṣīf.
8. Al-'Allāfīn (the Hay-market).
9. Road and Gate of the Mukharrim Quarter with the Bridge of Al-'Abbās.
10. Bridge of Al-Anṣār.
11. The three Tanks of Al-Anṣār, Haylāna, and Dāūd.
12. Darb-at-Tawīl (the Long Road).
13. Palace of Al-Mu'taṣim.
14. Sūk-al-'Atsh (the Famine Market).
15. Road called Karm-al-'Arsh.
16. Dār (or House of the) Wazīr Ibn-al-Furāt.
17. The Great Road.
18. The Road of 'Amr the Greek.
19. The Garden of Az-Zāhir.
20. Gate called Bāb Abraz.
21. Bāb Sūk-ath-Thulāthā (Tuesday Market and Gate).
22. Kaṣr-al-Firdūs (the Palace of Paradise).
23. Gate called Bāb Kaṭī'a-Mūshajīn.
24. Gate called Bāb-al-'Ammā.
25. Palace called Kaṣr-al-Ḥasanī.
26. Kaṣr-at-Tāj (Palace of the Crown).
27. Gate called Bāb Khurāsān, of the Eastern Side.
28. Gate and Bridge of Al-Baradān.
29. Gate called Bāb-ash-Shammāsiyya.
30. Market called Suwayḳa Ja'far, and Road of the Canal of Al-Mahdī.
31. Dār-ar-Rūmiyyīn (House of the Greeks).
32. Market called Suwayḳa Naṣr-ibn-Mālik, and the Iron Gates.
33. Palace and Great Mosque of Ar-Ruṣāfa with the Garden of Ḥafṣ.
34. Road of the Gate of Khurāsān.

WESTERN BAGHDĀD, OR CITY OF AL-
MANṢŪR.

35. Bridge called Kaṣṭara-al-'Abbās.
36. Kaṣṭara-as-Ṣiniyyāt.
37. Kaṣṭara Raḥā-al-Batriḳ (Bridge, and Mills of the Patrician).
38. Al-Kaṣṭara-al-'Atiḳa (the Old Bridge), and the Kūfa Gate.
39. Al-Kaṣṭara-al-Jadīda (the New Bridge), and the Baṣra Gate.
40. Kaṣr-al-Khuld (the Palace of Perpetuity), lying between the Khurāsān Gate of the Western Side, and the Bridge-of-Boats over the Tigris.
41. Gate, Bridge, and Road of Al-Anbār.
42. Bāb-al-Ḥadīd (the Iron Gate) and Bridge.
43. Gate called Bāb Ḥarb, Bridge, and Road.
44. Gate called Bāb Kaṭrabbul, and Bridge of the Mill of Umm Ja'far; in the Zubaydiyya Fief.
45. House of Iṣḥāk the Tāhirid.
46. Gate called Bāb Abu Ḳubayṣa.
47. Kaṣṭara Darb-al-Ḥijāra (Bridge of the Road of Al-Ḥijāra).
48. Hospital and Kaṣṭara-al-Bimāristān (Bridge of the Hospital).
49. Gate called Bāb-al-Muḥawwal.
50. Suburb called Rabaḍ Ḥumayd.
51. Market called Suwayḳa Abu-l-Ward.
52. Pool called Birkat Zalzal.
53. Bāb Tāḳ-al-Ḥarrānī (Gate of the Arch of the Harrānian).
54. Road of the Kaḥṭaba's.
55. Bāb-ash-Shām (the Syrian Gate).
56. Road to the (Upper) Bridge-of-Boats.
57. Ad-Darrābāt.
58. Mill of Abu-l-Ḳasim.
59. Place of the Men of Wāsiṭ.
60. Al-Khaḩka.
61. Road of the Painter (Al-Muṣawwir).
62. House of Ka'b.
63. Gate of the Karkh Quarter.

64. Quarters of the Cloth-Merchants (Al-Bazzāzīn), and of the Cobblers (Al-Kharrāzīn) or of the Butchers (Al-Jazzārīn).
65. Quarter of the Soap-makers.
66. Dār-al-Jawz (The Nut House).
67. Quadrangle of the Oil-merchant (Murabba'at-az-Zayyāt)
68. Quarter of the Canal-diggers.
69. Quarter of the Reed-weavers.
70. Road of the Pitch-workers.
71. Place of the Sellers of Cooked-food.
72. Dawwāra-al-Ĥimār (Mound of the Ass).
73. The Fief of Dogs.
74. Quadrangle of Ṣālih.
75. As-Sawākīn.
76. Mashra'at-al-Ās (the Myrtle Passage).
77. Dār Battīkh (the Melon House).
78. Road of Al-Kabsh (the Ram).
79. Water-conduit called 'Abbārat-al-Kūkh, and Road of Dujayl.
80. Murabba'at-al-Furs (Quadrangle of the Persians).
81. Dukkān-al-Ibnā.
82. Bridge of Abu-l-Jawn.
83. Place of the Scribes for the Orphans.
84. Quadrangle of Shabīb.
85. Road and Palace of Hānī.
86. Garden of Al-Kass.
87. Road of the House of Ibn-Abu-'Awn.
88. Quadrangle of Abu-l-'Abbas.
89. Bridge called Kaṭāra-al-Yāsiriyya.
90. Kaṭāra-ar-Rūmiyya (the Bridge of the Greek woman).
91. Kaṭāra-az-Zayyātīn (Bridge of the Oil-merchants).
92. Kaṭāra-al-Ushnān (the Alkali Bridge).
93. Kaṭāra-ash-Shawk (the Thorn-merchant's Bridge).
94. Kaṭāra-ar-Rumān (the Pomegranate Bridge).
95. Kaṭāra-al-Maghīd (the Bridge of the Place that is dried up).
96. Kaṭāra-al-Bustān (the Garden Bridge).
97. Kaṭāra-al-Ma'badī.
98. Kaṭāra Banī Zurayk.
99. Kaṣr 'Īsā (Palace of 'Īsa).

[SECTION X.]

CANALS OF EASTERN BAGHDĀD.

Now the canals of the City of Peace (Baghdād), which flow through the same, are those from which the (people) who live near by to them take their drinking-water. We begin with the canals that are on the eastern side of the Tigris, which is called 'Askar-al-Mahdī (the Camp of Al-Mahdī).¹

Of these is the canal called the Nahr Mūsā. Its place of origin is from the canal called Al-Nahr Bīn,² at the back of the Palace of Al-Mu'tadid, known as Kaṣr-ath-Thurayyā (the Palace of the Pleiades). Now the origin of the Nahr Bīn is from the Nahrawān (Canal), at a short distance above the Bridge-of-Boats (at the town of Nahrawān). Thence the Nahr Bīn passes on, with running waters, and from it branch many canals which irrigate the Sawād (or plain near) Baghdād. This canal passes to the east of the Palace of the Pleiades aforesaid, and on its banks are villages and domains. It next irrigates part of the district of Kalwādhā, and finally flows out into the Tigris a little less than two leagues below Baghdād.

The Nahr Mūsā,³ as already mentioned, is derived from the (Nahr Bīn), and its place of origin also has been described. Passing on the (Nahr Mūsā) enters the Palace of the Pleiades, and turning round and about it, passes out again. Then it reaches a place called the Dividing of the Waters, and there it divides into three streams.

The first stream (which is the Nahr Mūsā itself) passes to Bāb Sūḳ-ad-Dawābb (the Gate of the Market for Beasts-of-Burden), and thence goes across (the gate called) Bāb 'Ammār. Here there is taken from it a canal which passes to (the Palace known as) Dār-al-Bānūja, and there it disappears.

The Nahr Mūsā itself passes on after traversing the Bāb Sūḳ-ad-Dawābb, and comes to the Bāb Muḳayyar-al-Kabīr (the great Pitched Gate). Here there is taken from it a

canal which passes to the Dār (or House of) Ibn-al-Khaṣīb, which stands in the road called after Sa'd-al-Waṣīf. Next it passes out to Al-'Allāfīn, and here there falls into it the canal which Al-Mu'taḍid dug* for the Lake. Thence the canal passes by the road, which is behind the wine-shops, towards Al-'Allāfīn, and which is known as the road of the Bāb-al-Mukharrim. Then the canal passes under (the Bridge called) Kaṇṭara-al-'Abbās, which is at (the Gate called) the Bāb-al-Mukharrim, and flowing along the road to (the quarter of) Al-Mukharrim, it disappears.

The Nahr Mūsā itself next goes on to (the Bridge called) Kaṇṭara-al-Anṣār; and here there are taken from it three canals. The first of these flows into the tank (Ḥawḍ) of the Anṣār; the second into the tank of Haylāna; and the third into the tank of Dāūd.

The Nahr Mūsā itself next passes on to the road (called) Darb-aṭ-Ṭawīl, and the Palace of Al-Mu'taṣim. Here there is taken from it a canal which passes to (the Market of) Sūk-al-'Aṭsh. After flowing along the centre of the road called Karm-al-'Arsh, it finally falls into the Dār (or House of the) Wazīr 'Ali-ibn-Muḥammad-ibn-al-Furāt, and there disappears.

The Nahr Mūsā itself flows on skirting the Palace of Al-Mu'taṣim, and passes out into the Great Road. Next it comes to the road of 'Amr-ar-Rūmī, and then enters (the Garden called) Bustān-az-Zāhir, which is irrigated by it; lastly it falls into the Tigris a little way below this garden.

The Second Canal,⁴ at the Dividing (of the Waters), flows towards the (Gate called) Bāb Abrāz, and here it enters Baghdād. This (canal) is called Nahr-al-Mu'allā. It flows between the houses to the Bāb Sūk-ath-Thulātha (the gate of the Tuesday Market). Next it enters the Palace of Al-Mu'taḍid, which is called Al-Firdūs (Paradise), and after passing through and about it, flows out into the Tigris near this palace.

