

Their water is most extremely cold: insomuch that I my selfe knew one, who with drinking onely a cup thereof, suffered most intolerable gripings and tortures in his bowels for three moneths after.

*Of the towne of Sofroi.*

**T**His towne being situate at the foote of mount Atlas, and standing about fifteene miles southward of Fez, almost in the way to Numidia, was built by the Africans betweene two riuers, on either sides whereof grow great abundance of grapes and all kinde of fruites. The towne for five miles compasse is enuironed with oliue-trees: but the fieldes are apt onely for hempe and barlie. The inhabitants are very rich, notwithstanding they goe in meane apparell, and greazie with oile, the occasion whereof is in that they carie oile vnto Fez to sell. There is no memorable thing in all their towne, saue onely a certaine temple, through the midst whereof runneth a large riuier; and at the doores standeth a fountaine of most pure water. Howbeit the greatest part of this towne is fallen to decay by the negligence of one of the kings brothers that now raigneth, & is ruined in many places.

*Of the towne of Mezdaga.*

**T**His towne being situate likewise at the foote of Atlas, and standing about eight miles westward of Sofroi, is compassed with a faire wall, and albeit the houses thereof are but meane, yet euery one hath a fountaine of cleere water belonging vnto it. Most of the inhabitants are potters, because they haue such abundance of porcellan earth, whereof they make great store of earthen vessels, and send them to be sold at Fez, from whence they are but twelue miles distant southward. Their fields are most fruitfull for barlie, flaxe, and hempe: and they gather yeerely great abundance of figs, and of other fruits. In the Forrests about this towne, as also about the former, are maruellous store of lions, being not very hurtfull, for any man may driue them away with a little sticke.

*Porcellan.*

*Of the towne of Beni Bahlul.*

**T**His little towne standing vpon the side of Atlas towards Fez, is distant from Fez about twelue miles, not farre from the high way leading to Numidia. Through the midst of this towne run certaine little riuers from the next mountaine, neither doth it differ much in situation from Mezdaga, sauing that the south frontier thereof is ful of woods, whereout the inhabitants get timber and fewell, and carrie it vnto Fez to be solde. They are oppressed with continuall exactions of courtiers and others, neither haue they any ciuilitie at all among them.

*Of the towne called Ham Lisnan.*

**T**His towne built by the Africans vpon a certaine plaine enuironed with mountaines, in the way from Sofroi to Numidia, borrowed the name thereof from the fountaine of an idoll, vpon the occasion following. At the same time while the Africans were as yet idolaters, they had a temple standing neere vnto this towne, whither at certaine times of the yeere resorted in the night great multitudes of people both men and women: where hauing ended their sacrifices, they vsed to put out their lights, and euerie man to commit adulterie with that woman which hee first touched. But the women which were present at this abominable sport, were forbidden to lie with any man for a yeere after: and the children begotten in the saide adulterie, were kept and brought vp by the priest of the temple, as being dedicated to sacred vses. In the same temple there was a fountaine which is to be seene at this day: but neither the temple it selfe, nor any monument or mention of the towne is remaining, because they were vterly demolished by the Mahumetans.

*Of the towne of Mahdia.*

**T**His towne being situate vpon a plaine, betweene mount Atlas, and certaine woods and riuers, is about ten miles distant from the former. The founder thereof was a certaine Mahumetan preacher of that nation, which was borne in the next mountaine: and it began to be built at the same time when the familie of Zeneta were lords of the Fessan kingdome. But when king *Ioseph* of the Luntune family got possession of the said kingdom, this towne was so wasted and destroyed, that the beautifull temple with some part of the towne wall onely was left standing, and the inhabitants became tributarie to the king of Fez: this was done in the yeere of the Hegeira 515.

*Of Sahblel Margah that is, The plaine of the  
valiant man.*

**T**His plaine containeth in length fortie, and in bredth almost thirrie miles, neere vnto it are certaine mountains which border vpon mount Atlas: and in these mountaines are waste deserts ful of goodly timber: here are likewise a great number of cottages inhabited with colliers for the most part, who carrie abundance of coales from the said mountaines to Fez. The lions that are here doe so haunt the poore colliers, that sometimes they deuour them. From hence likewise are carried to Fez store of excellent and great beames of timber. All the plaine is so barren and drie, that it will scarce bring forth any good thing at all.

Of the plaine called Azgari Camaren.

**T**His plaine also is inuironed around with woodie mountaines, being a kinde of medowe-ground, for it is covered all ouer with most pleasant herbes and grasse: wherefore in the sommer time they vse to keepe their cattell heere, and to defend them with high and strong hedges from the fury of the lions.

Of mount Centopozza.



**V**Pon this high mountaine are great store of most ancient buildings, neere vnto the which there is a hole or drie pit of so great a depth, that the bottome thereof can in no wise be seene. Into this pit some mad fellowes will haue themselues let downe by ropes, carrying a candle or torch in their hands: and beneath they say it is diuided into manie rourmes, and as it were, chambers; and last of all they come to a most large place hewen out of the rocke with instruments, and compassed about as it were with a wall, in which wall are fower doores which lead to other more narrow places, where they say that fountaines of springing water are. And sometimes it fallerth out that some miserably ende their liues here: for if their lights chauce to be blowen out with anie sudder blast of wind, they can by no means finde the place where the rope hangeth, but are there constrained to die for extreme famine. It was told me by a certaine nobleman of Fez, that there were ten persons, who being desirous to see the woonders of this pit, and being prepared for the same purpose, went first three of them downe, who when they were come to the foresaid fower doores, two of them went one way, and the third went alone another way. And being thus diuided, after they had proceeded almost a quarter of a mile, there came great swarmes, of bats flying about their lights, insomuch that one light was put out; at length being come to the springing fountaines, they found there certaine white bones of men, and fise or sixe candles, whereof some were new, and others were olde and worne with long lying there: but hauing found nothing but water in the said fountaines, they returned backe againe the same way that they came: and they had scarce gone halfe way, but their other light also was blowen out with a sudder blast. Afterward seeking earnestly vp and downe, and being wearie of manie falles that they caught among the rockes, they found that there was no hope of returne: wherefore in this desperate case committing themselues with teares into the hands of God, they vowed, if they once escaped this danger, neuer to aduenture any more. They that stood at the caues mouth being ignorant of their companions mishappe expected their returne, and hauing staide ouer long, at length they let downe themselues by the rope, and began with lights to seeke their fellowes, making a

great

great noise, and at length found them heauie and sad. But the third who was wandring vp and downe those darke places, they could by no meanes finde, wherefore leauing him, they returned forth of the caue. And he that was left behinde heard at length a noise like the barking of little dogs, and shaping his course toward them, he found immediately fower strange, and (as it should seeme) new-borne beasts, after which followed the damme being not much vnlike to a shee-woolfe, sauing that she was bigger: wherefore he began exceedingly to feare; howbeit there was no danger, for being about to flee, the beast came towards him, fawning gently vpon him with her taile. And so at length, after long seeking, he found the holes mouth with great ioy, and escaped the danger. For within a while he saide that he began to see some glinimering of light, as they do which haue long bin in the darke. But after a certaine time this caue was filled with water vp to the top.

*Of the mountaine of rauens, called Cunaigel Gherben.*

**T**HIS mountaine standeth verie neere the former, and is full of woods and lions. Here is no citie, nor any other place of habitation, perhaps by reason of the extreme coldnes of the place. From this mountaine runneth a certaine little riuier: and here is a rocke of an exceeding height, whereupon keepe infinit swarmes of crows and rauens, which some thinke to haue bene the occasion of the name of this mountaine. Sometime the terrible northerly windes bring such abundance of snow vpon this mountaine, that such as trauell from Numidia towards Fez loose their liues thereby, as hath bene signified in the first booke. Euerie sommer the Arabians next inhabiting, beeing called Beni Essen, vsually resort vnto this mountaine, in regard of the coole water and pleasant shadowes, notwithstanding they knowe it to be haunted with great store of lions and leopards.

*Of the towne of Tezerghe.*

**T**HIS litle towne was by the Africans built in manner of a fort vpon the side of a small riuier which runneth by the foote of the foresaid mountaine: both the inhabitants and their houses are most base and destitute of all ciuilitie. Their fields being enuironed with the mountaines adioyning, bring forth some small quantitie of barley and peaches. The inhabitants are all subiect vnto certaine Arabians called Deuil Chusein.

*Of the rowne called Vmen Giunaibe.*

**T**HIS auuncient towne beeing destroyed by the Arabians was situate about twelue miles from Tezerghe vpon the south side of Atlas. It is so dangerous a place by reason of the often inuasions of certaine Arabians, that none almost dare trauell that way. There lyeth a way neere this towne,

which

\* The beast  
called Dabab.

which a man may not passe without dauncing and leaping, vnlesse he will fall into an ague: the certaintie whereof I haue heard many auouch.

*Of mount Beni Merasen.*

**T**He inhabitants of this exceeding high and colde mountaine haue great plentie of horses and asses: here are store of mules likewise, which carie wares vp and downe without either bridle or saddle. Their houses are built not with walles of stone, but of rushes. The people are very rich, and pay no tribute to the king, perhaps in regard of the strong situation of their mountaine.

*Of mount Mesetaza.*

**T**His mountaine extendeth in length from east to west almost thirtie miles, and twelue miles in bredth. The west part thereof adioineth vpon the plaine of Edecsen, which bordereth vpon Temefna. It is like vnto the foresaid mountaine, both in regard of the inhabitants, and also for plentie of horses and mules. At Fez there are great store of learned men which were borne in this mountaine: they pay no tribute at all, but onely send the king such gifts as themselues please.

*Of the mountaines of Ziz.*

**T**Hese mountaines are thought to haue borrowed their name from a certaine riuer springing out of them. Eastward they begin at Mesetaza, and extend westward to the mountaines of Tedla and Dedis, southward they border vpon that part of Numidia which is called Segelmesse, and northward vpon the plaines of Edecsen and Guregra: in length they containe an hundred, and in bredth almost fortie miles: in number they are fiftene, being extremely cold and difficult to ascend, and sending forth many streames of water. The inhabitants are called Sanaga, and are men most patient of all boisterous and cold weather. They weare but one coate at all seasons of the yeere, ouer which they cast a kinde of cloke or mantle: their legs and feete they wrap in certaine clothes as it were in swathing bands, and they goe at all times bare-headed. In this mountaine are great store of mules, asses, and other cattell, but very few deserts. The inhabitants are a most lewd and villanous generation, being wholly addicted to theft and robbrie. They are at continuall dissension with the Arabians, and practise daily mischiefes and inconueniences against them, and to the end they may prouoke them to greater furie, they will sometimes throwe their camels downe headlong from the top of some high mountaine. In these mountaines there happeneth a certaine strange and incredible matter, for there are serpents so familiar with men, that at dinner-time they wil come like dogs &

*Domesticall and tame serpents.*

cats

cats, and gather vp the crums vnder the table, neither wil they hurt any body, vnlesse they be offered some iniurie. The walles of their houes are made of chalke, and the roofes are covered with thatch. There are also another kinde of inhabitants in these mountaines, who possesse more droues of cattell then the former, and dwell for the most part in cottages made of rushes. And these carrie vnto Segelmese butter and wool to be sold, but at that time only when the Arabians inhabite the deserts, for it often falleth out that they are encoūted by them, & spoiled of their goods. These people are most valiant warriours, for they will fight euen to the last gaspe, rather then be taken of their enemies: they carrie sower or siue iauelins about with them, where-with they know right well how to defend themselues from the enimie. They fight alwaies on foore, neither can they be vanquished but with a great number of horsemen, and they vse to carrie swords and daggers with them also. In my time they obtained safe conduct of the Arabians, and the Arabians of them likewise, which was a cause, that the merchants of both partes trauelled more securely.

*Of the towne of Gerseluin.*

**T**His ancient towne was built by the Africans at the foote of one of the foresaid mountaines, not farre from the riuier of Ziz. It is enuironed with an impregnable and stately wall, the founder whereof was a certaine King of the Marin-familie. In regard of the walles and bulwarks it is a most beautifull towne. But being once entred thereinto, you shall see most base and beggerly houses, and scarce any inhabitants dwelling in them, and that by the iniurie of certaine Arabians, who when they reuolted from the Marin-familie, tooke this towne and grieuouly oppressed the citizens. Their drie and barren fields lie open to the north. Vpon the riuier are diuers mills, and by the side thereof are many gardens replenished with grapes and peaches, which they vse to drie in the sunne, and to keepe an whole yeere. They haue great scarcitie of cattell, which causeth them to liue a most miserabile life. This towne was built by the familie of Zeneta in stead of a fort, to the end it might be a place of refuge onely in their iournie to Numidia, but afterward it was surprisid and vterly destroyed by the familie of Luntuna. Here also are great store of such domesticall serpents, as we reported to be in the mountaines of Ziz.

*Here endeth the third booke.*

# JOHN LEO HIS FOURTH BOOKE OF

the Historie of Africa, and

*of the memorable things*

contained therein.

*A description of the kingdome of\* Telenfin.*

\* Or Tremizen.



