

The Book of Burtoniana



Letters & Memoirs of Sir Richard Francis Burton

Volume 3 1880 to 1890

Edited by Gavan Tredwell

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Volume 2: 1865-1879
Volume 3: 1880-1924
Volume 4: Register and Bibliography

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1880/01/05. Henry Morton Stanley to Richard Burton.

1880-1884.

1. 1880/01/05. Henry Morton Stanley to Richard Burton.¹

Suez
5th Jan 1880

My dear Burton,

I have had the pleasure to receive your note of the 30th and should have answered it before but I have had a good deal to occupy me for some days.

I do not know anyone at Suez who bought gold from Ali el faud I have enquired from [Ali el faud] who does not know anyone either.

I hope you will succeed in getting the formal concession² from H.H. unfortunate that your friend Murchison should have been³ taken ill.

We have had it very cold here lately, much more so than usual, with the mornings as cold as freezing nights and a maximum one day of only 48 so that with the dry air from the north one feels shivered up.

I hope matters will turn out to your satisfaction, of course you know that in the

With very kind regards and believe me
Yours sincerely
H.M. Stanley.

Dear Sir

¹ Huntington Library.

² The Khedive.

³ John Henry Murchison, a relative of Sir Roderick Murchison of the RGS, from the firm "O. U."

⁴ Patience.

⁵ @

1880/01/18. Richard Burton to Henry Walter Bates.

The enclosed (which please return) would look as if you had forgotten to write to your father. [Could] you not find ~~look in~~ ^{look in} your notes and discover the name of the Suez man who brought up the duct for gold washing?

Yours truly
Richard F. Burton.

2. 1880/01/18. Richard Burton to Henry Walter Bates.

Shepheards
Jan 18/80

My dear Bates

Yesterday I received proofs of pp 63 and return them corrected today. Consequently one parcel is missing - ^{pp 60; 20} ~~pp 60; 20~~ is no matter as it is registered and is probably lying at Alexandria. I have taken measures to receive it and will forward at once. As soon as they are complete ~~please~~ ^{please} have 25 copies separate, for distribution to friends and others. If you send them to my agents Messrs Stuart and Son 16 Basing Street E.C. he will forward them to me per steamer.

I have given a load of introductions to a young American ^{espondent} ~~espondent~~ C. Inman Barnard who wants to go to Hijaz, the head quarters of the Wahhabis. The latter are now beginning another movement. He wants the advice of the Society about the best way of getting there.

I am working hard about a concession for the m^o of exploration. Remember me most kindly to Signors Cole & Rye.

Ev yrs try
R. F. Burton

Please ask printer to send me my MS complete. Three leaves ~~which~~ ^{which} loses time.

⁶RGS Correspondence CB6 Burton / 350.

⁷See Register.

1880/02/04. General Charles Gordon to Isabel Burton.

3. 1880/02/04. General Charles Gordon to Isabel Burton.⁸

U.S. Club,⁹ Pall Mall,
4.2.80

My Dear Mrs. Burton,

You write an orb which is setting, or rather is set. I have no power to aid your husband in any way. I went to F.O. today, and, as you know, Lord is very ill.

Well! the people there were afraid of me, for I have written hard things to them; and though they knew all, they would say naught. I said, "Who is the

evade my question. Would F. O. do anything to prevent the Soudan falling into chaos? It was no use. I cornered him, and he then said a clerk

to register letters coming in and going out o

must say I was surprised to see such a thing; a great Gibe ours governed by men who dare not call their souls their own is them

with a rod of iron. If your husband would understand that F. O. at present is

Lord (and he is) he would see that I can do nothing. I have written letters

to F. O. that would raise a corpse; it is no good. I have threatened to go to the

French Government about the Soudan; it is no good. In fact, my dear Mrs.

Burton, I have done for myself with this Government, and you may count me a

feather, for I am worth more. Will you send this on to your husband? He is

a first-rate fellow, and I wish I had seen him long ago (scratch this out, for he will

fear I am going to borrow money); and believe me, my dear Mrs. Burton (pardon me about Suez),

Yours sincerely,

C.G. Gordon

⁸W. H. Wilkin*The Romance of Isabel, Lady Burton* 2 (London: Hutchinson, 1879) pp. 66-7. The original MS cannot be traced.

⁹United Services Club.

4. 1880/03/12. General Charles Gordon to Isabel Burton.¹⁰

Hôtel Toucan, Lausanne
12.3.80

Excuse my not answering your kind note of 5.3.80 before, but to be quiet I have come abroad, and did not have a decided address, so I only got your letter to day. I will come and see you when I (D.V.) come home; but that is undecided. Of course your husband failed with Tewfik, a fine carrion a long way off, and felt that the hour of my departure had come, so I left quietly. Instead of A (Ismail), who was a good man, you have B (Tewfik), who may be good or bad, as events will allow him. B is the true son of A; but has the inexperience of youth and may be smarter. The problem working out in the small brains of Tewfik is U use he scented the creditors. The Government only cared for the creditors; they did not care for good

No doubt Tewfik is mistaken; but those are his views, backed up by a pashas. Now look at his Ministry. Are they not aliens to Egypt? They are all slaves or of low origin. Put their price down:

Riaz Pasha, a dancing	350
A slave, Osman, Minister of War, turned out by	350
Etc., etc., etc., each	350 = 1,75
	2,450

¹⁰W. H. Wilkin, *The Romance of Isabel, Lady Burton* (London: Hutchinson, 1879) pp. 66-70. The original MS cannot be traced.

¹¹The Khedive of Egypt, who did not honour what Burton asserted were assurances given by his predecessor Ismail.

¹²Riyad Pasha (1835-1911) Prime Minister of Egypt (1887-9), a Circassian reputedly of Jewish ancestry.

¹³Osman Pasha Rifky, a Circassian.

1880/03/25. William Robertson Smith to Richard Burton.

So that the value of the Ministry (we think an enlightened one) is £490. What do they care for the country? Not a jot. We ought to sweep all this lot out, and the corresponding lot at Suwayb is hopeless and madness to think that with such material you can do anything. Bye Kind regards to your husband.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

C.G. Gordon

5. 1880/03/25. William Robertson Smith to Richard Burton.¹⁵

Cairo 25 March 1880

Dear Cap^BBurton

Your note reached me last night & I can start at any moment. You understand that my main business is to see whether I can get the rest of the Syria¹⁶MSS in the Syrian Convent. This may require some management & even involve delay. If that is consistent with your plans we may have to arrange so that I can stay behind you at W. Natrun after the other objects of the journey are accomplished. It is certain that MSS exist but the monks having previously been paid for all they had are afraid to show them.

Yours ever

W. R. Smith

¹⁴At least normally, Egyptian pounds were equivalent to British pounds in 1880 (real exchange rates apparently varied greatly by internal region). This may be a transcription or typographical error.

¹⁵WRO.

¹⁶A dialect of Aramaic, in which the early Gospels were written.

¹⁷Wadi El Natrûn, the Valley of Natron, in the Nile delta, close to the Nitrian desert, a monastic centre.

6. 1880/ / ? Isabel Burton to Monckton Milnes.

My dear friend. You cannot possibly be more dispirited then we are at our mishap. Your letter was forwarded to me at Munich & I did not answer because I felt so sure of seeing you. We went to Staunton¹⁸ then all the best hotels. Twice a day I went to the bureau at the 4 seasons & took²⁰ so it must have been the difficulty of pronouncing your name to a foreigner which caused the mistake. I went to the breakfast table before starting. I only met Lady Stanley by chance in the passage ½ an hour before leaving. It would have been so jolly to have fixed the same time to go to Ammergau had we known. We only und Dick laid up @ with a violent cough which lasted 2 months. We have 2 places in our district very handily placed for sickness: a rural inn 1200 ft. above our own house in town & some thermal baths 50 minutes by train so we tried both of these one but he was so weak he applied for a fortnight & took me to Ober Ammergau. The fleets are gathering at Ragusa²¹ close to us. We expect Lady Stanley here on the first week of October I give my house fête. How much have been wif you had come one (for us). Now what shall I do for Lady Galway. In Stambul we only know Goschen²² @ at this hot season

and in Damascus I enckfive letters to my two old dearest friends Lady Ellenborough & the famous old Abd El Kather²³ thing is where can I now send these letters as yours is of old date at present. Poor Isma'il²⁴ I wish he was back in Egypt or Dick had begun years ago. It is just like our luck. We have had a bad run of ill luck for 2 years. Just as my

¹⁸Houghton 4/212.

¹⁹General Staunton the British Consul at Munich.

²⁰h

Mrs. John Stanley (now Lady Jeune), and found to our great annoyance that we had just missed Lord Houghton, who had been staying in the hotel with us and we *Life* Vol. 2 p. 188.

²¹Dubrovnik.

²²George Joachim Goschen, 1st Viscount Goschen (1813-1907). From 1880 Special Ambassador to Constantinople.

²³Isabel appears to be offering letters of introduction to Galway, a relative of Milnes.

²⁴Isma'il Pasha removed as Governor of Egypt in 1879. Burton had been doing business with him concerning the supposed minerals in Midian.

1880/04/02. General Charles Gordon to Isabel Burton.

midsummer book for boys was corrected & ready for press, my beast of a publisher gets so drunk & helpless, his father had to get him home & c
drink houses. My book is stereotyped at the printers hanging fire, & my draft
for 100 returned unaccepted.

I had a model publisher & Dick a model miner who has turned out equally bad.
We spoiled them by treating them well & asking them to do business the first threatens me to have a brain fever & the latter
threatens Dick to have a fit. The doctors do not allow them to work for another
month & this has been going on for 14 months. I believe both have DT.
now written to ask if I may be free to choose another publisher who will take m

writing an account which you will see. Dick is critical to know what
you thought & felt.

With best love from both I am yours ever affectly
Isabel Burton

7. 1880/04/02. General Charles Gordon to Isabel
Burton.²⁶

Paris
2. 4. 80

My Dear Mrs. Burton,

Thanks for your telegram and your letter. Excuse the economy. No, I
will not write to Cairo, and your letters are all torn up. I am going to Brussels in
a few days, and after a stay there I come over to England. I do not like or believe
in Nubar.²⁷ He is my horror; for he led the Khedive to his fall, though
Nubar owed him everything. When Ismail became Khedive, Nubar had £3 a
month; he now owns £1,000,000. Things will not and cannot go straight in Egypt
a crisis. The best way is to let all affairs rest, and to consider quietly how

²⁵Delirium Tremens.

²⁶W. H. Wilkin*The Romance of Isabel, Lady Burton* (London: Hutchinson, 1879)
pp. 670. The original MS cannot be traced.

²⁷Nubar Pasha (1825-99).

the ruin is to fall. It must fall ere long. United Bulgaria, Syria France, and Egypt
England. France would then have as much interest in repelling Russia as we
have. Supposing you got out Riaz, why, you wo
cachange, le
plus c'est la même chose. We may, by stimulants, keep the life in them; but as
long as the body of the people are unaffected, so long
high places, varying in form, not in matter. Egypt is usurped by the family of the
Sandjeh²⁸ of Salonique²⁹, and (by our folly) we have added a ring of Circassian
pashas. The whole lot should go; they are as much strangers as we would be.
Before we began muddling we had only to deal with the Salonique family, now
Stamboul. So much the better. Let these locusts fall together. As well expect
any reform, any good sentiment, from these people as water from a stone; the
extract you wish to get does not and cannot exist in them. Remember I do not
say this of the Turkish peasantry or of the Egyptian families. It is
written, Egypt shall be the prey of nations so she has been; she is the
servant; in fact Egypt does not really exist. It is a nest of usurpers.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,
C.G. Gordon

²⁸Not traced, most likely a transcription error.

²⁹Thessalonika, ruled by the Ottomans, did have a large Sephardic Jewish population. Gordon may be referring to their emerging prominence in Egypt under the Khedive Ismail, who encouraged foreign enterprise in Egypt after the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869.

1880/04/02. General Charles Gordon to Isabel Burton.

Figure1. Dier Al Anba Bishoi Monastery, Egypt, April 17 1880, from Burton's Sketchbook

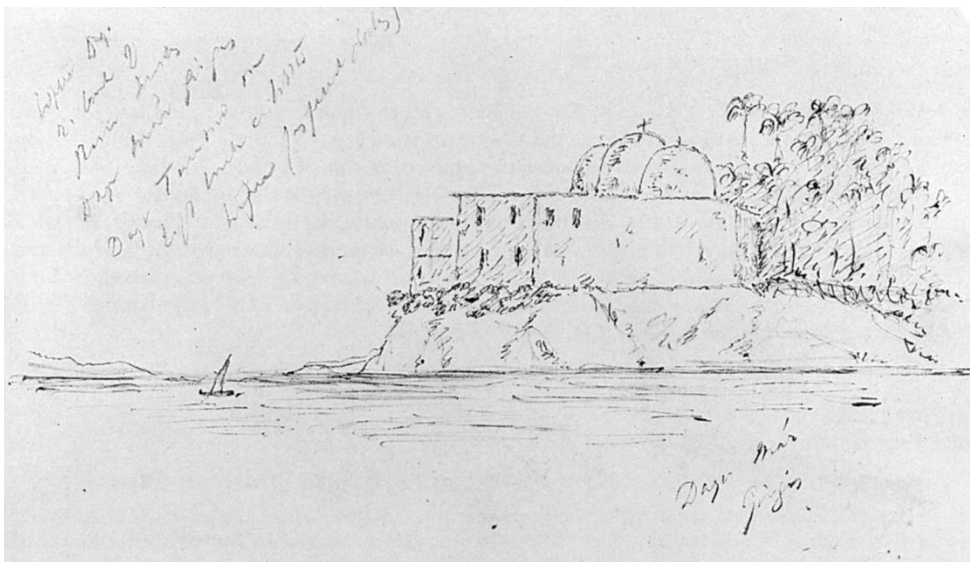
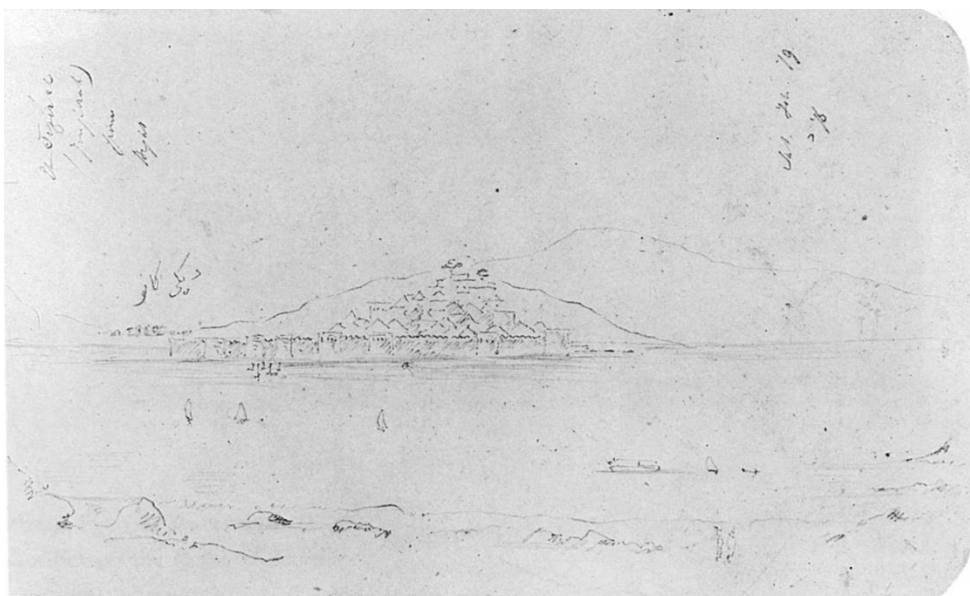


Figure2 Mâr Girgis, Egypt, April 16 1880, from Burton's Sketchbook.



8. 1880/06/24. Richard Burton to William Robertson Smith.³⁰

My Dear Grant

† Captain)

Just after receiving yours of Thurs 4, I was knocked down & got out of bed only yesterday. An exaggerated course of temperance gave me a right foot and a swollen left foot (gout? Rheumatism? Rheumatic gout?). However, the attack has passed off and I expect a few clean months.

I read your open letter and tried (vainly) to put myself in the place of Principal Rainy. Congratulate you. But mind! you bear the mark of Cain etc. and some Lamech may get the better of you. Odium Theologicum as the gods, the olden gods.

That wretched Zohrab K specimen of gold rock. I devote him to the nemeses Devils!

The Fayyum trip was jolly & gave me an awful good gallop. [Lenox] & Maclean³⁵ have been in London and I heard of both from friends.

My Camoens is now being printed & I have found a publisher for the Commentary. Remains only to copy out the latter. I am still weak & not up to much but a viend³⁶ head clearer, not quite clear words]. The ham acting must keep a wee while. Nubar Pasha³⁷ came to see us.

³⁰Robertson Smith Papers, Cambridge ADD 7449 D109 MS

³¹sic

³²Odium Theologicum, or theological hatred.

³³James Napoleon Zohrab (1830), Consul at Jeddah.

³⁴A city in Egypt south of Cairo.

³⁵Dr. T. E. Maclean, who is noted in the *Land of Midian*

³⁶It will come.

³⁷Nubar Pasha (1829), of Armenian origin, was the Prime Minister of Egypt 1878-9.

1880/09/03? Richard Burton to Monckton Milnes.

My wife regrets missing you. Let us have a line from time to time. You are [ingested with the Nile] and you know what that means.

evyrs

R. F. Burton

9. 1880/09/03? Richard Burton to Monckton Milnes.

Trieste Sept⁴⁰

Yes! Just like Providence! If he had only consulted a man of clear common sense how much better it would have been! And now all he has to do is look forward to next spjn

I wanted so much to speak to you about The Lusians. Correction nearly finished and the whole almost ready for publication. I wish so much that you would review it, as you are one of the half dozen capable of understanding it, far ahead of the unhappy Pub. I now keep a critic and all know it.

My sole enjoyment at the Play was to see the effect of the Last Supper. All the Germans around me were hungry and pigged into Butterbrod and garlicky sausages. Isabel would have crucified them. I'm revising account for Spiritualist and comparing with Meccah Drama.

As soon as the world gets home & snuggled down for winter I'll send you (printed) account of my last visit to Egypt, and the proceedings of that poxy lit Jew at minister Riaz P. Thea did me, but this lot did an extra do. A highly Catholic person is writing to you so I shut up with

Ever yrs affectionately

R. F. B.

³⁸

³⁹Houghton 228/39. ALS.

⁴⁰

1880/11/01. General Charles Gordon to Richard Burton.