* For this next line of text Al-Khatīb has the following: "And some of its (waters) pass to the Bāb Sūk al Ghanam (the Gate of the Sheep-Market), and thence to the Trench of Al 'Abbās."

The Third Canal,⁵ at the Dividing (of the Waters), flows to the Bāb Kaṭī'a Mūshajīn* (the Gate of the Fief of Mūshajīn). Thence it passes to the (gate called) Bāb-al-Āmma; and next enters (the palace) called Kaṣr-al-Ḥasanī, and, after passing round and about it, flows out into the Tigris near the Palace of Al-Muḳtafi, known as Kaṣr-at-Tāj (the Palace of the Crown).

From the Nahr Bin, above mentioned, is taken a canal called the Nahr 'Ali. Its point of origin is at a short distance above (the head of) the Nahr Mūsā. It passes across the highway of Khurāsān to the village of Al-Athla⁶; and flowing on irrigates the district of Nahr Būḳ and the hamlet of Al-Ufruṭar. Finally, it falls into a canal from the Khāliṣ (Canal).

From the Nahr-al-Faḍl (which will be described below) is brought a canal called the Nahr-al-Ja'fariyya. It flows by villages and domains and loses itself in the Sawād (or Plain) of Baghdād, which lies to the north of the city. From this Nahr-al-Ja'fariyya is brought a canal called Nahr-as-Sūr (the Canal of the Wall), for it flows along the Wall of Baghdād. (As already said), its origin is from the Nahr-al-Ja'fariyya, and it flows by the (gate called the) Bāb Khurāsān, and that called Bāb-al-Baradān. Finally, it flows out into the Nahr [al-Faḍl]† which itself flows out into the Tigris near the (gate called) Bāb-ash-Shammāsiyya.

From the Nahr-al-Khāliṣ, which, as we have already stated (see Section IX.), falls into the Tigris below the place called Ar-Rāshidiyya, there is brought the canal (already mentioned) called Nahr-al-Faḍl. It flows towards the (gate called) Bāb-ash-Shammāsiyya, and in passing irrigates the domains and villages that lie along its banks. It finally flows out into the Tigris at the Bāb-ash-Shammāsiyya (aforesaid). From this Canal of Ash-Shammāsiyya, otherwise called the Nahr-al-Faḍl, is taken a canal called the

* The reading of this name is uncertain. Al-Khaṭīb gives Mūshajīr.

† MS. reads Al-Khāliṣ, in error.

Nahr-al-Mahdī. Its point of origin is a little way above the Gate (of Ash Shammāsiyya); passing on it enters Baghdād by the Bāb-ash-Shammāsiyya, and flows to the (market called) Suwayka Ja'far. Then, passing by the road known as the Road of the Nahr-al-Mahdī, it reaches the (bridge called) Kaṭara-al-Baradān,⁷ whence it enters the (House of the Greeks) Dār-ar-Rūmiyyin. Then it passes out to (the market called the) Suwayka-Nasr-ibn-Mālik; and next, entering Ar-Ruṣāfa, it comes to the Great Mosque, and to (the garden called) Bustān Ḥafṣ, where it (finally) falls into a tank which is in the interior of the Palace of Ar-Ruṣāfa.

From this canal (of Al-Mahdī) is taken a canal, the origin of which is in the Market of Naṣr (aforesaid) at the Iron Gates (Al-Abwāb-al-Ḥadīd). It passes along the centre of the road of the Gate of Khurāsān, flowing on to where it finally falls into the Nahr [as-Sūr]* near the Gate of Khurāsān.

These, therefore, are the Canals (of Baghdād) on the eastern side of the Tigris, and there now remain the Canals of the western side; and these, if it please Allah, I will explain to thee.

¹ In this and the two following sections on the Canals of Baghdād, the notes supply brief references for those places, only, which I have found mentioned by other authorities. It is not, however, intended to make them exhaustive. I hope to discuss the whole subject of the topography of Ancient Baghdād in a future paper; and have therefore limited myself, in this place, to what seemed absolutely necessary for the elucidation of the text of Ibn Serapion.

These three Sections (X., XI., XII.) on the Canals of Baghdād have been copied (and, as usual, without any acknowledgment and with many omissions) by Al-Khaṭīb, in his *History of Baghdād*. This useful

* MS. reads Nahr-al-Faḍl, in error.

compilation has never yet been printed, but good MSS. of the work exist in the British Museum and the Paris Library.

The great eastern quarter of Baghdād, that lay on the Persian side of the Tigris, and which, during the last four centuries of the Abbasid Caliphate, became the main quarter of the capital, was originally only a suburb of the city of Al-Manşūr (see Section XI. note 1), of the western side of the Tigris. The eastern quarter, in the beginning, had been called 'Askar-al-Mahdī, "the Camp of Al-Mahdi," son and successor of Al-Manşūr, for Al-Mahdi had encamped here with his troops in A.H. 151 (768) after returning from his expedition into Khurāsān. Al-Mahdi subsequently built a palace near this camp, called Ar-Ruṣāfa, "the Cause-way," also a Mosque, and in after years, during his Caliphate, a city, composed of houses built on the fiefs granted to his followers, spread over the adjacent lands. Here the later Caliphs built their palaces, and 'Askar-al-Mahdi soon afterwards became the seat of government, the western quarter tending more and more to ruin.

² The Nahr Bīn, Yāqūt writes (IV. 836), is also called the Nahr Bīl, and its waters irrigate the lands of the district called Nahr Būḳ. This last, it is to be remarked, was not the name of a canal (in spite of the word *Nahr* having that signification), but of a district. The land near Baghdād on the eastern side of the Tigris, was divided into two sections; up-stream and to the north with the river on the west, was the Nahr Būḳ District; while down-stream and south-east lay the District of Kalwādhā, with the town of the same name on the Tigris bank.

³ This account of the Nahr Mūsā and its branches is repeated by Yāqūt (IV. 846) in a very much abridged form. The Palace of the Pleiades stood two miles distant from the palace on the Tigris bank,

called *Ḳaṣr-al-Ḥasani*. *Yāḳūt* describes (I. 924) an underground, vaulted passage-way, which the Caliph had built for connecting the two palaces, and along which his women could pass from one to the other without appearing in the streets.

Of the places lying on the *Nahr Mūsā* and its branches, the following are mentioned by other writers. The Palace of *Al-Bānūja* (on the first branch canal), *Al-Khaṭīb* (f. 89) states, belonged to a daughter of *Al-Mahdi*. Her name is also written *Bānūka*, "Little *Bānū*" or Lady, and under this form occurs in *Ibn Ḳutayba* (p. 193), who says that she died young. The second branch canal passed to the Palace of *Ibn-al-Khaṣīb*, who was *Wazīr* of the Caliph *Al-Muntaṣir* (*cf.* *Fakhri*, p. 285). The quarter of *Al-Mukharrim*, according to *Bilādhurī* (p. 295), was so called from a man of this name who had settled here in the early days of *Islām*, before *Baghdād* was founded. *Yāḳūt* (IV. 441) describes this quarter as situated between the *Ruṣāfa* and *Nahr-al-Mu'allā* quarters. In after times the *Buwayhid* princes built their palaces here, as also some of the *Saljūḳ* Sultans; but all this was subsequent to the date of *Ibn Serapion*.

In regard to the three Tanks, *Yāḳūt* states (II. 362) that the *Ḥawḍ Dāūd* was called either after *Dāūd*, son of the Caliph *Al-Mahdi*, or after one of his freedmen. It lay adjacent, he says, to the market called *Sūḳ-al-'Aṭsh* (see next paragraph). The *Ḥawḍ Haylāna* was called after one of the wives of either *Al-Manṣūr* or of *Hārūn-ar-Rashīd*, who bore this name, and caused this tank to be dug. Of the Tank of the *Anṣār*, "the Auxiliaries," no details are given.

The Palace of *Al-Mu'taṣim*, on the *Nahr Mūsā*, is mentioned by *Ya'ḳūbī* (p. 255) as having been the residence of that Caliph between the years A.H. 218-221, and immediately prior to his removal, with

his Turk body-guard, upstream to Samarrā (see Section I. note 3). The Sūḳ-al-‘Aṭsh, “the Famine Market,” is described by Yāḳūt (III. 194) as lying between the Ruṣāfa and the Nahr-al-Mu‘allā quarters. It was built for the Caliph Al-Mahdī by a certain Sa‘id-al-Khursi, Chief of the Police, and merchants from the Karkh quarter (see Section XI. note 1) were brought over and settled here. It was at first proposed to call it Sūḳ-ar-Rayy, “the Market of Satiety,” but the word ‘Aṭsh, “Famine,” took its place and persisted.

‘Ali-Ibn-al-Furāt, whose palace stood near this, was three times Wazīr to the Caliph al-Muḳtadir (*cf.* Fakhri, p. 311). ‘Amr-ar-Rūmī, “the Greek,” is probably the individual mentioned by Bilādhurī (p. 323), as having been Freedman of the Caliph Al-Hādī, who named ‘Amr governor of Ḳazwīn in Persia. The Garden of Az-Zāhir is referred to incidentally by Yāḳūt (III. 195, IV. 441). It lay on the Tigris bank near where the Mosque called the Jami‘-as-Sultān afterwards stood, and apparently was to the south of Ar-Ruṣāfa.

⁴ The second canal at the “Divide” was called after Al-Mu‘allā, Freedman of Al-Mahdī, and a great General under Hārūn-ar-Rashīd. Yāḳūt (IV. 845) says that this man held more governments than had ever been granted to any other individual—having been Governor of Al-Baṣra, Fārs, Al-Ahwāz, Al-Yamāma, and Al-Bahrayn. The Nahr-al-Mu‘allā gave its name to the great quarter of Baghdād in which the Palaces of the latter Caliphs stood.