His kingdome beginneth westward from the riuers of Zha & Muluia, eastward it bordereth vpon The great riuier, southward vpon the desert of Numidia, and northward vpon the Meditteran sea. This region was called by the Romanes Cæsaria, and was by them inhabited: howbeit after the Romanes were expelled, it was fullie possessed by the ancient gouernours thereof called Beni Habdulgoad, and being a genera-

tion of the familie of Magraua. And it remained vnto them and their successors three hundred yeeres, vntill such time as a certaine mightie man called *Ghamrazen* the sonne of *Zeijen* tooke possession thereof. His posteritie changing at length their ancient name were called *Beni Zeijen*, that is, the sonnes of *Zeijen*: and they enioied this kingdome for the space almost of 380. yeeres. At length the kings of Fez of the Marin-familie greatly molested them, so that those ten kings which succeeded *Zeijen* were some of them vnfortunate in battell, some slaine, some taken captiue, and others expelled their kingdome, and chafed to the next mountaines. Neither were they free from vexation of the kings of Tunis: howbeit the kingdome of Telenfin remained still to this familie, and they continued in peace for almost an hundred and twentie yeeres, being endammaged by no forren power; sauing that one *Abu Feris* king of Tunis, and his sonne *Hutmen* made them to pay tribute for certaine yeeres vnto Tunis, till the decease of the said *Hutmen*. This kingdome stretcheth in length from east to west 380. miles, but in bredth from north to south, that is, from the Meditteran sea to the deserts of Numidia not aboue fise and twentie miles: which is the occasion that it is so often oppressed by the Arabians inhabiting the Numidian deserts. The kings of Telenfin haue alwaies endeoured by great gifts to gaine the good will and friendship of the Numidians, but they could neuer satisfie their insatiable couetice. A man shall seldome trauell safely through this kingdome: howbeit here are great store of merchants, perhaps either because it adioineth to Numidia, or else for that the way to the land of Negroes

gros lieth through it. It hath two most famous & frequented haueu-townes, the one called \*Horam, and the other \*Marfa Elcabir, whither vse to resort great store of Genoueses, and Venetians. But afterward both these townes were taken by Don *Ferdinando* the Catholike king, to the great inconuenience of all this kingdome: for which cause the king then raigning called *Abuchemmen*, was expelled his kingdome and put to flight by his owne subjects: afterward *Abuzeijen* was restored to the kingdome, who had for certaine yeeres been imprisoned by his nephew *Abuchemmen*: howbeit he enioied the kingdome but a very short space. For he was at length miserably slaine by *Barbarossa* the Turke, who conquered the kingdome of Tremizen by force of war. Whereof *Abuchemmen*, that was expelled by his owne subjects, hauing intelligence, sent to craue aide of the emperour *Charles* the fift, whereby he hoped to recouer his kingdome. Which request being granted, he leuied a puissant armie, and made warre against *Barbarossa*, and hauing driuen him out, he recouered his kingdome, and seuerely punished them that had conspired his banishment. And then he gaue the Spanish soldiers their pay, sent the captaines home with great rewardes, and allowed *Charles* the emperour a large yeerely reuenue so long as he liued. After his decease succeeded his brother *Habdulla*, who neglecting the league made before betweene the emperour and his brother, and relying vpon *Soliman* the great Turke, refused to pay any more tribute vnto the emperour *Charles*, and both kept possession of the kingdome, till \*this present. The greater part of this region is vntilled, drie, and barren, especially towards the south. Howbeit the sea coast is somewhat more fertill. The territorie adiacent to the citie of \*Telenfin is full of woods, sauing that the westerne part towards the sea is mountainous. Likewise the regions of Tenez and Alger containe mountaines abounding with all kinde of commodities. In this part are but few cities and castles, howbeit it is a most fruitfull and blessed place, as we will hereafter declare in particular.

Of the desert of *Angad*.

**T**His barren, drie, and vntilled desert being vtterly destitute of water and wood, is situate vpon the westerne frontire of the kingdome of Telenfin; and extendeth in length fower score, and in bredth almost fiftie miles. Here are great store of roes, deere, and ostriches. Such merchants as trauell from Fez to Telenfin passe ouer this desert not without great danger, by reason of certaine Arabians which liue onely vpon theft and roberie, especially in winter, when as the soldiers appointed to defend the said desert from those lewd vagabonds, doe vsually retire themselues into Numidia. Many shepherds there are in this desert, who are daily vexed with multitudes of fierce lions, which sometime seaze not onely vpon cartell, but also vpon men.

\* Or *Oran*.  
\* Or *Mersal-cabir*.

*Abuchemmen*  
king of Tremi-  
zen restored to  
his kingdome by  
the emperour  
*Charles* the fift.

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Great store of  
ostriches.

*Of the castle of Temzegzet.*

**T**His castle standing in the same place, where the foresaid desert adio-  
neth vnto the territorie of Telenfin, and built by the Africans vpon a  
rocke, was in times past very strong, and often annoied by the people  
of Fez; for it standeth in the high way from Fez to Telenfin. Through the  
fields adiacent runneth a certaine riuer called in their language *Tefme*. The  
said fields adiacent sufficiently abound with all things necessarie for the  
sustenance of the inhabitants. Heretofore being subiect vnto the kings of  
Telenfin it well deserued the name of a citie, but since the Arabians got pos-  
session thereof, it hath prooued more like to a stable: for here they keepe  
their corne onely, and the naturall inhabitants are quite expelled by reason  
of their bad demeanour.

*Of the castle of Izli.*

**T**His ancient castle of Izli built by the Africans vpon a certaine plaine  
bordering vpon the foresaid desert, hath some fieldes adjoining vnto  
it, apt only for barlie and panicke. It was in times past well stored with  
inhabitants, and enuironed with stately walles: but afterward by the iniurie  
of warre it was razed to the ground, and the inhabitants expelled. Howbeit  
a few yeeres after it began to be inhabited anew by certaine religious per-  
sons had in great reuerence both by the kings of Telenfin and by all the  
Arabians. These religious persons with great courtesie and liberalitie giue  
entertainment for three daies vnto all strangers that passe by, and then dis-  
misse them without paying of ought. All their houses are very base and low  
built, their walles being of claye, and the roofes of straw. Not far from this  
castle runneth a riuer; out of which they water all their fields: for this region  
is so hot and dry, that vnlesse the fields were continually watered, they would  
yeeld no fruit at all.

*Of the towne of Guagida.*

**T**His ancient towne built by the Africans vpon a large plaine, standeth  
southward of the Mediterran sea fortie miles, and about the same di-  
stance from the citie of Telenfin. The southwest part of the said plaine bor-  
dereth vpon the desert of Angad, and it containeth most fruitfull fields and  
pleasant gardens, exceedingly replenished with figs and grapes. Through  
the midst of this towne runneth a certaine riuer, which affoordeth good  
water to drinke and to seeth meate withall. In times past the towne walles  
and all the buildings were most sumptuous and stately, and the inhabitants  
exceeding rich, ciuill, and valiant: but afterward by reason of certaine warres  
waged by the king of Fez against the king of Telenfin, this towne was left  
desolate, and the inhabitants all put to flight: but the said warres being en-  
ded,

ded, new inhabitants reedified it and dwelt therein: howbeit they could not reduce it to the former state, neither doth it now containe about fifteene hundred families. The townesmen lead now a miserable life, being constrained to pay tribute both to the king of Telenfin and also to the Arabians of Angad, and wearing most base apparell: asses and mules they haue great store, whereof they make round summes of money. They speake after the ancient manner of the Arabians, neither is their language so corrupt as the language of the people round about them.

*Of the citie called Ned Roma.*

**T**His ancient towne built by the Romans, while they were lords of Africa, standeth vpon a large plaine, almost two miles from a certaine mountaine, and about twelue miles from the Mediterran sea, and neere vnto it runneth a little riuer. The historiographers of those times report, that this towne was in all respects built after the fashion of Rome, whereupon they say it borrowed the name. For *Ned* in the Arabian toong signifieth like. The wall of this towne is as yet to be seene: but all the ancient buildings of the Romans are so destroyed, that now there scarcely remaine any ruines thereof. It began in some places to be repaired and reedified anew, but nothing comparable to the former buildings. The fieldes adiacent are exceeding fruitful, and containe many gardens replenished with such trees as beare Carobs (being a fruit like vnto *Cassa fistula*) which in the suburbs they vse for foode. This towne is indifferently well inhabited, especially with weauers, who make great store of cotton-cloth, and are free from all tribute. The gouernours of the towne are chosen onely at their assignement: and that they may haue more free traffique with the people of Telenfin, they sende many gifts vnto the king.

*Of the towne of Tebecrit.*

**T**His little towne built by the Africans vpon a certaine rocke neere vnto the Mediterran sea, is almost twelue miles distant from the former. All the next mountaines are exceeding high and barren, and yet well stored with inhabitants. In this towne dwell great store of weauers; and here they haue abundance of Carobs and honic. Being in continuall feare of the Christians, they keepe euery night most diligent watch and ward: for they are not of sufficient abilitie to maintaine a garrison of soldiers. Their fields are no lesse barren then vtilld; and yeelde onely very small quantitie of barlie and panicke. The townesmen are most basely apparelled, and vtterly destitute of humanitie.

*Of the towne of Hunain.*

**T**His towne being founded by the Africans, and being famous both for stately building and ciuill inhabitants, hath a little hauen belonging thereunto

thereunto well fortified with two turrets standing one on the one side, and another on the other side. The towne-wall also is very high and beautifull, especially on that side which standeth next vnto the sea. Hither doe the Venetians yeerely bring great store of merchandize, and doe traffique with the merchants of Telenfin; for the citie of Telenfin is but fourteene miles from hence. Since the time that Oran was surprized by the Christians, the Venetians would no longer frequent Oran, fearing least the Spanyards hauing it in possession should worke them some mischiefe: wherfore then they began to repaire vnto this port. The townesmen in times past were most ciuill people, the greatest part being weauers of cotton and of linnen. Their houses are most stately built, and haue euery one fountaines belonging vnto them: likewise here are many vines running pleasantly vpon bowers or arbours. Their houses are pauered with mats of diuers colours, and their chambers and vaults are curiously painted and carued. Howbeit, so soone as the inhabitants were aduertised of the losse of Oran, they fled from Hunain and left it void of inhabitants: sauing that the king of Telenfin maintaineth here a garison of footemen, who giue notice when any merchants ships approach. Their fields abound with cherries, peaches, figs, oliues, and other fruites: howbeit they reape but little commoditie thereby. I my selfe passing this way could not but bewaile the extreme calamitie whereinto the inhabitants of this towne were fallen: at the same time there arriued a certaine ship of Genoa, which one ship brought commodities sufficient to serue Telenfin for five yeeres: the tenth part whereof amounting to fifteene thousand ducats, was paid for tribute to the king.

*A ship of great value*

*Of the towne of Haresgol.*

**T**He great and ancient towne of Haresgol was built vpon a rocke enuironed on all sides with the Mediterran sea, sauing on the south, where lieth a way from the firme land to the towne. It standeth northward of Telenfin fourteene miles; and was in times past well stored with inhabitants. The gouernour thereof was one *Idris*, vncle vnto that *Idris* that was the founder of Fez; the posteritie of whom enioied the same government for the space of an hundred yeeres. At length there came a certaine king and patriarke of Cairaoan who vtterly destroyed this towne, so that it remained voide of inhabitants almost an hundred yeers: after which time it was reinhabited by certaine people of Granada, which came thither with *Mansor*; which *Mansor* repaired the towne, to the end it might alwaies be a place of refuge for his soldiers. After whose decease, and the death of his sonne *Mudaffir*, all the soldiers were expelled by the tribes or people of Zanhagia and Magraoa: and this second desolation of that towne happened in the yeere of the Hegeira 410.

## Of the great citie of Telenfin, other wise called Tremizen.



Telenfin is a great citie and the royall seate of the king; but who were the first founders thereof it is vncertaine: howbeit most certaine it is, that this citie was very small at the beginning, and began greatly to be augmented at the same time when Haresgol was laid waste. For then, a certaine family called Abdulquad bearing rule, it increased so exceedingly, that in the raigne of king *Abu Tesfin* it contained sixteene thousand families. And then it was an honourable and well-gouerned citie: howbeit *Ioseph* king of Fez continually molested it, and with an huge armie besieged it for seuen yeeres together. This *Ioseph* hauing built a fort vpon the east side of the towne, put the besieged citicens to such distresse, that they could no longer endure the extreme famine: wherefore with one accord they all went vnto their king, beseeching him to haue compassion vpon their want. The king, to make them acquainted with his daintie fare, which he had to supper, shewed them a dish of sodden horse-flesh and barlie. And then they well perceiued how little the kings estate was better then the estate of the meanest citizen of them all. Soone after the king hauing procured an assemblie, perswaded his people that it was much more honourable to die in battel for the defence of their countrie, then to liue so miserable a life. Which words of the king so inflamed all their mindes to the battell, that the day following they resolved to encounter the enemy, and valiantly to fight it out. But it fell out farre better for them then they expected; for the same night king *Ioseph* was slaine by one of his owne people: which newes being brought vnto the citicens, with greater courage they marched all out of the towne, easily vanquishing and killing the confused multitude of their enemies; after which v unexpected victorie they found victuals sufficient in the enemies campe to relieue their long and tedious famine. About fortie yeeres after, the fourth king of Fez of the Marin-familie called *Abulhesen*, built a towne within two miles westward of the citie of Telenfin. Then he besieged Telenfin for thirty moneths together, making daily and fierce assaults against it, and euery night erecting some new fort, so that at length the Fessan forces next vnto Telenfin easily entred the citie, and hauing conquered it, caried home the king thereof captiue vnto Fez, where he was by the king of Fez beheaded, and his carcase was cast foorth among the filth of the citie: and this was the second and the greater dammage that Telenfin sustained. After the decay of the Marin-familie Telenfin began in many places to be repaired, and replenished with new inhabitants, infomuch that it increased to twelue thousand families. Here each trade and occupation hath a peculiar place, after the manner of Fez, sauing that the buildings of Fez are somewhat more stately. Here are also many and beautifull temples, hauing their Mahumeran priestes and preachers. Likewise here are siue colleges most sumptuously built, some by the

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The king of  
Telenfin taken  
prisoner and  
beheaded.

