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ART. VII.—*Note on Pliny's Geography of the East Coast of Arabia.* By Major-General S. B. MILES, Bombay Staff Corps.

AT the period Pliny wrote his Natural History, the whole coast of Arabia appears to have become tolerably well known to the Greeks and Romans. With the western and southern portions of the peninsula they had perhaps long been acquainted; but their knowledge of the eastern and more remote parts was of much more recent date. Regarding the history of their gradual acquisition of this knowledge, the light afforded us is very faint. Arrian mentions that the first attempt to sail round the Arabian Chersonese was made from the Red Sea in the hope of reaching the Persian and Susian shores, but that the expedition, after having coasted along the greatest part of Arabia, was compelled by want of water to sail back again. Who these navigators were, and by whose command they undertook the journey, he does not say, but it seems probable they came from Egypt.

The next attempts at the exploration of the eastern Arabian coast were due to the genius and ambition of Alexander the Great, but the information acquired by him was unfortunately to a great extent lost at his death, and, for a century and a half afterwards, these shores remained almost wholly unknown to Europeans, until, as we learn from Pliny, an exploration was ordered to be made by King Antiochus Epiphanes.

During the voyage of Nearchus from the Indus he had, in passing through the Straits of Hormuz, sighted from a distance the great promontory of Maketa, but he did not visit it, nor does he seem to have learned the name of a single town on the Arab coast. His report to Alexander, however, doubtless served to stimulate the desire for conquest, and was partly the cause of the determination of that monarch to attempt an invasion of Arabia. It was with this view, and while preparations were being made for the enterprise, that Alexander, after his arrival at Babylon, sent out *three* successive expeditions to explore the coast, and obtain as much information as possible. The first of these expeditions was entrusted to the command of Archias, who had sailed with Nearchus, and had already distinguished himself. He, however, only sailed as far as the islands of El Bahrein, and then returned. The voyage of Androstenes, who was next sent out, is described by Strabo from Eratosthenes. This expedition does not appear to have reached much further than the former one, as Tylos is the last place mentioned, and the distance Androstenes gives from it to Cape Mussendom, viz. one day's sail (about sixty miles), is far too short: a mistake he could not have made had he actually navigated the intermediate space. The third vessel despatched was under Hiero, who sailed as far as a great promontory, beyond which he dared not go, and whence he returned to Alexander. Arrian states distinctly that none of these navigators succeeded in getting beyond Cape Mussendom, but it is possible he may have been mistaken, and that Hiero reached as far as Ras el Had. Presuming such to be the case, his voyage must be looked on as a considerable achievement, and second only in importance to that of Nearchus himself. No record, however, of the journey has been preserved, and the results of it, so far as the advancement of geography is concerned, were practically nil. Alexander alone seems to have been capable of appreciating the value and importance of these attempts; and when the master-mind was removed by death, the stores of geographical knowledge collected by him for the prosecution of his ambitious schemes were in great part lost.

Pliny himself, indeed, does not vouchsafe any further information regarding the expedition sent out by Antiochus, but it must have been a successful one and followed by others, as the relations of several navigators were extant in Pliny's day, from which he compiled his account. After this time the acquisition of knowledge continued to be rapid enough, as we may see from Ptolemy, whose systematic investigation gave him a pretty extensive acquaintance with the geography of the country; but it is much to be regretted that he contented himself with mentioning a few only of the most salient points on the Oman coast, and did not condescend to work up and embody in his own account all the material he undoubtedly had at his disposal. Pliny's list of localities is sufficiently copious, but the state of confusion it is in is almost chaotic. This is due to his own want of method, and partly to ignorance of the configuration of Arabia; for, notwithstanding his indefatigable industry, he copied down too indiscriminately, and, perhaps, too hastily, to admit of the names being arranged in proper order, and it is not surprising that his account should be not only full of repetitions, but also of misplacements of whole passages.

The state of Pliny's Arabia being thus obscure, does not render it very inviting to commentators, and not much, consequently, appears to have been effected towards its elucidation; the recent work, however, of Dr. A. Sprenger, on the ancient geography of Arabia, in which he has taken Ptolemy for his text, and made use of the old Arab geographers, has thrown so much light on the subject that there can be less hesitation now in venturing to follow it up.