The gate called the Bāb Abraz and the Tuesday-Market are both mentioned by Yāḳūt (I. 774, III. 193), who gives the name of this gate under the form Biyabraz. Al-Firdūs “The Palace of Paradise,” is also referred to incidentally by the same author (IV. 845); and it took its water from the Mu‘allā Canal.

- ⁵ The third canal at the "Divide" appears to have had no special designation. The Palace called Al-Ḥasanī received its name from Al-Ḥasan Ibn Sahl, whose daughter Būrān was married to Al-Mamūn (see Section I. note 9), Al-Ḥasan being, at that time, Wazīr. Yāqūt (I. 805) relates that the Kaṣr-al-Ḥasanī was the same Palace which under Ar-Rashīd had been called the Kaṣr Mamūnī, having been built by Ja'far, the Barmecide, for presentation to Al-Mamūn, the heir-apparent. Kaṣr-at-Tāj, "the Palace of the Crown," was built on land adjacent to the Ḥasanī Palace. It was begun by Al-Mu'taḍid, according to Yāqūt (I. 808), but the Caliph left it half finished to build the Palace of the Pleiades (see note 3, above), and the Tāj was only completed under his son, the Caliph Al-Muḥtafī.
- ⁶ Al-Athla is mentioned by Yāqūt (I. 118) as lying one league distant from Baghdād. Al-Ufrutār is not given elsewhere; neither is there any mention made in Yāqūt of the various canals which branch from the Khālīṣ going towards the Shammāsiyya quarter. This quarter has been already noticed (Section I. note 6). Yāqūt (III. 317) describes it as lying adjacent to "the Greek House" called Dār-ar-Rūm, and above Ar-Ruṣāfa, in the upper part of Eastern Baghdād. Here, at a later date than Ibn Serapion, the Buwayhid prince, Mu'izz-ad-Dawla, built his great palace.
- ⁷ The bridge called Kaṭāra-al-Baradān, after the village lying to the north of Baghdād (see Section I. note 6), gave its name to a quarter and a gate of the eastern city. Yāqūt (IV. 187) notes that the bridge was built by a certain As-Sarī-ibn-al-Huṭam. The Dār-ar-Rūmiyyīn, "the House of the Greeks," is the Dār-ar-Rūm mentioned in the previous note, but this and the other places in or near Ar-Ruṣāfa are not further specified by Yāqūt. The Little Market (Suwayḳa) of Naṣr, Yāqūt (III. 201) says, was called after a certain

Naṣr-ibn-Mālik, of the Khuza'a tribe. Al-Mahdi granted him the land here in fief; and he was father of the celebrated Aḥmad-az-Zāhid, "the Ascetic," who suffered persecution under the Caliph Al-Wāthiq.

[SECTION XI.]

CANALS OF WESTERN BAGHDĀD.¹

Of these is the canal called Aṣ-Ṣarāt.² Its origin is from the Nahr 'Īsā, at a short distance above the village of Great Al-Muḥawwal. Thence the canal passes, watering the domains and gardens of Bādūrayā, and many (minor) canals branch from it. Entering Baghdād, it passes the bridge called Kaṇṭara-al-'Abbās, then goes on to the Kaṇṭara-aṣ-Ṣiniyyāt, next it passes to the Kaṇṭara Raḥā-al-Batrik (the Bridge of the Patrician's Mill), which same is the Bridge of Az-Zabd; then it comes to the Kaṇṭara-al-'Atiqa (the Old Bridge), next to the New Bridge (Kaṇṭara-al-Jadida), then, finally, the (Ṣarāt Canal) flows out into the Tigris a little way below (the Palace called) Al-Khuld.

From the Ṣarāt is taken a canal called the Trench (Khandaq) of Ṭāhir.³ It starts from the Canal of the Ṣarāt, one league below the head of the same (that is where the Ṣarāt itself branches from the Nahr 'Īsā). Flowing on (the Khandaq) waters various domains, and, turning, passes round Baghdād in the part adjacent to (the quarter of) Al-Ḥarbiyya. It first goes by the (gate called) Bāb-al-Anbār, and there is here a bridge (Kaṇṭara) over it. Then it passes Bāb-al-Hadīd (the Iron Gate), where also there is a bridge. Next it comes to the Bāb Ḥarb, where there is also a bridge, and then to the Bāb Kaṭrabbul, and here there is the Kaṇṭara Raḥā-Umm-Ja'far (the Bridge of the Mill of Umm-Ja'far). Next passing through the midst of the Fief of Umm-Ja'far, the (Trench) flows out into the Tigris a little way above the House (Dār) of Ishāq-ibn-Ibrāhīm the Ṭāhirid.

From the Khandak (or Trench) is taken a canal called the Little Sarāt. This canal takes its way, cutting across the Gardens, and after passing by part of Bādūrayā, flows out finally into the Great Sarāt at a point a little way below the Patrician's Mill.

From the Nahr 'Īsā is taken a canal called Karkhāyā.⁴ It passes through the midst of the district of Bādūrayā, and there branch from it (many minor) canals which ramify throughout Bādūrayā, being called and named variously. Along both its banks are villages, domains, and gardens, which extend until it enters Baghdād at the (gate called) Bāb Abu-Ḳubayṣa. After this it passes to the Ḳanṭara-al-Yahūd (the Bridge of the Jew), and then on to the (bridge called) Ḳanṭara Darb-al-Ḥijāra. Next it passes to the Ḳanṭara-al-Bīmāristān (the Bridge of the Hospital), and the (gate called) Bāb Muḥawal, and here there branch from it all the canals of (the quarter of) Al-Karkh.

Now the first of these canals has its point of origin immediately after the Karkhāyā has passed the Bridge of the Bīmāristān, and it is called Nahr Razīn. Passing along it is taken into the (Suburb called) Rabaḍ Ḥumayd, and, after going round and about therein, it passes out to (the Market called) Suwayḳa Abu-l-Ward. Thence it passes to the (Pool called) Birkat Zalzal, through which it flows, and next comes to (the gate called the) Bāb Tāḳ-al-Ḥarrāni, and finally falls into the Great Sarāt immediately below the New Bridge. In this (latter) part the (Razīn) Canal is known as the Nahr Abu-'Attāb. Now when the Nahr Razīn comes to the gate of the Market of Abu-l-Ward, there is taken from it a canal which passes by a Ḳūraj (or Conduit), which carries (its waters across) the Old Bridge (Al-Ḳanṭara-al-'Atīka, over the Great Sarāt). Flowing on from here, it goes along the road of the Kūfa Gate, where (a canal) branches off from it which enters part of the remains of the (original) City of Al-Manṣūr, and here its waters fail. From the Gate of Kūfa, the main canal, after flowing along the

Road of the *Ḳaḥṭaba's*, comes to the *Bāb-ash-Shām* (the Syrian Gate), whence, passing by the Road of the *Jisr* (or Bridge-of-Boats), it skirts the *Zubaydiyya* (Fief), and finally disappears there.

(To return to) the Canal of *Karkhāyā*. After passing *Al-Bimāristān* (the Hospital), it comes to the place called *Ad-Darrābāt*,⁵ and here takes the name of *Al-'Amūd*. This is the stream from which branch the canals of the Inner (quarter of) *Al-Karkh*. The main canal next passes to a building adjacent, which is called the Mill of *Abu-l-Ḳasim*, and thence to a place (inhabited by) the men of *Wāsiṭ*. From thence it passes to a place called *Al-Khafḳa*,* and there is now taken from it the (canal called) *Nahr-al-Bazzāzīn* (of the Cloth-merchants); here it turns about and comes out in the road of *Al-Muṣawwir* (the Painter). Thence it passes to the (house called) *Dār Ka'b*, and flows on to the Gate of *Al-Karkh*. Here it enters (the quarter of the Cloth-merchants, called) *Al-Bazzāzīn*, thence passing to that (of the Cobblers, called) *Al-Kharrāzīn*.† Here it enters the quarter of the Soap-makers, and then finally flows out into the *Tigris* under the *Dār-al-Jawz* (the House of the Nut).

(Now to return to) the main canal, this passes on from *Al-Khafḳa*, to where it skirts the *Murabba'a-az-Zayyāt* (the Quadrangle of the Oil-merchant), and here there branches from it a canal called the *Nahr-ad-Dajāj* (the Fowl's Canal).⁶ This last, turning off, extends to (the quarter of) the Canal-diggers, and thence passes to (the quarter of) the Reed-weavers, and the road of the Pitch-workers; and finally it falls out into the *Tigris* at the place of the Sellers of Cooked-food. (Returning to the main canal), this passes on from the Quadrangle of the Oil-merchant to *Dawwāra-al-Ḥimār* (the Mound of the Ass), and there turns off from it at this point a canal called *Nahr-al-Kilāb* (the Dogs' Canal), which goes along the

* Reading of MS. doubtful.

† In the MS. this name may be read *Al-Jazzārīn*, "the Butchers."

road of the Fief of the Dogs, and flowing on finally falls into the Nahr 'Īsā at (the bridge called) Kanṭara-ash-Shawk. But the main canal passes on from the Dawwāra-al-Ḥimar to a place known as the Quadrangle of Ṣāliḥ, and here there turns from it a canal called (after the Cooks who sell Fried-meats) Nahr-al-Ḳallāyīn, which passing on extends to (the place called) As-Sawākīn, and thence to the Reed-weavers' quarter, where it flows out into the Nahr-ad-Dajāj (before described), and from this point the two form one canal. (Returning to) the Quadrangle of Ṣāliḥ, the main canal passes on to a place where it becomes the Nahr Ṭābak, and then finally it falls into the Nahr 'Īsā at a place known as Mashra'at-al-Ās (the Myrtle-passage), which is over against the Melon-house (Dār Battikh).

Such, therefore, are the Canals of (the quarter of) Al-Karkh; and there remain over the canals of the Ḥarbiyya (quarter), and these, if it please Allah, may He be exalted! I will also detail unto thee.