the king of Telenfin, and some by the king of Fez. Here also are store of goodly bathes and hot-houſes, albeit they haue not ſuch plenty of water as is at Fez. Also here are very many innes built after the manner of Africa: vnto two of which innes the merchants of Genoa and Venice doe vſually reſort. A great part of this citie is inhabited with Iewes, who were in times paſt all of them exceeding rich: vpon their heads they weare a \* Dulipan to \* Or Turbant. diſtinguiſh them from other citizens: but in the yeere of the Hegeira 923, vpon the death of king *Abuhabdilla*, they were all ſo robbed and ſpoiled, that they are now brought almoſt vnto beggerie. Moreouer in this citie there are many conduits, the fountaines whereof are not farre from the citie-walles, ſo that they may eaſily be ſtopped by any ſorten enemy. The citie-wall is very high and impregnable, hauing ſiue great gates vpon it, at euery one of which there is placed a garde of ſoldiers, and certaine receiuers of the kings cuſtome. On the ſouth ſide of the citie ſtandeth the kings palace, enuironed with moſt high walles, and containing many other palaces within it, which are none of them deſtitute of their fountaines and pleaſant gardens: this royall palace hath two gates, one leading into the fields, and the other into the citie, and at this gate ſtandeth the captaine of the garde. The territorie of Telenfin containeth moſt pleaſant habitations, whither the citizens in ſummer-time uſe to retire themſelues: for beſides the beautifull paſtures and cleere fountaines, there is ſuch abundance of all kinde of fruites to delight both the eyes and the taſte, that to my remembrance I neuer ſawe a more pleaſant place: their figs they uſe to drie in the ſunne and to keepe vntill winter: and as for almonds, peaches, melons, and pome-citrons, they grow here in great plenty. Three miles eaſtward of this citie are diuers mils vpon the riuier of *Sefſif*; and ſome other there are alſo not far from the citie vpon the mountaine of *Elcalha*. The ſouth part of the citie is inhabited by Iewes, lawyers, and notaries: here are alſo very many ſtudents, and profeſſours of diuers artes, which haue maintenance allowed them out of the ſiue forenamed colleges. The citizens are of ſower ſorts, to wit, ſome artificers, ſome merchants, others ſchollers and doctours, and all the reſidue ſoldiers. The merchants are men moſt iuſt, truſtie, liberall, and moſt zealous of the common good; who for the moſt part exerciſe traffique with the Negroes. The artificers liue a ſecure, quiet, and merrie life. The kings ſoldiers being all of a comely perſonage and of great valour, receiue very large and liberall pay, for they are monethly allowed three peeces of the gold-coine of Telenfin, which are worth three Italian duckats and one ſecond part. All ſtudents before they attaine to the degree of a doctour liue a bare and miſerable life, but hauing attained thereunto, they are made either profeſſours or notaries, or prieſtes. The citizens and merchants of this citie are ſo neate and curious in their apparell, that ſometimes they excell the citizens of Fez in brauerie. The artificers weare ſhort garments carrying ſeldome a Dulipan vpon their heads, and contenting themſelues with plaine caps: their ſhoes reach vp to their mid-leg. Of all others the ſoldiers go worſt apparelled, for wearing

a shirt or iacket with wide sleeues, they cast ouer it a large mantle made of cotton, and thus they are clad both sommer and winter: sauing that in winter they haue certaine iackets of leather with hoods vpon them, such as trauellers vse in Italie, and by this meanes their heads are defended from raine and from snow. The schollers and students are diuersly apparelled, according to their abilitie, and according to the fashion of their natiue countrie: the doctors, iudges, and priestes goe in more sumptuous and costly attire.

*The customes and rites obserued in the King of Telenfin  
his court.*

**A** Woonder it is to see how stately and magnificently the King of Telenfin behaueth himselfe, for no man may see him nor be admitted to parle with him, but onely the principall nobles of his court, each one of whom are assigned to beare offices according to their place and dignitie. In this court are fundry offices and dignities, and the Kings lieutenant beeing principall officer, alloteth vnto each one such places of dignitie, as may be correspondent to their honour: and this lieutenant leuieth the kings armies, and sometime conducteth them against the enemy. The second officer is the Kings chiefe Secretarie, who writeth and recordeth all things pertaining to the King. The third is the high treasurer, who is bound by his office to receiue tributes and customes. The fourth is the kings dispensator or almoner, who bestoweth such liberalitie as the king vouchsafeth. The fift is the captaine of the kings garde, who so often as any nobles are admitted to the kings presence, conducteth the garde vnto the palace-gate. Then are there other meane officers, as namely, the master of the kings stable, the ouerseer of his saddles & stirrops, and his chiefe chamberlaine, who giueth attendance onely at such times as any courtiers are admitted vnto the kings audience. For at other times the kings wiues, with certaine Christian captiues, and eunuches doe performe that dutie. The king sometimes in sumptuous and costly apparell rideth vpon a stately steed richly trapped and furnished. In riding he obserueth not much pompe nor many ceremonies; neither indeede doth he carrie so great a traine; for you shall scarcely see a thousand horsemen in his companie, except perhaps in time of warre, when as the Arabians and other people giue attendance. When the king goeth foorth with an armie, there are not many carriages transported therein, neither can you then discern the king by his apparell from any meane captaine: and though he conducteth neuer so great a garde of soldiers, yet a man would not thinke how sparing he is of his coine. Gold-money he coineth of baser golde, then that whereof the Italian money called *Bisfacchi* is coined, but it is of a greater size, for one peece thereof waigheth an Italian duckat and one fourth part. He stampeth likewise coine of siluer & of brasse.

His dominions are but slenderly inhabited: howbeit because the way from Europe to Aethiopia lieth through his kingdome, he reapeth much benefit

*A passage from  
Europe to Aethiopia through  
the kingdome of  
Tremizen.*

by the wares that passe by, especially since the time that Oran was surprized by the Christians. At the same time Telenfin it selfe was made tributarie, which was euer before a free citie: whereupon the king that was the author thereof, was extremely hated of his subiects till his dying day. Afterward his sonne that succeeded him, demanded customes and tributes likewise: for which cause being expelled out of his kingdome by the people, he was enforced to craue aide of the emperour *Charles* the first, by whose meanes (as is before said) he was restored vnto his said kingdome. When Oran was subiect vnto the king of Telenfin, the region therabout paid vnto the king for yeerly tribute sometime three thousand, and sometime fower thousand duckats, the greatest part whereof was allowed vnto the kings garde, and to the Arabian soldiers. I my selfe continuing certaine monethes in this kings court, had good experience of his liberalitie. I haue indeede omitted many particulars in the description of this court of Telenfin: but because they agreed for the most part with those things which we reported of Fez, I haue here passed them ouer, least I should seeme too tedious vnto the reader.

*Of the towne of Hubbed.*

**T**His towne being built in manner of a castle standeth about a mile and an halfe southward of Telenfin. It containeth store of inhabitants, who are for the most part dyers of cloth. In this towne was buried one *Sidi Bu Median* being reputed a man of singular holines, whom they adore like a god, ascending vp to his monument by certaine steps. Here is likewise a stately college, and a faire hospitall to entertaine strangers in; both which were built by a king of Fez of the *Marin*-familie, as I finde recorded vpon a certaine marble stone.

*Of the towne of Tefesra.*

**T**His towne standing vpon a plaine fiftene miles from Telenfin hath great store of smiths therein, by reason of the iron-mines which are there. *Mines of Iron.* The fields adiacent are exceeding fruitfull for corne; and the inhabitants being for the most part blacke-smithes are destitute of all ciuilitie.

*Of the towne of Tessela.*

**T**His ancient towne was built by the Africans vpon a certaine plaine, extending almost twenty miles in length. Here groweth such abundance of excellent corne, as is almost sufficient for the whole kingdome of Telenfin. The inhabitants liue in tents, for all the buildings of this towne are destroied, though the name remaineth still. These also in times past paid a great ycerely tribute vnto the king of Telenfin.

*Of the prouince called Beni Rafid.*

**T**His region extendeth in length from east to west fiftie, and in bredth almost fise and twentie miles. The southerne part thereof is plaine ground, but toward the north it is full of fruitfull mountaines. The inhabitants are of two sorts: for some of them dwell vpon the mountaines in houfes of indifferent good building: and these imploy themfelues in husbandry and other necessarie affaires. Others being of a more noble condition liue onely vpon the plaines in tents, and there keepe their camels, horfes, and other cattell. They are molested with daily inconueniences, and pay yeerely tribute vnto the king of Telenfin. Vpon the foresaid mountaines are sundrie villages, among which there are two principall, whereof the one called Chalath Haoara, and built in manner of a castle vpon the side of a certaine hill, containeth to the number of fortie merchants and artificers houfes: the other called Elmo Hafcar is the seate of the kings lieutenant ouer those regions; and in this village euery thursday there is a great market, where abundance of cattell, corne, raisins, figs, and honie is to be sold: here are likewise cloth-merchants and diuers other chapmen, which for breuities sake I passe ouer in silence. I my selfe continuing for some time among them, found to my hinderance what cunning theeuers they were. The king of Telenfin collecteth yeerely out of this prouince the summe of fise and twenty thousand duckats; and it containeth so many most expert soldiers.

*Of the towne of Batha.*

**T**His great, rich, and populous towne was built in my time vpon a most beautifull and large plaine, which yeeldeth great abundance of corne. The tribute which the king of Telenfin hath here, amounteth to the summe of twentie thousand duckats. Howbeit this towne was afterward destroyed in that warre which happened betweene the king and certaine of his kinsmen. For they growing mightie by the king of Fez his aide, woon many townes in the kingdome of Telenfin: and whatsoever towne they thought themfelues not able to keepe by force of armes, they burnt it quite downe: and thus they serued Batha, whereof now there remaine but very few ruines. Not far from this towne runneth a little riuer, on both sides whereof there are many gardens and fields replenished with all kinde of fruites. Moreouer the foresaid plaine was vtterly destitute of inhabitants, till a certaine heremite with his followers, whom they reuerenced as a man of singular holines, repaired thither: This heremite in thort time grew so rich in oxen, horfes, and other cattell, that no man almost throughout the whole region was comparable vnto him. Neither he nor his followers pay any tribute at all, when as notwithstanding (as I heard of his disciples) he reapeth yeerly eight thousand bushels of corne, and at this time possesseth fise hundred horfes,

ten thousand small cattell, and two thousand oxen; and besides all the former hath yeerely sent vnto him from diuers partes of the world fower or fife thousand duckats: so greatly hath the fame of his false holines spread ouer all Africa and Asia. Disciples he hath to the number of fife hundred, whom he maintaineth at his owne cost: neither employeth he them to ought else, but daily to read a few praiers: for which cause many resort vnto him, desiring to be of the number of his disciples, whom after he hath instructed in certaine ceremonies, he sendeth them thither from whence they first came. He hath about an hundred tents pitched, whereof some are for strangers, others for shepherds, and the residue for his owne familie. This holy heremite hath fower wiues, and a great many women-slaves wearing most sumptuous apparell. His sonnes likewise haue their wiues and families: insomuch that the whole familie of this heremite and of his sonnes containeth fife hundred persons. He is greatly honoured by all the Arabians, and by the king of Telenfin himselfe. My selfe was once desirous to trie what manner of man this heremite was: and for three daies I was entertained by him in the most secrete places of his habitation, where amongst other things he shewed me certaine bookes intreating of art-Magique and of Alchymie: and he endeouored by all meanes to perswade me, that Magique was a most true and vndoubted arte, whereby I perceiued that himselfe was a magician, albeit he neuer vsed nor regarded the arte, except it were in 'inuocating of God by certaine names.

*Of the towne of Oran.*

**T**His great and populous towne containing about sixe thousand families, and built many yeeres agoe by the Africans vpon the Mediteran sea shore, is distant from Telenfin an hundreth and fortie miles. Heere may you see great store of stately buildings, as namely of temples, colledges, hospitals, bath-stoues, and innes. The towne is compassed with most high and impregnable walles, hauing on the one side a faire plaine, and on the other side diuers mountaines. The greatest part of the inhabitants were weauers, and the residue liued of their yeerely reuenues. The territorie of this towne yeeldeth but small store of corne, so that the townesmen make all their bread of barley: howbeit they are most courteous and friendly to all strangers. This towne was greatly frequented with merchants of Catalonia, and of Genoa: and one street thereof is at this present called the street of the Genoueses. They were at perpetuall enmitie with the king of Telenfin, neither would they euer accept of any gouernor, but one which receiued the kings tribute. But the townesmen chose one of their chiefe Burgo-masters to iudge of cases ciuill and criminall. The merchants of this towne maintained at their owne costs certaine foists and brigandines of warre, which committed many piracies vpon the coast of Catalonia, Geuisa, Maiorica, and Minorica, insomuch that Oran was full of Christian captiues.

riues. Afterward Don *Ferdinando* king of Spaine encountering Oran with a great Armada, determined to release the said Christians out of captiuitie: but he had verie hard successe. Howbeit within a few moneths after beeing ayded by the Biscaines and the Cardinall of Spaine, he tooke Oran. For the Moores issuing forth with great furie vpon the Christians armie, left the towne vitterly destitute of souldiers, which the Spaniards perceiuing, began to assaile the towne on the other side; where being resisted by none but by women, they had easie entrance. Whereupon the Moores seeing the christians banners aduanced vpon their wals, they returned backe into the town, and were there put to so great a slaughter, that few of them escaped. This was Oran taken by the Spaniards in the yeere of *Mahomet* his Hegeira 916.

Oran taken by  
the Spaniards.

*Of the towne Mersalcabir.*

**T**His towne was built in my time by the king of Telenfin vpon the Mediterranean sea, not farre from Oran. And Mersalcabir in the Moores language signifieth a great or large hauen: for I thinke there is not the like hauen to be found in the whole world besides: so that here infinite numbers of ships and galleies may finde most safe harbour in any tempestuous weather. Hither the Venetians ships made often resort, when they perceiued any tempest to approach: and from hence they would cause all their wares to be transported to Oran in other vessels. This towne also was at length taken by the Spaniards as well as Oran.

Mersalcabir  
surprised by the  
Spaniards.

*Of the towne of Mezzagran.*

**T**His towne also was built by the Africans vpon the Mediterranean sea, neere vnto the place where the riuer Selef disemboueth. It is well peopled and much molested by the Arabians. The gouernour thereof hath little authoritie within the towne, and lesse without.

*Of the towne of Mustuganin.*

**M**Vstuganin beeing founded by the Africans vpon the Mediterranean sea, standeth almost three miles from Mezzagran, on the other side of the riuer Selef. It was in times past verie populous; but since the kingdom of Telenfin began to decay, this towne hath beene so vexed by the Arabians, that at this present the third part thereof scarce remaineth. Families it containeth to the number of fifteene hundred; and it hath a most beautifull and stately temple. In this towne are great store of weauers: and the houses are most sumptuously built, hauing cleere fountaines belonging vnto them. Through the midt of the towne runneth a riuer, on each side whereof stand diuers milles. Not far from the towne there are most plea-

sant

fant gardens; but they lie now vtilld and desolate. Their fields are exceeding fruitfull. There belongeth an hauen vnto this towne, whereunto many merchants of Europe vse to resort, albeit they finde not much traffick here, because the townesmen are so destitute of money.