10. 1880/11/01. General Charles Gordon to Richard
Burton.⁴¹

5 Rockstone Place

0 42

1.11.80

My dear Burton (excuse ~~the~~ Captain)

I sent you the M.S.S. one of Harar one of London. Why do you not translate them? I hope you have got the two.

I have been giving it to Khedive, as you will soon see.

I am now going to Bantry Bay Ireland to repose and to study ~~the~~ ^{the} Scottish, & to snipe & to wait till April, when I have to decide what I will do. I am sorry I cannot see you, where is your pamphlet against Riaz & Co.

I hope Mrs. Burton is well. I have often thought of you both.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

C. G. Gordon

Where is Captain [Hardy], he might go to Abyssia. & help John.

11. 1880/11/13. General Charles Gordon to Richard
Burton.⁴⁴

Bantry Ireland!

13.11.80

Address 5 Rockstone Place

0

⁴¹Huntington Library. ALS MS.

⁴²0 8 se there.

⁴³*Correspondence with his Excellency Riaz Pasha upon the Mines of Midian* Alexandria Stationers' & Booksellers' Company: Alexandria, Egypt.

⁴⁴Huntington Library. ALS MS.

1880/11/26. Richard Burton to William Robertson Smith.

My dear Burton

Thanks for you P. Card which I received at Cork: for I am better for so, to see what human nature is like over here. We drove past a place this afternoon, where Paddy had crouched behind a hedge & shot the servant of a Landlord, dead, a few weeks ago. The landlord escaped. I was with the agent of Lord Bantock but did not get shot at. How is Mrs. Burton, I hope well.

I had a little skirmish with Khedive, and of course I could never show myself in Egypt again, however I am well away. Of course Malet⁴⁵ & Colvin⁴⁶ think things are splendid. I do hope that the Govt will not allow the capitulation to be annulled, which is the object of Riaz & the Khedive. I wonder if you are going to Egypt this year again: if you do, try and visit the prisons. Do not let Egypt shut up Abyssinia. I would go to King Jobar⁴⁷ but Govt would have me alone, but I feel sure they would object.

With kind regards to Mrs. Burton. Believe me

my dear Burton

Yours sincerely

C. G. Gordon.

12. 1880/11/26. Richard Burton to William Robertson Smith.⁴⁸

Private

Trieste 26.11.80

My dear R. Smith

Many thanks for the Speech. You are in the right way; purge puer and

Assembly say after the merry jig you executed upon their pet ^{Dear,} dear! So Moses did not write the book of Moses! (As if anybody believed he

⁴⁵Edward Baldwin Malet (1837-1908) then Consul General for Egypt.

⁴⁶Auckland Colvin (1838-1908) then Comptroller General in Egypt.

⁴⁷Yohannes IV (1837-1889) Emperor of Abyssinia (1879).

⁴⁸Robertson Smith Papers, Cambridge. CUL ADD 7449 D110 MS.

1880/12/10. Richard Burton to Charles Inman Barnard.

did). If you republish, read (unless you have read) Spinoza who proved the date philologically.

My Camoens is printed. I am now hard at my Book of the Sword. In my moment of rest I shall copy out MS of it to the Copts. If I send you MS have you any objection to look over and append notes with your initials? I am doing work for 10. Pamphlet on Revival of the Slave Trade in Egypt, especial reference to Riaz P. (that prig Isabel drives me like a pet); another on the Partition of Turkey; another on the Baths of Monfalcone and yet another on

The Coming Republic
In England

U
might go further for all I care) and make ~~is the~~ President as long as he behaves himself.

)
@
[Roy.] did not cause it! They tell me son is doing wel

Yrs
R. F. Burton

I hope that Revd. Chester⁴⁹
an allowance for the changes of 3000 years!

13. 1880/12/10. Richard Burton to Charles Inman
Barnard.⁵⁰

Trieste,
December 10, 1880.

⁴⁹Rev. Greville John Chester (1890), the antiquarian and Egyptologist.

⁵⁰Inman Barnard *Cities and Men* (New York: Dutton, 1940) pp. 64

Khedive Tewfik and his Minister Riaz P. ~~is the~~ signed to their oblivion of four thousand years the discoveries of Sir Richard Burton, I received from him in December

1880/12/12. Verney Lovett Cameron to Isabel Burton.

My dear Barnard,

The gold mines in Yemen seem to have been forgotten. But they will sooner or later revive. The whole coast there is metalliferous, and the world is not rich enough to let gold and silver lie in the ground unworked.

Meanwhile, yr ffy.

(Signed) R. F. Burton

14. 1880/12/12. Verney Lovett Cameron to Isabel Burton.⁵¹

Shoreham
Sevenoaks
December 12

My dear Mrs. Burton

I have been in such a rage with the Akankoo @ been able to write. They have kept me on waiting till now then tell me I am not wanted & besides are generally acting scandalously at least a section of them and I don't intend anything with my name on to go wrong whilst I can make it go right.

I can't sail next Saturday but hope to get away the following one. I shall be free the moment I land and therefore there will be no delay caused by my working ⁵³wire has not arrived I expect to be out as soon as he.

Ever yours
Boy No. 2

@

t'water bottle.

⁵¹Quentin Keynes Collection, British Library. ALS MS.

⁵²A mining company in the Gold Coast of Africa.

⁵³*

" k 7 " " 7 " † "

1880/12/13. Frank Wilson to Richard Burton.

15. 1880/12/13. Frank Wilson to Richard Burton.⁵⁴

18 King Edward Road
South Hackney
London, 13 Dec 1880.

My Dear Consul Burton

I have just heard from a friend in the Education Department that Mr
" " † " obtain my address for the purpose
of sending it to you.

Although it was given to him, I believe, I would also do myself the
pleasure of supplying it, and of assuring you that I am fully gratified to
think that amid all the affairs of your exceedingly busy life you can find time
to give a thought to your old friends of Fernando Po.

I hope I do not need to add the assurance that if there is any way in
which I can be of the least service to you, it will give me unfeigned pleasure.

About six months ago I obtained a lengthened leave of absence from the
Education Department and accepted an offer for my services from a Spanish
friend who holds concessions of some Copper and Cobalt mines in Leon,
wishes to form a company in London to work them. An arrangement
has, at length, been made, but we do not know the result yet, and cannot tell
whether it will prove successful or not.

As there was little prospect of promotion in the branch of the Civil
Service in which I was employed, I was therefore long looking for it to find
an opening that held out however feeble a chance of leading to something
better.

I regret being ignorant of what plans you are at present conceiving, or
to what part of the world your exploring eye is to be directed next,

⁵⁴Huntington Library. Richard Burton Papers. RFB 1318.

⁵⁵Presumably Sierra Leone.

1880/12/20. Richard Burton to Henry Walter Bates.

only to know these particulars to feel the warmest interest in them, and, in any case, to wish you most sincerely every possible success.

With kindest regards, and all good wishes to Mrs. Burton and yourself,
Believe me,

My Dear Consul Burton,
Yours ever sincerely
Frank Wilson.

Capt Richard F. Burton F.R.G.S.
&c. &c. &c.

16. 1880/12/20. Richard Burton to Henry Walter Bates.⁵⁶

Private

Alexandria (Direct Trieste)
Dec 20

My dear Bates

Yesterday even. I got Mrs. account of Midian, corrected and
off to you this morn.

My wife says that she finds correction very difficult. You had better however
continue to send proofs in triplicate with Ms. to Trieste; she will return you one
copy corrected, & I another. The precaution is useful in these stirring
times one never knows where or when one goes.

Your note of Nov 26th about Lad. Magyar really amused me. The book is very
interesting. I am sure that ⁵⁷who could read it. Besides German & #
the translator wants Portuguese & Bra for such words as Schakaranda &
7 K K
done it & shall send it to Markham.

⁵⁶RGS Correspondence CB6 -1880 Burton.

⁵⁷Of the RGS.

1880. Sir Edward Hobart Seymour.

Here we are at war. Gordon wants 20,000 men for Massawah. Abyssinians are in earnest. Cadastre business, scientific frontier! All kinds of bad reports flying. The weather here has been windy with a little rain, water much wanted, now for two months. Storms awful in Mediterranean, weather bad at Trieste and in Adriatic. I had excellent passage till Corfu when a parson came on board. Shall Xmas here and wish you all manner of felicities.

yrs
R. F. Burton.

17. 1880. Sir Edward Hobart Seymour⁵⁹

While at Trieste I used to see much of a hearty man, the late Sir Richard Burton, and his wife. They were both most industrious in writing pamphlets about various subjects. One pamphlet of his was a plan to dispose of Constantinople, by making it a free city guaranteed by the Great Powers. Burton was devoted to her husband, and he to her. She stayed at Trieste a society to prevent cruelty to animals used to go round every morning to catch any stray dogs, which were put into it, confined there by bars and nets, and left for the day, unless claimed, and often in the sun, so as to leave no excuse for their not going mad.

18. 1880. Frederick Villiers. ⁶⁰

I did not hurry from the city of the Caliphs, there was so much of interest to be seen in those days. We had to go about on keys and camels or in fiacres; there were no automobiles or streetcars, and of course the principal hotel was the historic Shepherds. As I sat on its stoop, I felt very much like a journalist spider in a huge web looking out for copy, so many of the folk came into the meshes of this wonderful hostelry. Truly gadfly tourists to great bluebottle flies of commerce and other species of bugs.

⁵⁸Revenue Survey.

⁵⁹Sir Edward Hobart Seymour, *My naval career and travels* (New York: Dutton, 1911), p. 215.

⁶⁰Frederic Villiers, *Villiers: His Five Decades of Adventure*, Volume I (New York and London: Harper & Brothers, 1920), pp. 275.

One day I was lazily puffing at a cheroot, stretching myself in a lounge chair playing with two ~~boys~~ belonging to Luigi the manager, when the flies began to arrive from the station. The first carriage disgorged two occupants; a rather severe looking lady in black, followed slowly by a man, mounted the steps in a stately manner. The man halted ~~with a~~ to wipe the sweat from his forehead, for the weather was then intensely humid in Cairo. As he raised his soft Alpine hat a slant of sunlight caught the side of his face and lit up a rugged deep-set scar which ran from below the left eye right ~~down~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~red~~ light gave a remarkable crimson hue to the wound, as if the cut had been freshly made. The whole face was stern and rather repellent. It was the head of a portrait I had seen as a student on the walls of the Royal Academy which had magn ~~ificent~~ @ the title, and it was painted by Sir Frederick Leighton.

- @
me almost with a scowl on his strong, rugged

7 @ @
tell why, but I have always been impressed by a certain portrait painted by Leighton which appeared in the Academy in my student days called by that title @

There was a curious ~~and~~ glint in his deep name's Burton, I was Consul of Trieste, and you are right We sat down and chatted. Of course it all dawned on me; he was the great explorer the hero of a hundred marvelous adventures which had fascinated my youth.

What a charm of manner he had in spite of that stern, ~~almost~~ ~~exterior~~. This was the Sir Richard Burton who put before the world the real unvarnished and delightful translation ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Arabian~~ ~~Nights~~ that made such a stir in the puritanical world in the eighties.

On the following evening we were smoking ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~with~~, awaiting the arrival of the train, when the procession of fiacres with their dusty and weary occupants drove up. A solitary figure stepped out of the last carriage. As this man mounted the steps the last rays of the sun lit up his ~~face~~ ~~so~~ exactly similar to

Burton's on the previous evening. I gave a start as the features and crisp beard stood out in Rembrandt's glow.

0 o k @ o 7
who painted you into the hotel. The great president of the Royal Academy had come out to make sketches of lilac dawn on the Nile for one of his masterpieces.

19. 1877-1880. Charles Inman Barnard.⁶¹

My friend Sir Richard Burton, while I was in Egypt, was entrusted by the Khedive Ismail with a mission to explore the Akabar region in Arabia, and report upon the condition of the mines that once supplied the Pharaohs with gold, silver, copper, and precious stones.

whither Moses retired and lived in peace, after having killed the Egyptian (Exodus ii. 12 et seq.).

Sir Richard brought back to Cairo specimens of gold dust, rubies, emeralds, and turquoises. He reported that the gold mines, far from being exhausted, could be profitably worked by modern scientific methods.

General Stone Pasha took me with Burton to Abdin Palace to submit the report on the mineral resources of Arabia to the Khedive. Burton began by saying am convinced, Your Highness, that Midian will prove to be a California for Egypt. The Akabar region abounds in mineral wealth. Mines of gold, silver, tin, antimony, and copper were abandoned four thousand years ago, and there is no evidence of their having been touched ever since. The sands of the streams,

A few days later the Khedive informed Burton that his report, which indicated the practical value of the mineral wealth of Arabia, was approved by experts to whom it had been referred, and that he had instructed General Stone Pasha to engage an eminent American engineer to put the mines in working order.

U M our
8

⁶¹Inman Barnard *Cities and Mines* (New York: Dutton, 1940) pp. 64

Before anything further could be done, the old firman of Sultan Abdul Hamid arrived, and the project of the Arabian mines was abandoned. The new Khedive Tewfik never considered himself bound by anything his father had done. He turned his back on Burton, and his minister, Riaz Pasha, refused to refund the ex- the mines remain today (1940) just as they were when Burton submitted his report.

Sir Richard and Lady Burton seldom missed their yearly visit to Cairo, where they had many friends. Sir Richard was the most versatile genius of his time. He was philosopher, scholar, poet, explorer, athlete, combatant, skilled swordsman, and jovial comrade. He spoke and wrote the classic Arabic, and was also familiar with the colloquial idioms of the people. He was able to converse in ten Oriental languages, including Arabic, Persian, Hindustani, and Afghani.

Sir Richard journeyed to Mecca with the Mohammedan pilgrims and visited the tomb of the Prophet. The slightest fault in the ritual of the Kaaba been taken as proof that he was not a true believer. Such a discovery would have meant instant death.

Perhaps the most thrilling of his expeditions was his exploration of Harrar in Abyssinia, still inhabited, I suppose, by roving bands of fifty savages who are neither Christians like the Abyssinians, nor Moslems like the Arabs, and whose sole instinct is to kill and rob all that fall under their hand. Burton was four months in Harrar, and his observations and notes proved useful to the Egyptians, the English, and later to the Italians.

Burton's physical appearance was striking. He was five feet eleven inches in height, and he always regretted not being able to grow another inch. He had the classic, Semitic features of an Arab and a straight nose, dark hair, shaggy eyebrows, black flashing eyes; he wore a big dark moustache; as sketched by a

most attractive men I ever met.

It is not generally known, though, I understand, established by family documents, that Richard Burton was a direct descendant of Louis XIV, who took the beautiful Huguenot Countess of Montmorency from her husband, the Constable de Montmorency. The unfortunate husband was a scoundrel in where he died.

During this union the Countess gave birth to a son, duly recognized by the King. The youth, at his mother's request, was brought up in the Protestant faith. At the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, he was carried to the he had, wh became a Doctor of Divinity.

Burton's renown as an author rests chiefly upon his unexpurgated translation of the Arabian Nights, and of the Scented Garden, the erotic poetry of the Arab E Nefzemir.⁶² He rarely alluded to his literary achievements. An exception occurred one evening at Cairo when only three congenial comrades were present. It was his birthday, March 29th. The principal dish was a roast sucking pig three weeks old, and apple sauce his favourite repast. Asked which of his works gave

the Lucianes. Camoens was a wayfarer, explorer, and soldier, besides being a poet. He personified chivalry, and was a hero of the sword as well as of the pen. During my wanderings, I always had with me a volume of the cantos of the Lucianes. Camoens, whether on sea, desert, jungle, or mountain, was my consoler and companion. Twenty years of my life, off and on, were devoted to rendering into English the verses of my master. Can you name a Poet of Sea Camoens? -century

Sir Richard kept his muscles in good form by constantly carrying as a cane a heavy iron bar adroitly concealed inside a Malacca joint. One evening at a dinner party on the second floor of Shephard's Hotel there was no lift there in those days. Lady Burton was telling her friends that she was now the

since he had forsworn ... was heard in the hall below. This was caused by Sir Richard returning home from a convivial gathering of comrades; he had inadvertently dropped his gymnastic

⁶²Sheikh Nefzaoui.

walking stick at the top of the marble staircase, and it rebounded, step by step, with astonishing reverberations, until it reached the ground floor.

Lady Burton was an ideal wife for a man like Burton. She accompanied him during many of his journeys, and when he became an invalid took good care of him. She was criticized for having burned the manuscripts of his version of the Arabian Nights and of the Scented Garden. Lady Burton's defence was that this was done out of pure devotion to the moral reputation of her husband as an excuse perhaps accepted during a period of excessive prudery when Punch, with gentle irony, declared that Mrs. Grundy had concealed the legs of her piano by draping them in calico pantalettes.

Burton had devoted friends, and bitter enemies, and many of each. His intellectual

Sir Richard's confidential reports to the Khedive were entrusted to the care of the War Office at the Citadel, where, together with the valuable reports and maps made by American officers in the Soudan, Darfour, and Kardofan, on the important resources of Equatorial Africa, they were destroyed during the Arab Rebellion in 1882.

When Burton, disguised as an Indian Moslem, made his pilgrimage to Mecca, a tragic episode occurred. Early one morning Burton strolled out alone in the desert, and after accomplishing an act of urgent personal necessity, he, according to Christian custom, made use of paper, instead of the hot clean sand of the desert, applied by the left hand, as is usual with Moslem pilgrims. Looking about him, he noticed that an Arab had observed his act. As a faithful Moslem he would surely report the incident as proof that the supposed Indian Mohammedan was an impostor, this would certainly have resulted in the death of Burton. The Arab was never again seen. Referring to this episode, " @ "

long career of adventure, peril, and combat, he killed anyone in self defence.

20. 1880. Alfred Joshua Butler. ⁶³

I may here introduce some of my companions. Turabi Bey I have already mentioned, a jovial sturdy little Turk of sixty years, with a kindly pleasant face and a loyal heart, with the tongue of a child and the appetite of a giant, never happy without a cigarette, yet the model of misery when forced for politeness' sake to smoke a cigar - a staid English scholar, yet incapable of uttering one sentence in the native Arabic after years residence in Egypt, always grumbling yet never bitter, to me the cheeriest of companions and best of friends, to the Khedive most devoted of servants and often wisest of counsellors. Poor Turabi! Just four years after the time of which I witnessed the pomp of his funeral, and stood beside his grave outside the wall of Cairo, as his body was lowered in its Muslin shroud, the muezzin chanted their prayers above his last resting place, I never recall that day without sorrow, nor his memory without affection.