In the twenty-sixth chapter, book vi., on the voyage to India, which is full of interest, Pliny makes mention incidentally of certain places on the southern coast of Arabia; and in the twenty-eighth chapter he discourses on the Arabian and Persian Gulfs; but it is in the thirty-second chapter that he more particularly describes the peninsula, and in this, after giving an account of the northern portion, he proceeds thus (I follow Riley's translation): "We will now proceed to describe the coast after leaving Charax, which was first

explored by order of King Epiphanes. We first come to the place where the mouth of the Euphrates formerly existed, the river Salsus and the promontory of Chaldone, from which spot the sea along the coast for an extent of fifty miles bears more the aspect of a series of whirlpools than of ordinary sea; the river Achenus, and then a desert tract for a space of one hundred miles, until we come to the island of Ichara; the Gulf of Capeus, on the shores of which dwell the Gaulopes and the Chateni, and then the Gulf of Gerra. Here we find the city of Gerra, five miles in circumference, with towers built of square blocks of salt." The names in this passage are, with one or two exceptions, unrecognizable at the present day; but the natural features of the land are sufficiently marked to enable us to identify them with tolerable certainty. It shows, however, that Pliny's knowledge of the coast so far was greatly inferior to Ptolemy's. The river Salsus is most probably the same as the Coromanis of Ptolemy, and identical with Khor Subeyeh, between Bubiyan and the mainland. The prefix Cor in this and similar instances is equivalent to Khor, the Arabic word for a creek or inlet. Pliny has just before mentioned the Omani as a tribe extending from Petra to Charax, and I take Coromanis therefore to be Khor Omani, the creek of the Omani. Chaldone is the southern point of the Gulf of Koweyt, viz., Ras el Ard or Ras el Loor. The description of the sea off this part of the coast is somewhat exaggerated, and would be more applicable to Ras Tanooreh, about 200 miles lower down, which obtains its name from the confused and dangerous sea off it caused by the meeting of the tides there. Fifty miles below Chaldone is Achenus Fluviu, which, in consideration of the distance, I believe to be Khor el Zowar, a salt creek extending some distance, and used by coasting and fishing craft as a place of shelter. Ichara Insulæ, 100 miles further, would appear to be the same as the Ichara of Ptolemy, and the island to which Alexander gave the name of Ikaros. The similarity of name would point to the island of Karak, opposite Bushire, but it is far more probably identical with Jezeeret Boo 'Ali, the only large island on the Bar el 'Adan. The Gulf of

Kapeus is Kateef Bay ; Pliny's word being obviously a corruption of its present name, which we know from Arab writers to be an ancient one. The Gaulopes, who are said to dwell on these shores, I imagine to be some tribe that has since become extinct or absorbed, but there is a nomadic tribe lower down, the Ghafâleh (غفاله), to which the name may possibly refer. Sprenger's derivation is very ingenious and probable. The Chatteni are the same as the Attene and people of Attana mentioned immediately after by Pliny, and have been identified with the people of El Khatt, or the coast-line opposite to El Bahrein, and the subject will be found fully elucidated in Sprenger's work. There may possibly have been a town El Khatt there once, but it is no longer known, and the only village of that name I have heard of is on the pirate coast. The next position requiring to be determined, viz. the town of Gerra, is the most important on the whole coast, and its exact site has not even yet, I believe, been satisfactorily ascertained. The Gulf of Gerra is well known to be the same as the Gulf of El Bahrein, and Gerra itself, the grandest emporium of ancient times in the Persian Gulf, was situated some miles from the sea, probably at or near the present town of El Ahsa, its seaport being at El Ojeir. Strabo's account of Gerra is very similar to that of Pliny, and it is also mentioned by Arab geographers. The commerce and site of this emporium have formed the text of many writers.