*Of the towne of Bresch.*

**T**His ancient towne built by the Romanes vpon the Meditteran sea, standeth many miles distant from Mustuganin. It containeth great store of inhabitants, which are many of them weauers. The people of this towne vse to paint a blacke crosse vpon their cheeke, and two other blacke crosses vpon the palmes of their hands: and the like custome is obserued by all the inhabitants of the mountaines of Alger, and Bugia: the occasion whereof is thought to be this, namely that the Gothes when they first began to inuade these regions, released all those from paying of tribute (as our African historiographers affirme) that would imbrace the Christian religion. But so often as any tribute was demanded, euery man to eschew the payment thereof, would not sticke to professe himselfe a Christian: wherefore it was then determined, that such as were Christians indeed should be distinguished from others by the foresaid crosses. At length the Gothes being expelled, they all reuolted vnto the Mahumetan religion; howbeit this custome of painting crosses remained still among them, neither doe they know the reason thereof. Likewise the meaner sort of people in Mauritania vse to make such crosses vpon their faces, as we see vsed by some people of Europe. This towne aboundeth greatly with figs, and the fields thereof are exceeding fruitfull for flaxe and barley. The townesmen haue continued in firme league and friendship with the people of the mountaines adioyning; by whose fauour they liued an hundred yeeres together without paying of any tribute at all: but *Barbarossa* the Turke hauing woon the kingdom of Telenin put them to great distresse. From hence they vse to transport by sea great store of figs and flaxe vnto Alger, Tunis, and Bugia, whereby they gaine great store of money. Here also you may as yet behold diuers monuments of the Romans ancient buildings.

*Of the towne of Serfell.*

**T**His great and ancient towne built by the Romanes vpon the Meditteran sea, was afterward taken by the Gothes and lastly by the Mahumetans. The wall of this towne is exceeding high, strong, and stately built, and containeth about eight miles in circuit. In that part of the towne next vnto the Meditteran sea standeth a most beautifull and magnificent temple built by the Romans, the inward part whereof consisteth of marble. They had also in times past an impregnable fort standing vpon a rock by the Meditteran sea. Their fields are most fruitfull: and albeit this towne was much oppressed

oppressed by the Gothes, yet the Mahumetans enjoyed a great part thereof for the space almost of siue hundred yeeres. And then after the warre of Telenfin it remained voide of inhabitants almost three hundred yeeres. At length when Granada was woon by the Christians, diuers Moores of Granada fled hither, which repaired the houses and a good part of the castle: afterward they began to build ships, wherewith they transported their merchantable commodities into other regions: and they increased so by little and little, that now they are growne to twelue hundred families. They were subiect not long since vnto *Barbarossa* the Turke, vnto whom they paid but three hundred ducates for yeerely tribute.

*Of the citie of Meliana.*

**T**His great and ancient citie, commonly called now by the corrupt name of Magnana, and built by the Romanes vpon the top of a certaine hill, is distant from the Mediterran sea almost fortie miles. Vpon this mountaine are many springs, and woods abounding with walnuts. The citie it selfe is enuironed with most ancient and high wals. One side thereof is fortified with impregnable rockes, and the other side dependeth so vpon the mountaine as *Narma* doth, which is a citie neere Rome: it containeth verie stately houses, euerie one of which houses hath a fountaine. The inhabitants are almost all weauers: and there are diuers turners also which make fine cups, dishes, and such like vessels. Many of them likewise are husbandmen. They continued many yeeres free from all tribute and exaction, till they were at length made tributarie by *Barbarossa*.

*Of the towne of Tenez.*

**T**His ancient towne built by the Africans vpon the side of an hill not far from the Mediterran sea, is enuironed with faire walles, and inhabited with many people. The inhabitants are exceeding rustieall and vnciuill; and haue alwaies beene subiect to the king of Telenfin. King *Mahumet* that was grandfather vnto the king which now raigneth, left three sonnes behinde him; the eldest being called *Abuabdilla*, the second *Abuzeuen*, and the third *Iabia*. *Abuabdilla* succeeded his father, whom his brethren being ayded by the citicens went about to murther. But afterward, the treason being discovered, *Abuzeuen* was apprehended and put in prison. Howbeit, king *Abuchemmen* being after that expelled out of his kingdome by the people, *Abuzeuen* was not onely restored to his former libertie, but was also chosen king, and enjoyed the kingdome so long, till (as is before-mentioned) he was slaine by *Barbarossa*. *Iabia* fled vnto the king of Fez, who being at length proclaimed king by the people of Tenez, raigned for certaine yeeres. And his yoong sonne that he left behinde him being vanquished by *Barbarossa*, fled vnto *Charles* who was then onely king of Spaine.

\* Perhaps  
*Abuabdilla*.

But when as the ayde promised by *Charles* the Emperour stayed long, and the Prince of Tenez was too long absent, a rumour was spread abroad, that hee and his brother were turned Christians: whereupon the gouernment of Tenez fell immediably to the brother of *Barbarossa*. Their fields indeed yeeld abundance of corne; but of other commodities they haue great want.

*Of the towne of Mazuna.*

**T**His towne (as some report) was built by the Romanes, and standeth about fortie miles from the Mediterran sea. It hath fruitfull fields, strong walles, but most base and deformed houses. Their temple indeed is somewhat beautiful: for it was in times past a most stately towne, but being often sacked, sometime by the king of Telenfin, and sometime by his rebels; and at length falling into the hands of the Arabians, it was brought vnto extreme miserie, so that at this present there are but few inhabitants remaining, all being either weauers or husbandmen, and most grievously oppressed by the Arabians. Their fields abound plentifully with all kinde of corne. Neere vnto this towne there haue beene in times past many houses, streets, and villages, which may probably be coniectured by the letters engrauen vpon marble stones. The names of which villages are not to be found in any of our histories or Chronicles.

*Of Gezeir, otherwise called Alger.*

**G**ezeir in the Moores language signifieth an island, which name is thought to haue beene giuen vnto this citie, because it lieth neere vnto the isles of Maiorica, Minorica, and Ieuiza: howbeit the Spanyards call it Alger. It was founded by the Africans of the familie of Mesgana, wherefore in old time it was called by the name of Mesgana. It is a large towne, containing families to the number of fower thousand, and is enuironed with most stately and impregnable walles. The buildings thereof are very artificiall and sumptuous: and euery trade and occupation hath here a seuerall place. Innes, bath-stoues, and temples here are very beautifull; but the stateliest temple of all standeth vpon the sea-shore. Next vnto the sea there is a most pleasant walke vpon that part of the towne wall, which the waues of the sea beat vpon. In the suburbs are many gardes replenished with all kinde of fruits. On the east side of the towne runneth a certaine riuer hauing many mils thereupon: and out of this riuer they draw water fit for drinke, and for the seruices of the kitchin. It hath most beautifull plaines adjoining vpon it, and especially one called Metteggia, which extendeth fortie fiue miles in length, and almost thirtie miles in bredth, and aboundeth mightily with all kindes of graine. This towne for many yeeres was subiect vnto the kingdome of Telenfin: but hearing that Bugia was also gouerned by a king, and being neerer thereunto, they submitted themselues vnto the king of Bugia.

For they saw that the king of Telenin could not sufficiently defend them against their enemies, and also that the king of Bugia might doe them great damage, wherefore they offered vnto him a yeerely tribute of their owne accord, and yet remained almost free from all exaction. But certaine yeeres after, the inhabitants of this citie building for themselves gallies, began to play the pirates, and greatly to molest the foresaid islands. Whereupon king *Ferdinando* prouided a mightie armada, hoping thereby to become lorde of the citie. Likewise vpon a certaine high rocke standing opposit against the towne, he caused a strong forte to be built, and that within gun-shot of the citie, albeit the citie walles could not be endamaged thereby. Wherefore the citizens immediately sent ambassadours into Spaine, to craue a league for ten yeeres, vpon condition that they should pay certaine yeerely tribute; which request was granted by king *Ferdinando*. And so they remained for certaine moneths free from the danger of warre: but at length *Barbarossa* hastening to the siege of Bugia, and hauing woon one fort built by the Spaniards, determined to encounter another, hoping if he could obtaine that also, that he should soone conquer the whole kingdome of Bugia. Howbeit all matters fell not out according to his expectation: for a great part of his soldiers being husbandmen, when they perceiued the time of sowing come to approach, without any leaue or licence they forsooke their generall, and returned home to the plough-taile. And many Turks also did the like, so that *Barbarossa* failing of his purpose, was constrained to breake vp the siege. Howbeit before his departure, he set on fire with his owne handes twelue gallies, which lay in a riuer but three miles from Bugia. And then with fortie of his soldiers he retired himselfe to the castle of Gegel being from Bugia about sixtie miles distant, where he remained for certaine daies. In the mean while, king *Ferdinando* deceasing, the people of Alger released themselves from paying any more tribute: for seeing *Barbarossa* to be a most valiant warrior, and a deadly enemy vnto Christians, they sent for him, and chose him captaine ouer all their forces; who presently encountred the fort, but to little effect. Afterward this *Barbarossa* secretly murdered the gouernour of the citie in a certaine bath. The said gouernour was prince of the Arabians dwelling on the plaines of Mettegia, his name was *Selim Etteumi*, descended of the familie of *Telaliba*, and created gouernour of Alger at the same time when Bugia was taken by the Spanyards: this man was slaine by *Barbarossa*, after he had gouerned many yeeres. And then *Barbarossa* vsurped the whole government of the citie vnto himselfe, and coined money, and this was the first entrance into his great and princely estate. At all the foresaid accidents I my selfe was present, as I trauelled from Fez to Tunis, and was entertained by one that was sent ambassadour from the people of Alger into Spaine, from whence he brought three thousand bookes written in the Arabian toong. Then I passed on to Bugia, where I found *Barbarossa* besieging the foresaid fort: afterward I proceeded to Constantina, and next to Tunis. In the meane while I heard that *Barbarossa* was slaine at Tremizen,

and

Alger became  
tributarie to  
the king of  
Spaine.

A voyage per-  
formed by Iohn  
Leo.

and that his brother called *Cairadin* succeeded in the government of *Alger*. Then we heard also that the emperor *Charles* the fifth had sent two armies to surprize *Alger*; the first whereof was destroyed vpon the plaine of *Alger*, and the second hauing assailed the towne three daies together, was partly slaine and partly taken by *Barbarossa*, insomuch that very few escaped backe into *Spaine*. This was done in the yeere of the Hegeira nine hundred twentie two.

Of the towne of *Tegdemt*.

**T**His ancient towne was built (as some thinke) by the Romanes; and *Tegdemt* signifieth in the Arabian language Ancient. The wall of this towne (as a man may coniecture by the foundations thereof) was ten miles in circuite. There are yet remaining two temples of an exceeding height, but they are very ruinous, and in many places fallen to the ground. This towne when it was possessed by the Mahumetans, was maruellous rich, and abounded with men of learning and poets. It is reported that *Idris* vnclie to the same *Idris* that founded *Fez*, was once gouernour of this towne, and that the government thereof remained to his posteritie almost an hundred and fiftie yeeres. Afterward it was destroyed in the warres betweene the schismaticall patriarks of *Cairaoan*, in the yeere of the Hegeira 365: but now there are a few ruines onely of this towne to be seene.

Of the towne of *Medua*.

**T**His towne standing not farre from the borders of *Numidia*, is distant from the *Mediterran* sea almost an hundred and fower score miles; and it is situate on a most pleasant and fruitfull plaine, and is enuironed with sweete riuers and beautifull gardens. The inhabitants are exceeding rich, exercising traffique most of all with the *Numidians*; and they are very curious both in their apparell and in the furniture of their houses. They are continually molested with the inuasions of the *Arabians*; but because they are almost two hundred miles distant from *Telenfin*, they can haue no aide sent them by the king. This towne was once subiect vnto the gouernour of *Tenez*, afterward vnto *Barbarossa*, and lastly vnto his brother. Neuer was I so sumptuously entertained as in this place: for the inhabitants being themselves vnlearned, so often as any learned man comes amongst them, they entertaine him with great honour, and cause him to decide all their controuerfies. For the space of two moneths while I remained with them, I gained about two hundred duckats, and was so allured with the pleasantnes of the place, that had not my dutie enforced me to depart, I had remained there all the residue of my life.

*Of the towne of Temendast.*

**T**His towne also was built by the Romans vpon the Mediterran sea, and is about twelue miles distant from Alger. Vnto this towne belongeth a faire hauen, where the ships of Alger are safely harboured, for they haue no other hauen so commodious. This towne was at length destroyed by the Goths, and the greatest part of the wall of Alger was built with the stones which came from the wall of this towne.

*Of the towne of Teddeles.*

**T**His towne built by the Africans vpon the Mediterran sea, and being thirtie miles distant from Alger, is enuironed with most ancient and strong walles. The greatest part of the inhabitants are dyers of cloth, and that by reason of the many riuers and streames running through the midt of the same. They are of a liberall and ingenuous disposition, and can play most of them vpon the citterne and lute. Their fields are fertill, and abounding with corne. Their apparell is very decent: the greatest part of them are delighted in fishing, and they take such abundance of fishes, that they freely giue them to euery bodie, which is the cause that there is no fish-market in this towne.

Of the mountaines contained in the king-  
dome of Telenfin.*Of the mountaine of Beni Iezneten.*

**T**His mountaine standeth westward of Telenfin almost fiftie miles, one side thereof bordering vpon the desert of Garet, and the other side vpon the desert of Angad. In length it extendeth fise and twentie, and in bredth almost fiftene miles, and it is exceeding high and difficult to ascend. It hath diuers woods growing vpon it, wherein grow great store of Carobs, which the inhabitants vse for an ordinarie kinde of foode: for they haue great want of barley. Here are diuers cottages inhabited with valiant and stout men. Vpon the top of this mountaine standeth a strong castle, wherein all the principall men of the mountaine dwell, amongst whom there are often dissentions, for there is none of them all but woulde be sole gouernour of the mountaine. I my selfe had conuersation with some of them, whom I knew in the king of Fez his court, for which cause I was honorably intertained by them. The soldiers of this mountaine are almost ten thousand.