Besides the new things that one saw, there were many strange stories to hear and men more or less famous to meet. About this time I met Captain Burton, whose marvellous knowledge of eastern life and languages make alone him a unique figure. Even were he not a brilliant talker and the hero of the daring pilgrimage to Mecca, I met him dining at Turabi's house, and Turabi afterwards told me that he was on board the same ship with Captain Burton bound for Alexandria, when the latter was about starting on his great journey. He was struck with the regularity and earnestness with which a certain poorly Arab performed his devotions and watching him rather narrowly suddenly recognised his friend Captain Burton. A burst of laughter followed; but Burton, seeing his disguise penetrated, merely made a quick sign of silence, and went on with his prayers. Turabi took the hint, but subsequently they had many a chat in private, and the good little Turk was often the Englishman in his initiation as Musulman. Zagazig was the beginning of troubles. It was the English telegraphist here who first heard from the sheikhs and pilgrims from Mecca of the gold in Midian, and also prompted Captain Burton to undertake the expedition thither.

⁶³ Alfred Joshua Butler, *Court life in Egypt* (London: Chapman and Hall, 1887) pp.-12, 55, 6, 767.

⁶⁴ A Turk, English Secretary to the Khedive.

21.1881? A. H. Sayce.⁶⁵

Sixteen miles west of Telsy is Gaza in those days Gaza lay outside the limits of the tourist's route, and I heard and knew little about Europe as the guest of a well-to-do Mohammedan family and counselled one of themselves. While I was with them the commemoration of the grandfather of Mohammed, whom the populace maintained had been buried in the chief mosque, was celebrated, and I was naturally taken as one of my hosts. On that particular night of the year we were allowed our shoes and smoke if we wished to do so. It was a moonless night, but the brilliancy of the starry heavens more than made up for the want of moonshine, and the courtyard of the mosque was lighted with numberless lamps. The courtyard was filled with people; the whole population of Gaza appeared to be there, and as I stood in the dense crowd could not help reflecting how easily a fanatic might depart of this world and leave no trace of the deed behind. Presently the spirit of ecstasy came upon some of the assemblage as it came upon Saul among the prophets, and men and boys formed circles, and to the praise of Allah swayed backward and forward, and they fell to the ground through giddiness and exhaustion. I was curious to look into their eyes, which were wide open but, like Balaam's, they saw nothing. I understood then what it was that the spirit of God came upon the man which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his senses not withdrawn. (Numbers xxiv2-4). After a while some of them were carried still further in their religious frenzy and began to slash and pierce themselves with knives and skewers, and I saw the slashes on the flesh, and skewers thrust through the muscles and withdrawn, and I also saw the wounds closing up immediately and no blood flowing from them. I remembered that I was crowded up against the devotees, actually touching some of them, and that the devotees themselves were not professional dervishes like the jugglers I have since seen in Algeria and Tunisia, but the ordinary townspeople and boys, and that there were no directors or music. What chaunt there was, was sung by the devotees themselves.

⁶⁵A. H. Sayce *Reminiscences* (London: Macmillan, 1923) pp. 216, 217, 235, 243.

1881/04/07. Richard Burton to Gerald Massey.

Of course I do not expect the citizens of a civilised country in the unimaginative West to believe my story. I was mentioning it to Sir Richard Burton. I know it is true, for I have seen the same, but you wouldn't get the British public to believe that it isn't a traveller's lie.

A year or two later Burton and I planned a journey along the north coast of Africa, starting from Marocco and ending with Alexandria. In this company it would have been possible. He was a Hajji, a pilgrim, known to the oriental, and respected even by the lawless Arab tribes of Cyrene at the time we were both of us engaged, he with his consular work, and I with my Oxford duties, and we therefore postponed our expedition to a more convenient season when we should be free. But when that season came it was too late. Burton was crippled with gout, and I had become too old for the fatigues of such a journey. That I have never seen the Cyrenaica is one of the regrets of my life.

22. 1881/04/07. Richard Burton to Gerald Massey. ⁶⁶

Trieste Austria

7. 4. '81

Dear Mr. Massey yesterday I received per post from you two volumes; for which you are duly thanked. I am writing about the Sword in Egypt I at once read Chapt. 1. You have worked it up very well. I shall read hieroglyphs

8 8 @
prove the Africanism of the name (2) that the origin is Aethiopia. Excuse me if I say that with such a handsome work you should have a list of misprints.

You have given me an Ostrich egg and I return you that of Aa to my friend will send you my translation of The Lusiads to be followed by a detailed commentary vol. 1 already printed.

⁶⁶Quentin Keynes Collection, British Library.

⁶⁷Williams and Norgate, the publishers.

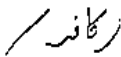
⁶⁸Gerald Massey *The Book of Beginnings* (London: Williams & Norgate, 1881).

1881/04/08. Richard Burton to Ouida.

read the "Ignez Episode" Canto iii st. 118 to end; and ~~the IX, 545.~~

Your opinion will be valuable to me on one point. Will the British Public stand so much literalisation, Portugalism, Cameonizm? The Sonnets (352 in no.) will come out next autumn.

Returning to the Librigiam I fear that Chapter which I shall read tonight will scribe a great gulf between you and me. I hold to the Antique vice, believing

Káfir /  to be a modern Arabism & imperfectly written "Kuffir". Hoping to see a line from you I am ever yrs trly.

R. F. Burton

23. 1881/04/08. Richard Burton to Ouida. ⁶⁹

Trieste Austria

My dear Ouida

The spirit moves me to inflict a note upon you. It is very long since I saw your handwriting, but the papers constantly give me details about your writings. It is as good as a biography. I was glad to see that they have promoted Colnaghi.⁷⁰

One of my reasons for writing to you is that I have just printed my translation # O @ will send you a copy. The Presthansit of my other things is at odds in the

a damn for either. There! honest if not polite.

No news at Trieste. My wife is deep in persons and dissolute curs. Philobeam is becoming the rage. I hold it mostly a hysterical affection to which, curious to say, men are also liable. When it takes the form of a society

⁶⁹Quentin Keynes Collection, British Library.

⁷⁰Sir Dominic Ellis Colnaghi (1808), Consul at Florence. He was promoted to Consul General on 24 Feb 1881.

1881/04/13. Algernon Swinburne to Isabel Burton.

with President (ess), Secretary, Clerk, officers etc. it may do some good, to bipeds if not to quadrupeds.

How is health treating you? Has Colonel⁷¹ Larking done for good? What of the enemy Lady⁷² Joan's terrible row that book made. My wife sends you all manner of memories and enfin my dear Ouida I am ev yrs sincy

R. F. Burton

24. 1881/04/13. Algernon Swinburne to Isabel Burton. ⁷³

The Pines, Putney Hill, SW
April 13, 1881

My dear Mrs. Burton

I am horribly ashamed to find that my letter of thanks to you on the arrival of the *Lusiads*, which I quite thought had been at once written and despatched (this the real and honest truth and not a lying afterthought to excuse myself), never went or existed at all, but remained in the limbo of good intentions. I cannot tell how, for I distinctly remember the very words I meant to send (and thought I had sent) congratulation to Burton on having in that translation as I think matched Byron on his own ground as a translator and beaten him at his own weapon. The version of Pulci's⁷⁴ *Orlando* which Byron prided himself so greatly as being (in his own words) 'the best translation that ever was or will be made' is an infinitely less important (and I should think less difficult) attempt on exactly the same lines and work, and certainly to say the least not more successful, as one can judge without knowledge of Camoens in the original language.

With best remembrances to both of you

⁷¹Colonel Cuthbert Larking (1810-1890), an artist who at one time had a studio in Florence. He was one of the sons of John Wingfield Larking.

⁷²Lady Joan Challoner, a character in the *Ouida Lusiads: a Story* (London: Chatto & Windus, 1878).

⁷³Huntington B/L 90. See also Isabel Burton 2 (London: Chapman and Hall, 1893) p. 183.

⁷⁴Luigi Pulci (1432-1484) the Italian poet.

1881/04/22. Richard Burton to Massey.

Ever faithfully yours,
A. C. Swinburne

25. 1881/04/22. Richard Burton to Gerald Massey.⁷⁵

Private Trieste 22.4.81

Dear Mr. Massey

Being very hardly worked (hard worked men have time for all things) I have now read your 2 vols. The idea is quite sound. Egypt is the source of a civilisation (except China?). She sent out an alphabet and with it doubtless a language. Sanskrit is a modern; Prakrit comparatively so; and India was utterly barbarous in the days of Herodotus. You have done your best (and very well) in your book (allow me to say) the reader wants more proofs that the Sabrean (star worship) distinctly preceded the Solar and like all obsolete things fell to the lowest e.g. Slavery, Polygamy, Polyandry.

The extract from D.T. will prepare you for reviews. The reviews have no time to read. Nor have they the acumen to discover the soundness of your foundations. They will glance at superstructure and pick out its holes. It is a pity that you could not work at Arab. for six months or so. Now you quote Pers. Turk (esp.), Hindust., Kisawahili, Malay & other words which are mere Arab. corruptions. This is opening your coat of mail to the enemy reviewer. Meanwhile the book shows an immense amount of research, of all kinds of curious old world knowledge. What that old Genetrix Mrs. Grundy will say I can hardly fancy. But I suppose you are like myself brass fronted and copper bottomed. As regards my wife, she is a Rom. Cat.; and these people you know are furious against heterodoxy in their own flock, but allow outsiders to think & say what they damn please.

Do you know Palmer of Cambridge? If you don't know him make his acquaintance and get him to work up Kaf. My conviction is that it represents the root of Caucasus; where the Slavs still preserve Kafkas. I am here

⁷⁵Quentin Keynes Collection, British Library.

1881/04/22. Richard Burton to Gerald Massey.

autumn when the "Book of the Sword" will be finished (Diabol⁷⁶o. suad vite

Many thanks for your valuable note on Khopsh or ~~Sfrome~~ ^{frome} being your

book I had derived from it the Eng. "chop". It is ^{ⲭⲟⲡⲣⲓⲥ} "Sword"

is the Egypt. Sifet; A ^{ⲤⲓⲲⲉⲧ} (Sayfum sign of love) & ^{ⲤⲓⲲⲉⲧ};

schwerte, swerde, sword. The Egyptians had 2 main forms; ~~the~~ ^{the} straight

Somali landblade, ~~ad~~ ^{and} the faulchi⁷⁷ or sickle blade that is still preserved in

Abyssinia to perfection. The Greeks had the regular rapier (in bronze) and the

curious ^{ⲭⲟⲡⲣⲓⲥ} ending in a swallow^{tail} the "sword of 

Cherib. & Harbah (Phan) are from the root Harbe, fight.

The "gulf" of the second chapter is that you assume direct derivation from

English to Egyptian I hold that the so called ~~European~~ ^{European} or rather European

(nothing to do with India) element in Coptic was first cultivated in Phrygia and

thence passed to ~~Gæec~~ ^{Remember} Herod. who says Egyptians owned

Phrygians to be older than themselves. The Aryan is a different affair: the

headquarters were about Herat and thence overspread India in a thin succession

of local invasions. Please work up Phrygia as ~~much~~ ^{much} as Aryan includes

European but not ^{v.}

I have been tempted to two sheets ~~of paper~~ ^{of paper} which is rare. But I cannot

deny myself the pleasure of thanking you for the pleasant hours I have passed

over your book. The next Edit. should have a ~~list~~ ^{list} of doctrines.

My wife joins me in very kind regards and best wishes.

Ever yrs faithfully

R. F. Burton

Please let me know by post card if you have recd Lusiads, Don't bother to read

all but just look at Canto iii 118 to ~~545~~ ⁵⁴⁵.

⁷⁶y

⁷⁷"

⁷⁸Viceversa.

1881/04/28. Richard Burton to Gerald Massey.

Gerald Massey Esq.

26. 1881/04/28. Richard Burton to Gerald Massey.

Trieste May 28

Dear Mr. Massey

Yesterday I sent your notice and wrote about your beginnings to my friend Quaritch. We will hear what he says about the matter before sending him the 50 copies. Why don't you call upon him, no. 15 Piccadilly? He has a noble collection.

Thank you for your Preface and friendly allusion to me. Had you not better prefix a kind of synopsis of views to the next vol. and openly tell the Philologists 1. That you hold Egyptian 1st and only civilised tongue of its day. 2. That Egyptian art & science overspread the world & 3. That whenever & wherever you find a sound resembling an Egyptian root you assume derivation without regard to Grimm and the old ⁸⁰principles of philology. I think if you work this out mixed with much ⁸¹you will silence many a brag.

For inst. the word ^{كافر} () = unbeliever. The roc ^{كفرا} () Kafara he disbelieved and Kafir is act. part 1st conj.

You have think logically a right to take any orderly combination of letters

g		p		n
k	+	f	+	r
Kh		b		l

and derive these from the nearest Egyptian root. But you do so at your peril more later logic.

Meanwhile the heathen will furiously rage against ^{you have} to maintain du calme. Of all things don't lose temper and answer brag with broad grins.

⁷⁹QK Collection, British Library.

⁸⁰Jaob Ludwig Carl Grimm (17853)a German philologist.

⁸¹Likely a reference to ^{Max}ler, the Sanskrit scholar.

Thank you for your kindly expressed opinion about the Lusiads. I should very much like to have all your notes particularly the places where a word made you squirm. If within distance I shall certainly accept your good offer to consult you about Sonnets. But you have not quite understood the gist of my translation, which is to copy and sound of, as well as to translate original. Hence "digno" "pergrim" "voyante" and "aspero" become words which you allow. But I can't afford to consider individual abhorrence or (I can assure you) my version would become utterly unlike original. I must bear the words themselves are ugly, unpleasant, not significant. I don't care a fig whether they are in use or not. You see my attempt is novel: no translator as yet has heads. Again the French rhymes I, 30 III 122 etc. are simply copies of original. And here I have not to consider the sense of coupling the same sounds, but only whether they offend music and metre or not. It is like the row lately made about assonance. Readers of poetry will feel grateful for these things pointed out to them.

Your criticism is quite correct in one part where you say that in the midst of particular passages which pleased you, a word came in and did dire offence. You may have observed that in the most ornate parts (Episodes etc.) I have adhered to common modern English as much as possible. And I am ready to do so by revision if you can let me know what the peccant passages are.

I will publish a 2^d edition and make many changes.

Returning to the Beginnings, I have mentioned it to many friends and shall continue to do so. Write to me freely. I am immensely occupied and consequently have time for everything. What does Lord Browning say in his book? "Spiritualism" (your preface reminded me of it) seems to have let in a hurricane of swindling. It has done what I hold good has proved that spirit is essentially material i.e. subject to the five (or six) senses. The phenomena stand unaffected. The ghostliness is shown to be a physical peculiarity of mediumistic organisation. A year or two ago I assisted them to that conclusion by a lecture before the Spirit. Soc. openly assuring them that they had no souls; that "soul" is nothing but state of things. They did not deck my brow with bays etc. but they damned me

1881/05/13. Richard Burton to William Robertson Smith.

yrs evr
R. F. Burton

27. 1881/05/13. Richard Burton to William Robertson
Smith.⁸²

Trieste May 13

My dear Smith I have now read you carefully (of course under the
game is not worth the candle).⁸³ Mohammed was no impostor⁸⁴ least no more than Paul, Luther or
Calvin: he was led away by the Demon of belief. Imposture is weak and no weak
man could have imposed long upon the hard heads (Umar etc.) around him. You
once told me that Islam is the baldest of faiths. Perhaps; but you forget the
glowing Tasawary poetry to which it gave origin. I abhor the hideous
⁸⁵ I suppose you would not
speak out upon the subject of meat (p. 424).

The book is very well and pleasingly written; and I picture to myself with
pleasure its effect upon a grim Elder. He sits down with his wooden brain and
wine merry convince
of the Creator. He gets up with a gloating idea that he has been almost
O He dines uncomfortably, [sleeps u
wonder and the ghost wabbles with the whucky in his Name]. Next morning he

⁸²Robertson Smith Papers, Cambridge ADD 7449 D113 MS year is given.
Caveat emptor " eccentric) in this letter.

⁸³William Robertson Smith *The Old Testament in the Jewish Canon* (Edinburgh: Black,
1881).

⁸⁴ Mohammed boasts of his fabulous version of the history of Joseph that he has it by
direct revelation, not having known from the *Koran* Sura xii. The Biblical historians
never make such a claim, which to a thinking mind is one of the clearest

U
⁸⁵"

⁸⁶ Except at a feast, or to entertain a guest, or before a local shrine, the
Bedouin tastes no meat but the offal of the gazelle or other game. This throws light on
Deut. xii. 22, which shows that in old Israel game was the only meat not eaten
sacrificially

1881/05/28. Richard Burton to William Robertson Smith

† k o

@ @ hoach to grace!) and that you will tell me so.

ev yrs
R. F. Burton.

@ ⁸⁷not knowing" if you are still at Aberdeen

28. 1881/05/28. Richard Burton to William Robertson Smith.⁸⁸

Trieste May 28

My dear Smith

I am glad that you have refreshed in Italy; gladder that the book has paid so well. In next edit. had you not better notice Athenaeum notice? It leaves a vague impression that you are ultra.

@ #
you add an inch of thickness to your mental hide? Susceptible men should not wrong, yourself in right and damn the results.

= ⁸⁹I think it will give a downwards push to the Riaz mismanagement. How I should like to have a long tour with you in Egypt. I must see uppermost Nile and make up mind about African origin of the Egyptians. My skulls are in oskullophile ⁹⁰and enclosed (sent to Mrs.

⁸⁷h k #

⁸⁸Robertson Smith Papers, Cambridge. CUL ADD 7449 D111 MS.

⁸⁹George Birkbeck Hill *Colonel Gordon in Central Africa, 1874* from original letters and documents (De La Rue, 1881).

⁹⁰Observations on the Collection sent by Capt. Burton, F.E.G.S., &c, to the British Museum. *The Journal of the Anthropological Institute* 8 (1879), pp. 323 Burton is apparently playing here on

1881/07/11? Richard Burton to Gerald Massey.

Maclagan⁹¹) will procure a copy of the Lusiads. Like Camoens I am treated to the 2 extremes of praise & dispraise, you should see what Ed. Arnold,⁹² Massey⁹³ & Swinburne say compared with Scotsman, Manchester Times & Saturday Satirist. It is all fun to me who never cares a fig for an opinion which does not tally with my own.

Keep up your spirits & exalt them at leisure hours by writing me a line of solid pitch into the enemy.⁹⁵ May Allah ruin him.⁹⁶

Evr yrs
R. F. Burton

Have you seen Gerald Massey's "The Sun" -h-h-h-h! What a blow for Max Müller the Solar.