Pliny continues : " Fifty miles from the coast, lying in the interior, is the region of Attene, and opposite to Gerra is the island of Tylos, as many miles distant from the shore ; it is famous for the vast number of its pearls, and has a town of the same name ; in its vicinity there is a smaller island distant from a promontory on the larger one twelve miles and a half. They say that beyond this, large islands may be seen upon which no one has ever landed : the circumference of the smaller island is $112\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and it is more than that distance from the Persian coast, being accessible by only one narrow channel." The region of Attene, as already observed, is El Khatt, and the two islands, Tylos

and the smaller one, which Strabo calls Aradus, have long since been satisfactorily identified with the Baḥrein Islands; viz. Menâneh, formerly called Awal, and Maharrak. The name Tylos (Şoor) has quite disappeared from Menâneh, but a portion of Maharrak still bears the name Arad. Strabo tells us that these islands had temples resembling those of the Phœnicians, and that, according to the inhabitants, the islands and cities, bearing the same name as those of the Phœnicians, are their own colonies. The Phœnicians, there is no question, must have had several colonies or trading stations in the Persian and Oman Gulfs for the furtherance of their commercial operations, the real extent of which has perhaps not yet been fully appreciated. Besides Gerra and El Baḥrein, they appear to have had one on the Persian coast at Sidodone, the village touched at by Nearchus, and possibly the same as Tawânah near Charak. Another station was near Mussendom, as Arrian states Nearchus was informed there was a spice mart at Maketa, and there can be little hesitation in ascribing its establishment to the Phœnicians. Where it was situated we have no clue to guide us, but the most probable sites are Khasab and Ras el Kheimah. The present Şoor, 15 miles west of Ras el Ḥad, was another colony, and possibly also the town of Karyat, 30 miles S.E. of Muscat. The Tur of Niebuhr on Cape Julfar and the Şoor of Palgrave on the Beni Yas coast have, however, no real existence. It is certainly strange that Şoor near Ras el Ḥad is not mentioned either by the Hebrew writers or by the classical geographers, but the information afforded by them about the Phœnicians is so extremely meagre that the omission is the less significant. There can, I think, be no hesitation in looking upon Şoor as a Phœnician colony. The name alone is sufficient evidence, and its position as being the nearest port in Arabia to India, and the excellent security and suitability of its creek for native craft of the largest size, point it out as a spot which a keen-sighted commercial race like the Phœnicians could not have overlooked or disregarded. It has no harbour properly so called, but its extensive creek, which runs up in a serpentine

direction for nearly two miles, is more adapted for building and hauling up *baghlas* than Muscat cove, and it has the advantage of free and open communication with the interior. It is in short a most advantageous place for such a settlement. The drawback at Şoor is the want of good drinking water, which has to be obtained from a considerable distance. It was probably to some extent in connexion with this circumstance that led to the prosperity of the neighbouring town of El Kilhat, only nine miles distant, where there was also a creek, but smaller and now filled up, and an abundant supply of pure fresh water. The other large island referred to by Pliny in the above-quoted passage is the arid and inhospitable peninsula of Katar, which is but thinly peopled, and the inhabitants of which are to this day not particularly civil to strangers. The circumference of Menâmeh is not more than 80 miles; it is about 140 miles distant from the Persian main, and it is separated from Maharrak by a channel of less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Off this coast the pearl fishery is still, I believe, the most extensive in the world; the average production at the present day being about £200,000 per annum. "We then come to the island of Asclie and the nations of the Nocheti, the Zurazi, the Borgodi, the Catharrei, the Nomades, and then the river Cynos. Beyond this the navigation is impracticable on that side, according to Juba, on account of the rocks; and he has omitted all mention of Batrasave, a town of the Omani, and of the city of Omana, which former writers have made out to be a famous port of Carmania; as also of Homna and Attana, towns which, at the present day, our merchants say are by far the most famous ones in the Persian sea. Passing the river Cynos there is a mountain, Juba says, that bears marks of the action of fire; also the nation of the Epimaranitæ, then a nation of Ichthyophagi, and then a desert island, and the nation of the Bathymi." There is no other island about here to which Pliny's names can be referred with any probability, but, on the east side of Menâmeh island, there is a village called 'Asker, which Pliny, or perhaps the traveller he copied from, may have

mistaken for another island. The Nocheti are unknown to me. The Zurazi (var. Zurachi) and Borgodi are found by Blau at Zurak and Borgod, two towns in El Ah̄sa.

