

direction they were going, even the most courageous lost hope and death seemed inevitable." And after the arrival at Pura: "Thus at last the army reached its destination, but in what a state! The march from the country of the Oritae through the desert had lasted 60 days; but the sufferings and losses on this march were greater than all the preceding put together. The army which had marched out of India with so much pride and pomp had shrunk to a fourth its size, and this bedraggled remnant of the world-conquering army was enfeebled and worn-out, in tattered garments, almost unarmed, their few horses emaciated and in wretched condition, the whole presenting a picture of the deepest misery, enervation, and dejection."

Alexander stayed in Pura to give as many of the stragglers as possible time to gather round him. In the desert the motto of the army had been: "Sauve qui peut." The fourth that had escaped had lost everything, even to their weapons. They were a troop of fugitive ragamuffins. Thirty thousand men had remained in the desert, besides women, children, and baggage animals, and even camels, according to Droysen. The coast of the Ichthyophagi hides many remarkable secrets under its wandering dunes.

Sir Thomas Holdich has tried to identify many places and roads of ancient and mediæval times with those of to-day.<sup>1</sup> In an accompanying map he has also marked Alexander's route. And he alludes to the expedition which, in the reign of the Khalif Walid I., was sent through Mekran to India to extend the true religion. The expedition was under the command of the young Mahomed Kasim. It had a fortunate and successful issue, and the dominion it established over the Indus valley lasted till 1005. The invading force consisted of 6000 mounted men on camels and 3000 infantry soldiers, and was further reinforced in Mekran. "It was with this small force that one of the most surprising invasions of India ever attempted was successfully carried through Makran—a country hitherto deemed impracticable, and associated in previous history with nothing but tales of disaster." "For three centuries,

<sup>1</sup> *Geogr. Journal*, vol. vii. (1896), pp. 387, *et seq.*