*Of mount Matgara.*

**T**His exceeding high and colde mountaine hath great store of inhabitants, and is almost fixe miles distant from Ned Roma. The inhabitants are valiant, but not very rich: for this mountaine yeeldeth nought but barley and Carobs. They speake all one language with the people of Ned Roma, and are ioined in such league with them; that they will often aide one another against the king of Telenfin.

*Of mount Gualhasa.*

**T**His high mountaine standeth nigh vnto the towne of Hunain. The inhabitants are sauage, rude, and vnciuill people; and are at continuall warre with the people of Hunain, so that oftentimes they haue almost vtterly destroyed the towne. This mountaine yeeldeth great store of Carobs, and but little corne.

*Of mount Agbal.*

**T**His mountaine is inhabited with people of base condition, and subiect to the towne of Oran. They all exercise husbandrie, and carrie woode vnto Oran. While the Moores enioied Oran, their state was somewhat better: but since the Christians got possession thereof they haue bene driuen to extreame miserie.

*Of mount Beni Guereda.*

**T**His mountaine being three miles distant from Tremisen, is well peopled, and aboundeth with all kinde of fruits, especially with figges and cherries. The inhabitants are some of them colliers, some wood-mongers, and the residue husbandmen. And out of this onely mountaine (as I was informed by the king of Telenfin his Secretarie) there is yeerely collected for tribute, the summe of twelue thousand ducats.

*Of mount Magrawa.*

**T**His mountaine extending it selfe fortie miles in length towards the Mediterran sea is neer vnto the towne of Mustuganin before described. The soile is fertile, and the inhabitants are valiant and warrelike people, and of a liberall and humane disposition.

*Of mount Beni Abusaid.*

**T**His mountaine standing not farre from Tenez, is inhabited with great multitudes of people, which lead a sauage life, and are notwithstanding most valiant warriors. They haue abundance of honey, barley, and goats. Their waxe and hides they carrie vnto Tenez, and there sell the same to the merchants of Europe. When as the king of Tremizen his kinsemen were lords of this mountaine, the people paid for tribute certaine thousands of ducats.

*Of mount Guanferis.*

**T**His exceeding high mountaine is inhabited with valiant people, who being aided by the king of Fez, maintained warre against the kingdom of Telenfin, for aboute three-score yeeres. Fruitefull fields they haue, and great store of fountains. Their soldiers are almost twentie thousand in number, whereof 2500. are horsemen. By their aide *Iabia* attained to the government of Tenez: but after Tenez began to decay, they gaue themselves wholly to robberie and theft.

*Of the mountaines belonging to the state of Alger.*

**N**Ere vnto Alger on the east side and on the west are diuers mountains well stored with inhabitants. Free they are from all tribute, and rich, and exceeding valiant. Their corne fields are very fruitfull, and they haue great abundance of cattell. They are oftentimes at deadly warre together, so that it is dangerous traouiling that way, vnlesse it be in a religious mans company. Markets they haue and faires vpon these mountaines, where nought is to be solde but cattell, corne, and wooll, vnlesse some of the neighbour cities supplie them with merchandise now and then.

*Here endeth the fourth booke.*

# IOHN LEO HIS FIFTH BOOKE OF

the Historie of Africa, and

of the memorable things

contained therein.

*A description of the kingdomes Bugia and of Tunis.*



When as in the former part of this my historie I diuided Barbaria into certaine parts, I determined to write of Bugia as of a kingdome by it selfe: and I found indeed that not many yeeres ago it was a kingdome. For Bugia was subiect to the king of Tunis, and albeit for certaine yeeres the king of Telenfin was Lord thereof, yet was it at length recouered againe by the king of Tunis, who committed the gouernment of the city vnto one of his sons, both for the tranquillitie of Bugia, and also that no discord might happen among his sonnes after his decease. He left behinde him three sonnes, the eldest whereof was called *Habdulhazz*, and vnto him he bequeathed the kingdome of Bugia, as is aforesaide: vnto the second, whose name was *Hutmen*, he left the kingdome of Tunis: and the third called *Hammare*, he made gouernour of the region of dates. This *Hammare* began forthwith to wage warre against his brother *Hutmen*, by whom being at length taken in the towne of *Asfacos*, & deprived of both his eies, he was carried captiue vnto Tunis, where he liued many yeeres blinde: but his brother *Hutmen* gouerned the kingdome of Tunis full fortie yeeres. The prince of Bugia being most louing and dutifull to his brother, raigned for many yeeres with great tranquillitie, till at length he was by king *Ferdinand* of Spaine, and by the meanes of one *Pedro de Nauarra*, cast out of his kingdome.

*A description of the great citie of Bugia.*



His auncient citie of Bugia built (as some thinke) by the Romans, vpon the side of an high mountaine, neere vnto the Mediterranean sea, is enuironed with walles of great height, and most stately in regard of their antiquitie. The part thereof now peopled containeth aboute eight thousand families: but if it were all replenished with buildings, it were capeable of more then fower and twentie thousand households, for it is of a great length. The houses, temples, and colleges of this citie are most sumptuously built. Professors of liberall sciences here

are

are great store, whereof some teach matters pertaining to the lawe, and others professe naturall Philosophie. Neither Monasteries, Innes, nor Hospitals erected after their manner are heere wanting: and their market place is very large and faire: their streetes either descend or ascend, which is verie troublesome to them that haue any busines in the towne. In that part of the citie next vnto the toppē of the mountaine standeth a strong castle, most sumptuously and beautifully walled: and there are such notable letters and pictures most artificially carued vpon the plaister-worke and timber, that they are thought to haue cost much more then the building of the wall it selfe. The citizens were exceeding rich, and vsed with their warlike gallies continually to molest the coasts of Spaine; which was the occasion of the vtter ouerthrowe of their citie. For *Pedro de Nauarra* was sent against them with a flecte of fowerteene sailes onely. The citizens being addicted wholly to pleasure and ease, and being terrified with the rumour of warre, because they were neuer exercised therein, were no sooner aduertised of *Pedro de Nauarra* his approach, but al of them together with their king betooke themselves to flight, and left their citie abounding with all kinde of riches and wealth, to bee spoiled by the Spaniards, so that it was easily taken, in the yeere of *Mahomet* his Hegeira nine hundred and seuentene. Soone after *Pedro de Nauarra* hauing sacked the citie, built a strong forte vpon the sea shore, and repaired an other which had lien a long time waste, furnishing them both with soldiery and munition. And sixe yeeres after, *Barbarossa* the Turke being desirous to winne this citie from the Christians, and hauing leuied onely a thousand soldiers, tooke the old forte, because he was auoured by the inhabitants of all the mountaines adiacent: wherein hauing placed a garrison, he attempted to winne the other fort also: but at his first encounter he lost an hundred of his principall Turkes, & fower hundred of the mountainers that came to aide him; in somuch that *Barbarossa* was enforced to flie vnto the castle of *Gegel*, as is aforesaid.

The citie of Bugia taken by Pedro de Nauarra.

#### Of the castle of Gegel.

**T**His ancient castle built by the Africans, vpon an high rocke by the Mediterranean sea, is distant about threescore miles from Bugia. Families it containeth to the number of fise hundred; and the buildings thereof are very base. The inhabitants are of a trustie and ingenuous disposition, and do most of them exercise husbandrie: howbeit their fieldes are but barren, and apt onely for barley, flaxe, and hempe. They haue great store of figs and nuts, which they vse to carrie in certaine barks vnto Tunis. They haue in despight of the kings of Bugia and Tunis continued alwaies free from tribute: for that impregnable mountaine can be surprised by no siege nor encounter of the enimie. At length they yeilded themselves vnto *Barbarossa*, who demaunded none other tribute of them, but onely the tenths of certaine fruits and corne.

*Of the towne of Mesila.*

**M**esila founded by the Romans not far from the Numidian desert, and being distant from Bugia almost an hundred miles, hath stately wals about it, but base houses within. The inhabitants being partly artificers and partly husbandmen, goe very homely apparelled, and are most greivously oppressed with the continuall exactions of the Arabians, and with the daily molestations of the king of Bugia. My selfe vpon a time traueiling this way, could not finde so much fodder as was sufficient for twelue horses onely.

*Of the towne of Stefe.*

**T**his towne also built by the Romans, sixtie miles southward of Bugia, vpon a certaine beautifull plaine, is enuironed with strong and state-ly walles. It was in times past exceedingly well stored with inhabitants: but since the Mahumetans were Lords thereof, it hath so decayed by the iniuries of the Arabians, who razed to the ground a great part of the wall, that within the whole circuit of this great and ancient towne, there are but an hundred houses at this present remaining.

*Of the towne of Neccaus.*

**T**his towne built by the Romans neere vnto Numidia, and being distant from the Mediterran sea an hundred and eightie, and from the towne last mentioned eightie miles, is compassed with a strong and ancient wall. By this towne runneth a certaine riuier, on both sides whereof grow the best wal-nuts and figs that are to be found in the whole kingdome of Tunis, being vsually carried to Constantina to be solde, which citie is thence distant an hundred and eightie miles. The fields of this towne are exceeding fruitfull, and the inhabitants are very rich, liberall, and curious in their apparell. Here is an hospitall maintained at the common charges of the towne, to entertaine strangers that passe by. Here is a college also, the students whereof are allowed their diet and apparell. Neither is this towne destitute of a most stately and well-furnished temple. Their women are white, hauing blacke haire and a most delicate skinne, because they frequent the bath-stoues so often. Most of their houses are but of one storie high, yet are they very decent, and haue each one a garden thereto belonging, replenished with damaske-roses, myrtles, cammomill, and other herbes and flowers, and being watered with most pleasant fountaines. In these gardens likewise there are most stately arbours and bowres, the coole shadow whereof in summer-time is most acceptable. And (to be brieue) all things here are so delightfull to the senses, and so alluring, that any man would be loth to depart from hence.

## Of the towne of Chollo.

**T**He great towne of Chollo founded by the Romans, vpon the Mediterranean sea, at the foot of a certaine high mountaine, is enuironed with no walles at all: for the walles were razed to the ground by the Goths: neither did the Mahumetans, when they had got possession, build them vp againe. Howbeit this towne is notably well gouerned, and well stored with inhabitants, which are all men of a liberall and tractable disposition. They haue continually great traffique with the merchants of Genoa, and doe gather abundance of waxe and hides. Their fieldes vpon the mountaine are exceeding fruitfull, and they haue alwaies so defended themselves against the princes of Tunis and Constantina, that vntill this present they remaine free from tribute. From the iniurie of Constantina they are easily defended, both in regarde of the difficult mountaines lying in the mid-way, and also in respect of the great distance; for Constantina standeth almost an hundred and twentie miles off. Neither is there any citie throughout the whole kingdom of Tunis, either for wealth, or strong situation, any way comparable vnto this.

## Of the towne of Sucaicada.

**T**His ancient citie built by the Romans also vpon the Mediterranean sea, and standing about thirtie fise miles from Constantina, was wasted and almost vterly destroyed by the Goths: howbeit by reason of the haue, being so famous and so frequented by the merchants of Genua, the prince of Constantina caused certaine faire houses to be built thereabouts, for the said merchants of Genoa, to repose themselves and their goods therein: and vpon a mountaine not farre off he built a strong castle, for the securitie and defence of the said merchants from all enemies whatsoeuer. From the said haue to Constantina the high way is paved with certaine black stones, such as are to be seene in some places of Italie, being there called *Le strade Romane*, which is a manifest argument, that Sucaicada was built by the Romans.

## Of the citie of Constantina.

**N**O man can denie the Romans to haue beene founders of this citie, that shall consider the great strength, height, and antiquitie of the walles, and how curiously they are beset and adorned with blacke stones. This citie standeth vpon the south side of an exceeding high mountaine, and is enuironed with steepe rocks, vnder which rocks and within the compasse whereof runneth the riuer called Sufegmare, so that the said deepe riuer with the rocks on either side, serueth in stead of a towne-ditch to Constantina. The north part is compassed with a wall of great thicknes: and there are two extreme narrow passages onely, to enter into the citie, one on the east

east part, and another on the west. The citie-gates are very large and stately. The citie it selfe containeth about eight thousand families. Buildings it hath very sumptuous, as namely, the chiefe temple, two colleges, three or fouer monasteries, and other such like. Here euery trade and occupation hath a severall place assigned: and the inhabitants are right honest and valiant people. Here is likewise a great companie of merchants, whereof some sell cloth and wooll, others send oile and silke into Numidia, and the residue exchange linnen-cloth and other wares for slaues and dates. Neither are dates so cheape in any region of all Barbarie besides. The kings of Tunis vsually commit the gouernment of Constantina vnto their eldest sonnes: and so he that is now king of Tunis bestowed Constantina vpon his eldest sonne in like sort: who waging warre against the Arabians was slaine in the first battel. Then fel the gouernment of Constantina vnto his second sonne, whose intemperate life was the cause of his sudden and vntimely death. After him succeeded the third and yongest sonne, who in regarde of his insolent and shamelesse behauiour, was so hated of all the citizens, that some had determined to kill him: whereof his father hauing intelligence, sent for him, and kept him for certaine yeeres prisoner at Tunis. Afterward he committed the gouernment of Constantina to a certaine Renegado that of a Christian became a Mahumetan: this Renegado he trusted as his owne brother, for he had made former triall of him: who for many yeeres gouerned the place with great tranquillitie. Vpon the north part of the citie standeth a certaine strong castle built at the same time when the citie it selfe was built: which castle was more strongly fortified then before, by one *Elcaied Nabil* the kings lieutenant: and this castle greatly bridled both the citizens, and all the bordering Arabians, whose great captaine it held as prisoner, and released him not, till he had left his three sonnes for hostages. At length the said *Elcaied* grew so hautie, that he coined money, to the great contempt of his king and soueraigne, whom notwithstanding he endeouored by many giftes and presents to appease. But when men perceiued *Elcaied* to degenerate from his first forme of gouernment, they that before loued him, and had him in high regarde, were presently of another minde, and vterly forsooke him. So that laying siege vnto a certaine citie of Numidia called Pescara, he perceiued some treason to be attempted against him: and thereupon returning forthwith to Constantina, he found the citie-gates shut against him: from whence he presently tooke his journey to the king of Tunis, and was by him cast into prison, and not restored to libertie, till he had paid an hundred thousand duckats. Afterward by the kings aide he was restored to his former gouernment: but when he began to tyrannize ouer some of the chiefe citizens, he againe prouoked the whole citie vnto armes, who besieged forthwith the castle whereunto he fled, which was such a corrasue vnto *Elcaied* his minde, that within few daies he died for sorrow. And so the people after they were reconciled to their king, would from thenceforth neuer admit any forreign gouernour: wherefore the king of Tunis was (as is