The Catharrei are of course the people of Ḳaṭar, and the Nomades refer to the numerous Bedouin tribes on this coast. The river Cynos I believe to be identical with the Lar of Ptolemy, which can be no other than the great watercourse that receives the drainage of south-east Nejd, and finds its outlet at Khor el Dhoan, and is now known by the name of Wady Ṣoḥbeh. Ptolemy says the source of the Lar is in Nejran, by which he only means, I suppose, that it comes from a long distance in the interior, and in this he is right. The Wady Ṣoḥbeh is the only river-bed on this coast at all answering to this description, and though the position laid down by Ptolemy does not quite suit, the natural feature is too marked to be mistaken. The statement of Juba about the impracticable nature of the coast for navigation to the eastward is perfectly true and applicable, as, so far as Abuthabee, it is full of rocks and shoals, and unapproachable by any but the smallest craft, and is a further corroboration of the identity of Cynos with Ṣoḥbeh. Pliny here censures Juba for not mentioning Batrasave and Omana, but though he has the merit of supplying the omission, it is clear he does not know where to locate them himself. The former is most likely Seeb, a commercial town on the shore, thirty miles from Muscat, at the embouchure of the Semail Valley, and a place of considerable trade. Baṭṭa means a river-bed or watercourse in a sandy country, and Baṭṭa Seeb is a name retained to this day, though its more frequent appellation is Baṭṭa Fanja. The city of Omana is Ṣoḥar, the ancient capital of Oman, which name, as is well known, it then bore, and Pliny seems to be quite right in correcting *former writers*, who had placed it in Carmania, on which coast there is no good evidence that there ever was a place of this name. Nearchus does not mention it, and though the author of the Periplus of the Erythræan sea does locate it in Persis, it is pretty evident he never visited the place himself, and he must have mistaken the information he obtained from others.

It was this city of Şoḥar most probably that bore the appellation of Emporium Persarum, and in which, as Philostorgius relates, permission was given to Theophilus, the Ambassador of Constantine, to erect a Christian church. Homna and Attana are, I believe, simply repetitions through ignorance of Omana or Şoḥar, and Attene or El Khaṭṭ, which he has already mentioned. After, that is to the eastward of Khor el Dhoan, there lies, though Pliny does not notice it, the Sabkhah or Sabkhah Maṭṭih, a strip of marshy ground extending many miles westward toward El Jabrin. This Sabkhah is recognized by the Arabs as the natural boundary between El Nejd and Oman, and hence consequently the description of the Oman coast may properly be said to commence. Ptolemy has a place called Sarkoe (Σαρκόν), and Sprenger takes this for Sabkoe (Σαβκόν) or Sabkhah, which seems to me a highly probable, and at the same time a very important identification. The Epimaranitæ may be the Āl Murra or Abu Murra, a very widely scattered tribe on the borders of the Great Desert, but Sprenger takes them to be the Abu Neyr, the Nareitæ of Ptolemy, a tribe that gave their name to the island Sir Abu Neyr, but now extinct. The Bathymi are, I have no doubt, the people of Buthabee or Abuthabee, the head-quarters at present of the Beni Yas tribe. This is by far the largest town on the whole pirate coast, having a population of 20,000 inhabitants, but the drawback here, as at Şoor, is the scarcity of sweet water. The mountain showing the action of fire is not improbably Jebel Barákbeh, but the low hills on that treacherous shore are all of plutonic origin, as I am informed by a gentleman who has visited it. The term Ichthyophagi does not require much explanation, as it is well known the inhabitants of Abuthabee and the settlements on that coast are entirely dependent on the sea for support, and the appellation could not be more appropriately applied than to them. There is very little intercourse between these nomads of the sea and the still wilder nomads of the desert, but there is a little mart called Redeym, where the latter come at certain seasons to barter their small requirements; there are, however, no

permanent habitations here. The desert island is Jezeeret Abu el Abyad, the largest in the bight, and quite uninhabited, as indeed they are all except Dalmeh.