¹ In order to understand the following description, a few lines must be devoted to a summary account of the topography of ancient Baghdād. The original city, as founded by the Caliph Al-Manṣūr, was circular, being surrounded by a double wall and ditch, with four equidistant gates. From gate to gate measured an Arab mile (about one English mile and a quarter), and the circumference being thus four Arab miles, the diameter of the town was rather over one mile. This circular city stood on the western side of the Tigris, immediately above the point where the Ṣarāt Canal, coming from the Nahr 'Īsā, joined the Tigris, and the Ṣarāt flowed round the southern side of the city. The four gates were: first, the Baṣra Gate, opening S.E. and down-stream, overlooking the Ṣarāt where it was crossed by the New Bridge; second, the Kūfa Gate, opening S.W., and at a short distance above the Ṣarāt, across which, by the Old Bridge,

lay the great Kūfa high road; third, the Syrian Gate, opening N.W. on the Ḥarbiyya quarter; and fourth, the Khurāsān Gate, opening N.E., overlooking the Tigris and the great Bridge-of-Boats which crossed the river. In after times the name of this fourth gate, the Bāb Khurāsān, was transferred to the gate of the city on the eastern bank, through which passed the great high road to Persia (see Section X.).

Such was the city founded and finished by Al-Manṣūr in about A.H. 146 (763), but which, becoming the capital of the Abbasids, very quickly outgrew its earlier limits. Already under Al-Manṣūr the markets were removed from his circular (and walled) city, to a suburb built on the southern side of the Ṣarāt Canal. This market-suburb faced the Baṣra Gate, and was given the name of Al-Karkh. Ya'qūbī (p. 246) that it extended two leagues in length by one league across. From Al-Karkh northward, and westward—past the Kūfa Gate and along the Ṣarāt, towards Al-Muḥawwal, a village three miles from Baghdād—the Caliph divided the ground into fiefs for his nobles, and the lands were soon covered with buildings which extended to beyond the suburb of the Anbār Gate. Lastly, on the northern side of the original city, up-stream, and beyond the Syrian Gate, lay the Ḥarb quarter, which was bounded to the north by the line of Ṭāhir's Trench.

In the century and a half which had elapsed, counting from the date of the foundation of the city down to the epoch at which Ibn Serapion wrote, Baghdād had undergone many changes. It had never recovered the destructive effects of the great siege, when Al-Amīn had defended himself, to the death, against the troops of his brother Al-Mamūn; and again it had suffered semi-depopulation by the removal of the seat of Government to Samarrā (see Section I. note 3). The original round-city of Al-Manṣūr had long ago been absorbed into the

great capital, which covered ground measuring about five miles across in every direction, and the circular walls must, at an early date, have been levelled. The four gates, however, had remained and had given their names to the first suburbs, which, in time, had been absorbed into the Western town and become one half of the great City of Peace (Dār-as-Salām), the Baghdād of the Caliphs.

- ² The Ṣarāt Canal dates back to Sassanian times. It is a prominent feature in the history of the Muslim conquest (*cf.* Bilādhurī, p. 246), and the name was apparently transferred in later times to the other Ṣarāt, mentioned above (Section VI. note 6). Kan-tara-as-Ṣiniyyāt may mean "the Porcelain Bridge" (Ṣin being the Arab name for China). Possibly, however, the word is of Aramaic origin, signifying "of the Date-palms," for Aṣ-Ṣin, with this sense, is a name common to many places in Babylonia (*cf.* Z.D.M.G. XXXIX. p. 9, note 4). Yākūt (III. 378) in the place of Aṣ-Ṣiniyyāt, gives Aṣ-Ṣabībāt, probably a clerical error, for the MSS. of Al-Khaṭīb confirm Ibn Serapion.

The Patrician's Mills are described by Ya'qūbī (p. 243) and Yākūt (II. 759). The name of the bridge near these is written by Al-Khaṭīb (f. 104) Az-Zabd, and Zabad is given in Yākūt (II. 914) as the name of a place in Western Baghdād "mentioned in the Histories." Al-Manṣūr granted these mills in fief to Al-'Abbās, his brother, and after him, doubtless the neighbouring Bridge of Al-'Abbās was called. The Old Bridge, opposite the Kūfa Gate, Ya'qūbī (p. 244) states, was one of the first to be built by Al-Manṣūr; the New Bridge, opposite the Baṣra Gate, Bilādhurī (p. 295) ascribes to Al-Mahdī.

The famous Kaṣr-al-Khuld, "the Palace of Perpetuity," on the Tigris bank, Yākūt (II. 459) states, was built by Al-Manṣūr. It was the favourite residence of Hārūn-ar-Rashīd, and apparently fell

to ruin after the great siege of Baghdād, during the civil war following the death of that Caliph; for Hārūn-ar-Rashīd's son, Al-Amīn, had, at the last, entrenched himself with his troops in this palace. It lay immediately below the great Bridge-of-Boats crossing the Tigris to the eastern quarter. On the site of the palace the Buwayhid prince 'Aḍud-ad-Dawla, in A.H. 368 (978), built his famous Hospital (Bīmāristān).

³ The Trench of Ṭāhir took its name from the founder of the Ṭāhirid Dynasty of Khurāsān, who had been the General of the troops of Al-Mamūn during the civil war. He crushed the power of Al-Amīn, and was responsible for his death. The Ḥarbiyya quarter was named after Harb-ibn-'Abd-Allah of Balkh, who, Yākūt (II. 234) states, was a favourite of Al-Mansūr. By the thirteenth century A.D. the Ḥarbiyya had come to be a separate walled-suburb, with its own markets, lying two miles distant from old Baghdād. Ibn Hawkal (p. 164) describes the Harbiyya as lying opposite, on the western bank of the Tigris, to the Shammāsiyya on the eastern side. Ishāk, son of Ibrāhīm the Ṭāhirid, near whose Dār (or palace) the Trench flowed out into the Tigris, is, I presume, the member of that family who, according to Mas'ūdī (VII. 381), was Governor of Baghdād under Al-Mutawakkil, while that Caliph was living at Samarrā. Yākūt (III. 378) is certainly in error in stating that the Trench of Ṭāhir flowed out into the Tigris, "in front of the Gate of Al-Baṣra." He must here have confounded it with the Ṣarāt.

Umm Ja'far (the Mother of Ja'far) was the surname of the famous Zubayda, cousin and chief wife of Hārūn-ar-Rashīd, and mother of Al-Amin (see Section V. note 3). The Zubaydiyya Fief (mentioned below) is referred to by Yākūt (II. 917, IV. 141).

⁴ From Al-Muḥawwal to the first bridge (the Yāsiriyya) on the 'Īsā Canal, measured one mile, and as the Karkhāyā is said to have branched off "a short distance" below Al-Muḥawwal, I presume its head to have been above the Yāsiriyya. Yāḳūt (IV. 252) quotes the present account of the Karkhāyā, but adds that by the thirteenth century A.D. all trace of this canal had disappeared. Of the places here mentioned most do not occur again in Yāḳūt. The Hospital (Bīmāristān) is not to be confounded with that built by 'Aḍud-ad-Dawla (see note 2). Ya'kūbī (p. 244) describes the gate called Bāb Muḥawwal as leading out to the suburb of Ḥumayd, which Yāḳūt (II. 750) says was called after one of the nobles of Al-Manṣūr—Ḥumayd, the son of Al-Ḳaḥṭaba, who gave his name to a road mentioned below (see Section XII. note 3). The Suwayḳa, "little Sūk" or Market of Abu-l-Ward, Yāḳūt (III. 201) describes as having been built by a certain judge, in the reign of Al-Mahdi. The same authority (I. 592) states that Zalzal, who dug the Pool called after him, was the great lute-player, brother-in-law of the celebrated musician Ibrāhīm of Mosul, whose music was the delight of Hārūn-ar-Rashīd and his court. The gateway called the Arch (Ṭāk) of the Harrānian was built by a certain Ibrāhīm, whom Yāḳūt (III. 489) calls a freedman of Al-Manṣūr.

⁵ The two places called Ad-Darrābāt—which may mean "the female musicians"—and Al-Khafḳa are mentioned by Al-Khaṭīb (f. 104), who quotes this passage. Khafḳa, which means "a short sleep, a nap," is curious as a place-name. Al-'Amūd signifies the "main-stream" of a river or canal.

⁶ Nahr-ad-Dajāj, "the Fowls' Canal," is mentioned by Ya'kūbī (p. 250) and Yāḳūt (IV. 838). The Poulterers had their market here. The Nahr-al-Kilāb, "the Dogs' Canal," took its name from *the Dogs' Fief*, adjacent thereto, which Al-Khaṭīb mentions

(f. 83) as having been so called by Al-Manṣūr (and for want of a better designation) by reason of the number of these animals which had congregated there. The Nahr-al-Ḳallāyīn, named from the cooks who fried fish and lived on this canal, is mentioned by Yāḳūt (IV. 843). He adds that a village called Warthāl stood on this spot before the building of Baghdād. He also describes (IV. 841) the Nahr Ṭābaḳ, stating (III. 486) that it derived its name from the great "tiles" (*tābaḳ*) made here, with which it was customary to pave the houses in Baghdād. Yāḳūt adds that this canal was originally called the Nahr Bābak, having been dug by Bābak or Papak, the Sassanian. It apparently flowed out into the Nahr 'Īsā near the palace called the Ḳaṣr 'Īsā. Ya'ḳūbī, on the other hand (p. 250), says that this canal took its name from a certain man called Ṭābaḳ-ibn-Ṣamyah. The Dār-al-Battīkh, "the Melon House," is mentioned by Yāḳūt (II. 517), but he gives no details.

[SECTION XII.]