*The hard successse of the king of Tunis his three sonnes.*

aforsaid)

aforsaid) againe constrained to send his owne sonnes thither. The fields belonging to this citie are exceeding fertile. And on either side the riuer which runneth through the plaines, there are most commodious gardens, if they were well husbanded. Also without the citie stand many faire and ancient buildings. About a mile and a halfe from the citie standeth a certaine triumphall arch, like vnto the triumphall arches at Rome, which the grosse common people thinke to haue bene a castle where innumerable diuels remained, which (they say) were expelled by the Mahumetans, when they came first to inhabite Constantina. From the citie to the riuer they descend by certaine staires hewen out of the rocke: and neere vnto the riuer standeth a little house so artificially cut out of the maine rocke, that the roofoe, pillers, and walles are all of one continued substance, and here the women of Constantina wash their linnen. Neere vnto the citie likewise there is a certaine bath of hot water disperfing it selfe among the rocks: in this bath are great store of snails, which the fond women of the citie call Diuels: and when any one falleth into a feuer or any other disease, they suppose the snails to be the authors thereof. And the onely remedie that they can apply vpon such an occasion is this: first they kill a white hen, putting her into a platter with her feathers on, and then verie solemnly with waxe-candles they carry her to the bathe, and there leaue her: and many good fellowes there are, which so soone as the silly women haue set downe their hens at the bath, will come secretly thither, and conuey away the hens to their owne kitchins. Somewhat farther from the citie eastward there is a fountaine of extreme cold water, and neere vnto it standeth a certaine building of marble adorned with sundrie Hieroglyphicall pictures or emblemes, such as I haue seene at Rome, and at many other places of Europe. But the common people imagine that it was in times past a Gramar-schoole, & because both the masters and schollers thereof were most vitious, they were transformed (say they) into marble. The inhabitants twise euerie yeere send great store of wares into Numidia: and because as they trauell, they are in danger of the Arabian theeves, they hire certaine Turkish Harquebusiers for great wages to guard them. The merchants of Constantina traouelling to Tunis pay no tribute at all, but onely at their departure foorth of Constantina for the worth of euerie 100. ducates in merchandise, they allow two ducates and a halfe.

*Hot baths.*

*A fond and senseles superstition.*

#### *Of the towne of Mela.*

**T**His towne built by the Romans within twelue miles of Constantina, and enuironed with most strong walles, containeth almost three thousand families: but at this present there are but few buildings by reason of the warres that haue happened. Here are great store of artizans: the most whereof are such weauers as make couerlets. In the market place there is a most cleere fountaine. The citizens are valiant, though they bee of rude behaviour. Here is abundance, not onely offruits (whereupon some thinke the

*name*

name of the towne to be deriued) but also of cattle and corne. Vnto this towne the gouernour of Constantina sendeth euery yeere a certaine Iudge; to decide the townesmens controuersies, and to receiue the yeerely tribute: howbeit oftentimes the said Iudge is slaine by the people.

Of the ancient towne of Bona.

**T**His towne built by the Romans vpon the Mediterran sea, almost 120. miles more to the west was in auncient times called Hippo, where the reuerend father Saint *Augustine* was once Bishop. It was in proceffe of time subdued by the Gothes, and was afterward surprisid and burnt to ashes by *Hutmen* the third patriarke after *Mahumer*. And many yeeres after they built a new town within two miles of the stones that were brought from the ruines of Bona: which new towne they called Beld Elhuneb, that is, the citie of the fruit called Ziziphus or Iuiuba, by reason of the great abundance of that fruit: the which they vse to drie in the sunne, and to keepe till winter. It containeth almost three hundred families, and all the houses and buildings thereof are verie base, saue one onely temple which standeth next the sea. The inhabitants are all of an ingenuous disposition, some of them being merchants, and the residue artizans. Here is great store of linnen-cloath wouen, the greatest part whereof is carried to Numidia. The inhabitants of this towne hauing vpon a time slaine their gouernours, were so bold as to threaten the king of Tunis: and they had without all doubt betrayed the towne vnto the Christians, had not the king of Tunis taken speciall heed thereunto. In this towne are certaine lewd people and most beggerly apparelled, which notwithstanding are highly reuerenced by the citizens. Here are no fountaines, nor yet any water at all, but rainewater onely which is kept in cisterns. On the east side of the towne standeth a strong castle built by the king of Tunis, where the gouernour of the towne appointed by the king hath his aboad. Vnto this towne adioyneth a most large plaine, containing in length fortie, and in bredth fise and twentie miles: verie commodious it is for corne, and is inhabited by certaine Arabians called Merdez: these Arabians haue great store of cattell and but little money; and they bring good store of butter dayly vnto Bona. Vnto this towne the people of Tunis, of the isle of Gerbi, and of Genoa vse yeerely to resort, and to buy great abundance of corne and butter. Euerie friday they haue neere vnto the towne wals a market, which is well frequented euen till night. Not farre from hence there is a certaine place in the sea, abounding with great store of corall: and because the townesmen know not how to fish for the same, the king of Tunis licenced certaine merchants of Genoa to fish for it: who in regard of the continuall assaults of pirates, because they could not speed of their purpose, they obtained leaue also of the king to build a castle neere vnto the place: but that the townesmen would in no case permit, saying

*S. Augustine in times past bishop of Hippo.*

*Great store of corall.*

that the Genoueses in times past tooke their towne by such a wile, and that it was afterward recouered againe by the king of Tunis.

*Of the towne of Tefas.*

THE towne of Tefas founded by the Africans vpon the side of a mountaine, and standing almost an hundred and fiftie miles southward of Bona, was in times past verie populous, and full of braue buildings, but it hath beene since destroyed by the Arabians. Afterward being replanted with new inhabitants, and remaining free from war for certaine moneths, it was the second time destroyed by the Arabians. Last of all (because it was a place commodious for corne) it was inhabited the third time by certaine Africans called Haoara, and that by the ayde of a certaine prince brother vnto him, which had slaine *Enasir* the king of Tunis his sonne: but now all that remained of this towne was vtterly razed by the king of Tunis.

*Of the citie of Tebessa.*

THIS great and strong citie built by the Romans neere vnto Numidia, and being distant two hundred miles southward from the Mediterranean sea, is compaffed with an high wall made of such stones, as are to be seene vpon the Colosso at Rome: neither saw I, to my remembrance, any such wals in all Africa or Europe; and yet the houses and other buildings are verie base. Through part of this citie runneth a great riuer: and in the market, and diuers other places stand certaine marble pillers, hauing Epigrams and sentences with Latin letters engrauen vpon them: there are also other square pillers of marble couered with roofs. The plaines adiacent albeit verie drie, yet are they most fruitfull for corne. Fiue miles from hence grow such abundance of wall-nut-trees, as you would take them to be some thicke Forrest. Neere vnto this towne standeth a certaine hill full of mighty caues, wherein the common people say, that giants inhabited of olde: but it is most euident, that those caues were digged by the Romans at the same time, when they built the citie: for certaine it is that the stones whereof the citie-walles consist, were taken out of those rockes. The inhabitants are people of a couetous, inhumane, and beastly disposition; neither will they vouchsafe to looke vpon a stranger: insomuch that *Eldabag* a famous Poet of the citie of Malaga in Granada, hauing in his trauell this way receiued some discourtesie, wrote in disgrace of Tebessa certaine satyricall verses, which my selfe likewise haue thought good here to set downe in the dispraise thereof.

*Within this place here's nought of any worth,  
Saue worthles nuts, which Tebessa affords.  
Soft, I mistake, the marble walles are worth  
Your earnest view, so are the Christfall-fours:*

*But hence are banisht vertues all diuine,  
The place is hell, the people worse then swine.*

This *Eldabag* was a most learned and elegant Poet in the Arabian toong, and out of measure satyricall, and bitter in his inuectiues. But to returne to our former purpose, these Tebeffians haue alwaies rebelled against the king of Tunis, and haue slaine all the gouernours that he hath sent. Wherefore the king that now is, traouelling vpon a time towards Numidia, sent certaine ambassadours into the city, to know how the citizens stood affected towards him: vnto whom they (instead of *God saue the King*) made answer: *God saue our Citie-walles*. Whereat the king waxing wroth, sacked the citie forthwith, beheaded and hanged diuers of the inhabitants, and made such hauock, that euer since it hath remained desolate. This was done in the yeere of the Hegeira 915.

*Of the towne called Vrbs.*

**B**Y the name of this towne it sufficiently appeareth, that the Romans were the first founders thereof. Situate it is vpon the most beautifull plaine of al Africa, which by reason of the abundance of fountaines is so well stored with corne, that from thence to Tunis (which standeth 190. miles northward of this place) and to other regions adioyning, great plentie of corne is transported. In this towne are to bee seene sundrie monuments of the Romans, as namely images of marble, and euerie where vpon the walles are sentences in Latin letters engrauen: the towne-walles are most artificially and sumptuously built. This towne the Gothes, being assisted by the Moores, surpris'd, when as it contained the chiefe treasure and wealth that the Romanes enjoyed in all Africa. Afterward it remained for certaine yeeres desolate, being at length notwithstanding inhabited a new, yet so, that it deserueth rather the name of a village then of a towne. Not far from this towne runneth a certaine riuier, vpon the which are diuers water-milles; and this riuier taketh his beginning from a little hill but halfe a mile distant from the towne. All the inhabitants are either weauers or husbandmen, and are continually molested by the king of Tunis. Howbeit if the fertilitie of the soyle, the pleasantnes of the place, and the holefome disposition of the aire, were as well knowne to the king, as they are to my selfe, I thinke verily that he would leaue Tunis, and goe and dwell in this region. The Arabians are well acquainted with the place, for from hence they yeerely transport great store of corne vnto their deserts.

*Of the rowne of Beggia.*

**T**His towne built by the Romans vpon a mountaine almost twentie miles distant from the Mediterran sea, and about eightie miles westward of Tunis, standeth right in the way from Tunis to Constantina.

But because the name of this towne is no Arabian name, it seemeth, that the first name hath been oftentimes corrupted and changed. The ancient walles of this towne are as yet standing, and it is a most defensible place, and well furnished with all kinde of necessaries. It is inhabited with great store of weauers and husbandmen, and the fields thereof are so large and fruitfull for all kindes of graine, that the people of the same region could not sufficiently manure them, vnlesse they were assisted by certaine bordering Arabians: and yet a great part of their fields lieth vtilld: howbeit they send continually great store of corne vnto Tunis. The king of Tunis surchargeth them with continuall and greuous exactions, which is the cause why their estate so mightily decayeth.

*Of the towne called Hain Sammir.*

**T**His towne was in my time founded by the king of Tunis, being distant almost thirtie miles from Beggia. It was built (they say) of purpose, that none of the fields thereabout might lie vtilld. But it hath since bene destroyed by the Arabians, at the commandement of the king of Tunis: and now there remaineth a tower and certaine other buildings onely, whereof some haue rooves vpon them and others none.

*Of the towne of Casba.*

**T**His towne built by the Romans vpon a large plaine of twelue miles compasse, is fower and twentie miles distant from Tunis. The towne-wall remaineth strong as yet; but the towne it selfe is destroyed by the Arabians, and the fields lie vtilld, and all by the negligence of the king of Tunis, and of the inhabitants of the same region.

*Of the castle of Choros.*

**T**His castle founded not many yeeres past by the Africans vpon the riuer of Magrida, and being about ten miles distant from Tunis, is enuironed with most fruitfull fields. Neere vnto this towne groweth a certaine wood greatly abounding with oliues. At length it was destroyed by certaine Arabians called *Bem Heli*, which make perpetuall warre against the king of Tunis, and liue onely vpon theft and robbrie.

*Of the towne of Biserta.*

**T**He ancient towne of Biserta otherwise called Bensart, founded by the Africans vpon the Mediterran sea, thirtie fiue miles from Tunis, is but of a small bigness, and is inhabited with most miserable people. Neere vnto this towne entreth a certaine creeke or arme of the sea, which at the first be-  
ing

ing very narrow, increaseth by little and little into a maruellous bredth. On either side thereof dwell great store of fishers and husbandmen: and westward of the said creeke lieth a most large and fruitfull plaine called Mater, which is greuouously molested by the king of Tunis, and by the Arabians. In this creeke are taken abundance of fishes: and after the moneth of October they catch a certaine fish called by the Africans Giarrafa, which I take to be the same that is at Rome called Laccia: for then by reason of the abundance of raine that falleth, the salt water of the baye becommeth somewhat fresh, wherewith those fishes (they say) are much delighted. Very deepe it is, and affoordeth good fishing till the end of May: but then the fishes begin to decrease, and to be much drier in taste then before, like vnto the fishes taken in the riuier of Fez.

The fish called  
Giarrafa or  
Laccia.

Of the great citie of Carthage.

**T**His famous and ancient citie was built at the first by a certaine people that came out of Syria. But others say that it was founded by a queene.