"We then come to the Eblitæan mountains, the island of Omoenus, the port of Mochorbe, the islands of Etaxalos and Inchobrice, and the nation of the Kadæi. There are many islands, also, that have no name, but the better known ones are Isura, Rhinnea, and another still nearer the shore, upon which there are some stone pillars with an inscription in unknown characters."

We are now advancing along the pirate coast towards Ras Mussendom, and the account before us will be found to display a very intimate acquaintance with the Oman coast. Somewhat out of the exact order Pliny notes first the Eblitæan mountains. This promontory, the most remarkable geographical feature on the eastern coast of Arabia, was called *Μακέτα ἄκρον* by Nearchus, who observed it while coasting along the opposite shore. The sight of it led to a discussion between him and Onesicritus, who wished him to change his course and follow the Arab coast, but he fortunately decided against him. Strabo calls this Cape *τὸ ἐν Μάκαις ἀκροήριον*. Pomponius Mela calls it Mage, and Marcian Pasabo Mons. Ptolemy names it *Ἀσαβῶν ἄκρον*, and Sprenger considers that Asab is a corruption of the Arabic word Aswad, black. Pliny in two other places refers to this cape; once in chapter twenty-six, when describing the voyage of Nearchus, he says it is where the Makæ, a nation of Arabia, dwell; and again, in the present chapter, he calls it the promontory of the Naumachæi. All this varying nomenclature belongs to Cape Mussendom, and it is observable that the names are of two classes: one derived from the character or colour of the rock of which the cape is composed; the other from the name of the people inhabiting it. There is no tribe in Oman bearing the name M'aka (مكة) at the present day, but there is a trace of it remaining in the valley and village of El 'Akk (العك), between Semed and Semail. In Malcolm Inlet there is a village called Makakeh (مقاه), and in Elphinstone Inlet one called Makhi, but I do not venture to assert that these

have any connexion with the former name, as the orthography is radically different, and I merely note it as a coincidence. The rocky promontory of Mussendom is at present inhabited by the Shihiyin tribe, with a few Persian and other settlers. The Shihiyin are a very curious and primitive race, and were probably driven into this corner by the influx of more powerful tribes; they do not appear to have attracted the attention they deserve. They hold themselves aloof as much as possible from the Arabs, and do not intermarry with them, I believe, if they can avoid it. The whole tribe is divided into two sections, the Beni Hedeya (بنی هدیه) and El Koomâzareh (الکمازرة), and a part of the latter, settled at Koomzâr and on the island of Larek, retain a peculiar dialect, which is unintelligible to Arabs, and is probably one of the several dialects spoken in the peninsula before Islam. Omoenus is Umm el Kowein, a flourishing little town of the Âl Ali tribe, situated on a low sandy island formed by the intersection of two creeks, Khor Umm el Kowein and Khor el Beithéh. The old town was destroyed by the British force in 1819, and was at some little distance from the present settlement. The port of Mochorbe is unknown to me, and I can make no suggestion at all satisfactory to myself. On this coast Bochart and many of the best authorities have located the Raamah of Ezekiel and the Regama of Ptolemy, and the name has been recognized in the present village of Rams, a few miles to the north of Ras el Kheimah. The identity of Raamah and Regama will be acknowledged without hesitation, but the identity of both with Rams will perhaps not be so easily admitted, from the radical difference of the orthography, which appears to me a considerable difficulty. The gens Kadæi I look upon as the people of Kadeh, a village with a date-plantation close to Khasab, or the name may remain in the Makâdeheh, one of the subtribes of the Shihiyin. On this coast lies the Ἑλλοῦ ἄκρον of Ptolemy, or the promontory of the sanctuary of the Sun. Allowing Ptolemy's longitudes to be not always quite accurate, I think this can be no other than the triangular peninsula formed by Khor el Sham and Khor Ghûb Ali, and

on which is a high hill called Jebel Sham. If this conjecture be well founded, it is a singular coincidence that the name of the inlet is again changing to Khor el Seem, or Telegraph Inlet, from the fact of the Persian Gulf cable having been landed there, and a station established a few years back.