29. 1881/07/11? Richard Burton to Gerald Massey.⁹⁸

Trieste July 11

Dear Mr. Massey

Many thanks for the highly flattering notes Sonnet. My wife has seized upon them and they will appear in her letter at the end of the commentary. If not a first Seat, it is a kind Seat of very conspicuous nature. I am perfectly aware that the Lusiads lacks finish; but the next edition shall make ample atonement; and I will have a second.

I want to send you a thing just published for me by that wretched "Harrison" of the Spiritualist. Name not promising "A Glance at the Passion Play" (was to have

⁹¹Isabel Burton was treated for three months by Dr. Thomas John Maclagan using his salicin therapy, a precursor to aspirin.

⁹²Sir Edwin Arnold (1832-1904) author *Light in Asia* (1879).

⁹³Gerald Massey, see Register

⁹⁴Possibly the *Saturday Review*

⁹⁵ h

1860 (*city of the Saints*)

⁹⁶In Arabic.

⁹⁷Max Müller (1817-1900) speculated that mythology can be traced back to attempts to describe the rising and setting of the sun.

⁹⁸QK Collection, British Library. Add MS 88876.

1881/07/21. Richard Burton to Gerald Massey.

come out September last). But end will interest you: I have taken the trouble to formulate a ~~card~~ (a ~~logue~~) for Spiritualism as I understand it. The system is quite atheistic, wanting neither God nor Devil.

You shall have a copy when I can manage it. At present I am so cross with the wretched Harrison for his stultifying delay in bringing it out that I have not the stomach to write to him.

We are up to eyes in business here. English fleet came last Thursday and will be here till next Sunday. Write when you can.

Evr Yrs
R. F. Burton

30. 1881/07/21. Richard Burton to Gerald Massey.⁹⁹

Private

Triest · K · 109 ·

Dear Mr. Massey

I return the printed sheet in case you want it (duplicate). The attack you direct against the "Aryan heresy" (as old Crawford called it) should be emphasised. I once knew Mr. Cole, but I find that one gets on better with by not knowing him. You must be prepared for a growl in the Grand by I only hope (for your sake) that the growl will be long and loud enough.

Thanks for the promise of an early copy. I had hoped that the ~~book~~ would have been out before yours, but there have been difficulties of mss. and Illust.; and I am still proofing. It is easy to imagine what work this Index has given you. It will in fact be the culmination of the book.

With best wishes, ever yrs faithfully

R. F. Burton

⁹⁹Quentin Keynes Collection, British Library. Add MS 88876 ff. 105

¹⁰⁰Pencil annotation.

1881/07/30. Richard Burton to Gerald Massey.

I hope that you will find leisure to keep me au courant of your movements. Is Yankeeland still part of the programme? It ought to pay and I suppose that is the one needful. Au revoir.

pps. What a summer we are having! Not sun enough to ripen ¹⁰⁰the grapes every day. Can you let me have a clean proof of the Egypt Sanskrit Vol? I want it for von Kremer, great Orientalist-¹⁰¹Minister of Commerce, Vienna.

31. 1881/07/30. Richard Burton to Gerald Massey.¹⁰²

Private

Opicina (direct Trieste) 30/7/'81

My dear Mr. Massey

Please correct anything you wish to correct and if there be correcting send in to Wyman¹⁰³ if not kindly return to me. I hope you like your place! My wife is delighted with the lines, and the enemy will wail at the gate.

I have carefully read your study of the Sonnets; the general view was before known to me by report and by reviews, now I have come to ¹⁰⁴head fountain block. It will take me many a month before I make up my mind. Sonnet XX is stumbling block. Your theory (at first sight) strikes being too complete, too regular, and suggests le non e vero e ben trovato¹⁰⁴ As regards your estimate of Shakespeare every man makes his own S. and (like Elohim/Jehovah made man) in his own image.

What news of ¹⁰⁵Origin? I am sorry for your ¹⁰⁶that it has not been more violently abused. But by persevering in your path and by stepping aside at times violently to kick a critical ass (no pun), you may convert a mild shower bath into a very neat douche. I think that your case medically ¹⁰⁷requires th

¹⁰¹Alfred von Kremer (1828-9)

¹⁰²Quentin Keynes Collection, British Library. Add MS 8897.6 ff. 108

¹⁰³Wyman and sons, the printers.

¹⁰⁴But not from something that was well fashioned.

1881. Verney Lovett Cameron.

@ 105 with much enjoyment. I am damnin Mrs.
8 @

(Arabianbe damned!). I intended to publish (at Brussels) some day all the
obscenest parts in plain English. It will be nice reading for babes & sucklings.

Ever yrs sincy
R. F. Burton

32. 1881. Verney Lovett Cameron.¹⁰⁶

From that time I did not meet him again until the Geographical Conference at
Venice in August, 1881, though in the mean time had often corresponded with
him, and especially with regard to my journey in Syria and Mesopotamia
but at Venice it was that first time he became a companion of his, and there also I for
the first time met my lady (then Mrs.) Burton.

Perhaps no other occasion could so easily, in a short time, have given
specimens of Burton's varied attainments. He was not only a visitor, and
had no official connection with the Congress of the Royal Geographical Society,
if I mistake not, was represented by its President, Lord Aberdare, who
chanced to be passing by that day, but by all the geographical societies of
foreign nations had sent delegations, and men of science of all kinds
had assembled from far and wide. With one and all of these Burton held
converse, every man in his own tongue on his own subject, and then I also
found out that not only did he know more languages than almost any other
living man, but that also he knew their idioms and their slang, and
understood the spirit of them. One striking incident was one day
in front of St. Mark's, a Portuguese commentator on Camoens I have
forgotten his name, but his countrymen held him in high honour for his
scholarship and he endeavoured to prove to Burton that one of his
readings of Camoens was wrong. Burton audaciously argued the
matter out with him, speaking Portuguese the whole time, and ended by
convincing him that he was wrong and Burton right. Almost immediately

¹⁰⁵ John Payne, *The Poems of Master Francis Villon of Paris* (London: Reeves & Turner,
1881).

¹⁰⁶ † O # *Fortnightly Review* (December 1890) pp. 878-84.

after this we met an Egyptian officer, who had, while at Mecca, managed to take a series of photographs of the holy places, even with this man who was fresh from the place, Burton was superior in many matters of detail, to say nothing of his reaching knowledge of the doctrines of Islam, and actually explained to this Mahomedan the meaning of much of the ritual of the pilgrimage of which he previously knew nothing. I could recapitulate numerous instances of this, but both he and I were at Venice on holiday making, and did not spend all our time in talking to learned professors. Burton and his wife had many friends, as where had they not? and I had the pleasure of introducing them to the mother of my friend, Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza¹⁰⁷ and in society I saw how deferential and courteous to ladies he always was. His courtesy was like singular yet charming. Besides science and society, we also conversed in other ways. In the mornings we used sometimes to stroll past the rooms in which, on those bright sunny days, ladies were busy at their labours, and which he used to call going round the zoological gardens and seeing the beasts in their dens. One day I remember especially well, and that was the one we went to the Lido to bathe and have breakfast, then, after breakfast, just as a vast wave of sea appeared, he and I took off our shoes and stockings, and made a dash for the beach while Lady Burton called us two naughty boys, and threatened punishment if we made our clothes dirty, and we retaliated by saying that if she did not withdraw her threats we would sit down in the water. Innocent and childish, perhaps, but showing that Burton was not the fierce man so many people thought him to be. Ever after, among ourselves, Lady Burton was nicknamed the nurse, and we were the two naughty boys, Dick and Cammy. As a cicerone, too, Burton at Venice was invaluable. His inexhaustible stock of historical knowledge and legends furnished him with something to relate about even the meanest and most buildings and then there were trips about the canals, Lady Burton's gondola, and the day and night of the regatta, when the Grand Canal and St. Mark's were illuminated, all of which Burton enjoyed as much as any one of all that merry party, for round about Burton had gathered all the most brilliant and best of all those assembled at Venice.

¹⁰⁷Pietro Paolo Savorgnan di Brazza (1852-1905), the Italian explorer.

1881/09/29. Richard Burton to Gerald Massey

After leaving Venice I paid a visit to the De Brazzas, and then to Trieste, where I spent a few days with the Burtons, and found not only that he was a most efficient consul, but that the members of the English colony, and those others with whom he was brought in contact there, he was simply idolised.

33. 1881/09/29. Richard Burton to Gerald Massey.

Trieste Sept 29¹⁰⁸ 1881

Dear Mr. Massey

I did not at once answer yours of September. You know that I shall be happy to look over your proofs. The two 1st vols. will make their way in time, but you must not be impatient especially as you have fallen foul of Max Müller and you have a grand bit of work to do. Old Egyptian contains the three so called families of language, Semitic, Aryan and Turanian (Allad, Chenile, Tartar Turkish). If you can only bring this out with proofs of vocabulary and grammar etc., the grammar especially you will open up a new vista. We especially want the Turanian element brought out of old Egypt.

Please look at the enclosed slips from The Academy. They are specimens of my intended translation of Camoens lyrics. I want opinion and advice not commendation. Are they archaic enough? ~~on a~~ in fact a bit of hard critique would do me a power of good. I may tell you that line is rendered for line, but that means nothing to the English. The question is, are they readable English? The vol. will be out next year. I am, dear Mr. M

Ev yrs faithfully
R. F. Burton

G. Massey Esq.

¹⁰⁸Quentin Keynes Collection, British Library. Add MS 88876.

¹⁰⁹Pencil annotation.

1881/12/17. Richard Burton to John Payne.

34. 1881/12/17 Richard Burton to John Payne.¹⁰

Lisbon
Dec 17¹¹

My dear Mr. Payne

Yours of the 28th followed me here, hence my delay in answering a very kind letter. On the 20th we sail for Africa, reach Madeira and 23rd sail forward to my destination again on the Gold Coast. My direction till next March will be care of James Irvine Esq. F.R.G.S. Exchange Court Liverpool. In April at the latest I hope to have pleasure of shaking hands with you in London, and then we will talk over the 1000 Nights and a Night. At present it is useless to say anything more than this. I shall be most happy to collaborate with you. Do you know the Rev. G. Percy Badger (of the): if not you should make his acquaintance, as he is familiar with the Persian (and to a certain extent with the Egyptian) terms of the Nights. He is very obliging and ready to assist Arabists.

Remains only to wish you a Merry Xmas et express to the pleasure with which I shall meet you. Meanwhile, believe me

Ever yrs sincy
R. F. Burton

I am an immense admirer of your Villon.

35. 1881. Julian Tregenna Biddulph Arnold.¹³

Though I knew Richard Burton well, it was not until I travelled with him in the Fayoum that I understood something of the man's wayward character and of the astounding diversity of his mental energies. He was an Elizabethan born out of time. Restless and adventurous, contemptuous of convention, intolerant of

¹¹⁰Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright. The location of the original MS is not known.

¹¹¹Annotation: 1881.

¹¹²*The poems of Master Francis Villon of Paris: done first English verse in the original forms*, by John Payne (London: Villon Society, 1878).

¹¹³Julian Biddulph Arnold *Costants in Dressing Gowns* (Chicago: Argus, 1942), pp4133

restraint or discipline, as reckless of himself as of others, prone to engage in a quarrel upon the slightest provocation, as becomes one who is conscious that he is a master in the use of sword or rapier, he should have marched with Hernan Cortez or sailed strange seas with Francis Drake or camped in the sands of Asia with Marco Polo. He spoke, and moved, and wrote, and lived as though he breathed the air of the spacious times of Good Queen Bess.

He was composite of a hundred attributes, none of which pertained to his English family traditions. Unusually tall in stature, gaunt in the cast of his features, swarthy in complexion with gypsy eyes, lithe and active in every movement, yet grave and dignified in manner, he did not belong to the occident but to the stony deserts of Arabia. I have been his companion both in desert and city, and always he suggested to me some proud Arab of the days when the banners of Islam waved from the Indus to the Pyrenees. His childhood was passed wandering over France, Italy and Spain, the opportunities of such an education, nurtured by his extraordinary gifts as a linguist, made him not only fluent in European idioms but curiously versed in their dialects and slang. At Oxford, where his unruly disposition led him to challenge a fellow undergraduate to a duel for not liking the cut of his beard, he devoted himself chiefly to the study of oriental languages. Rusticated for his rebellious ways, he passed to the army in India, where in a brief while he became proficient in Marathi, Persian, Gujarati, Arabic and Hindustani. In order that he might make himself intimately acquainted with the customs of the people, he would disguise himself as a native merchant or a peddler of small wares and visit the shops in the bazaars, or mingle with the crowds, or play the part of a client in some doubtful den, where he learnt much of the strange lore which appears in the footnotes of his translation of The Thousand Nights and a Night.

It was while living as a native amongst the Moslems of Sind that the idea of making the pilgrimage to Meccah, the journey which first brought him into general notice. For that hazardous adventure, he prepared himself in the performance of the complicated Mohammedan ritual and steeped himself in the manners and usages of the orient. To cover up his traces he assumed the name and dress of a Pathan of the hills and, as such, made his way to Egypt where he resided in a native quarter of Cairo, his real identity being known only to three friends. His subsequent work of A Pilgrimage to Meccah is one of

1881. Julian Tregenna Biddulph Arnold.

the most remarkable books of its kind ever written. Full of strange knowledge colorful, picturesque, uncouth, it holds a mirror to the genius who wrote it.

His next venture was into the Somali country, ~~where he~~ reached the jealously guarded capital, Herrar [sic], which no white man had previously seen. On his return to the coast of the Red Sea, his camp was raided, and a Somali javelin was thrust through his face. The head of the spear was barbed, ~~and~~ ~~and~~ Burton, k that he could not draw it back again, deliberately broke off the wooden shaft near to the cheek it had entered and then drew the blade completely through. The wounds left long white scars on each of his bronzed cheeks, which used to fill my young soul with envy as they shone in the animation of conversation.

It was in Cairo, in 1881, that Burton first showed me a part of his translation of The Thousand Nights and a Night. He had been long engaged on that work, mainly at Trieste, where he acted ~~British~~ British Consul from 1871 to 1890. Previously he had been British Consul at Damascus, an ideal arena for one so accustomed to the ways of Orientals and so profound a scholar of Arabic. But his readiness to quarrel fomented political problems, ~~and to his~~ and to his,

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the wealth of his knowledge of the orient might have been lost to the world of culture had he not taken in hand that literary monument to his vast intimacies with mankind.

In Cairo, however, he was enveloped in the atmosphere of his task, and there, when the mood was upon him, he wrote swiftly. He used to keep the portion of the translation on which he was working at the moment in a piece of camel's skin. Much handling had rubbed away most of the scanty hair which nature bestows on that uncouth beast, and it was sadly torn at the back, but the package was made sufficiently secure by a thin girdle of camel leather. The manuscript was closely written in the small scrawl which its author used. So indistinct and minute was his handwriting that I have letters from him which had difficulty in deciphering. His screed must have proved a sore trial to the compositors who eventually set the type of the sixteen bulky volumes which comprised the first edition of The Thousand Nights and a Night. Lying beside that manuscript in its cloak of camel hide were some chapters of his unfinished Book of the Sword and his translation of the Arabic classic, The Scented Garden

1881. Julian Tregenna Biddulph Arnold.

which latter work, at the death of its gifted maker, was unhappily destroyed by Lady Burton.

One day, after reading some pages of his translation of one of The Arabian Nights with their amazing footnotes describing Arab customs referred to in the text, I suggested to him that he might wisely show the manuscript to my father who happened to be in Cairo at that time. He assented, but Sir Edwin, being an experienced editor as well as an Arabic scholar and conversant both with oriental customs and occidental scruples, promptly commissioned me to carry out the footnotes. Their worth is beyond measure, but may they find place, under their present candid form, in a popular work. The digestion of the public is not sufficiently robust to assimilate literary food so strange and strong. Soften your instruction, disguise your splendid knowledge, and suit

Burton would not alter a phrase or a word. He was obdurate. In due course, the first edition appeared, enriched to the full with its curious collection of pornographical footnotes and the sales were necessarily limited to a scholarly group of subscribers. Victorian scruples militated against wider distribution. Other times, other manners, and in these days of tolerance, the verdict condones the obstinacy of Burton. Nevertheless, there was a period when he regretted his rejection of the counsel given to him, as the following letter written by the author of *The Kasidah* to the author of *The Light of Asia*¹¹⁴ admits,

December 21st, 1882

My dear Arnold,

I have not followed your advice, and I regret not having done so.

*Mariez vous none vous mariez pas*¹¹⁵ just explains my condition.

¹¹⁴Edwin Arnold, father of Julian Arnold.

¹¹⁵Suit you it does not suit.

1881. Julian Tregenna Biddulph Arnold.

Had I not put in those confounded footnotes, I should have wished that I had.

However, they shall disappear from the next edition. Meanwhile, the Book of the Sword is getting on merrily. Ever yours faithfully,

RICHARD F. BURTON.

There was an eerie vein in Burton. His eyes suggested it. They were of the Romany type deep and brown as is the shadow of a palm. On the third finger of his left hand wore a ring in which was set a goodly sized asteria sapphire, from the light of which Arabs would shrink lest they should suffer ill hap from the evil eye of its imprisoned devil. Small wonder that they sometimes whispered amongst themselves that there was communion with the jinns.

On several occasions, I have known him to disclose a remarkable gift of prescience. I was standing one day on the bank of Boulak, the port of Cairo where the Nile boats are moored, when Burton unexpectedly appeared.

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your path. You will be wrecked close some of your men and part of your equipment. But you will go on. And months hence you will return, brown in the face as your followers and in rags. And at the place where we now stand w

As he foretold, it happened. My dahabea was wrecked near Gebel Tookh, with the loss by drowning of two sailors and most of my kit. But I pursued my way southwards, nor was it until long after that I returned, in raiment threadbare, bronzed as a Bishara and as I climbed the high-land at Boulak there stood Richard Burton, El Hajj!

Thereafter, I was much with Burton, and together we visited the Fayoum, to the west of Cairo, with many an interesting happening attendant on the companionship of one so strong, strange and informative.

Though Burton could not change the dark tint of his sunburnt skin with the ease of a chameleon in its passing from anger to calm, he could vary his voice and gestures with an effect. I recall an evening walk with Burton in the outskirts of an Egyptian village. He was setting beyond the broken tomb of some forgotten saint and casting weird shadows as if water had been thrown in patches on the ground.

We were so engrossed in our conversation that we scarcely noticed a beggar step forth from the dust heap of a village and crouch in the sand before us a huddled bundle of rags fretfully demanding baksheesh. To the prone figure I

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@ se and cursed me. It was a most thorough and magnificent curse. He cursed my eating and my drinking, my waking and my sleeping, my living and my dying, my ancestors and my descendants.