The African chronicler *Ibnu Rachich* is of opinion, that it was built by a certaine people that came from Barca, being expelled thence by the king of Egypt: wherefore I cannot in this place affirme any certaintie as touching the founders thereof: for besides that the African historiographers disagree about this matter, there is none that hath left any writing thereof ancienter then the decay of the Roman empire: when as all the Romans that were found in Africa were expelled by the Goths. But afterward Tripolis of Barbaria and Capis being taken by the Mahumetans, the inhabitants of them both went vnto Carthage, whither the principall Romans and Goths had retired themselues, who endeouored by all meanes to withstand the Mahumetans: and after many skirmishes the Romans fled to Bona, and the Goths left Carthage for a pray vnto the Mahumetans; so that it remained desolate many yeeres after, till a certaine Mahumeran patriarke called *Elmahdi* brought in new colonies: howbeit he could scarce furnish the twentieth part with inhabitants. There are to be seene at this day certaine ruines of the citie-walles, till you come to a deepe and large cesterne. And there remaineth as yet also a certaine conduct which conucieth water to the citie from a mountaine thirtie miles distant, being like vnto the conduct of the great palace at Rome. Neere vnto Carthage likewise are certaine great and ancient buildings, the description whereof is out of my remembrance. On the west and south part of this citie are diuers gardens replenished with all kinde of fruites, which are carried from thence to Tunis in great abundance. The plaines adioining to this citie are exceeding fruitfull, though not very large: for vpon the north part thereof lieth a mountaine, the sea, and the gulfie of Tunis: on the east and south parts it ioyneth to the plaines of Bensart. But \*now this citie is fallen into extreme decay & miserie: mer-  
chants shops there are not about twenty or fiue and twenty at the most: and

\* 1526

all the houses of the towne being scarce fivie hundred, are most base and beggerly. In my time here was a stately temple and a faire college also, but no students were therein. The townsmen, though very miserably, yet are they exceeding proud withall, and seeme to pretend a great shew of religion. And the greater part of them are either gardeners or husbandmen, and are greivously oppressed with the kings daily exactions.

*A description of the mightie citie of Tunis.*



His citie is called by the Latines *Tunetum*, and by the Arabians *Tunus*, which name they thinke to be corrupt, because it signifieth nought in their language: but in olde time it was called *Tarfis*, after the name of a citie in Asia. At the first it was a small towne built by the Africans vpon a certaine lake, about twelue miles distant from the Mediterran sea. And vpon the decay of Carthage *Tunis* began to increase both in buildings and inhabitants. For the inhabitants of Carthage were loth to remaine any longer in their owne towne, fearing least some armie would haue bene sent out of Europe: wherefore they repaired vnto *Tunis*, and greatly enlarged the buildings thereof. Afterward came thither one *Hucba Vremen* the fourth Mahumetan patriarke, who perswaded the citicens, that no armie or garrison ought to remaine in any sea-townes; wherefore he built another citie called *Cairaoan*, being distant from the Mediterran sea thirtie, and from *Tunis* almost an hundred miles: vnto which citie the armie marched from *Tunis*, and in the roome thereof other people were sent to inhabite. About an hundred and fiftie yeeres after, *Cairaoan* being sacked by the Arabians, the prince therof was expelled, and became gouernour of the kingdome of *Bugia*: howbeit he left certaine kinsmen of his at *Tunis*, who gouerned that citie. And ten yeeres after, *Bugia* was taken by *Ioseph* the sonne of *Tesfin*, who seeing the humanitie of the foresaid prince, would not expel him out of his kingdome: but so long as it remained to the said prince and his posteritie, *Ioseph* caused it to be free from all molestation. Afterward *Abdul Mumen* king of Maroco hauing recovered *Mahdia* from the Christians, marched toward *Tunis*, and got possession thereof also. And so *Tunis* remained peaceably vnder the dominion of the kings of Maroco, so long as the kingdome was gouerned by the said *Abdul*, and his sonne *Ioseph*, and their successors *Iacob* and *Manzor*. But after the decease of *Manzor*, his sonne *Mahumet Ennasir* made war against the king of Spaine, by whom being vanquished, he fled to Maroco, and there within few yeeres ended his life. After him succeeded his brother *Ioseph*, who was flaine by certaine soldiers of the king of *Telenfin*. And so vpon the death of *Mahumet*, and of his brother *Ioseph*, the Arabians began to inhabite the territorie of *Tunis*, and to make often sieges and assaults against the citie it selfe: whereupon the gouernour of *Tunis* aduertised the king of Maroco, that vnlesse present aide were sent, he must be coustrained

*The building of  
Cairaoan.*

*Tunis subiect  
vnto Abdul-  
Mumen and  
other kings of  
Maroco.*

to yeeld Tunis vnto the Arabians. The king therefore sent a certaine valiant captaine, called *Habdulahidi*, and borne in Siuill a citie of<sup>\*</sup> Granada, with a fleete of twentie sailes vnto Tunis, which he found halfe destroyed by the Arabians: but so great was his eloquence and wisdom, that he restored all things to their former estate, and received the yeerely tribute. After *Habdulahidi* succeeded his sonne *Abu Zachberia*, who in learning and dexteritie of wit, excelled his father. This *Abu* built a castle vpon a certaine high place of the west part of Tunis, which he adorned with faire buildings and with a most beautifull temple. Afterward taking his iourney vnto the kingdome of Tripolis, and returning home by the southerne regions, he gathered tribute in all those places: so that after his decease he left great treasure vnto his sonne. And after *Abu* succeeded his sonne, who grew so insolent, that he would not be subiect to the king of Maroco, because he perceived his kingdome to decay: at the same time also had the Marin-familie gotten possession of the kingdome of Fez, and so was the familie of *Beni Zeijen* possessed of the kingdomes of Telenfin and Granada. And so while all those regions were at mutuall dissension, the dominions of Tunis began mightily to encrease. Infomuch that the king of Tunis marched vnto Telenfin, and demanded tribute of the inhabitants. Wherefore the king of Fez, who as then laid siege against Maroco, craued by his ambassadours the king of Tunis his friendship, and with great giftes obtained the same. Then the king of Tunis returning home conquerour from Telenfin, was receiued with great triumph, and was saluted king of all Africa, because indeed there was no prince of Africa at the same time comparable vnto him. Wherefore he began to ordaine a roiall court, and to choose Secretaries, counsellors, captaines, and other officers appertaining to a king; after the very same manner that was vsed in the court of Maroco. And from the time of this king euen till our times, the kingdome of Tunis hath so prospered, that now it is accounted the richest kingdome in all Africa. The said kings sonne raiging after his fathers death, enlarged the suburbes of Tunis with most stately buildings. Without the gate called *Bed Suvaica* he built a streete containing to the number of three hundred families: and he built another streete at the gate called *Bed el Manera* consisting of more then a thousand families. In both of these streetes dwell great store of artificers, & in the street last mentioned all the Christians of Tunis, which are of the kings garde, haue their aboad. Likewise there is a third streete built at the gate next vnto the sea, called *Beb el Bahar*, and being but halfe a mile distant from the gulfe of Tunis. Hither doe the Genoueses, Venetians, and all other Christian merchants resort, and here they repose themselues out of the tumult and concourse of the Moores: and this street is of so great bignes, that it containeth three hundred families of Christians and Moores, but the houses are verie low, and of small receipt. The families of the citie, together with them of the suburbs, amount almost to the number of ten thousand. This stately and populous citie hath a peculiar place assigned for each trade and occupation. Heere dwell

\* Or perhaps  
Andalusia.

*A strange kind  
of spinning.*

dwell great store of linnen-weauers, and the linnen that they weaue is exceeding fine, & sold at a great price ouer al Africa. The women of this towne vse a strange kinde of spinning: for standing vpon an high place or on the vpper part of the house, they let downe their spindles at a window, or through a hole of the plancher into a lower roume, so that the weight of the spindle makes the thread verie equall and euen. And here the linnen-drapers haue many shops, and are accounted the wealthiest citizens in all Tunis: here are also great store of grocers, apothecaries, taylors, and of all other trades and occupations: butchers here are verie many which sell mutton for the most part, especially in the spring, and in summer: also here are abundance of all kinde of artificers, euerie of which to describe would prooue tedious: the apparell of their merchants, priests, and doctors is verie decent. Vpon their heads they weare a Dulipan, which is couered with a great linnen-cloth: the courtiers likewise and the souldiers weare all of them Dulipans, but not couered with linnen. Rich men here are but few, by reason of the exceeding scarcitie of all kinde of graine: for a man cannot till a piece of ground, be it neuer so neere the citie, in regard of the manifold inuasions of the Arabians. Corne is brought vnto them from other regions and cities, as namely from Vrbs, from Beggia, and from Bona. Some of the citizens of Tunis haue certaine fields in the suburbs walled round about, where they sowe some quantitie of barley and of other corne: howbeit the soyle is maruellous dry, and standeth in need of much wating: for which purpose euery man hath a pit, whereout with a certaine wheele turned about by a mule or a camel, and through certaine conueyances and passages made for the nonce, they water all the vpper part of their ground: now consider (I pray you) what great crop of corne can be reaped out of so little a field, walled round about and watted by such cunning and industrie. Bread they make verie excellent, albeit they leaue the bran still among the flower, & they bake their loaves in certaine mortars, such as the Egyptians vse to beat flaxe in. The merchants and most part of the citizens vse for food a kinde of homely pulse or pappe called by them Befis, being made of barley meale in forme of a dumpling, whereupon they powre oyle or the broth of Pome-citrons. And there is a certaine place in the citie where nothing but barley prepared in a readines to make the said pulse, is to be sold. They vse also another kinde of foode almost as homely as the former: for seething a quantitie of meale thoroughly in water, and afterward braying it in another vessell with a pestill, they powre oyle or flesh-pottage thereunto, and so eat it: and this meate they call Bezin: but the richer sort feede themselues with more daintie meats. All their milles (except such as stand vpon a riuer nor far from the citie) are turned about either by the strength of mules, or asses. In this citie they haue no fountaines, riuers, nor welles of fresh water: but they all vse raine-water taken out of cisterns, sauing that there is a fountaine in the suburbs, from whence certaine porters bring salt-water into the citie to sell, which they thinke to be more wholesome and fit for drinke then raine-water. Other wels

there are that affoorde most excellent water, which is referued onely for the king & his courtiers. In this citie there is one most stately temple, furnished with sufficient number of priests, and with rich reuenues. Other temples there be also, but not endowed with so ample reuenues: here are colledges likewise and monasteries built after their maner, al which are maintained vpon the common beneuolence of the citie. There are certaine people in this citie whom a man would take to be distraught, which goe bare-headed and bare-footed, carrying stones about with them, and these are reuerenced by the common people, for men of singular holines. Moreouer on the behalfe of one of these mad fellowes, called *Sidi el Dahi*; and for the residue of his fond societie, the king of Tunis built one of the foresaid monasteries, & endowed the same with most ample reuenues. All the houses of this citie are indifferently beautifull, being built of excellent stones, and adorned with much painting and caruing. They haue verie artificiaall pargettings or plaster-works, which they beautifie with orient colours: for wood to carue vpon is verie scarce at Tunis. The floores of their chambers are paved with certaine shining and faire stones: and most of their houses are but of one storie high: and almost euerie house hath two gates or entrances; one towards the street, and another towards the kitchen and other backe-roumes: between which gates they haue a faire court, where they may walke and conferre with their friends. The bath-stoues here are far more commodious then those at Fez, though not so large and sumptuous. In the suburbs are many pleasant gardens which yeeld fruit, albeit not in great abundance, yet verie excellent: pome-citrons, roses, and other flowers here are great store, especially in that place which they call Bardo, where the king hath built a palace amidst those beautifull and swöete gardens. On all sides of the citie within fower or fise miles, there growe such plentie of oliues, that the oyle thereof sufficeth not onely the citie, but is carried also in great quantitie into Egypt. The wood of the oliue-trees which they cut downe they vse to burne and to make char-coales thereof: neither do I thinke any place to be more destitute of wood then this. Pouertie constraineth some of their women to lead an vnchast life: they are decently apparelled, and going foorth of the house, they wear vails or masks before their faces, like vnto the women of Fez: for with one linnen-cloath they couer their fore-heads, and ioine thereto another which they call *Sersari*: but about their heads they lap such fardels of linnen, as they seeme comparable to the heads of Giants. Most part of their substance and labour they bestow vpon perfumes and other such vanities. They hate here a compound called *Lhasis*, whereof whofoeuer eateth but one ounce falleth a laughing, disporting, and dallying, as if he were halfe drunken; and is by the said confection maruellously prouoked vnto lust.