We have now five islands to dispose of, viz.: Etaxalos, Inchobrice, Isura, and Rhinnea, with one having no name given to it, but remarkable as having an undecipherable inscription on stone pillars. Having regard to the confused state of Pliny's account, we cannot expect to find these islands quite in the order he has given them, and as he has added no description, we have nothing to guide us but the similarity of name and the supposition that he alludes to the more important ones in that sea. Etaxalos I take, therefore, to be the same as Et Tawakkal, an island off Cape Mussendom, and Inchobrice an inversion of Ras Kabr Hindi (Hindi Kabr Ras), the latter probably being a corruption of some ancient name. This is, in fact, only a peninsula, but it is joined by so narrow an isthmus, hardly 100 yards broad, that it was very likely mistaken for an island. Isura and Rhinnea are Selâmah wa Benâtha, the two quoins called also by the Arabs Koseyr and Oweyr. The island still nearer the shore is Mussendom, which still bears the remains of Titanic masonry attributed as usual to the Adites. The stones in this are squared and smoothed similarly to those at Nakab el Hajar, which is not the case, so far as I know, in any other ruins in Oman. The remark about the other islands is fairly correct, as there are numerous rocky islets off the Cape, though probably few of them are nameless. The straits between the island of Mussendom and the mainland are called El Bab, and this is the origin of the name of the Papiæ Islands mentioned in the *Periplus* of the Erythræan Sea. The Mons Pulcher of the same is Jebel Lahreem or Sh'uam, the loftiest and most conspicuous peak on the whole cape, being nearly 7000 feet high. The next following passage of Pliny I omit, as it should unmistakably have been included in his account of the Red Sea, though he gives no indication here of having

left the Oman coast. "We then come," he continues, "to the Sabæi, a nation of Skenitæ, with numerous islands, and the city of Akilla, which is their mart, and from which persons embark for India. We next come to the region of Amithoscuta, Damnia, the greater and the lesser Mizi, and the Drimati. The promontory of the Naumachæi over against Carmania is distant from it fifty miles. A wonderful circumstance is said to have happened here. Numenius, who was made Governor of Mesena by King Antiochus, while fighting against the Persians, defeated them at sea, and at low water by land, with an army of cavalry on the same day; in memory of which event he erected a twofold trophy on the same spot, in honour of Jupiter and Neptune. Opposite to this place, in the main sea, lies the island of Ogyris, famous for being the burial-place of King Erythros; it is distant from the mainland one hundred and twenty miles, being one hundred and twelve in circumference." The dire confusion in Pliny's mind regarding the configuration of this part of Arabia is well exemplified in this curious passage. Notwithstanding the repetitions and derangement of the proper order, there is but little obscurity; the names and places are as easily recognizable in most cases as if he had correctly defined their positions. Pliny is fond of islands, and he has here indulged himself freely, but he might easily have avoided again mentioning the promontory over against Carmania. Most geographers appear to place Akilla in the Red Sea, identifying it with Okelis, and it is quite evident that both Pliny and Strabo have confounded two places under this name. As I have elsewhere endeavoured to show, this name refers to El Kilhat, a very ancient town close to Soor, and the numerous islands are the three groups off the Baṭinah coast, which are called in the *Periplus* of the Erythræan Sea, the islands of Kalaïos. Amithoscuta is Muscat, as is also the Cryptus Portus of Ptolemy, an identification too generally admitted to require demonstration. It is impossible to conceive a more felicitous and apposite appellation for it than that given by Ptolemy, and many are the instances I could adduce in illustration of the difficulty vessels

