LITERATURE.

MR. DOUGHTY'S TRAVELS IN ARABIA.


The Academy offers its congratulations to the author of a new and important work on the geography and history of Arabia. Doughty's travels are not confined to the deserts of the Southwest, but cover a much wider area. The book is a valuable contribution to the study of the region, and is highly recommended to students of Arabic literature and history.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARABIC LITERATURE.

The development of Arabic literature is a fascinating topic, and this book provides a comprehensive overview of the subject. The author, a renowned scholar, has written a clear and concise account of the evolution of Arabic literature from the earliest times to the present day. The book is highly recommended to anyone interested in the history of Arabic literature.

THE DOMINANCE OF THE ARABIC LANGUAGE.

The Arabic language has been the dominant language of the Middle East for centuries, and this book provides a detailed examination of its development and usage. The author, a well-respected linguist, has written a comprehensive account of the language, including its grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. The book is highly recommended to anyone interested in the history of Arabic language and culture.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE ARABIC LANGUAGE ON MODERN SOCIETY.

The Arabic language has had a significant influence on modern society, and this book provides a detailed examination of its impact. The author, a renowned sociologist, has written a comprehensive account of the ways in which the Arabic language has shaped modern society, including its influence on politics, religion, and literature. The book is highly recommended to anyone interested in the history of Arabic language and culture.

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THE ACADEMY.

raising or embossing of the characters in relief or cameo, like the Hitito stones from Hamsh, shows a remarkable development of the industry.

After escaping the return Hajj-caravan, Khalil Narānī marched from Al-Hijr to Tayma—the biblical Tema—still a market village on the western frontier of Al-Naṣr. He had been proceeded in 1846 by Hajj Wall (Dr. Georg Wallin), a learned Swede who died too early at Holingford where he had become Arabic professor. By the usual straggling marches to and fro, up and down, he rode back to Al-Hijr and Al-Urq, explored the Harrah of the Mowādī, and returned to Tayma; thence he proceeded to Al-Hāl, also known to Wallin, and after a month’s halt at this mean little capital of Mohammed Ibn Rashid in a winter of 1877, he made the world-famed Khaybar one of his main objectives. He found there only a pauper and pestilential village with unimportant ruins, and tenantless land, so-called “niggers” subject to the Postmaster of Al-Mahdiyya. As the usual expeditions, wholly brought on by the traveller’s imprudence and perseverance, he returned to Al-Hāl in the spring of 1878, and presently reached by a roundabout way Al-Buraysh (the little town) capital of the province of Al-Kasim in the Western Najd. He then removed some eleven miles to the eastern settlement ‘Amash, also built upon the great eastern line of watershed, Wadī al-Rummah (or “roten rope”). Expelled for Christian predications and brought back by the Emir Zāndi governing independently, he was eventually despatched by his friends with a better-caravan marching on Mecca, the whole of this section being now (and uninteresting) desert ground. Abandoned by his companions in the Wady Fatimah, and subject to insults and outrages which occupy twelve mortal pages (l. 486-498), he was carried prisoner to Tiit, which he writes Tiit, ignoring the world’s legendary significance. Here he was hospitably entertained by the estimable Grand Shafrī Husayn, ‘of whom murdered at Jeddlah in March 1886, and he was allowed to sketch (l. 515-519) the three Great Bithron, probably serving, after the economical usage of Egypt, as altars of sacrifice. They bear the historic names (we are not told by what authority) of Al-Lat, Al-Uzza, and Al-Habol. Lastly, the worn and weary Narānī was forwarded to Jeddlah, and he ends his travel without a date, but with "On the morrow I was called to the open hospitality of the British Consulate." Cavernous contains?

Mr. Doughty has rendered good service by his study of the double wife in Central Arabia. He lays, however, superior stress upon his exploration of the plutonic "Harrāh," which, he says, "with the rest of the vulcanic [?] train described in this work, before my voyages we were more or less in Europe" (l. 551). The lava patches about the Haurn of Dainans were carefully described by the learned Weitzstein, who also collected much hearsay information concerning the town. He lingered further from an Anzah tribeman of Al-Russ. Bauermann noticed them about the so-called Sīnā, Canon Tristram in Mub, and the Palestine Exploration Fund discovered them by the dozen in the limestone of the Holy Land. They were discussed by the late Charles Bickel, by the Rev. G. P. DuBrey, and myself at various times, especially after visiting Al-Madinah, where the historian Al-Sanāhdī records an eruption in 1365. In fact, they extend in one long broken line from Northern Palestine to Al-Ahīj, that is, by the small Bithron described by Lano and in host of others. Consequently, Khalil Narānī, although travelling as a Dakhūn (government protégé), a vaccinator and a medicine, is bullied, threatened, and reviled; he is stoned by the children and pushed about and hustled by the very slaves; his beard is plucked with flint and stick, his life is everywhere in danger, he must go armed, not with the manly sword and dagger, but with a penknife and a secret revolver; and the recital of his indignities at length pays upon the mental palate. Mr. Doughty assures us that his truth and honesty were universally acknowledged by his wild hosts; yet I cannot, for the life of me, see how the committed acts of this man are to be overlooked by the travel of an Englishman who at all times and in all places is compelled to stand the buffet from knives that smell of sweat.

RICHARD F. BURTON.

Oliver Cromwell. By Frederic Harrison. (Macmillan.)

The editor of the series of "Twelve English Statesmen" is to be congratulated on having secured Mr. Harrison’s services. There is still room for minute investigation into the details of Cromwell’s life, which may modify our opinion of the morality of certain portions of his career, and may no doubt influence upon our judgment of it as a whole. Mr. Harrison has nothing of this kind to give us. What he brings to his study of facts already ascertained is a fresh and vigorous mind, illuminated by a wide knowledge of political and social life. He neither falls into the mistake of judging Cromwell by the test of any special religious creed, nor does he imagine, as so many have imagined, that the existing majority and constitution has attained to absolute perfection.

To judge such a man as Cromwell, it is not sufficient to accumulate evidence on the facts of his life. Much of the evidence which exists is contradictory—much more of it is deeply tinged by the prejudices of those from whom it proceeds. What we want is to arrive at the unconscious evidence of words spoken or written without a purpose, of the tendency of a succession of undisputed facts, and of the general opinion of friends as well as of enemies. It is satisfactory to find that, so far as Mr. Harrison has evidence of this kind before him, he comes to conclusions which may be described as those of Carlyle, modified by the absence of that hero-worship which was Carlyle’s stumbling-block in pursuit of historical truth. It is well that those who think that it is sufficient to dive into an investigation of details in order to prove Cromwell a sound man, will be reminded of the words of Mr. Harrison that in cases of doubtful evidence the general conception of the character of the actor which we derive from his spoken or written words must never be left out of account.