Burton and I stood motionless, listening. But I knew Burton too well surprised at the explosion which followed the close of the curse. Up went his

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said how thy lips should be blistered and thy tongue be made hot for calling on the name of Allah in vain? Dost thou not know that our brother here is a believer in the Book? Get thee down. Set thy forehead in the dust, and cry out

And that beggar, astounded by the sudden torrent of Arabic poured out upon him, straightway sank down on his knees and wailed to Allah to erase from the divine records the purport of his curse.

8
the distressed beggar disappeared, he turned to me and, with exquisite gentleness and

It is difficult to avoid coupling in one's mind the names of Richard Burton and T. E. Lawrence the two men whose names will ever be associated with modern tales of Arabian adventure. The Elijah mantle of Burton fell so easily upon the Elisha shoulders of Lawrence that any reference to the colorful life of either of

them seems to blend, before our mental eyes, as do motion pictures, into the energies of the other.

36. 1881. ~~S~~ John Stokes¹⁶

At Alexandria our principal work began. We visited the new harbour works, which had been constructed by Sir George Elliott, though his name did not appear, the nominal Directors being Greenshields and Company. Here I became acquainted with Capt. Blomfield ^{R¹⁷} who was Captain of the Port, and Morice Bey¹⁸ who was the head of the lighthouse service. The Consul, Mr. Cookson, was an old Constantinople friend. We had many conferences with the contractors, engineers, and merchants of the place as well as with the above named people. I was invited by Cookson to meet Sir Richard Burton the traveller at dinner. He was an interesting man but I was so disgusted with his language that I took an early opportunity of leaving the table. After dinner, I

During our stay at Trieste I visited the palace of Miramar, which was formerly the residence of the ~~fallen~~ Archduke Maximilian, before he became the Emperor of Mexico. The most attractive thing to me in the palace was a portrait of the Empress Maria Theresa, a portrait worthy of the strong personality rendered especially interesting to me owing to my long residence in the neighbourhood of the Hungarian frontier

I stayed rather longer at Trieste than my colleagues, and before leaving there called on Mrs. Burton the wife of Consul Burton, the great traveller, whom I had met and disliked at Alexandria a few weeks before. She was almost as eccentric as her husband but a fine looking woman and very tall.

Mr. Brock, the ~~Vice~~ Consul, was very attentive and obliging. He took me for a drive in the country on the last day of my stay. A great feature of the hills round Trieste is their hard, sterile look; they are covered with stones. Mr. Brock told me that in the old Napoleonic Wars, England drew her supplies of oak from these

¹⁶Privately published by Ken Stokes in Australia in 1994. pp. 143, [145](#) See the the Internet Archive.

¹⁷Richard Massie Blomfield (1825).

¹⁸Major James Anderson Morice.

1881. John James Aubertin.

parts, which accounted for the hills being so denuded of timber. The authorities were, at the time of my visit, trying to get planted *Pinus Austriacus* to grow on the stony hill sides, and I walked along the rows of each plants carefully rooted in the soil underlying the stones. These stones were of varying sizes, from a cricket ball to a man's head. By careful watching and nursing plants were beginning to grow well.

37. 1881. John James Aubertin.¹⁹

DEDICATORY LETTER.

My Dear Burton,

My present little volume being now ready for publication, I come, in pursuance of an often declared intention, to dedicate its pages to you as the chief contents are concerned Translations from the "Rimas" of our now common friend, Luiz de Camoens I may apply to you the well known title of

THE ONLIE BEGETTER OF THESE INSVING SONNETS.

But for you, I never should have undertaken the tasking and translating the Seventy of the entire collection, which I now, through your name, offer to an indulgent public.

Although my more arduous undertaking of translating the "Lusiads" had been so favourably received by our literary world, although one of my most generous critics of that work yet one of those who must be really pleased before he will praise expressed a hope that I "might be induced to give a complete translation of Camoens' minor works," not even this flattering compliment have moved me to as much as my present effort, had it not been that, while sojourning with you last winter at Cairo, you had engaged me to daily afternoon readings with you of your first sketches of Translations of all the CCCLII Sonnets as published by our friend, the Visconde de Jurumenha, only the whole of

¹¹⁹ John James Aubertin *Seventy Sonnets of Camoens* (London: Kegan Paul, 1881), pp. v-xv.

¹²⁰ 18071887.

which, but also those of the Cañcoes, Sextinas, Odes, and Oitavas besides, it is your intention some day to give to the world.

Such a work as this, for more reasons than one, I ~~never could~~ need not repeat to you what we have so often discussed in conversation, all my grounds for holding (so far, at all events, as my own art is concerned) that the great majority of these compositions, as well as of the sonnets, are entirely beyond the reach of rhythmic translation. This essential reason, however, I may mention : that without the music of the particular language in which so many of them are written the music being sometimes more cared for than the ideas in chants I could not reproduce to my own satisfaction, either the feeling of the poet, or a pleasant poem in English, or one that could be read by the side of the original. These objections neither you nor I have found to exist in translating the great Epic ; some parts of which ~~even~~ in some few studied descriptions, we both know to be somewhat unmusical, but the whole of which, particularly when rendered in corresponding rhyme and metre, is fairly within the scope of our language. Nor have I found them to exist in regard to the ~~seventy~~ sonnets that I have now selected and translated.

I should be bold, perhaps, in hoping for these the same amount of favour that attended my "Lusiads;" yet to my own mind they do not appear to have been less successfully treated ; and ~~therefore~~ have not bestowed less care upon them; for if the task has been less arduous, it has required much careful manipulation. In their case, moreover, I have had the advantage of our reading them over and discussing them together; an advantage of ~~which~~ I could not avail myself for my translation of the "Lusiads," the whole of which (with the exception of receiving some very few occasional suggestions from friends) I was called on to carry through entirely alone.

I must not, however, omit to mention ~~that~~ my determination to complete a translation of this work (now lately published, with your Commentary to follow), and your encouragement to me not to be deterred by the mere fact that such a production could never be generally popular, ~~considered~~ the final accomplishment of my labours. The task of my present translations has been, as were the " Lusiads," a constant source of interest and occupation; often a refuge in times of vacancy or bad weather; and for the sake of pleasant recollections of my own, I have noted at the bottom of each sonnet where it was

composed; realising in this respect the well known phrase of Cicero: "Haec studia ... delectant domi, non impediunt foris, pernoctant nobiscum, perigrinantur, rusticantur."¹²¹

It is not worth while to crowd this volume with too much introductory matter, but I may further remark that as neither you nor I would have ventured to translate the "Lusiads" had we thought that work already fairly done, so we may say the same as regards the sonnet which I cannot accept, and I am sure you cannot, the two or three that have fallen from the several pens of Southey, Adamson and Hayley. Especially I cannot accept of Lord Strangford's.¹²² To wit, last, Lord Byron's observation is the best that has been applied, without the necessity of adding his poetical anathema: "It is also to be remarked that the things given to the public as poems of Camoens are no more to be found in the original Portuguese than in the Song of Solomon." What you always have had in view, in treating our great poet, has been this: to study his truthfulness and his simplicity, and to endeavour to render him faithfully; not riding off from his occasional peculiar turns of thought, in order, covertly, to avoid difficulties nor introducing some commonly received parochial phrases, instead of his own peculiar expressions; especially not affecting to be very poetical where he is not poetical at all. No former translators of Camoens have ever shown sufficient respect for the author to confine themselves to these rules.

As regards the sonnet itself, I doubt whether it is, or ever will be, a really popular form of poem in the English language, and I almost venture to doubt, also, whether our language is exactly suitable for the sonnet, and called them "the most puling, petrifying, stupidly platonic compositions." Wordsworth wrote numbers of them, with a sonnet in defence of the sonnet, thus showing by the way, that he thought defence was needed. Sonnet-writers,

¹²¹Marcus Tullius Cicero's Speech in Defence of Aulus Atticus the Poet: "Haec studia adulescentiam alunt, senectutem oblectant, secundas res ornant, adversis perfugium ac solacium praebent, delectant domi, non impediunt foris, pernoctant nobiscum, peregrinantur, rusticantur these studies sustain youth and entertain old age, they enhance prosperity, and offer a refuge and solace in adversity, they delight us when we are at home without hindering us in the wider world, and are with us at night, when we travel and when we visit the countryside

¹²²Percy Smyth Viscount Strangford (1780-1855) *Poems from the Portuguese of Luiz de Camoens* (London: Carpenter, 1803).

have never failed to appear among us, and the subject day to day to be attracting more than usual attention.

Indeed, the edition of Lord Strangford's " Poems from the Portuguese of Luiz de Camoens" now before me, is the fifth, and may ^{ought to be} known, be the latest ; and so far I may be encouraged. But I must candidly say, that if the popularity of his lordship's work, which is thus indicated, arose from the mere English poems themselves as he published them, then Camoens, honestly translated, may not stand an equal chance of being as popular as Lord Strangford; for there is scarcely a trace of the original, in either thought or phrase, in Lord Strangford's compositions. I do not, however, believe it will be thus. Camoens' Sonnets, faithfully interpreted, letter and spirit, will be quite new to the English ear, and, I anticipate, will be pleasing; though anything pertaining to the Portuguese language is confessedly but little known or thought of among us.

A curious fact in our literature, lately made known to me, will serve to illustrate what I have just now said. I had heard of, but in my ignorance had never read, Mrs. Browning's "Sonnets from the Portuguese." Hastening of late to procure the volume containing them, I found ^{there was} not a trace of the Portuguese element in any one of the whole forty of them. This mystery was solved, however, by my being informed, on inquiring of authority, that the title was a mere fiction; that the authoress, not wishing the world ^{to be} too familiar with her own heart's feelings, had purposely invented a misleading title; and that to render concealment all the surer, she had resorted to the word "Portuguese," as referring to the language which was the least known, or scarcely known at all, in the literary world, and into which few or none would be likely to look in search of her originals.

Now, as I had determined to make the National Epic of Portugal (the language of which I had been called upon for years to study and speak and write) known in England in its own colours, so now, under the inducements above referred to, I have worked out Seventy Sonnets of the same author with a corresponding object ; having done which, I shall henceforth consider that I have fulfilled my

¹²³Aubertin: I observe that Mr. Waddington mentions Camoens in his late publication, "English Sonnets," as being, with Ariosto & Tasso, among those writers who have been especially successful as sonneteers.

duty to Camoens, in introducing him fairly to our English literature, however English literature may be disposed to receive him. This much I have felt I owe to the country where I learned his language; and I have done my best to discharge that debt worthily. If I have not failed my author faithfully, to reproduce his feeling, and to present a sufficiently pleasing collection of English poems, then I must confess to have failed in this volume, to have come short of the approval accorded to me for my last work, and to have atoned by the injustice of attaching a weak performance to a strong name. The larger and heavier task of translating his every line is meanwhile reserved for you; "Cui labor ingeminat vires, dat cura quietem."

I have followed the form of publication in my "Lusiads." I publish the original of every sonnet. It is said that Fairfax (to whose great translation of Tasso one of my leading critics did me the honour of comparing mine) could not venture to do this. But I do it for Camoens' sake and fully run the risk of suffering anything thereby at the hands of those who know enough of languages to make them competent judges of translation. There is, of course, always one risk to be run in offering this challenge while translating an author three centuries old. Pretentious commentators will discover beauties in his defects, and sweetness in his rudeness. In the sonnets, however, Camoens, though certainly now and then obscure and sometimes fantastical, is almost always sweet. Yet he now and then insist on a blunt phrase rather than be artificial and untruthful. As regards obscurities, by the way, how true it is that while the author is living they are treated as marks of weakness; but when dead as mines of meaning.

I have almost invariably strictly followed the order of the rhymes, a matter of considerable difficulty in English. Of our language, in this respect, we may well say with Fielding, in his "Amelia:" "Rhymes are difficult things; they are stubborn things, sir." Of the facilities for rhyming in the Portuguese I have already said enough in my Introduction to the "Lusiads." Now and then (but in only two or three cases) I have been forced to change their order; the better to preserve the feeling of the original; and this has been the case even in the famous No. XIX. Further, I take the full responsibility of the two adjectives "resemblant" and "amene," and of the substantive "unlove," claiming for them perfect legitimacy.

In No. XIII I have not been able to resist the temptation of translating the sonnet into stanzas; while in No. LIX. I have purposely altered the order of the rhymes, making this heroic composition close with a couplet, as being essential to convey its full force to the English ear. In point of syllable, I believe the general English ear always looks for a couplet at the end of a sonnet. Shakespeare constantly concludes long blank verse speeches in this form. So did Ben Jonson and others. This kind of ending offers a species of final chord which the poem appears to many to have arrived only at the half

Rossini used to complain with much annoyance that the public never understood his delicate Adagio conclusions; and it was he, I believe, who emphasised for classical music the measure of the Coda. Only in the real land and language of the sonnet, perhaps, is its completion really understood, where it floats away in a gaseous of vowels, in alternate or distant rhymes. I was struck by the remark of an intelligent person who had read these sonnets for me. He told me he thought them very smooth and pretty, but that somehow they seemed to finish before one had got to the real end of them. I attributed this to the want of the final couplet. The musical public annoyed Rossini by their similarly defective ear, which required the hammer of his Coda.

It now remains to observe upon my having added some original poems of my own, with one or two other translations, to this volume, which I dedicate to you as having provoked my *Camoens' Sonnets*. I do so in order to give them a place in print. Defoe wrote the tale of Mrs. Veal's Ghost for the purpose of carrying on the sale of your ancestor Drelincourt's dismal book *Christian Death* I cleave to my friend Camoens to give these *sonnets* some life. The different members of the family have come forth, from time to time, at long intervals, during these last five and twenty years, and they exhibit various dispositions among them.

One of the youngest, which I make introductory to *sonnets*, consists of stanzas supposed to have been addressed by the Spirit of Camoens to his countrymen, at the national celebration of the Tercentenary of his death, on the

¹²⁴Charles Drelincourt (1565-1659) *The Christian's consolations against the fears of death* (1651).

1881. Isabel Burton to her Doctor.

10th of last June, 1880; on which occasion it was with considerable regret that I found you were not to be my companion in Lisbon.

In full belief that my volume will find many readers for Camoens' sake, I remain, my dear Burton,

Yours sincerely,
J. J. AUBERTIN.

P.S. I must not on any account omit to add that I have had the advantage of reading over my proofs with my friend Dr. Saraiva, from whose well known command, both as scholar and poet, of his own language, and thorough proficiency in English, I have derived many valuable suggestions. In particular, I have adopted his orthography and accentuation.

38. 1881. Isabel Burton to her Doctor¹²⁵

Particulars
Isabel Burton

I had perfect health in 1879, and though of a nervous temperament, was quite fearless like a man. I have had a hard life, like my husband, & energetic in writing & undertakings. In 1879 April I fell down stairs & myself badly but I do not know if it was directly after or before I began to go in the streets, & as if I were going to tumble down but all after a year up to the present time I have days when I am worn out with struggling against fainting (hysteria, or whatever it is, & I have never in my life had hysterics) the least agitation fright or over talking brings it worse in the street & in cabs or walking & I have now arrived at that pitch I cannot go out without my husband or my maid and carry restoratives in my pocket. This is the curse of my life & I should be grateful indeed if I could be cured. Some call it hysteria some over-activity of the brain & some nerves. do notice that soon after an attack I get a rumbling in my stomach which makes me suspect that my stomach & liver have to do with it but I am so delicate all medicine save Castor Oil or an occasional antibilious pill frightens me as they give me more pain & more than they used.

¹²⁵WRO. 2667/26. Box 3. The recipient is not known.

Now I must plainly state that I am change of life 7 months nothing then a flooding, then 4 months, then a flooding 8 weeks without seeing anything. I have a fibrous tumour in the right ovary, but little is not malignant & the Doctors Maclagan,¹²⁶ Liebman¹²⁷ & others say does not increase & will probably wither when I lose my monthly course wholly I cannot therefore walk much, walking or standing much purgative medicine is apt to bring a little inflammation of the bowels or rather perhaps irritates the tumour. My husband says all my ailments come never from that I am full of gout or rheumatism, likely enough, as it is in my family & my bones ache & are stiff. A Trieste doctor said caltrach the heart, but I expect it is wind around the heart.

I have also another sorrow but it is congenital, a necessity to make water at least every 2 hours sex at night when I often want but once, or not till morning.

My head is often full & holly inside. I am languid & ate work, yet cannot keep from ain always tired. have great distension stomach at times, breasts swollen, & ucose veins in one leg the oppress me. Occasionally but not often get an electric shock through the frame, as if someone had cut me down with a sword through to my hands and feet.

I eat, drink & sleep well, am regular in my bowels make myself so by lavement of plain tepid water daily, & castor oil every week because I get accumulations.

I was never in the family way. I feel sometimes as if I had a ball in my head that run whatever side I put my head, is when my monthly does not come on it disappears with the period coming on.

¹²⁶Dr. Thomas John Maclagan (1838-1903). See *Scottish Medical Journal* 1987 Oct;32(5):141

¹²⁷Karl Liebman (1839-1917), an obstetrician from Trieste, a graduate of the University of Vienna. See *Transactions of the Obstetrical Society of London* (1900), pp.7-9.

1882/03/20? Richard Burton to John Payne.

39. 1882/03/20? Richard Burton to John Payne.¹²⁸

John Payne Esq.
20 North Row
Park Lane London W.

Axim Gold Coast (direct

K @

My dear Mr. Payne

I received your welcome letter by the steamer of yesterday and

You will see the reason why this communication is so short. Of course you must go to press at once. I deeply regret it, but in England my time will be

leisure.

It would be a useless expense to keep up the type. Your terms about the royalty are more than liberal. I cannot accept them except for what I have received, and it remains to be seen what time is at my disposal. I am working out a scheme for Chinese immigration to the West African Coast, and this may take me next winter to China.

I can only say that I shall be most happy to render you any assistance in my power; at the same time I must warn you that I am a rolling stone. If I cannot find time you must apply in the matter of the introductory essay to the Rev. Percy Badger, Prof. Robertson Smith (Glasgow) and Prof. Palmer (Trinity, Cambridge). I have booked your private address and have now only to reciprocate your good wishes. Yours very faithfully

R. F. Burton

¹²⁸Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright. The location of the original MS is not known. Undated, received 1882.

1882/05/27. Richard Burton to John Payne.

40. 1882/05/27. Richard Burton to John Payne.¹²⁹

Athenaeum Club
Pall Mall S. W.
May 27¹³⁰

Dear Mr. Payne

This is the first day I left the House. Please let me know when and where we can meet.