bound for Muscat from an easterly direction have in finding the entrance. Damnia has generally been considered a town, and searched for on the coast, but I take it to be more likely meant for the Deymâniyeh islands, the centre of the three groups lying off the Baṭinah coast, and consisting of seven islands nearly opposite to Barka; they have been already mentioned as the islands of Akilla. It would appear at first view as if Pliny had omitted to mention the promontory of Ras el Ḥad, from which point the coast falls to the south and west. It is true he does not notice the existence here of a promontory at all, and the omission is certainly a remarkable one, but it happens curiously enough that he does mention the very same and much more peculiar natural feature, the name of which has been transferred by Ptolemy to the headland. By the eminent geographer D'Anville, the promontory of Syagros was assigned to Ras el Ḥad, and though this error has been rectified by Dr. Vincent in favour of Korodamon, the latter name has always remained a puzzle which will, I venture to hope, be considered removed by the recognition of Korodamon in Khor Jerâmah. Further, it is easy to discern the identity of the region of the Drimati or (stripped of its Latin termination) Derima with Jerâmah and Odamon, and I therefore look on them all as one and the same name and place. The Cape Ras el Ḥad is in itself a low sandy point, with nothing remarkable about it to attract attention. The feature noticed by Pliny and Ptolemy, on the contrary, viz. Khor Jerâmah, is a capacious and invaluable natural basin and harbour of refuge, and is exactly what would necessarily have fixed itself in the minds of the navigators of that age, who were compelled to creep carefully along the coast and take advantage of every available shelter. At the commencement and end of the monsoons crowds of *baghlas* may be seen collected together in this lagoon, lying as safe as if in dock, filling up cargo and stores from Soor, preparatory to starting on their voyage for the season. Khor Jerâmah is at present in possession of the Mâlkhi tribe, and at the bottom of it are the ruins of an ancient town called

Lebeed.¹ The greater and lesser Mizi are obscure; the former is perhaps meant for the island of Maseera, and the latter may be the largest island of the Kuria Muria group, or they may both refer to this group. The first syllable of Naumachæorum Promontorium is evidently due to corruption, and certainly does not properly form part of the name. Sprenger ingeniously suggests that Nau is for Ras Nus in Kuria Muria Bay, which seems a very happy and probable identification. The wonderful circumstance that happened here to Numenius derives more wonder from the locality at which it took place, that is, if Pliny really means that the battle was fought at Cape Makæ, but it seems to me more probable that Carmania was the field of it. If it was Mussendom, it must have occurred somewhere in the vicinity of Ras el Kheima, but even here the country is quite unsuited for cavalry, as there is no grass or forage for horses along the whole of the pirate coast, and how Numenius' army of cavalry managed to support itself is not easy to conceive. The island of Ogyris is Maseera, the Serapis of the Periplus, which is, however, only nine miles from the mainland, but it is creditable to Pliny that he gives it the same circumference as the island of Tylos, which is quite correct; they correspond in size almost exactly. Pliny now passes on to Hadramaut, whither I have no intention of following him at present. In another passage further on, however, he appears to return again to the Persian Gulf, as some of the names undoubtedly belong there, but there is so much doubt and confusion that it seems hopeless to unravel it satisfactorily. He says: "Next to these are the Chaculatae, then the town of Sibi, by the Greeks called Apate, the Arsi, the Codani, the Vadei, who dwell in a large town; the Barasasæi, the Lechieni, and the island of Sygaros, into the interior of which no dogs are admitted, and so being exposed on the sea-shore, they wander about there and are left to die.

¹ It has been surmised that the Ras el Gate of the Portuguese is a corruption of Ras el Had. But the Ras el Gâd (راس القاد) of the Arabs is at Soor, just fifteen miles from Ras el Had, and there can be little doubt, I think, that the Portuguese pilots confounded the names of two neighbouring headlands.

We then come to a gulf which runs far into the interior, upon which are situate the Læenitæ, who have given to it their name; also their royal city of Agra, and upon the gulf that of Læana, or, as some call it, Ælana; indeed, by some of our writers this has been called the Ælanitic Gulf, and by others again the Ælenitic; Artemidorus calls it the Alenitic, and Juba the Lænitic." Who the Chaculatæ are I cannot guess even. The town of Sibi is probably Seeb, which he mentioned above as Batrasave, the word Apate being the equivalent of El Baṭṭa. The Arsi are perhaps the Harth, a powerful tribe in Oman; the Codani, the Beni Kōḍha. The Vadei I take to be the inhabitants of Wady Semail, the most populous valley in Oman, and in which is the large town of Semail. The Barasasæi seem to be the people of a place in Maseera Island, called Abu Rasas, the island itself being called just after Sygaros, a variation, doubtless, of Ogyris. The Lechieni are identified by Sprenger with the Liḥyan tribe in the Persian Gulf, and are the same as the Læanitæ; but Pliny has made terrible confusion here by confounding the name with that of the Elenitic Gulf in the Red Sea.