CANALS OF THE HARBIYYA.¹

Of these is a Canal, which is brought from the Dujayl and is called the Nahr Baṭāṭiyā.² Its point of origin is six leagues below the head of the Dujayl. It passes thence, watering many domains and villages, and goes by the midst of (the district of) Maskin, whence it flows out through the domains, and here is lost.

But there is brought from the Baṭāṭiyā, from a point a little below the Bridge-of-Boats of Baṭāṭiyā, a canal which flows on towards Baghdād, into which it passes, by the conduit of the Kūraj at the Bridge of the Gate of Al-Anbār. It enters Baghdād at this point, passing along the road of the Bāb-al-Anbār, and, traversing the road of Al-Kabsh, there disappears.

Now from the Nahr Baṭāṭiyā aforesaid is brought another canal, its origin being at a point lower down than

that of the first canal. It flows towards Baghdād, and passes (into the city) by a conduit called 'Abbārat-al-Kūkh, which crosses (the Trench of Ṭāhir) between the (gates of the) Bāb Ḥarb and the Bāb-al-Ḥadīd. Passing this, it enters Baghdād, running down the road of Dujayl to (the Quadrangle of the Persians) Murabba'at-al-Furs. Here there is taken from it a canal called Nahr Dukkān-al-Ibnā (of the Shops of the Persian-Arab nobles), which flowing off disappears.

The main canal passes on from the Quadrangle of the Persians to the Bridge of Abu-l-Jawn.³ Here there is taken from it a canal to the place of the Scribes for the Orphans, and thence to the (Quadrangle called) Murabba'a Shabīb, and there it falls out into the canal of the road (near the Syrian Gate), as we shall describe below.

The main canal passes on from the bridge of Abu-l-Jawn to the road of the (palace called) Kaṣr Hānī, thence it passes to the (garden called) Bustān-al-Kass, and finally it flows out into the canal which passes down the road of the Kaḥṭaba's.

From the Nahr Baṭāṭiyā is brought a canal, whose origin is from the (channel called) Kanāt-al-Kūkh; and it flows to Baghdād. It passes by the Conduit, which is a Kūrāj, over the bridge of the Bāb Ḥarb, and there enters Baghdād. Flowing down the middle of the road of the Bāb Ḥarb, it comes to the road of (the house called) Dār Ibn Abu-'Awn,⁴ and next to the Quadrangle of Abu-l-'Abbās. Thence it passes to the Quadrangle of Shabīb, where there falls into it the canal (of the Scribes for the Orphans), as we have already mentioned; and from this point it passes to the Bāb-ash-Shām (the Gate of Syria).

These, therefore, which we have discussed, are the Canals of (Baghdād), the City of Peace. Now the canals which are in (the quarter called) Al-Ḥarbiyya are (the kind of water-courses called) Kanāt, and they run underground, but (their courses outside the city) where they begin are (canals and) uncovered, as, please Allah, may He be exalted! thou hast understood.

¹ The water of the Harbiyya Canals had to cross the Khandaq, or Trench of Tāhir, in order to reach the Harbiyya quarter, and the conduits generally passed over by the bridges crossing the trench in front of the several gates. A water-conduit, crossing at right angles a lower canal, appears, in Baghdād, to have been called either Kūrāj or 'Abbāra. Kūrāj is the name which Yākūt (IV. 198) gives to one of the canals of the Western quarter, which was brought down from the Kātūl, and which, whenever it broke its banks, laid the whole of that part of Baghdād under water. M. de Goeje says (*Histoire des Carmathes*, 2nd edition, note 3 to p. 13), that Kūrāj is the Arab form of the Persian *Kūra* "a canal." The word 'Abbāra, which Ibn Serapion also uses, does not occur in this sense in our Arabic dictionaries; but it is evident from the present and the following passages that 'Abbāra means "a small aqueduct or water-conduit crossing a canal." In many cases the word Kūrāj of Ibn Serapion's MS. is replaced in the corresponding passage of Al-Khaṭīb by the word 'Abbāra—which is a noun formed from the verb 'abara, "to cross over," following the grammatical form of such words as *Kallāsa*, "a lime-kiln," and *Kayyāra*, "a bitumen-pit," (cf. W. Wright's Grammar, 2nd edition, I. 199).

² The paragraph on the Baṭāṭiyā Canal is given, in a mutilated form, by Yākūt (IV. 835), who quotes it at second-hand from Al-Khaṭīb. Shāri'-al-Kabsh, "the Road of the Ram," is mentioned by Yākūt (IV. 233), who speaks of Al-Kabsh-wa-l-Asad, "the Ram and the Lion," as a quarter of Western Baghdād, in his day long gone to ruin. It was the limit, according to Al-Khaṭīb (f. 67), of the houses of Baghdād on the west. Murabba'at-al-Furs, "the Quadrangle of the Persians," Yākūt states (IV. 485) was a fief granted by Al-Manṣūr

to certain men of that nation. The reading *Nahr Dukkān-al-Ibnā* is from the Paris MSS. of Al-Khaṭīb. The word *Dukkān* is used by so early an authority as Bilādhurī (p. 281) in the usual sense of a "balcony," or "shop"; while *Ibnā* is the term applied by the Arabs to the nobles of Persian race who ruled in Arabia (see Mas'ūdī, IV. 188).

³ The Bridge of Abu-l-Jawn is mentioned incidentally by Yāqūt (III. 277). The Quadrangle of Shabīb the same authority states (III. 489) was named after a certain Shabīb-ibn-Rāḥ; Bilādhurī (p. 296), however, gives him as Ibn Wāj. The Garden of Al-Ḳass is mentioned by both Bilādhurī (p. 296) and Ya'qūbī (p. 247) as being named after a certain freedman of the Caliph Al-Manṣūr. The road which was called after the family of the Ḳaḥṭaba, since their houses and fiefs bordered it, is referred to by Ya'qūbī (p. 246), who speaks also of the Suburb called after Al-Ḥasan Ibn Ḳaḥṭaba (see Section XI. note 4).

⁴ The House of Ibn Abu-'Awn took its name from the son of Abu-'Awn, who, according to Yāqūt (II. 750), was a freedman of Al-Manṣūr, and at one time Governor of Egypt. He was a native of Jurjān, near the Caspian Sea, and was called 'Abd-al-Mālik ibn Zayd or Yazīd, according to Ya'qūbī (p. 249). The Quadrangle of Abu-l-'Abbās is given in Yāqūt (IV. 485), and is ascribed to a certain Abu-l-'Abbās-al-Faḍl-ibn-Sulaymān of Ṭūs, who was one of the nobles of Al-Manṣūr.

[SECTION XIII.]

And now as regards the canals Al-Baṣra, and the description of Al-Batiḥa¹ (the Swamp), and (the estuary of the Tigris called) the Dijla-al-'Awrā; verily all these I will describe unto thee, and grace comes from Allah!

DESCRIPTION OF AL-BATĪHA¹ (THE SWAMP).

Now the beginning of the Swamp is at Al-Kaṭr. This place is a strait of water growing with reeds. Next to this comes what is called a Hawr; and Hawr is the name for a great sheet of (clear) water wherein no reeds grow.² The name of this first Hawr is Baḥassā.* Following this comes a strait full of reeds, and then the second Hawr, which has the name of Bakamsā. Next comes another strait growing with reeds, and then the third Hawr, the name of which is Baṣrayāthā. Then another strait with reeds, and next the fourth Hawr, the name of which is Al-Muḥammadiyya, on which is the (tower called) Mināra Hassān. This last is the largest of all the Hawrs. Finally there is a last strait with reeds, which extends down to (the channel called) the Nahr Abu-l-Asad.³ This stream passes by Al-Hāla and the village of Al-Kawānīn, and it finally falls out into the (Blind Tigris or) Dijla-al-ʿAwra.

¹ The great Swamps formed by the Euphrates and the Tigris are called, in Arabic, Al-Batīha or, in the plural, Al-Batāyih. Bilādhurī (p. 292) dates the origin of the Swamps as far back as the reign of the Persian king Kubādh I., towards the end of the fifth century A.D., when the dykes on the Tigris, having been for many years neglected, the waters poured through a breach below Kaskar and flooded the low-lying lands. During the reign of Anūshirwān the Just, son and successor of Kubādh, the dykes were partially repaired and the lands brought back under cultivation; but under King Khusraw Parwīz, the contemporary of Muḥammad, and about the year seven or eight after the Flight (A.D. 629), both the Tigris and the Euphrates rose in such flood as had never before been seen, burst their dykes in various places, and laid all the

* Reading uncertain.

surrounding country under water. According to the account in Bilādhurī, King Parwīz himself superintended the repair of the dykes, sparing (he writes) neither men's lives nor money, "crucifying forty dyke-men, at a certain breach, in one day, and yet was unable to master the water." The Swamps, thus formed, became permanent, for, during the succeeding years, when the Muslims were overrunning Mesopotamia and destroying the Persian monarchy, the dykes naturally were left uncared for. "Then breaches came in all the embankments, and none attended, for the Dikhāns (the Persian landlords) were powerless to renew the great dykes, and so the Swamps lengthened and widened."

Ibn Rusta (p. 94) describes the Swamps in his day as occupying a space measuring thirty leagues (about 100 miles) across in every direction. They were covered with reeds, and their waters abounded with fish, which were caught, salted, and exported. In another passage (p. 185) the same author describes how the Tigris below Al-Ḳaṭr divides into three branches, through which its waters flowed into the Swamps. These waterways were too shallow to float the river-boats, and the cargoes from them were therefore transferred to skiffs, which were able to navigate the channels through the swamps, and pass out into the open spaces of clear water, the name of which Ibn Rusta writes "Hawl" (p. 185). He continues:—"Now, in among these channels, dry places have been made on platforms formed of reeds, and huts have been built, where shelter may be had from the gnats. In each of these huts five men are stationed as guards."