Yrs v. truly
R. F. Burton

41. 1882/05/30. Richard Burton to John Payne.¹³¹

Athenaeum Club
May 30¹³²

My dear Mr. Payne

I received your note about twelve hours after the time appointed. We must meet somehow or other. At what early hour do you open your doors? I am always up at 6 AM, and disposable from that hour till noon.

Yours very truly
R. F. Burton

I enclose name of subscriber who is to be encouraged qua a reverend.

¹²⁹Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright. The location of the original MS is not known.

¹³⁰Annotation: 1882.

¹³¹Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright. The location of the original MS is not known.

¹³²Annotation: 1882.

42. 1882/06/03. Richard Burton to John Payne¹³³

Athenaeum club
June 3¹³⁴

My dear Mr. Payne

Proofs received. I shall be very prudent about Badger and make a personal matter out of it. Please send me a lot of advertisements. I can place multitude of copies. Mrs. Grundy is beginning to ~~get~~ ^{get} the bore of ~~her~~ ^{her} @ ~~her~~ ^{her} for her.

Yours very truly
Rich^d F. Burton

43. 1882/06/14. Bernard Quaritch¹³⁵

His translation of the works of Camoens which was published by me (six volumes including the Life of the poet), was one of the most laborious and (in a literary sense) successful efforts of Burton's pen. It was, indeed, a literary feat of which any man might be proud, corresponding, as it did, line for line with the original, in ~~se~~ ^{se} and metre and vigorous expression ~~no~~ ^{no} polished paraphrastic weakness, no evasion of difficulty. Its completion served as an occasion for a memorial banquet in Burton's honour (14th June, 1882), to which I invited some of the most notable men of the ~~time~~ ^{time}. Among those who came were Mr. Ruskin, George Augustus Sala, (Sir) Edwin Arnold, Commander Lovett Cameron, Edmond Yates, Mr. Hyde Clarke, Mr. Yates Thompson, and the late Cornelius Walford, Lord Stanley of Alderley and Mr. W. C. Borlase. We ~~were~~ ^{were} all ~~Burton~~ ^{Burton} as an Englishman who had carved for himself a high and distinguished position, and full expression was given to the feeling. In Mr. Ruskin's acceptance of my invitation, he said that he was not in the habit of going to such meetings, but that he would certainly break the rule on this occasion. He made a short speech

¹³³Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright. The location of the original is not known.

¹³⁴Annotation: 1882.

¹³⁵Bernard Quaritch *Contributions Towards a Dictionary of English Book Collectors*. Bernard Quaritch (London: Bernard Quaritch, 1898).

which was gathered in shorthand notes by Cornelius Walford. As the only utterance of the night which has been preserved, it may be thought (as the words of an Englishman whose has yet to be found) worthy of a place here.

@

my welcome to, one who has seen so much of the world, and contributed so much to the pleasure which works of travel always confer.

I have been almost all my life treading a narrow range, geographically, if, perchance, it may be said a wide range mentally. It is quite true that I have visited Tuscany, Lombardy, and Venice; and although those spots are very rich in associations and in a branch of inquiry to which I have devoted myself, they are but very small spots compared with the great surface of the globe. It is only in my old age that I begin to see how great the world is, and how many benefits and advantages are associated with travel.

Nor must I omit on this occasion to state the obligations which I owe to my good friend, the host of the evening, Mr. Bernard Quaritch. Often when I have been cast down with the unsatisfactory results of some of my performances, or out of heart my actual achievements as compared with my desires, I have gone to him, and he, with his robust physique, and great mental activity, has inspired me with new energy, and imparted to me new hopes; at the same time supplying me with works which were essential to my inquiry. And thus he has stood as sponsor to my various efforts, and as a true friend during the greater

[Cornelius Walford] And I have further to say that, during the whole period of my life, no greater honour had been conferred upon me than that of being asked to meet the distinguished guests assembled this evening in view of doing honour to our guest, Captain Richard Burton, whose acquaintance I have had the advantage of enjoying for more years than I now can remember.

1882/08/05. Richard Burton to John Payne.

44. 1882/08/05. Richard Burton to John Payne.

Trieste Austria
August 18⁷

Dear Mr. Payne

My wife brought me your letter which in the hurry of travel had been mislaid. I did not answer at once wishing to tell you something definite concerning my movements. It was very good of you to make her that handsome present for her beads.¹³⁶

I shall now be comparatively at leisure (correcting Gold Book) and have plenty of time to spare after next Christmas (when Sword book will be ready). Kindly send me ~~at once~~ Vol. 1 and I will go through it with the text. When do you want to get No. 2 out? And when should MS go to print?

We arrived here just in time for the opening of the Exhibition August 1. Everything went off well, but next evening an Orsinita ~~show~~ ^{show} was which killed one and wounded five including my friend Dr. Dorn Editor of the Zeitung Trieste. The object of course was to injure the Exhibition and the effect will be ruinous. I expect more to come and dare not leave my post. So whilst my wife goes to Marienbad, I must content myself with the Baths of Monfalcone distant only one hour by rail.

I hope you will not forget my friend F. F. Arbuthnot and benefit him by your advice about publishing when he applies to you for it. He has undertaken a peculiar branch of Literature the Hindu erotic which promises well.

With united best regards I am
ever yrs truly
R. F. Burton

Hope you sent name of ~~Re~~ Addison to Quaritch.

¹³⁶Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright. The location of the original MS is not known.

¹³⁷Annotation: 1882.

¹³⁸h

-animal cruelty causes.

45. 1882/08/14. Richard Burton to John Payne.

Private.

u

Dear Mr. Payne

Yours of 8th just rec^d. The printer has delayed you about Vol. 1; but I
you purpose Xmas. That should do well.) Could it not wait till early October
when an Autumn session will give a kind of fictitious season? Send me proofs of
Vol. 2 as soon as you like. My table is already spread. And please take note,
post parcels registered is always safer than private hand. Of course the MS
should be placed between cards and covered with wax cloth. Quaritch is
a man who works very fast, and I shall not borrow his editions till they are
absolutely necessary. A line to him will then do the thing. I am delighted with
idea of the special quarto edit.; for though ^{difficult} in practice (E.s.d.
preventing) I am entirely so in theory.

If the Rev. Addison miss this opportunity of grace he can blame only
himself. It is very sad, but not to be helped. I will attend to all your direction
about publishing etc. And good luck to the venture! Ever yours sincy

R. F. Burton

46. 1882/08/19. Richard Burton to Gerald Massey.

Private

Trieste August¹¹⁹

Dear Mr. Massey

¹³⁹Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright.
The location of the original MS is not known.

¹⁴⁰Quentin Keynes Collection, British Library. Add MS 88876 f. 86. ALS MS.

¹⁴¹h

refer to the Trieste Industrial Exhibition ^{and the} of Aug 2 during the visit of
the Austrian Archduke.

1882/09/01. Richard Burton to John Payne.

I have been purposing to write to you since many days, the chief object being to excuse myself for ~~the~~¹⁴² the mess of not having returned your kind visit. But que faire? Every moment was occupied, between [friends], meetings, lectures and bringing out two books. As it is I left even relations without a vis and rushed off in despair on July 15. Arrived time for the Exhibition opening and the Orsini bomb thrown next ~~day~~¹⁴³ I expect more rows as the Italian party is forming. It is all told in the Academy, for which I have already corrected proofs¹⁴⁴.

What are you doing now about the Origins? ~~And the~~¹⁴⁵ how work going on? When will the two remaining vols. come out? I hope the Press will make an awful row about them.

As for myself I am working as hard as ever at a Gold book and a Sword book, at the Arabian Nights and at the Lyrics of Camoens (Lusads or rather off). A volume (no. 1) of the latter will be ready early next year but I shall probably not publish it till the autumn.

I hope that we shall meet often in future. Never again 3 years absent from England! That was caused by ~~the~~¹⁴⁵ the failure of the Midian mines; the success of the Gold Coast will bring me home often enough. Don't invest in them without consulting me, however. It will be a great success if directors & engineers prove open to reason.

Ever yrs sincly
R. F. Burton

Gerald Massey Esq.

47. 1882/09/01. Richard Burton to John Payne.

Private

¹⁴² †

¹⁴³ On Aug 2, 1882, during the visit of the Austrian Archduke, Italian irredentists threw a bomb into a procession and killed a waiter, injuring a dozen others.

¹⁴⁴ k " Academy No. 537 (1882), p. 635

¹⁴⁵ Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright. The location of the original MS is not known.

1882/09/01. Richard Burton to John Payne.

Trieste September¹⁴⁶

I have long ago received three sheets but delayed acknowledging the receipt till you return home from your short and well deserved holiday. A note was at once sent Quaritch for the loan of the ¹⁴⁷edit. He has not yet
@
& Norgate, nor to
spend the money myself unless absolutely necessary. If Quar. refuses could you
not lend me your own copy? It will be safe by post.

At what Night does p. 397 begin? How is it that you have no references
marginal or top page to the number of the Nights? Surely this is one of the first
things for students, also a notice of the Edit. From which you take the Night
your place too I should have strictly kept to the formation of the original.

thV
u
long and heavy looking paragraphs. English readers would have only skipped
them as they ought. Would have added bulk, but a little more or less in so
bulky an affair can be of no matter. What news of Vol. 1? I am very anxious to
see it and so are many female correspondents. I look forward with great
pleasure to the work, and I have some ¹⁴⁸copy paper hours before me. I

[task¹⁴⁸].

Yrs

Hadji Abdulla¹⁴⁹

I have told Quaritch to send you my four books of Camoens, no 5 on the stock
Sept. 1. Just received this what shall we

Capt. Burton 28 Aug 1882

Dear Sir

¹⁴⁶Annotation: 1882.

¹⁴⁷u #

¹⁴⁸†

¹⁴⁹Signature in Arabic.

Macnaghten †

1882/09/09. Richard Burton to William Robertson Smith.

@ . . . @ . . .
or I would gladly have lent it to you. I send you a copy of the Bulaq edition¹⁵⁰ which I hope will answer the purpose.

With kindest regards
Your ever, dear Captain
Bernard Quaritch

48. 1882/09/09. Richard Burton to William Robertson Smith.¹⁵¹

Trieste Sept. 9

My dear Robertson Smith

I send this to Club, not knowing your other direction. Excuse my bolting without paying an old and valued ~~club~~ dinner. Let it keep for next time. Never again do I stay three years away from England or rather London. The failure of the Midian Mines caused my last long absence. The success of the Gold Coast will bring me home next year. And then we must collect for our spirits a little Congress of Oriental men.

Can you give any news of Palmer (Arab. Prof. Cam.)? I wrote him a letter and presently heard that he had been taken prisoner at Moses Wady and sent off to Arabi. Yet curious to say the papers ignore him¹⁵² @ about him.

I want you now to find out for me what book there is containing pure Gypsy. Of course I have¹⁵³ Pott and the other writers. But all my grams. and vocab. in Spanish, Slav etc. are full of localisms. I want a short¹⁵⁴ account of language as I am about to republish my identification of Gypsies with Jat [Jgutha]

¹⁵⁰ . . . "

¹⁵¹ Robertson Smith Papers, Cambridge. ADD 7449 D112 MS

¹⁵² August Friedrich Pott (1802) *Die Zigeuner in Europa und Asien. Ethnographisch-linguistische untersuchungen, vornehmlich ihrer herkunft und sprache, nach gedruckten und ungedruckten quellen.* (Halle: E. Heynemann 1844)

1882/09/29. Richard Burton to John Payne.

u
to have a line from you giving me your good news. I am &c.
Yrs Ever
Abdullah¹⁵³

49. 1882/09/29. Richard Burton to John Payne.

John Payne Esq.
3 Cliffords Inn, London EC

Trieste Sept. 29

Dear Mr. Payne

I had written these words when my servant brought meth yours of 25
u Edit and the Vol. 1 came yesterday even. Glad to see that you had taken
a longer holiday than you intended; you brain work is hard and you must want
rest. I shall set at once and work hard. The marginal reference is quite enough
for the number of the Ni V
so you must continue to do.

Perhaps it will be best to let Mr. R. L. ¹⁵⁵Spogli's song (Intolerable
little cad!) If you like I can privately write to Editor ¹⁵⁶Cobbler to public
review of a work privately printed. But I shall not do so without your express
wish. Your book @
without once appearing in the matter. The best answer will be showing up a few
O must be done with the greatest care, so that no hole
can be picked in the critique.

I enclose three sonnets, a specimen of my next volume of Camoens by
¹⁵⁷and should much like any suggestions from you. They are line for line and
mostly word for word but that is nothing; the question is are they readable

¹⁵³Arabic signature.

¹⁵⁴Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright.
The location of the original MS is not known.

¹⁵⁵Reginald Lane Pool (1857

Academy V

¹⁵⁶James Sutherland Cotton, editor of The Academy Register.

¹⁵⁷U †

1882/10/02. Richard Burton to John Payne.

U
158

¹⁵⁹pull you down.

Ever yrs faithfully
R. F. Burton

50. 1882/10/02. Richard Burton to John Payne.¹⁶⁰

Private

Trieste Oct 2

My dear Mr. Payne

Everything has come all right, 12 more sheets and yours of Sept. 29. Glad to hear of a new Edit. of Lane: it will draw attention to the subject. I must see what can be done with reviewers. [@] and [Mr. Cole] of Athenaeum is such a stiff young she prig that I hardly know what to do about him. However, I shall begin work at once by writing and collecting the vulnerable points of the L. ¹⁶¹ ~~House~~ ~~very much hated~~ man and there will be no difficulty.

It should be very easy to collect another hundred subscribers. Has the prospectus been sent to Lord Henry ¹⁶² ~~Lennox~~ ~~General de. Horsey~~ Or to General Studholme ¹⁶⁴ ~~Hodgson~~ ~~not the sooner the~~

I began work yesterday. Pencil in margin, and too late to make any great advise about Quaritch until you tell me what his terms are.

¹⁵⁸U

¹⁵⁹U

¹⁶⁰Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright. The location of the original MS is not known.

¹⁶¹Possibly Reginald Lane Pool.

¹⁶²1821-1886. Lennox was a Conservative MP.

¹⁶³Presumably Major General, later Lieutenant General, William Henry Beaumont de Horsey (1715)

¹⁶⁴See Register.

1882/10/08 Richard Burton to John Payne.

Meanwhile ever yrs truly
R. F. Burton

51. 1882/10/08. Richard Burton to John Payne.

Trieste Oct¹⁶8

My dear Mr. Payne

Yours ofth4 received. In my own case I should encourage a row with this bête noire; but I can readily understand your having reasons for wishing to keep him or it quiet. I shall write today to Cotton¹⁶⁷ saying what you suggested; and also to Tedder (Librarian Athenaeum Club) to know how¹⁶⁸ is Robert Phit. Tedder hates him so do most people. Meanwhile you must (either yourself or
O
Egyptians has been lost or stolen and with it are gone the lists of his errata I h
dr
may know a part of it, a corner of the field, but all! Bah!

¹⁶⁵Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright. The location of the original MS is not known.

¹⁶⁶Annotated: 1882.

¹⁶⁷James Sutherland Cotton, editor of The Academy Register.

¹⁶⁸Wright has written R. S. P. but this is Reginald Lane Pool.

1882/10/08. Richard Burton to John Payne.

Many thanks for notes on the three sonn. What is your copy? Mine reads a menor parte (169) and Sonnet LXXXIII is diff. Fica dizendo Que diz and at last Que gloria lhe faltou?

Who hated thou take it = which must be preserved (83 4). I have explained intend in the Lusiads. Great respè word, good or bad.

Most hearty thanks for the trouble you have taken. The remarks are those of a scholar and a translator.

¹⁶⁹Eu cantarei de amor tão docemente,
Por huns termos em si tão concertados,
Que dous mil accidentes namorados
Faça sentir ao peito que não sente.
Farei que Amor a todos avivente,
Pintando mil segredos delicados,
Brandas iras, suspiros magoados,
Temerosa ousadia, e pena, ausente.
Tambem, Senhora, do desprêzo honesto
De vossa via branda e rigorosa,
Contentame-hei dizendo a menor parte.
Porém para cantar de vosso gesto
A composição alta e milagrosa,
Aqui falta saber, engenho, e arte.
¹⁷⁰Que levas, cruel Morte? Hum claro dia.
A que horas o tomaste? Amanhecendo.
E entendes o que levas? Não o entendo.
Pois quem to faz levar? Quem o entendia.
Seu corpo quem o goza? A terra fria.
Como ficou sua luz? Anoitecendo.
Lusitania que diz? Fica dizendo...
Que diz? Não mereci a grã Maria.
Mataste a quem a vio? Ja morto estava.
Que discõe o Amor? Fallar não ousa.
E quem o faz callar? Minha vontade.
Na Corte que ficou? Saudade brava.
Que fica lá que ver? Nenhuma cousa.
Que gloria lhe faltou? Esta beldade.

1882/10/21. Richard Burton to John Payne.

Ev yrs sincy
R. F. Burton

52. 1882/10/21. Richard Burton to John Payne.

Private

Trieste 21 Oct 1882

My dear Mr. Payne

Kindly return it and keep the [letter] private. It will, however, only be prudent to prepare for an attack. I am perfectly ready to justify a complete translation of the book. And I do so by what I think

three editions of the 1001 N. advertised at the same time, not to speak of the bastard.

I return you nine sheets by parcel post office registered. You have done your work very well and my part is confined to a very small amount of scribbles which you will rub out at discretion.

In the next edition I should suggest a deep solit looks awfully

also add to the Oriental taste of your versions for instance always Allah never God.

I am working through but with great care. There is a change to be made (or more). The enemy may hit us hard here.

How does the sale get on? That is the substantial part. Your criticisms on the three sonnets were so valuable that I take the liberty of sending you my versions (3) of 14 XIX. None of these please me; but I must have one

¹⁷¹Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright. The location of the original MS is not known.

¹⁷²James Sutherland Cotton, editor of The Academy Register.

1882/10/29. Richard Burton to John Payne.

and would request you to choose for me. Only fair to say that I prefer no

The fair sex [appear wild] to get at the Nights. I have secured notes from two upon the nice subject, with no end of complaints about stern parents brothers and brothers-in-law. Have you seen Arbuthnot since I left.

Ever yrs truly
R. F. Burton

53. 1882/10/29. Richard Burton to John Payne.

Private

Trieste Oct 29

My dear Mr. Payne

I have unpleasant news for you and for myself. The F. O. has ordered me to Syria and I start on Friday next. This move all only plans for the winter. I hope, however, that all will be settled within two months at the most and then I shall return to Trieste. Yesterday I sent you the penultimate (no 16) and tomorrow you shall have the ultimate (no 17) packed. You need not send me no more for the present, as my whereabouts will be exceedingly doubtful.

