

Arabs was in a more flourishing condition than in the age of Alexander. At any rate, his exposition implies no deterioration of climate within historic times.

In this connection it is interesting to hear what Lieutenant, afterwards Sir Henry, Pottinger has to say about Alexander's march, for Pottinger crossed southern Baluchistan in several directions exactly a hundred years ago, and was able to give an opinion on the Macedonian campaign from his own experience. He speaks first of Alexander's departure from Patala, and of his penetration into Gedrosia, "in which his troops were thinned by the accumulated hardships of thirst, famine, and fatigue. This march was incontestably to the southward of the Brahooick chain, and had the Greek historians been even less explicit, the nature of the country alone must have decided any question that might have arisen on this point." Of Craterus he says: "We may besides unequivocally conclude, that as that General was purposely detached to shun the deserts of Gedrosia (Mukran), he would not shape his progress through a region in which all the obstacles experienced by the divisions headed by the king in person would have been augmented, by the labour of forcing a passage among inaccessible cliffs and deep defiles."

"Posterior to the Greek invasion, and the partition of that vast empire, on the demise of Alexander, we meet with no further mention of these countries, unless in the unconnected and fabulous legends related of the Guebres or ancient Persians. . . . Ninety-two years after the epoch of the Hijree, the Khaliphas of Bagdad, incited by the combined motives of zeal for the Mohummudan faith, and desire to revenge an insult that had been offered to their dignity by the idolators of Sinde, dispatched an army against that kingdom by the same route that the Macedonian hero had selected on his return to Babylon, nearly one thousand years antecedent. This force is expressly stated to have kept close along the sea-coast, that it might be certain of a supply of water, which is always procurable, by digging a foot or two deep in the sandy beach."¹

What different opinions have been held about the

¹ *Travels in Beloochistan and Sinde*, p. 264.