² The names given for the four *Hawrs* (in Ibn Rusta written *Hawl*), or sheets of open water, in the Swamps, are not, to my knowledge, mentioned by any other geographer. The first *Hawr*, called Baḥ-*aṣṣā*, is written in the MS. without diacritical points,

and the first letter (which I have pointed to read B) may just as likely be read T, Th, N, or Y. Bakamsā and Basrayāthā are written clearly, with points. Al-Muḥammadiyya, a name common to many towns, does not occur in other authorities as the name of a place in the Swamps. Ḥassān, the Nabathæan, whose tower, or minaret, existed at this place, is referred to by Bilādhurī (p. 293) and Kudāma (p. 240) as having been employed by the Governor, Al-Ḥajjāj, to drain and reclaim lands in the Swamps, during the days of the Omayyad Caliphs.

³ The main channel leading out from the Swamps was the canal called the Nahr of Abu-l-Asad, who is stated by Bilādhurī (p. 293) to have been a Freedman of the Caliph Al-Manṣūr. He was at one time in command of troops at Al-Baṣra, and either dug or widened this canal, so as to allow boats to pass along it; for more probably the canal already existed from Persian times, as Yāqūt remarks (IV. 830).

[SECTION XIV.]

DESCRIPTION OF THE DIJLA-AL-'AWRĀ.

Now, where the (water) flows out from the Nahr Abu-l-Asad, the Dijla-al-'Awrā (the Blind Tigris)¹ lies in front, going crosswise. The road to Al-Baṣra is that on the right hand where the (water) flows out; while to the left is the road leading to 'Abdasī and Al-Madhār.² And in this last direction there is no exit or river-mouth, for on the contrary (the water flowing up it) this is the limit reached by the ebb and flow of the tides. When the (water) comes out from (the channel called) the Nahr Abu-l-Asad, and turning leaves the same, the (main-stream) passes near the following places, namely³: Ad-Daskara, Al-Maftah, 'Ab-bādān, and Sulaymānān; and finally it flows out into the sea below 'Abbādān. We will later on detail to thee the positions of these villages and cities on the two banks of

the Blind Tigris, at the time when we describe the Roads and Ways; if it please Allah, be He exalted!

¹ I have translated *Dijla-al-‘Awrā* by “Blind Tigris,” for the word *‘Awrā*, which means in Arabic “blind of one eye,” is applied, as an epithet, to rivers that have become silted up. In the same sense a road is said to be “blind,” along which there is no sign of the way. The corresponding verb, which is used by Ibn Rusta for the “silting up” of the Tigris, has in the dictionaries (cf. those of Lane and Dozy, s.v.) the meaning “to become blind,” and also “to become halt or maimed.”

The Blind Tigris, called in Persian *Bahmanshīr* (*Tanbih*, p. 52; and *Yāqūt*, I. 770), also known as the *Fayḍ* or “Estuary” of Al-Baṣra, corresponds exactly (as described by Ibn Serapion) with the present *Shaṭṭ-al-‘Arab*, extending from modern Korna downwards as far as ‘*Abbādān*, for in the tenth century A.D. the Persian Gulf came up north to this line. The distances between the Baṣra Canals (given in the next Section) tend to the conclusion that the *Nahr Abu-l-Asad* was identical with the last reach of the present Euphrates, before its confluence with the Tigris at Korna; while the present Tigris, or rather the last six leagues of its course above Korna, is the channel referred to in this and the next Section as the *Nahr-al-Madhār*, which is said to have been dammed up towards ‘*Abdasī* and *Al-Madhār*. The exact position of these two cities is uncertain; but they must have been situated on or near what is at present the course of the Tigris immediately above Korna. According to Ibn Rusta (confirmed by *Yāqūt*, I. 669, line 15), in Sassanian times, and before the bursting of the dykes which led to the formation of the Swamps (see note 1 to Section XIII.), the Tigris of those days followed

the same *eastern* channel which it does at the present time. The account in Ibn Rusta (p. 94) appears to me of sufficient importance to be worth translating: "Now, as to the Blind Tigris, verily before the days of Islām it used to go straight up from Al-Madhār, where at the present day the channel is stopped; for passing up thence by 'Abdasī, which is of the districts of Dastī-Maysān, the channel came out (from the present Tigris bed) at Al-Khayzurāniyya, above Fam-aṣ-Ṣilḥ, in the district of Wāsiṭ. From thence you pass up to Al-Madāin. Now sea-going ships used, of old, to sail in from the land of India, coming up the Tigris of Al-Baṣra, and thence could attain to Al-Madāin, for they would sail up (from the Estuary of Al-Baṣra) and come out above Fam-aṣ-Ṣilḥ, passing into the Tigris of (the part below where in later times was) Baghdād, whence they came to Al-Madāin. But after those (ancient) days the river burst its banks, flowing out over the land in front (and south) of the place where Wāsiṭ afterwards stood, and here its waters formed the Swamps, as these are known at the present time. . . . Now of old there used to be Swamps at a place called Jūkhā, lying between Al-Madhār and 'Abdasī, where the waters of the Tigris had collected in the days prior to the shifting of the river-bed into the present (western) course down by Wāsiṭ. But when this change of course took place and the water of the Tigris ceased to flow down its old channel, this place became a desert and arid, so that he who now passes through (Jūkhā) in the summer time suffers from the full force of the Simūn wind." Al-Khayzurāniyya, above Fam-aṣ-Ṣilḥ, where the ships are said to have passed into the reaches of the Tigris, above where the Swamps afterwards formed, is doubtless the same place which Yaḳūbī names (p. 322) Ḳanāṭīr-al-Khayzurān, "the Bridges, or Arches of Khayzurān," and which he

places on the eastern bank of the river, between Al-Mubārik (opposite Nahr Sābus) and Fam-aṣ-Ṣilḥ.

² 'Abdasī, according to Yāḳūt (III. 603), was the Arabized name of the Persian Afdasahī, which was one of the hamlets of Kaskar, and the name passed to the Arab township which came to occupy the older site.

Al-Madhār was a city of much importance at the date of the Arab conquest, being the capital of the province of Maysān. As already noted, it must have stood on or near the ancient, *eastern*, course of the Tigris, which was more or less identical with the modern course of the river. In Bilādhurī (p. 342), the city is described as not far from Dasti-Maysān. Although no trace of its ruins can be found on the modern maps, Yāḳūt (IV. 468), in the thirteenth century A.D., writes as though Al-Madhār still existed, and states that it lay four days' journey from Al-Baṣra, being situated between Al-Baṣra and Wāsiṭ. It was celebrated for its beautiful mosque and venerated for the tomb of 'Abd-Allah, one of the sons of the Caliph 'Alī.

³ Of the other towns mentioned in this section, 'Abbādān is the only one of which the exact position is known. It exists at the present day, but lies more than twenty miles inland from the present sea-coast. In the tenth century, Muḳaddasi (p. 118) describes 'Abbādān as a city on the sea-coast, standing on the island formed by the estuaries of the Tigris and the Dujayl (or Kārūn river). He adds: "There is no land opposite to 'Abbādān, only the open sea." It was counted as twelve leagues march from Al-Baṣra.

To judge from the native map in the Paris MS., Sulaymānān lay on the Persian side of this island. Ibn Hawḳal (p. 173) describes the town as lying "over against (or opposite) 'Abbādān," and Bilādhurī (p. 364) states that it took its name from a

certain Sulaymān ibn Jābir, surnamed "the Ascetic." Ad-Daskara, meaning "the flat-land," Yākūt writes (II. 575), is a name common to many places, but the position of this particular As-Daskara is not given. Al-Maftah is mentioned by Ibn Hawkal (p. 171) as situated near the western frontier of the Khūzistān Province, on the line between Bayān and Al-Madhār. Yākūt (IV. 586) refers to it as a village lying between Al-Başra and Wāsīt, belonging to the province of Al-Başra. The native map in the Paris MS. places Al-Maftah opposite the exit of the Nahr Ma'kil, and it must have stood near the great estuary, for in the *Tanbih* (p. 52) the Blind Tigris is given the name of the "Tigris of Al-Maftah."

[SECTION XV.]

DESCRIPTION OF THE CANALS OF AL-BAŞRA.¹

Now Al-Başra lies near (the estuary called) the Fayḍ of (Al-Başra), and into this estuary its canals empty themselves. Further, the ebb and flow of the tide comes up to the utmost limit of these canals, and flows back therefrom.

The first canal which branches from the (estuary), after you come out from the Nahr Abu-l-Asad, is that which lies on the right hand, and it extends as far as Al-Başra.² It is called the Nahr-al-Marāh, and its beginning is two leagues from the exit of the Nahr Abu-l-Asad.

The second canal is that called the Nahr-ad-Dayr; and it begins three leagues from the Nahr-al-Marāh.

The third canal is the one called Bithḳ Shīrīn; and it begins six leagues below the Canal of Ad-Dayr.

The fourth canal is that called the Nahr Ma'kil,³ and between it and the Bithḳ Shīrīn is a distance of two leagues.

The fifth canal is that called the Nahr-al-Ubulla; and Al-Ubulla is at its head. Between this and the Nahr Ma'kil* is a distance of four leagues.

* MS. reads Nahr-al-Ubulla, in error.

The sixth canal⁴ is called Al-Yahūdī; and between it and Al-Ubulla is four leagues.

The seventh canal is that called the Nahr Abu-l-Khaṣīb, and it lies a league below the canal of Al-Yahūdī.

The eighth canal is that called the Nahr-al-Amīr; and it flows at a league below the Nahr Abu-l-Khaṣīb.

The ninth canal is called the Nahr-al-Kandil, and it is two leagues below the Nahr-al-Amīr.