The more I read your translation the more I like it. You have no need to fear the Pool clique; that is to say you can give them as good as they can give you. I am quite ready to give them as good as they can give me. Lane till he is made the cheval de bataille against us. But peace and quiet are not in my way and if they want a fight they can have it.

U but it is yourself; not me. In such a matter each man expresses his own individuality. I shall follow your advice about the quatrains and tercets. No [XIX] is one of the hardest on account of its extreme simplicity. I shall trouble you again.

¹⁷³Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright. The location of the original MS is not known.

¹⁷⁴War-horse.

1882/12/23. Richard Burton to John Payne.

I have ~~only~~ the castrated Edit. of Villon, and should much like an original. It would await my return here.

It appears to me ~~that~~ ^{اعتبره نون العار} is a misprint of some kind ~~there~~ are so many of them in both edits. From Alexandria I hope to run up to Cairo and there I can ~~make~~ arrangements for questions and answers about difficult points. Adieu or rather au revoir. Ever yrs sincy

R. F. Burton

My wife will send you the volume (Mac) as soon as I start. I keep it for the possibility of a reprieve.

54. 1882/12/23. Richard Burton to John Payne!¹⁷⁵

Trieste Dec. 23

My dear Mr. Payne

)
corrections for another Edition: please look over my note I will write at once to Q.¹⁷⁷ about Breslau Edit; but which of the 12 ~~books~~ ^{books} require for Vol III? I congratulate you upon the subscription list being so soon filled up. Is it not time to think of a reprint? Are you taking any steps to open a second list of subscribers?

My friend Arbuthnot writes to me that he ~~proposes~~ ^{proposes} you. He has founded a Society consisting of himself and myself. The idea is Rabelaisian I hope that you will enjoy it.

Will keep till first opportunity. I am finishing off my dreadful [Furioso] book. After January I shall run to the ~~lands~~ ^{lands} and pick up my forgotten modern Greek.

¹⁷⁵Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright. The location of the original MS is not known.

¹⁷⁶Annotation: 1882.

¹⁷⁷Quaritch.

1882. Verney Lovett Cameron.

Yrs truly
R. F. Burton

55. 1882. Verney Lovett Cameron¹⁷⁸

We next met in the end of the same year, in accordance with a promise made on our parting, at Madeira, for a joint trip to the Gold Coast. The book that we published, *To the Gold Coast for Gold*, tells the story of that journey; we certainly found gold, but put it into our pockets. For both of us the Gold Coast only meant a loss of money, I was going to say of time and labour, but we worked honestly and besides gold prospecting, we did a great deal in natural history and botany, and established the existence of a Stone Age in that part of Africa, where, notwithstanding that the signs were evident, it had never been suspected by any of our predecessors. From Burton, during this trip, I learned much as to the real duties of an explorer and collector and I also had an opportunity of seeing his kindness towards the unsophisticated natives, and of his tolerance and civility to even those who were venerated with civilisation. His patience and endurance under illness and suffering were exceptional, never an angry or a cross word have I heard him utter even when suffering severely from fever and acute pains.

We had some time together in England and Paris and when we parted it was with the intention of seeing each other often. The best laid plans of men often go wrong, and the fates have been stronger than our intentions, and though we have often corresponded we have seen but little of each other since then, certainly through no lack of affection on either side and now it is too late to hope to see him once more in this life.

¹⁷⁸† O #
1890) pp. 8-84.

56. 1882. Archibald Ross Colquhoun.¹⁷⁹

My unfortunate lack of habit in compiling notes or diaries makes it difficult to fix the dates and places at which I met people, but perhaps some random recollections may be included here. Sir Richard and Lady Burton I met on more than one occasion, the first time at the table of John Macdonald. Burton was then sixty years of age, a man of herculean frame with a massive head and shoulders, a very dark complexion and a scarred face with strong nose and chin. His wife was still a handsome woman, though rather stout, and for a Richard was very evident. Both in appearance and character Burton was out of place in a mid-Victorian drawing room he belonged to the spacious eighteenth century. Imperious and sometimes vain, he was sympathetic and generous to the work of others, but the strongest effect he produced on one when met in society was that he was rather obviously trying to shock and scandalise his hearers with his Rabelaisian humour. His tales when the ladies had withdrawn

ordinary conversation he was intolerant of ¹⁸⁰convenances. It is curious that this born adventurer, a fine swordsman, horseman, and a proficient in all the arts of self-defense was never destined to see active service. I don't think he ever saw a shot fired in action. It was probably this, added to his constitutional restlessness, which caused him to throw up his army career † nigger live among the natives and indulge his extraordinary taste for learning languages.

57. 1882. Rev. Charles Faunce Thorndike.¹⁸¹

The account of a memorial window to be placed on the front of Salisbury recalled one of that discriminating statesman's acts of justice in the offer of knighthood, after many years of neglect, to the great traveller and orientalist

¹⁷⁹Archibald Ross Colquhoun *Dam to Beersheba: Work and Travel in Palestine* (London: William Heinemann, 1908) pp. 300

¹⁸⁰propriety.

¹⁸¹# 7 u k # Volume 7, k 1904, pp. 538.

Richard Burton. So does memory fly back to the past, and like the pathetic

The writer first met Captain Richard Burton, as he was then called, in the summer of 1882 at Trieste, where he succeeded the novelist Charles Lever as English Consul. There was at that time still a considerable English colony in the Austrian free port, consisting of merchants, some of whom remain there; a few ladies married to officers of the Austrian navy; and a considerable number of Scotch engineers, a very capable set of men employed in the Austrians' and private engineering works. But the soul and life of the English colony was Richard Burton. To meet him was to be fascinated by his commanding figure, his leonine expression, and, above all, by his wonderful power of conversation. At first sight the keen, fierce glance from beneath his shaggy eyebrows, the resolute mouth, and the tawny Eastern complexion almost inspired the stranger with alarm; but this effect quickly disappeared on closer acquaintance. Then, kindly, soldier-like greeting at once put you at your ease. Some bright remark or interesting piece of information at length led to conversation, in which Richard Burton quickly discovered the capabilities of his new acquaintance, while he at the same time imparted some fresh knowledge.

The writer was introduced to him by a resident, a considerable dealer in corn at Odessa and Trieste. It was in a charming villa on the outskirts of Trieste, near the Fortezza, that he first dined with the Burtons, by the invitation of the two Burtons, the Vice Consul Edward Brock (whom Lady Burton described in a

Austrian naval officer with her charming niece the Countess of Gemmingen, the host and hostess, and myself. The dinner was to welcome the writer, who had

as quite taken by your sermon on Sunday. He hasn't been to

Roman Catholic, which subsequent events manifested; but we remained the best of friends till her death. This conversation was chiefly on political topics, Trieste then being in a ferment owing to some demonstrations against the

¹⁸²1883.

Austrian Government and the prospective bombardment of Alexandria, which subsequently became a matter of history. Though Burton hated the Russ he equally hated the insouciance of the Turks, and thought that nothing less than an earthquake or the dismemberment of their country would awaken them

whose soldiers will s
 great distrust of the Russians, and thought our Government sadly deficient in prompt action with the Sultan. He was scarcely fair to his opponent in the argument, Mr. Edward Brock, who, being a conservative, supported the Government. No great love was lost between the two, Brock complaining that Burton was too supercilious and impatient of contradiction, and Burton taunting Brock with holding too insular views.

On several occasions during his visit of the Emperor Francis Joseph to Trieste to inaugurate the opening of the Exposition, Sir Richard Burton invited distinguished visitors to his house. How hospitable was the reception we have learned from his niece, who tells us that in three weeks for guests was one hundred and sixty-five pounds. At a luncheon at which the Count and Countess de Sales were present, together with other foreign visitors, it was pleasure to observe the ease with which Sir Richard held the reins of the conversation, speaking equally well in French, German, or Italian, or indeed in any language. He was a supreme master of dialect; and, as his published memoirs have shown, he was equally proficient in the Eastern and Western tongues. This arose from his ~~extensive~~ travels, combined with a marvellous natural facility for the acquisition of languages owing to his ready sympathy with all sorts and conditions of men. In addition, he was a keen and laborious student. To one who had been of English parentage, ~~up on~~ the Continent, an officer in India, a consul in Iceland, a traveller in Palestine, a discoverer in Africa, the gift of tongues was necessary; but a knowledge of the grammar and dialects of any language could only be acquired by persistent effort. A subtle distinction in language was passed over by Burton, who instantly detected any false quantity, spelling, or accent even of his friend the hostess, h

7

To see Richard Burton at work was to see a man absorbed in his occupation. Of his long suite of rooms, one was laid out with small deal tables like those employed at a Civil Service examination. On these he would lay his books of

reference, chiefly dictionaries and maps. Sitting at his desk, he would allow no reference to pass without verification. He was exact to a degree, and while unsparing in his criticism of others, he was equally severe with himself. Being naturally of a quick temper, impatient of inaccuracy, and jealous for the exact proportions of truth, he sometimes seemed unduly irritable, but the irritation quickly passed if he were left alone. Yet there were occasions, when the gout (his persistent and last enemy), or the petty interruptions of domestic affairs, or possibly the scarcity of money not infrequently accompanying so generous a nature produced a kind of cerebral storm. Then Burton would pack up his portmanteau, taking with him some favourite author with him to beguile the time, and drive off to the Opçina, where in a hotel at the summit of the hill he escaped the discomforts of domestic life and the smells of Trieste. Here the writer once witnessed Richard Burton in one of his characteristic moments of passion.

The dinner had been ordered at six. At half the hour it was not ready. The waiter was summoned. He made excuses. *Mille tonnerres ventrebleu!*¹⁸³ roared Burton, with a volley of unutterable language which he only could translate. The waiter fled before the storm, looking back at the writer with Ugh.¹⁸⁴ The dinner quickly arrived, and with the soup Burton recovered his equanimity, though inveighing against all waiters, and the Triestini in particular.

should have done so was due to her exceedingly sweet disposition and gentle manner; for though Burton confessed he had the temper of a demon, he said his wife had that of an angel. Not

telling me that the doctors had told her that she had a disease which would

devotion to the man of her choice made her repose the strictest confidence in him, while she evidently listened with pleasure to his description of the charms of other women, secure of her hold on his affections.

183

184

Burton had the greatest admiration for the Emperor Francis Joseph, and it was at his express wish that the writer attended the opera given in His Majesty's honour after the presentation or levee. Though, like all Continental State functions, it was held on Sunday, yet the Command made it imperative that the English chaplain should represent the English community in Trieste. The Imperial guard of honour was very imposing, and the splendour and geniality of the Emperor of the most gracious character.

On the occasion of Mr. Brock's birthday, an invitation was sent to Richard and Isabel Burton, the Brocks, and one or two intimate friends to dine with the writer at the chaplaincy. Very early the cook had searched the markets for all that was rarest and best in the August season for the repast. To this was added what was most characteristically English in liquids. Knowing that Burton was not an abstainer, I had ascertained from Lady Burton his favourite drink. I procured some Allsopp's stout, and supplied it with various wines, among which was the choicest Chianti which I could procure. The excellent Slav cooking effected quite an enticing meal, and when the dessert, which forms so necessary and pleasant a part of an Austrian repast, was reached, was such as to attract his brightest and best. He told us tales of his African travels, and referred to the inaccuracies of the press with regard to Captain Speke. He complained only of the neglect which he had then received from the Government, and of the insignificance of the work he had done. We then had a hearty laugh over an episode of the afternoon. Lady Burton had asked the writer to accompany her to the quay. Stopping the cab where the Customs is situated, and where a sentry was mounted, she begged me to engage the Customs officer in conversation while she went aboard the Morocco to inquire about a case of wine for the Consul. Presently a porter came with the case and some loose bottles, the latter being placed by my orders in the bottom of the carriage. No sooner had this been done than Lady Burton followed, and stepping into the cab, bade the coachman drive off. Up to this moment I had kept watch, smoking a cigar, at the window of the carriage. The officer, seeing a case being put into the carriage, was about to make inquiry just as the coachman whipped up the horse. Lady Burton smilingly saluted the officer from the window. This was enough to allay any suspicion; and, returning her Excellency's nod with a military salute, he was soon out of reach. But the speed at which we moved wrought havoc among the loose bottles, and soon the wine was running out at the bottom of the vehicle. Burton pretended to soundly rate his wife for exposing him to a charge of

1883/01/04. Richard Burton to John Payne.

Stanley has awfully mixed the ¹⁸⁶Brazza's business, and has taken some trouble to ruin it. Brazza has completely won the day, and Stanley has compromised, not only himself, but his employers. Don't ¹⁸⁷forget me before you start, and damn old S.

Ev. y.,
R. F. BURTON.

59. 1883/01/04. Richard Burton to John Payne.

u . . . K . . .

My dear Mr. Payne

Yours of Dec 28 and more came all right. The fault of my note of Dec 12 was it did not say all it ¹⁸⁶should

What can be the meaning or sense of not allowing a reissue of the uncastrated? Is there no way of obviating this? For instance cannot I reprint (course in your interest?)

Of course you are working too ¹⁸⁷hard we all are. The only plan is to lighten the load by every possible contrivance especially travelling. So at least find.

Many thanks for the volume in anticipation. I have the early castrated. Quaritch has been written to about the Breslau. I have received no communication from ¹⁸⁸him some time, no answer to my note. Usually he is such an excellent correspondent that I fear he is not well enough to write.

@

by my friend Charles Clermonteau. You will judge it be worth accepting.

¹⁸⁶Pietro Paolo Savorgnan di Brazza (1852-1905) concluded a treaty with Makoko of the Bateke to place his country (next to the Belgian Congo, then run by Stanley) under French protection.

¹⁸⁷Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright. The location of the original is ¹⁸⁸not known.

1883/01/15. Richard Burton to John Payne.

Believe me
ever yrs sincy
R. F. Burton

60. 1883/01/15. Richard Burton to John Payne.¹⁸⁸

u K

My dear Mr. Payne

† K

letter acknowledging the receipt of the books (Calcutta and Villon). I shall take the greatest care of the latter and return it to you when read. Your 2 vols of Breslau and last proofs reached me yesterday. I had written to old Quaritch for a loan of the B. Edit. He very sensibly replied by the loan and sending me a list of his prices. So then the thing dropped. What is the use of paying odd for a work that would be perfectly useless to one. However, if you can

@ rmont Gau#

ditto about Aladdin, Ali Baba etc.

You seem to be in a fix about the reprinting. I fancy it is a work of time

pledge. As the volumes grow in number so will the demand for a reprint. It will then be time enough to take steps in the matter. There are still two years to spare. Has Arbuthnot sent you his Vatsyayana?¹⁸⁹

Private = @ hastra (Ars

o @

Ever yrs truly
R. F. Burton

¹⁸⁸Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright. The location of the original MS is not known.

¹⁸⁹The Kamāstra

1883/01/23. Richard Burton to John Payne.

61. 1883/01/23. Richard Burton to John Payne.¹⁹⁰

Trieste 23 Jan 1883

V
yesterday. Expect sheet today. Almost ashamed to keep your copy. Mrs. B. easily appeased. It is a queer fish; the more I know him, the less I know of him. Advertise in Acad. and Ath.? Something quite new.

R.F.B.

62. 1883/02/08. Richard Burton to Gerald Massey.¹⁹¹

Private

Trieste Feb 8 '83

Dear Mr. Massey

I quite agree with Mr. St. Clair¹⁹² the book improves as it advances. I am one of those who care mighty little for mere words (Hyde Clark¹⁹³ an indigestion) and prefer 1 sentence whole vocabulary. I hope to start the work of your popularisation and you must review my Sword book's Egyptianism as far and wide as you can. The Sword gives no uncertain note. "Aryanism" is simply one side of Egyptianism developed to the neglect of the other; so is "Semiticism" & so is "Turanianism". We will put to flight that dire cohort of Indo Germanics & Indo Europeans. The very words are absurd. And the Sanskritists will hang us from an adunque¹⁹⁴ nose.

I hope you will have a most copious index with references to every name, authority etc. And in the conclusion can't you give a résumé (use strong

¹⁹⁰Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Postcard. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright. The location of the original MS is not known.

¹⁹¹Quentin Keynes Collection, British Library, MS 888

¹⁹²George St Clair, F.G.S. author of *Druidism and Descent* (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1873) and many other works with religious inspiration.

¹⁹³Hyde Clark (1815-1895) engineer and philologist.

¹⁹⁴A hooked nose.

1883/05/01. Richard Burton to Gerald Massey.

language) of your crucial points distributed under two heads (1) Linguistic (2) Historical. This will make up for the abrupt beginning of the book

Thanks! The Sonnets are doing well & receiving their final corrections and copy I shall not print them till my return to England, say August next and then will not fail to consult you when in print. You can't "say more than is necessary". At the same time we differ almost toto credo in those matters of taste which are irreconcilable. This is to say when you praises I sniff and v. versa. I don't know what the public will say, and speak the truth I don't care. My last book (Gold Coast) gave information enough for two, but no one sees it. By the bye, read Les Races Aryennes du Pérou, V. F. Lopez, Paris France 1871, how he perverts Egyptianism to Aryanism. Adieu or rather au revoir. Ever yours truly

R. F. Burton

63. 1883/05/01. Richard Burton to Gerald Massey¹⁹⁶

Trieste May 1

Dear Mr. Massey

I was glad to see yours of April 23rd as your long silence suggested at least. Sorry that my notes were not more copious; but I am hard at work with 1001 Nights & a colleague's book besides my own particular. Are you firm about Rukh being the Phoenix (Rokhi being the [neagi]) I think my "rooster" uses two consonants when he says C do, and do you not find two consonants in all the many imitations of the nightingale's song?¹⁹⁹

¹⁹⁵Vicente Fidel López *Les races aryennes du Pérou: leur langue, leur religion, leur histoire* (Paris: A la Librairie A. Franck, F. Vieweg, 1871). Vicente Fidel López (1815-1903) was an Argentinian lawyer and novelist, and produced the history of the Argentine Republic.

¹⁹⁶Quentin Keynes Collection, British Library, MS 88876

¹⁹⁷George Louis Faber, see Register.

¹⁹⁸Massey *Natural Genesis* Vol. 1, p. 43.

¹⁹⁹Possibly a reference to the mimetic or onomatopoeic origins of words, a favourite

1883. Vanity Fair.

The Book of the Sword is being printed. You know how much I lived out of England and consequently out of the Review Ring. A rasbaf (Escott Fortnightly has just kept a paper of mine for three months and returned it saying "it is a little out of date!" May his grass be defiled by many hogs!

