

to Ronda and Malaga, Velez, Alhama and Granada, and thence returned, by Gibraltar, Ceuta, and Morocco, to Fez. But his travels were not yet over. In the beginning of 1352 he set out for Central Africa, his first halt being at SEGELMESSA, where the dates in their abundance and excellence recalled but surpassed those of Basra.¹ Here it was that he lodged with the brother of that Al Bushri who had treated him so handsomely in the heart of China.

On his way south he passed TAGHAZA, a place where the houses and mosques were built of rock-salt, and roofed with camel-hides,² and at length reached MALLI, the capital of Sudan.³ Here he abode eight months, after which he went to TIMBUKTU, and sailed down the Niger to KAUKAU, whence he travelled to TAKADDA. The Niger he calls the Nile, believing it to flow towards Dongola, and so into Egypt, an opinion which was maintained in our own day shortly before Lander's discovery, if I remember rightly, by the *Quarterly Review*. The traveller mentions the hippopotamus in the river.

He now received a command from his own sovereign for his return to Fez, and left Takadda for TAWAT, by the country of

Mahomedans used to call all the Christians of Europe *Rúm*, i.e., Romans, but at a later date chose to distinguish between the Greek and German races, the subjects of the two empires, by applying the term *Farang*, i.e., Franks, to the Western Christians, and *Rúm* to the Byzantines; whilst not well knowing what to make of the Latin race, *headless* as it was, they called the Italians and Spanish Christians sometimes *Rúm* and sometimes *Farang*." The same author says elsewhere that *Thágiah* was applied to Christian princes almost in the Greek sense of *Tyrannus*, i.e., as impugning the legality rather than the abuse of their power.

¹ Segelmessa was already ruined and deserted in the time of Leo Africanus (*Ramusio*, i, 74). According to Reinaud it was in the same valley with the modern *Tafilelt*, if not identical with it. I think dates from the latter place (Tafilat) are exhibited in the windows of London fruiterers.

² *Taghazai* is an oasis in the heart of the Sahara, on the caravan route from Tafilelt to Timbuktu, near the Tropic. On the salt-built houses of the Sahara Oases see *Herodotus*, iv, 185, and notes in Rawlinson's edition.

³ In passing the great Desert beyond Taghaza he gives us another instance of the legends alluded to at p. 157, *supra*. "This vast plain is haunted by a multitude of demons; if the messenger is alone they sport with him and fascinate him, so that he strays from his course and perishes" (iv, 382).