These nine canals all flow out into (the estuary called) the Fayḍ of Al-Baṣra. They are each some four leagues in the length, but some are more, some less. Now this estuary has its mouth by the Dijla-al-‘Awrā (the Blind Tigris) at ‘Abbādān, at the time of the ebb, and it forms a considerable body of water. The town of ‘Abbādān lies on the sea-shore, and the sea comes close up to it. And in regard to all these nine canals, there is none but from it have been taken numerous smaller canals, which water the adjacent domains.

These, therefore, are the celebrated and mighty canals of Al-Baṣra, which flow out by the western bank of the Dijla-al-‘Awrā, and there remain to mention those of the eastern side, which next I will describe to thee, if it please Allāh, be He exalted!

¹ Al-Baṣra, the great commercial port of Baghdād and Mesopotamia, lay on the Arabian side of the Estuary of Al-Baṣra, in other words the Blind Tigris, and was about twelve miles, as the crow flies, from its bank. Two great canals—the Nahr Maḳīl on the north-east, and the Nahr-al-Ubulla on the south-east—brought the ships up from the estuary to the quays of the town, which stood at the junction of these two canals. Muḳaddasi (p. 117) describes Al-Baṣra as having its greatest length along this junction-canal, with houses extending back to the desert border behind, where a single gate opened to the plain. In its width, from the canal bank to this gate, the city measured three miles across. The

modern village of Zubayr now occupies the site of old Baṣra, for the present town named Baṣra stands on the estuary of the Shaṭṭ-al-‘Arab, and is probably identical in situation with the ancient Al-Ubulla.

² Of the nine canals lying on the western or Arabian side of the Tigris estuary, the highest up, called generally the Nahr-al-Marāh or “the Woman’s Canal,” appears to be identical with a Nahr Murra, which, according to Bilādhurī (p. 360), was dug by a certain Murra, the Freedman of one of the sons of the Caliph Abu Bakr. In explanation of the name Al-Marāh, another tradition given by Yāqūt (IV. 844) states that the “woman” after whom the canal was named was a certain Persian princess with whom Khālīd, General of the Muslim army, made a treaty of peace. The Nahr-ad-Dayr took its name from a Dayr or “Cloister” which stood at the mouth of this canal; and a village of that name still exists at the spot indicated. According to Yāqūt (II. 660, IV. 839), a monastery called Dayrad-Dihdār had stood here from the days before Islām. Many monks lived in it, and the place was held in high honour by the Christians. The town was noted for the excellent porcelain dishes, which were manufactured here, and exported for sale to Al-Baṣra. According to Bilādhurī (p. 367), the Nahr Bithk Shīrīn takes its name from Shīrīn, the beautiful wife of King Khusraw Parwīz. *Bithk* means a “cutting” in the dyke, through which water flows.

³ The fourth canal, the Nahr Ma‘kil, is, as before stated, the chief waterway from the north by which ships reached Al-Baṣra. It was called after Ma‘kil-ibn-Yasār, a companion of the Prophet, who dug this canal during the reign of ‘Omar (Yāqūt, IV. 845). The Persian pilgrim, Nāṣir-ī-Khusraw (p. 85), who visited Al-Baṣra in A.H. 443 (1051), describes the Nahr Ma‘kil and the Nahr-al-Ubulla as being each

four leagues in length. Between the two lay a tract of land forming a great island, oblong in shape, for the ends were each but a league across. One short side of the oblong lay on the Tigris Estuary going from Al-Ubulla up to the mouth of the Ma'kil Canal, and the parallel short side was the waterway, joining the ends of the two canals already named, and on the desert-side of which stood the city of Al-Baṣra. These measurements of Nāṣiri-Khusraw agree very exactly with what is found on the modern maps, for a place called Ma'kil still exists about one league north of Al-Ubulla (which is the modern town of Baṣra), on the Shatt-al-'Arab. The distance separating these two canals, given at "four leagues" by Ibn Serapion, is therefore probably an overstatement, and we should read "one league," as reported in the diary of the Persian pilgrim. Al-Ubulla took its name from an ancient town which the Greeks called *Apologos*. It stood at the end of the Nahr-al-Ubulla, the waterway by which ships left Al-Baṣra when setting sail for the Indian seas. Al-Ubulla, lying at the mouth of this canal on its northern bank, had the great Estuary of the Tigris to the eastward. Facing Al-Ubulla, on the southern bank of the canal mouth, was the hamlet called Shikḳ 'Othmān, *Shikḳ* meaning "a cutting," or "breach in a dyke." Opposite Al-Ubulla, across the great Estuary of the Tigris, here about a league wide, lay the town of 'Askar Abu-Ja'far, whence, according to Muḳaddasi (pp. 118 and 135), the caravans set out for Al-Ahwāz.

⁴ Of the four remaining canals on the western side, the Nahr-al-Yahūdī, the "Jew's Canal," appears to have left no trace of its name on the modern maps, and I can find no notice of the origin of the name. The Nahr Abu-l-Khaṣīb is stated by Bilādhuri (p. 362) to have taken its name from Abu-l-Khaṣīb Marzūk, a freedman of the Caliph Al-Manṣūr, who

granted him the lands here in fief. The name is still found on the present map. The Nahr-al-Amīr, according to Bilādhurī (p. 362), was called originally the Nahr Amīr-al-Muminīn, "the Canal of the Commander of the Faithful," to wit the Caliph Al-Mansūr, who caused it to be dug, and granted its lands in fief to his son Ja'far. The last canal is the Nahr-al-Kāndil, which Yākūt (IV. 843) pronounces Kīndal, and Abu-l-Fidā (p. 57) Kūndul. The origin of the name appears to be unknown. It is worth noting that Abu-l-Fidā (pp. 56 and 57) has copied this Section XV. of Ibn Serapion, almost verbatim, into his Geography.

[SECTION XVI.]

CANALS TO THE WEST OF THE BAŞRA ESTUARY.

Of these, on coming forth from the Nahr Abu-l-Asad, the first is a canal called the Nahr-al-Madhār.* From it are taken many minor canals, but at the end of the canal is a dam. Its length is six leagues.¹

The second canal is that called the Nahr-ar-Rayyān; and it is situated thirteen leagues from [Al-Madhār].† From it are taken many minor canals, and it was originally one of the highways to Al-Ahwāz, but it is now dammed. Its length is six leagues.

The third canal is that called the Nahr Bayān,² and this at the present time is the highway to Al-Ahwāz. From the head of this canal you pass to Ḥiṣn Mahdī,³ and thence to Fam Dahastān, which is on the (Estuary from the) sea. Thence to Sūḳ Baḥr,⁴ from which you pass along in the Nahr-as-Sidra, and from whence (you descend) to the sea. From Sūḳ Baḥr to (the canal called) Al-Masruḳān is the river of Al-Ahwāz, which is but a little way, going across, and thence you travel to the cities of Al-Ahwāz.⁵

* MS. Al-Minār, in error.

† The MS. reads Al-Mubārik, probably a mistake.

Now the canal of Al-Masrukān we will describe later on,* if it please Allah Almighty.

¹ The channel leading up to Al-Madhār has been already discussed (see Notes 1 and 2 to Section XIV.). The second canal, the Nahr-ar-Rayyān, appears to have started from a place marked Riyān on Kiepert's map. Ar-Rayyān is mentioned by Ibn Khurdābih (p. 12) as one of the three districts of Kaskar. Other canals of this name occur in the works of Bilādhurī and Yāqūt, but not this Nahr-ar-Rayyān. For "Al-Mubārik" in the MS. I have substituted "Al-Madhār," for the distance given agrees. However, Yāqūt (IV. 408) mentions Al-Mubārik as one of the canals of Al-Baṣra, which was dug by Khalid-al-Kasri, governor of the Two 'Irāqs under the Omayyad Caliph Hishām; but the position of the canal is not given by Yāqūt.

² The Nahr Bayān, called after the town of that name—which, according to Iṣṭakhrī (p. 95) and Yāqūt (I. 773), stood on the eastern side of the Tigris Estuary, five leagues below Al-Ubulla—raises a question of some interest. A reference to the map shows that the Bayān Canal occupies the position of the Haffar Channel, by which, at the present day, the waters of the Kārūn River are for the most part discharged into the Shaṭṭ-al-'Arab. The modern Mohammerah, which stands at the western end of this channel, must very nearly be identical in site with the older town of Bayān. A passage in Muḳaddasi, who wrote about three-quarters of a century later than Ibn Serapion, assigns the digging of this important channel to his contemporary, the Buwayhid Prince 'Aḍud-ad-Dawla, who reigned from A.H. 338 to 372 (949–982). The canal, however, must have existed before his time, and even before the date of

* See next section.

Ibn Serapion, for it is referred to by Kudāma (p. 194), who wrote in A.H. 266 (880), under the name of the Nahr-al-Jadīd, "the New Canal." Doubtless under the orders of 'Aḍud-ad-Dawla it was sufficiently widened to permit the passage of sea-going ships; and this is what is referred to in the following passage, which I translate from Muḳaddasi (p. 419): "From Hiṣn Mahdī to the beginning of the 'Aḍudī Canal is a day's journey, and thence you reach the Tigris. You may also ride from Hiṣn Mahdī to Bayān in one day's march, across a Sabkha (or Salt-Marsh). Now the River Dujayl of Al-Ahwāz, and the Tigris, each of them forms a broad estuary (Fayḍ) which opens out to the China Sea (or Persian Gulf), and between these two estuaries lies the Salt-Marsh above-mentioned. In former times people, travelling by boat, were forced to go down by the Estuary of the Dujayl out to the sea, and then turning round sail back again and enter the Tigris Estuary, and thus from the sea reach Al-Ubulla. But in doing this they encountered both danger and fatigue, and hence it was that 'Aḍud-ad-Dawla opened the Great Canal which leads from the upper part of the Dujayl Estuary to the Tigris Estuary. This canal is four leagues long, and the waterway from Al-Ahwāz to Al-Ubulla is at the present time along the same."