You ought to find Mr. Cole of Athenaeum accessible: the worst is they are so awfully stingy imparting mean. Plenty of room for a new Review but not if its name is "The Radiator". Public will connect it with the -Vector. Your idea of the U.S. practical and would serve to forward arrangements. I would willingly write in it.

Your last chapter will have to be very carefully written and condensed. It must serve as the key to the whole. And the exa a work of art like Gull's Marco Polo.

Yrs very truly
R. F. Burton

64. 1883. Vanity Fair²⁰¹

CAPTAIN R # = ° k) ' 7 k ° V # dont 'le" nyk to quote the words of a
jours parmi ceux des plus grands
voyageurs²⁰² although he happens to be a Consul, cannot, of course, be
presented as an ordinary product of our Consular Service. Burton is, in
fact, a traveller who has been rewarded for his distinguished services to the
cause of science by being appointed a Consul. The manner of his introduction
into the Service was as follows. Captain Burton, in character and appearance,
is about as nearly as possible the exact antipodes of the conventional lady
Yet, all swarthy and reckless as he was, a fair Deal of admiration for all
in love on hearing the moving incidents by flood and field, hair
breadth escapes. There were, of course, endless objections and difficulties in
the way of their marriage. In the first place Miss Arundel was a devout, C
a member of a historical Catholic family whilst Captain Burton was

²⁰⁰Thomas Hay Sweet Escott (1824), editor of *Fortnightly Review*

²⁰¹*Foreign office, diplomatic and consular sketches reprinted from Vanity Fair*
W. H. Allen, 1883

²⁰² † travellers

supposed to lean to Mohammedanism, if to any dogmatic form of religion in particular. Both of them at the time were equally untroubled with the cares attending the possession of an undue proportion of this world's goods, and the profession of traveller, though all very well for a bachelor, has, except in such rare instances as that of Sir Samuel Baker, not yet generally commended itself to marrying men. However, Captain Burton was of all men the least likely to be stopped by difficulties, and, after having taken eight years to overcome the obstacles raised by Church and family, Miss Arundel and he were married. The adventurous bride then waited on her friend, Lord Russell, Foreign Office, with the comforting assurance that, unless his lordship should consent to do something for them she and her husband must take care. Lord Russell no doubt recognised, as did all the world, that Captain Burton had considerable claims on his country, and he promised his wife that her husband should have a Consulate, adding that he must accept whatever was offered, or, in case not perhaps uncalled for, seeing that the offer which followed was that of the Consulate at Fernando Po. There are certain posts in the gift of the Crown which must make a Minister, if he has any sense of the ridiculous, smile at the idea of conferring them as a favour, and the Consulate at Fernando Po is one of the least desirable on the West Coast of Africa, and is described as a corrugated iron case with a dead Consul inside. Nevertheless, beggars cannot be choosers, and so Lord Russell's offer was accepted.

But here it is necessary to go back to the previous career, for which Lord Russell's magnificent piece of patronage was the national reward. In the year 1842 Richard Burton left Oxford to join the Bombay Army, and employed his time to such advantage in the study of Hindustani during the voyage by the Cape of Good Hope that, four months after his arrival, he was able to pass the examination as interpreter, a feat which was very seldom accomplished in other instances under twelve or eighteen months. To his Hindustani he added in a marvellously short time Mahratti, Guzerathi, Persian, Sindi, and Punjabi as the languages in which he was passed interpreter. He possessed, indeed, in a most marked degree the faculty of acquiring a foreign tongue, going in this respect sometimes beyond those whose duty it was to examine him. This was exemplified some years later, when, on returning to India after his famous pilgrimage to Mecca, he sought to pass the requisite examination in Arabic to the amazement of everyone. Lieutenant Burton took the examination, and in his natural indignation he forwarded his papers to the Rev. Mr. Badger, the first Arabic

scholar in the Presidency, who simply said that the examiners were wholly unqualified for their office. Richard Burton was not meant by Nature to be a soldier. There was no pipeclay in his organisation. A story is told of him being ordered by his commanding officer on parade to remove his cap, for which his hair appeared bound up like that of a sepoy, for which he was informed he ought to be ashamed of himself. He served five years on the Scinde Survey, after which he took leave to travel. His earliest works were one on the Neilgherry Mountains, one on Scinde, and another in the Valley of the Indus, which were followed by that which gave him his name. To fame, Pilgrimage, and Uthmaniyah. Burton next began, in 1854, his career as an African traveller, his lieutenant being Speke. Livingstone having not yet become known.

Of the respective value of the various discoveries of the several African travellers of this generation this is not the place to speak, but it should be borne in mind how far Burton led the way which was afterwards so nobly trodden by others. The names of African travellers of our day which occur to us are those of Burton, Speke and Grant, Livingstone, Baker, Stanley, Cameron, and Serpa Pinto. Of these, as Burton was almost the first in the field, so he has been the last, having recently returned with Cameron from an expedition to the Gold Coast. Travellers are of two classes: those to whom travelling and exploring is a mere interlude, and those to whom it is the main object of their existence. Samuel Baker, although the old spirit occasionally breaks out in the shape of a tour in Cyprus or elsewhere, has settled down on the whole into an English country gentleman. Colonel Grant finds the year not unendurable divided between Upper Grosvenor Street and his estate in Scotland; but the genuine, inborn explorer finds no permanent repose but in his work. Livingstone's last regret, when he felt that he was dying, was, not for his children, but that he should see his (African) river. Stanley, when asked by a lady on his return from the Congo, if he had been to the theatre, scornfully replied, "Theatre? Do you suppose?" He added that there was nothing for him but work! work! work! and then to die. This class is

²⁰³This information must have come from Burton himself and is his only admission in print that he did not pass the Arabic examination. In *Arabian Nights*, published shortly after this article, he stated that he passed. The exchange of letters with G. P. Badger reprinted here shows that this was due to a technicality about the place of examination.

Burton, and we can scarcely more imagine him settling down quietly in his old age than Edie Ochilvie reflecting on the suggestion of life in a cottage

Captain Burton has written quite a library of literature on both coasts of Africa a library with all of which perhaps but few persons are familiar, but which nevertheless contains vast stores of learning and of thought

From his next Consulate at Santos the able explorer descended the San Francisco river and wrote numerous volumes on Brazil; he thence transferred to Damascus, and later from there. With the best of intentions wishing, or in the slightest degree meaning, to imply that any duties to Captain Burton's official capacity are neglected, it is evident, from his frequent prolonged absences from his various posts, that those duties, whatever may be their nature, can very often be performed by others. From Santos, for instance, he obtained six months' leave in order to explore the San Francisco from Damascus he was absent for a similar period in the land of Bashan; he went for a whole winter again to the same historic locality; not to mention his lengthened absences in Iceland, and recently on the Gold Coast; therefore, we think, not unfairly be taken as a type of the Amateur Consul is to say, of the distinguished public worker who is rewarded by a Consulate with no very serious duties attached to it. But it should be added that this arrangement does not involve any extra charge to the public, seeing that the absentee Consul relinquishes half of his salary during his absence in favour of his locum tenens. Captain Burton does not pass much of his time in England. However pleasant it may be on occasions to instruct the wise, and to lay down the law to lawgivers at Broadlands or at Hatfield, we can easily understand that to such a man everyday English life must be somewhat humdrum.

65. 1882-1883. Edward Thomas McCarthy²⁰⁵

Four years after I left the coast, I made out a list of forty or forty five white men that we had known in my first year there, including ourselves, and out of that list only four of us were left. Of these many had died from climatic causes, others from drink or accidents. Oudemans and Burton in those

²⁰⁴ Antiquary

²⁰⁵ Edward Thomas McCarthy *Incidents in the life of a mining engineer* (London: Routledge, 1918) pp. 513

days read a joint paper before the Society of Arts, making out the climate was by no means so bad as was generally supposed. A very venerable gentleman, a retired surgeon, opened the discussion somewhat on these lines : U President, Ladies, and Gentlemen, with one leg in the grave, and the other out of it, for my doctors have given me only a few months to live, have made it a solemn duty to come here, even if it hastens my end, to warn the audience against believing in such a description of the climate as has been given you by two illustrious travellers. My experience brought home to me it is a deadly one. On one expedition alone I saw forty die from disease out of forty. I warn any one here against going out there, or inducing any friend to go. It is as deadly a climate as any in the world. It is my solemn duty to raise my protest against this misleading graph. Then there arose a Mr. W ___ a handsome man, magnificently built, with silver grey locks and beard. Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, with all due deference to the gallant gentleman who has just sat down, I dare to state that had he prescribed

Everyone was almost breathless to know what this remedy was. He went on @

specimen of humanity in this room might than myself, yet I have lived forty years and over on that coast, and the remedy? I will tell you on my honour

between, the two speakers was great. The story of Winslow was, I believe, a true one, a case probably of the survival of one whom nothing could kill.

Sir Richard Burton himself was a man who could drink like a fish. Drink had no effect on him, but he did not drink so far as I knew him, save it was a matter of indifference to him what he drank I believe. If water was there he was quite satisfied, if liquor it was the same.

I remember Captain of the SS Senegal telling me an episode on the voyage out to the Coast when Sir R. Burton was on board. At dinner one night some traders, called for three soup tureens, filled them up with every sort of drink to be had on the wine list, champagne, beer, stout, brandy, whisky, gin, and liqueurs, mixed them all up together, then turned to the men and said,

table dead

drunk. The captain said he had to call in stewards and sailors to get them off bed. Afterwards Burton resumed the conversation with the captain, and retiring to the deck sat talking with him until 2 a.m., never showing the slightest sign of having taken anything too much.

Burton told me one day, the West Coast languages were the only ones he could not master. I put my foot into it by saying as he was not so young as he was, could hardly expect to add to his already long list of languages. If there was anything he disliked it was to be thought old. On the Coast his hair and beard were greyish, in London jet black.

Cameron I offended, for he brought out a Merryweather's fire engine, and was going to hydraulic a mine behind Axim, with a very, very poor one just showing traces of gold in a pan. I told him if he stood on top of a hill and used a garden watering hose he would get about as good a result. This was too much for poor Cameron, too bluntly put, and he never forgave me.

66. 1883/05/12. Richard Burton to John Payne. ²⁰⁶

Trieste 12 May 1883

My dear Mr. Payne

I am almost sorry that you have broken up pp of IV into paras. (I expressed only an individual taste) at my suggestion. You know the tastes of the Brit. Pub. far better than I can who am always out of the way. However this will serve to determine for the remaining volumes broken or solid. Book post has brought me 3 books. Breslau and prof. 208.3 You must be working very

" @ =
any unpleasantness about plain speaking? Poor Abu Hasan is (as it were)

²⁰⁶Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright. The location of the original MS is not known.

1883/05/22. Richard Burton to John Payne.

... @ ... ²⁰⁷only you know better than I do how far you can go and cannot go. I should simply translate every wor

Ever yours truly
R. F. Burton

67. 1883/05/22. Richard Burton to John Payne. ²⁰⁸

My dear Mr. Payne

Yours of May 17 making me almost regret having spoken about the
... @ ...

Robertson Smith (how usual with the weak, after being persecuted becomes a persecutor). The poor sectaries must be in a stew if they are to marry Vol
U k y
(which come so naturally in Greece and belong strictly to their fervid age) that give the book so much of its ethnological value. I should put it into the hands of every cadet going to the East.

@ ... @ ...

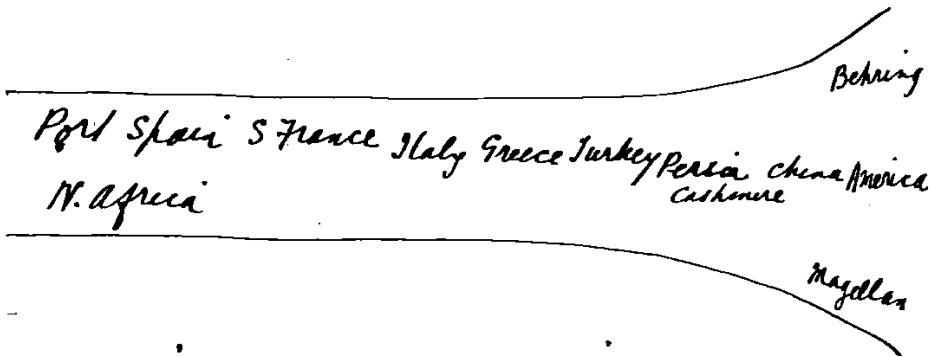
showing the gebimits of sodomy. A broad band across Europe and Asia widening out into China and embracing all America.

Port.	Spain	S. France	Italy	Greece	T Persia	China	Behring
N. Africa					Cashmere	America	Magellan

²⁰⁷ ... de l'audace, encore de l'audace, et toujours de l'audace, more audacity, and evermore audacity.

²⁰⁸Huntington Library, Box 26, RFB 313. Handwritten copy of MS by Thomas Wright. The location of the original MS is not known.

1883/06/03. General Charles Gordon to Richard Burton.



Curious, is it not? Beyond the limits the practice is purely sporadic, within the endemic. I shall publish it some day and surprise the world.

@
n than not. & She may howl on her big bum

@
offences?

@
me feel as it were soft.

Ever yrs truly
Richard Burton

68. 1883/06/03. General Charles Gordon to Richard
Burton.²⁰⁹

Jerusalem, June 3, 1883

My Dear Burton,

I have a favour to ask, which I will begin with, and then go on to other subjects. In 1878 (I think) I sent you a manuscript in Arabic, copy of the manu discovered in Harar. I want you to lend it to me for a month or so, and will as you sending it to register it. This is the favour I want from you. I have time and means to get it fairly translated, and I will do this for you. I will send yo

²⁰⁹Huntington Library. ALS MS. Also reproduced in abbreviated form in W. H. Wilkins *The Romance of Isabel, Lady B...* (London: Hutchinson, 1897) p5672

translation and the original back; and if it is worth it, you will publish it. I hope you and Mrs. Burton are well. Sorry that E.S.D. keep you away from the East, for there is much to interest here in every way, and you would be useful to me as an encyclopædia of oriental lore; as it is, Greek is looked on by me as hieroglyphics.

Here is the result of my studies: The whole of the writers on Jerusalem, with few exceptions, fight for Zion on the Western Hill, and put the whole Jerusalem in the tribe Benjamin! I have worked this out, and to me it is thus: The whole question turns on the position of the Emesh, which is generally placed, for no reason I know of, at Ain Hand. I find Kubat el Sama, which corresponds to Bæthsamys of the Septuagint, at the north of the Valley (alias the Gibeon of Eden, of which more another time).

Anyway one can scarcely cut Judah out of Jerusalem altogether; yet that is always done, except by a few. If the juncture is as I have drawn Gibeon, Nob and Mizpah all down too close to Jerusalem on the Western Hills. This is part of my studies. Here is the Skull Hill north of the City (traced for many years by ordinance of 1864), which I think is the Golgotha; for the victims were to be slain on north of altar, not west, as the Latin Holy Sepulchre. This hill is close to the old church of St. Stephen, and I believe that eventually near here will be found the Constantine churches.

Moore is still Consul here. Small has gone to some Germany. I have been, and still am, much interested in these parts, and as it is cheap I shall stay here. I live at Ain Kari, five miles from Jerusalem. There are few there who care for antiquities. Schink, and old German, is the only one who does. Have you ever written on Palestine. I wondered you never followed up your visit to Harar; that is a place of great interest. My idea is that the Nile, and that the sons of Joktan were at Harar, Abyssinia, Godjam, but its not well supported.

²¹⁰One of the antediluvian rivers, along with the Gihon, Hiddekel and the Euphrates

²¹¹The second of the two sons of Eber, the other being Peleg. Genesis 10:26-29 His children were Almoadad, Hadoram, Hazarmaveth, Sheleph, Uzal, Obal, Ophir, Jobab, Diklah, Abimael, Jerah, Sheba, Havilah

²¹²Gojjam, an ancient kingdom in Abyssinia predating Christ.

1883/06/03. General Charles Gordon to Richard Burton.

The Rock of Harar was the platform Adam was moulded on out of clay from the
h²¹³ He was then put in Seychelles (Eden), and after Fall brought
back to Mt Moriah to till the ground in the place he was taken from (Targum
Noah built the Ark 12 miles from Jafa at Abn Shem²¹⁵ the Flood began in
²¹⁶, it floated up and rested on Baris, afterwards
Antonia²¹⁷, he²¹⁸ sacrificed on the Rock (Adam was buried on the skull hill, hence
the skull under the cross) was only 776 A.D. that Mt Ararat of Armenia

After Flood the remnants went east to Plain of Shinar. Had they gone east from
the El Judi of Ibn Omar Jesirah near Mossul Armenian Ararat they could
never have reached Shinar. Shem was Melchizedek &c &c.

With kind regards to Mrs. Burton and you, and the hope you will send me the
manuscript,

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

C.G. Gordon

P.S. Did you ever get the £1,000 offered you on part of Kib~~er~~ for the
Mines of Midian?

²¹³Gordon expounds his theory that Ark descended near Jerusalem, by combining
literal biblical exegesis with modern geography. For a more detailed explanation of his
theories see *Events in the Life of Charles George Gordon: From Its Beginning to Its End*
by Henry William Gordon (London: Kegan Paul, 1886) pp. 244 ff.

²¹⁴A targum was a vernacular explication of a text.

²¹⁵h goddess and several locations referred to her. Elsewhere Gordon seems to believe
that Ain Jedah (Judah) was the site where the Ark was constructed (see Gordon(1886)
p. 27) but places this 16 miles away from Jaffa, rather than 12. Ain is a spring, and so
appears in many place names.

²¹⁶o M 7

²¹⁷Mount Baris, the hill above the Temple of Jerusalem.

²¹⁸Noah.

69. 1883/07/15. General Charles Gordon to Richard
Burton.²¹⁹

Jafa

15.7.83

My dear Burton

Thanks for the M.S. which I will duly return ere long. I have changed my mind down here in these parts. Your letter is too short. What I state is, that by the general turn of scripture the tribe Judah possess Zion, [Shemesh] mainly all authors put in W. Hill of Jerusalem, if so then [Shem] did [Zion tear] between Judah & Benjamin son. The point is where Shemesh. I say at the K. el Sama²²⁰ at A.; Palestine Expl. Society says at B. Ain Hand; that is all the question. If you put Shemesh at Ain Hand, Judah has none of Jerusalem.

If you put it at A, then the East Hill is Zion. No destruction can alter the general features of the land, to interfere with this theory. With kindest regards to Mr Burton & yourself. Believe me

Yours sincerely

C. G. Gordon.

²¹⁹Huntington Library. ALS MS.

²²⁰Kubbat el Sama (Bæthsamys).