³ Hiṣn Mahdī, "Mahdī's Fortress," lay at the head of the ancient estuary of the Dujayl or River of Al-Ahwāz, which is the modern Kārūn. Ibn Hawkal (p. 172) writes: "The rivers of Khūzistān, which flow down from Al-Ahwāz, from Ad-Dawraḳ, from Tustar, and from other quarters adjacent to these, all come together at Hiṣn Mahdī and form an estuary, where the waters are so abundant and copious as to be near a league across, and thence they flow down to the sea." Hiṣn Mahdī apparently corresponds with the site of no modern town. It lay one day's march

above the place where the Bayān Channel flowed off to the Tigris Estuary. According to Kudāma's distances (p. 194), this fortress was twenty leagues distant from Al-Ahwāz; but I have no authority for determining whether Hiṣn Maḥdī lay on the western or on the eastern bank of the estuary of the Dujayl, and I have only marked it on the western side because it is more generally mentioned in connection with the towns of Al-'Irāk.

Fam Dahastān is apparently mentioned by no other Arab geographer, and it may be a false reading of the MS. If, however, the reading Dahastān be correct, it would possibly be the name of the canal, whose head (*Fam*) was below Al-Ahwāz, and which, after serving to carry off some of the waters of the Dujayl for irrigation purposes, finally ran out into the Persian Gulf. Yāqūt (I. 411) quotes the account of a geographer called Ibn-al-Muhalhal, who died in A.H. 330 (942), and this author mentions a Wādī (river or canal) as branching from the Dujayl below Al-Ahwāz, and flowing down past Al-Bāsiyān, a town that lay half-way between Ad-Dawraḥ and Hiṣn Maḥdī.

⁴ Sūḵ Baḥr is given by Yāqūt (III. 193) as the name of a place in the province of Al-Ahwāz, where certain Custom-houses had stood, previous to the date when the Wazīr 'Ali-ibn-al-Jarraḥ was in office for the first time. This 'Ali, who died in A.H. 334 (946) was several times Wazīr under the Caliph al-Muqtadir. He was celebrated for his righteousness and piety, and had abolished these barriers as unlawful. The position of the place is not indicated by Yāqūt, but it probably lay on the River Dujayl. The word *Baḥr*, in this and the following paragraphs of the text, doubtless refers to the great Estuary of the Dujayl and not the actual open sea, for *Baḥr* in Arabic, though signifying literally "the sea," is also used for any great river, or estuary.

The Nahr-as-Sidra, "The River of the Lotus," is apparently the name given to that part of the Dujayl which lies immediately below Al-Ahwāz.

- ⁵ Sūk-al-Ahwāz, "The Market of the Hūz" (for *Ahwāz* is the Arabic plural of this latter name, which, with *kh*, the stronger aspirate, is preserved in the name of the province), is the capital of Khūzistān, the Land of the Khūz or Hūz. The town still exists. Muḩaddasi (p. 411) describes it as lying for the most part on the eastern bank of the Dujayl, in which quarter the Markets and the Great Mosque were found. This eastern quarter was connected by a long bridge—built of brick arches, called the *Ḳanṭara Hinduwān*—with an island in the river Dujayl, which was also covered with the houses of the city. On the further, or western side of this island, lay the mainstream of the Dujayl, whose waters, at a distance of a bow-shot below the city, poured over a great *Shādhurwān*, or weir, built of rocks, which served to dam back the stream for irrigation purposes. The remains of this weir still exist, crossing the *Kārūn* river.

[SECTION XVII.]*

DESCRIPTION OF THE RIVER DUJAYL OF AL-AHWĀZ.¹

Its source is in the mountains of the country of *Iṣfahān*, and passing by the cities of Al-Ahwāz, it flows out into the Eastern Sea (or Persian Gulf). Into the (Dujayl) flows the River of *Junday Sābūr*, across which is the Roman Bridge. (Its source is also in) the neighbourhood of *Iṣfahān*, and it flows into the Dujayl of Al-Ahwāz.

From the Dujayl of Al-Ahwāz is brought a canal called *Al-Masruḳān*.² Its point of origin is above (the weir

* This is the paragraph referred to in the last line of Section XVI. It is copied from folio 47a. of the MS.

called) Ash-Shādhurwān, and it flows out into the Eastern Sea (or Persian Gulf).

¹ The Dujayl of Al-Ahwāz is, as already noted, the modern Kārūn. The River of Junday Sābūr is what is now known as the Āb-i-Dīz. The bridge called by Ibn Serapion Ḳaṅṅara-ar-Rūm (of the Romans or Greeks), Ibn Rusta (p. 90) calls Ḳaṅṅara-ar-Rūdh, "the Bridge of the River," and in Ibn Khurdādbih (p. 176) it is given as Ḳaṅṅara-az-Zāb. This is, doubtless, the great bridge at Dizful.

² The canal called Al-Masrukān (or Al-Mashrukān, as Ibn Hawkal and most other authorities spell the name) is the artificial channel, apparently that now known as the Āb-i-Gerger, which was led off to the eastward from the Dujayl, through a cutting in the rocks, above the great Weir at Shustar or Tustar. Ibn Khurdādbih (p. 176), following our author, says that the waters of the Masrukān flowed out "into the sea," but the tidal Estuary of the Dujayl is, doubtless, to be understood, here as elsewhere, under the word *Bahr* (sea), the term used. The course of the various streams of Khūzistān in the tenth century A.D. will be best understood by the following passage, which is translated from Ibn Hawkal (p. 172): premising that the town of 'Askar Mukram probably occupied the site of the modern Band-i-Kir, and that the River of Tustar, otherwise the Dujayl, flowed in those days by a more westerly course than it does at the present time, Ibn Hawkal writes: "The largest of the rivers of Khūzistān is that of Tustar, and this is the river across which, at the gate of Tustar, King Sābūr built a Shādhurwān (or weir), in order to raise

the water to the level of the city-lands, for Tustar lies on an elevation, very similar to the heights adjacent in the country near by. Then this river flows on, passing at the further side of 'Askar Mukram, and thence goes down to Al-Ahwāz, where it comes, by the Nahr-as-Sidra, to Ḥiṣn Maḥdī, and thence it flows down to the sea. The Nahr-al-Mashrukān runs from the neighbourhood of Tustar till it reaches 'Askar Mukram, which town it divides into two halves. Further on it attains Al-Ahwāz, but its end is here, and it does not pass beyond the capital. When the stream has come to 'Askar Mukram it is crossed by a great bridge of about twenty boats, and in these parts large boats can navigate its waters. And I myself (Ibn Hawkal) have travelled by it from 'Askar Mukram to Al-Ahwāz, a distance of ten leagues. For the first six leagues we voyaged by boat, but afterwards we got out and rode along the course of the stream, for the remainder of the way from this point to Al-Ahwāz was a dry road in the river-bed. The reason of this was that, being then at the end of the month, the moon was waning, and the flood-water in this canal is dependent on the ebb and flow of the tide, and the tide reaches both its lowest ebb and its highest flow in connection with the waxing of the moon."

[SECTION XVIII.]

These, therefore, are the great and celebrated canals of (the district of) Al-Baṣra; and having now accomplished the detail of the same, it will behove thee to work out the streams which fall into the rivers of the Greek country, and those of the city of Malatya, in order that thou mayest thus know all the affluents that flow into these two noble and mighty rivers (the Euphrates and Tigris), and that

none of them remain over to thee unexamined, if it please Allah Almighty.*

Of these, then, is the Nahr Arsanās. Into this flows a stream called the Nahr-adh-Dhīb (the Wolf River). Its source is in a mountain in the neighbourhood of *Ḳālīkalā*. It turns and passes by many fortresses, and falls into the Arsanās a short distance above Shamshāt.

There also falls into the Arsanās a river called Nahr-as-Salkīṭ. It flows forth from the mountains called Jabal Marūr (or Mazūr), and passing by many fortresses it falls into the Arsanās, one mile below the city of Shamshāt, near a mountain that is over the city, and which closes it in.

Another of these is the Nahr Abriḳ. Into this river there falls a stream called the Nahr Zamra. It flows out of the mountains of Jabal Marūr a little way above where the Nahr Lūḳīya takes its rise; and it falls into the Nahr Abriḳ a little way below the Castle (*Al-Ḳal'a*).

Another of these is the Nahr Jarjārīya. Into this there flows a stream called the Nahr Ghawth; its source is in the mountains of the Abriḳ country, and it falls into the Nahr Jarjārīya in the midst of a meadow in that country.

The Nahr *Ḳubāḳib* also has affluents; for there flows into it a stream called the Nahr *Ḳarāḳīs*. This rises in the provinces of the Greek country, and flows near to the gate of Zibaṭra, and at length falls into the *Ḳubāḳib*.

There also flows into (the River *Ḳubāḳib*) a stream called the Nahr-az-Zarnūḳ. Its source is in a mountain lying between Malatya and *Ḥiṣn Maṣṣūr*. It flows into the *Ḳubāḳib* below the mouth of the Nahr *Ḳarāḳīs*.

From the Nahr-az-Zarnūḳ is taken a canal called the Nahr Malatya. Passing on it irrigates the domains of Malatya, and falls into the *Ḳubāḳib* at a point below the mouth of the Nahr-az-Zarnūḳ.

From this Nahr Malatya is taken a canal, from which come the water-channels of the Nahr Malatya. These irrigate the gardens that lie along the same, and after

* What follows is almost a repetition of Section IV., and such points as offer any novelty have already been discussed in the Notes to that Section.

passing through the suburb of Malatya, they ramify throughout the city. Then, after leaving the city, they flow out into the river Kūbāḳib, near to, but below, the Bridge of Kūbāḳib.

So, therefore—through the aid and power of Allah—this description of the rivers of Al-'Irāḳ, to wit, the Tigris and the Euphrates, with the streams that flow into them and the canals that are derived from them, is now concluded.

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