*Of the king of Tunis his court, and of the rites and ceremonies there vsed.*

**S**O soone as the king of Tunis hath by inheritance attained to his kingdom, all his nobles, doctors, priestes, and iudges, binde themselves by solemne oth vnto him. Immediately after any kings death, his sonne and heire apparent succeedeth in the kingdom: then the chiefe officer of the court (called the Munafid, because he is the kings vice-roy or high deputie) presenteth himselfe foorthwith vnto the new king, and giueth vp an account of all things which he did while the olde king liued: and then at the kings appointment euerie of the nobles receiue offices from the Munafid according to their seuerall places of dignitie. Another principall officer there is, called the Mesuare, that is, the great commander and gouernour of the warlike forces: who hath authoritie to increase or diminish the number of souldiers, to giue them their pay, to leuie armies, and to conduct the same whither he thinketh good. The third officer in dignitie is the Castellan, who with his souldiers taketh charge of the castle, and looketh to the sauegarde of the kings owne person: and he alloteth punishments vnto such prisoners as are brought into the said castle, as if he were the king himselfe. The fourth officer is the gouernour of the citie, whose dutie is to administer iustice in the common wealth, and to punish malefactors. The fift officer is the kings secretarie, who hath authoritie to write, and to giue answer in the kings name: he may open also and read any letters whatsoeuer, except such as are sent vnto the Castellan and gouernour of the citie. The sixt is the kings chiefe chamberlaine, who is to furnish the walles with hangings, to appoint vnto euery man his place, and by a messenger to assemble the kings counsellours, and this man hath great familiaritie with the king, and hath accessse to speake with him, as often as he pleaseth. The seuenth in dignitie is the kings treasurer, who receiueth all customes, tributes, and yeerely reuenues, and paieth them, with the kings consent, vnto the Munafid. The eight officer is he that receiueth tribute for merchandize that are brought by land, who taketh custome also of forren merchants, which are constrained for the value of euery hundred duckats to pay two duckats and a halfe: this customer hath many spies and officers, who hauing intelligence of any merchants arriually, they bring him foorthwith before their master, in whose absence they keepe him so long in their custodie, till their said master be present, and till the merchant hath deliuered all such custome as is due, and then being bound with many othes, he is dismissed. The ninth officer receiueth tribute onely of such wares as are brought by sea, and dwelleth in a house by the hauens side. The tenth is the steward of the kings household, who is to provide bread, meate, and other necessarie victuals, and to apparell all the kings wiues, eunuches, and the Negro-slaues that attend vpon him. He also taketh charge of the kings sonnes and of their nurses, and alloteth busines vnto the

the Christian captiues. These are the chiefe officers vnder the king of Tunis: the residue (least I should seeme tedious to the reader) I haue of purpose omitted to intreate of. The king of Tunis hath fiftene hundred most choise soldiers, the greatest part of whom are Renegadoes or backsliders from the Christian faith: and these haue liberall pay allowed them. They haue a capitaine ouer them also, who may increase or diminish their number as he pleaseth. Also there are an hundred and fiftie soldiers being Moores, who haue authoritie to remoue the tents of the kings armie from place to place. There are likewise a certaine number of crossebowes, which attend vpon the king whither soeuer he rideth: but next of all to the kings person is his garde of Christians, which (as we signified before) dwell in the suburbs. Before the king marcheth a garde of footemen, being all of them Turkish archers, and gunners. Immediately before the king goe his lackies or footemen. One there is that rideth on the one side of the king, carrying his partizan, another on the other side beareth his target, and the third comming behinde him carrieth his crossebowe. Others there are also that attend vpon the king, whom (for breuities sake) we omit here to speake of. These are the principall rites and ceremonies of the ancient kings of Tunis, being much different from them which are vsed by the king that now is. I could here make a large discourse of the kings vices that now raigneth (at whose hands I confesse my selfe to haue receiued great benefits) but that is not my purpose at this present: this one thing I can affirme, that he is maruellous cunning to procure money out of his subiects purses. But he himselfe liueth sometimes in his palace, and sometimes in gardens, in the companie of his concubines, musicians, stage-plaiers, and such like. When he calleth for any musician, he is brought in blindfold or hoodwinked in manner of a hawke. The golden coine of Tunis containeth fower and twenty charats apeece, that is to say, a ducat and one third part of the coine of Europe: there is a kinde of siluer-money coined also being fower square in forme, which waieeth sixe charats apeece: and thirtie or two and thirtie of these peecees are equall in value to one peece of their gold coine, and they are called Nasari: the Italians call the gold-coine of Tunis Doble. And thus much concerning the king of Tunis, and the customes of his court. Doble.

*Of the towne of Neapolis.*

**T**His ancient towne built by the Romans vpon the Mediterran sea almost twelue miles eastward of Tunis is inhabited by certaine Moores called Nabell. It was in times past very populous, but now there dwell but a few peofants therein, which exercise themselues ongly about sowing and reaping of flaxe.

*Of the towne of Carthar.**Sugar-Canes.*

**T**His towne is very ancient also and neere vnto Carthage, standing eight miles northward of Tunis. The inhabitants being many in number are all of them gardiners, and vse to bring their herbes and fruits to Tunis to be solde. Here also growe great store of sugar-canes, which are brought likewise vnto Tunis: but because they haue not the arte of getting out the sugar, they vse onely after meales to sucke the sweete iuice out of the said canes.

*Of the towne of Marsa.*

**T**His ancient towne standing vpon the Mediterran sea neere the same place where the hauen of Carthage was of olde, remained certaine yeeres desolate, but now it is inhabited by certaine fishers and husbandmen: and here they vse to white linnen-cloth. Not far from hence are certaine castles and palaces, where the king of Tunis ordinarily remaineth in summer-time.

*Of the towne of Ariana.*

**M**oreouer this ancient towne was built by the Goths almost eight miles northward of Tunis. It is enuironed with most pleasant and fruitfull gardens, and it hath a strong wall, and containeth many husbandmen. Certaine other little townes there are not far distant from Carthage, some inhabited, and the residue desolate, the names whereof I haue quite forgotten.

*Of the towne of Hammamet.*

**T**His towne built by the Mahumerans of late yeeres, and enuironed with a wall of great strength, is distant from Tunis almost fiftie miles. The inhabitants are miserable people, and oppressed with continuall exactions, being the greatest part of them either fishers or colliers.

*Of the towne of Heraclia.*

**T**His little and ancient towne was founded by the Romans vpon a certaine mountaine, and was afterward destroyed by the Arabians.

*Of the towne of Susa.*

**T**His exceeding great and ancient towne was built by the Romans vpon the Mediterran sea, being distant from Tunis about an hundred miles. The plaines adioyning abound with oliues and figs: their fieldes are most fruitfull for barlie, if they could be tilled, but the Arabians often incur-

sions

sions are the cause why they lie waste. The inhabitants being most liberrall and courteous people, and great friends vnto strangers, make voyages most of them vnto the easterne regions and vnto Turkie; and some also frequent the next townes of Sicilia and Italie. The residue of the inhabitants are either weauers, or graziers of cattell, or such as turne wooden vessels, where-with they furnish the whole kingdome of Tunis. When the Mahumetans first woon that prouince, this towne was the seate of the vice-roy, whose palace is as yet remaining. A most stately towne it is, enuironed with strong walles, and situate vpon a most beautifull plaine. It was in times past well stored with inhabitants, and with faire buildings, whereof some, together with a goodly temple, are as yet extant. But now it containeth very few people, and but fise shops in all, by reason of the kings continuall exactions. I my selfe was constrained to stay in this towne for fower daies, in regarde of the danger of the time.

*Of the towne of Monaster.*

**T**He ancient towne of Monaster built by the Romans vpon the Mediterranean sea, and distant almost twelue miles from Sufa, is enuironed with most impregnable and stately walles, and containeth very faire buildings: but the inhabitants are most miserable and beggerly people, and weare shooes made of sea-rushes: most of them are either weauers or fishers: their fare is barlie bread, and a kinde of foode mingled with oile, which we called before Bezzin, which is vsed in all the townes thereabout: the soile will yeeld no other corne but barlie. The territorie adiacent aboundeth with oranges, peates, figs, pomegranates, and oliues, sauing that it is continually wasted by the inuasion of the enemie.

*Of the towne of Tobulba.*

**T**His towne built also by the Romaines vpon the Mediterran sea, standeth about twelue miles eastward of Monaster. For certaine yeeres it was very populous, and greatly abounded with oliues: but afterwarde it was so wasted by the Arabians, that now there are but fewe houses remaining, which are inhabited by certaine religious men: these religious men maintaine a faire hospitall for strangers traouelling that way, where they courteously entertaine euen the Arabians themselues.

*Of the towne of El Mahdia, otherwise called Africa.*

**E**L Mahdia founded in our time by *Mahdi* the first patriarke of Caitaoan vpon the Mediterran sea, and fortified with strong wals, towers, and gates, hath a most noble hauen belonging thereto. *Mahdi* when hee first entred into this region, fained himselfe in an vnknowne habite to be descended of the liage of *Mahumet*, whereby growing into great fauour

of the people, he was by their assistance made prince of Cairaoan, and was called El Mahdi Califa: afterward traouelling fortie daies iourney westwarde into Numidia to receiue tribute due vnto him, he was taken by the prince of Segelneffe, and put in prison, howbeit the saide prince of Segelmese being presently mouued with compassion toward him, restored him to his former libertie, and was for his good will not long after slaine by him: Afterwarde tyrannizing ouer the people, and perceiuing some to conspire against him, he erected this towne of Mahdia, to the end he might there finde safe refuge when neede required. At length one *Beiezia* a Mahumetan prelate (whom they called the cauallier or knight of the asse, bicause that riding continually vpon an asse he conducted an armie of fortie thousand men) came vnto Cairaoan: but *Mahdi* fledde vnto his new towne, where with thirtie saile of ships sent him by a Mahumetan prince of Cordoua, he so valiantly encountered the enimie, that *Beiezia* and his sonne were both slaine in that battaile: afterward returning to Cairaoan, he grew in league and amitie with the citizens, and so the gouernment remained vnto his posteritie for many yeeres. But an hundred and thirtie yeeres past this \* towne was taken by the Christians, and was after recouered by a certaine Mahumetan patriarke of Marocco called *Abdul Mumen*, but nowe it is subiect vnto the king of Tunis, by whom it is continually oppressed with most grieuous exactions. The inhabitants exercise traffike with forraigne nations: and they are at so great dissention with the Arabians, that they are scarce permitted to till their grounds. Not many yeeres ago *Pedro de Nauarra* assailing this towne onely with nine ships, was defeated of his purpose, and constrained to returne with great losse of his men. This hapned in the yeere of our Lord 1519.

*Of the towne of Asfachus.*

**T**His towne was built by the Africans vpon the Mediterran sea, at such time as they waged warre against the Romaines. It is compassed with most high and strong wals, and was in times past very populous, but now it containeth but three or fower hundreth families at the most, and but a fewe shops. Oppressed it is both by the Arabians, and by the king of Tunis. All the inhabitants are either weauers, marriners, or fishermen. They take great store of fishes called by them Spares, which worde signifieth nought in the Arabian and Barbarian, much lesse in the Latine toong. This people liue also vpon barley bread and Bezin: their apparell is base, and some of them traffike in Egypt and Turkie.

*Of the great citie of Cairaoan.*

**T**HE famous citie of Cairaoan otherwise called Caroen, was founded by *Hucba*, who was sent generall of an armie out of Arabia deserta by *Hatmen* the thirde Mahumetan Califa. From the Mediterran sea this

citic

citie is distant fixe and thirtie, and from Tunis almost an hundred miles; neither was it built (they say) for any other purpose, but onely that the Arabian armie might securely rest therein with all such spoiles as they woone from the Barbarians, and the Numidians. He enuironed it with most impregnable walles, and built therein a sumptuous temple, supported with stately pillers. The saide *Hucba* after the death of *Hutmen* was ordained prince of Muchauia, and governed the same till the time of *Qualid Califa* the sonne of *Habdul Malic*, who as then raigned in Damasco: this *Qualid* sent a certaine captaine called *Muse* the sonne of *Nofair*, with an huge armie vnto Cairaoan: who hauing staied a fewe daies with his armie not farre from Cairaoan, marched westward, sacking and spoiling townes and cities, till he came to the Ocean sea shore, and then he returned towards Cairaoan againe. From whence he sent as his deputie a certaine captaine into Mauritania, who there also conquered many regions and cities. Inso- much that *Muse* being mooued with a iealous emulation, commanded him to staie till himselfe came. His said Deputie therefore called *Tariab* encamped himselfe not far from Andaluzia, whither *Muse* within 4. months came vnto him with an huge armie. From whence both of them with their armies crossing the seas, arriued in Granada, and so marched by lande against the Goths. Against whom *Theodoricus* the king of Goths opposing himselfe in battaile, was miserablie vanquished. Then the foresaide two captaines with all good successe proceeded euen to Castilia, and sacked the citie of Toledo, where amongst much other treasure, they founde many reliques of the saints, and the very same table whereat Christ sate with his blessed Apostles, which being couered with pure gold and adorned with great store of precious stones, was esteemed to be woorth halfe a million of ducates, and this table *Muse* carrying with him as if it had beene all the treasure in Spaine, returned with his armie ouer the sea, and bent his course towarde Cairaoan. And being in the meane space sent for by the letters of *Qualid Califa*, he sailed into Egypt: but arriuing at Alexandria, it was tolde him by one *Hescian*, brother vnto the saide *Califa*, that the *Califa* his brother was fallen into a most dangerous disease: wherefore he wished him not to goe presently vnto Damasco, for feare least if the *Califa* died in the meane season, those rich and sumptuous spoiles should be wasted and disperfed to no ende. But *Muse* little regarding this counsell, proceeded on to Damasco, and presented all his spoiles to the *Califa*, who within fiue daies after deceased. After whom his brother succeeding *Califa*, depriued *Muse* of his dignitie, and substituted one *Iezul* into his roome, whose sonne, brother, and nephewes succeeding, governed the citie of Cairaoan, till such time as the familie of *Qualid* was depriued of that dignitie, and one *Elagleb* was appointed lieutenant, who governed not the towne as a *Califa*: from that time the Mahumetan *Califas* leauing Damasco, remooued vnto Bagaded, as we find recorded in a certaine Chronicle. After the decease of *Elagleb*, succeeded his sonne, and the government remained vnto his posteritie for an hundred

three score and ten yeeres, till such time as they were deprived thereof by one *Mahdi Califa*. But at the same time when *Elagleb* was gouernour, the citie of Cairaoan was so increased both with inhabitants, and buildings, that a towne called *Recheda* was built next vnto it, where the prince with his nobles vsed to remaine. In his time also the Isle of Sicilia was woone: for *Elagleb* sent thither a certaine captaine called *Halcama*, who built vpon the said Island a towne in stead of a forte, calling it according to his owne name *Halcama*, which name is vsed by the Sicilians euen till this present. Afterward this new towne was besieged by certaine people that came to aide the Sicilians. Whereupon one *Ased* was sent with an armie, & so the Moors forces being augmented, they conquered the residue of Sicilia, by which meanes the dominions of Cairaoan began woonderfully to increase. The citie of Cairaoan standeth vpon a sandie and desert plaine, which beareth no trees, nor yet any corne at all. Corne is brought thither from *Susa*, from *Monaster*, and from *Mahdia*, all which townes are within the space of forty miles. About twelue miles from Cairaoan standeth a certaine mountaine called *Gueslet*, where some of the Romaines buildings are as yet extant: this mountaine aboundeth with springs of water and carobs, which springs runne downe to Cairaoan, where otherwise they shoulde haue no water but such as is kept in cesternes. Without the wals of this citie raine water is to be found in certaine cesternes onely till the beginning of Iune. In sommer time the Arabians vse to resort vnto the plaines adioining vpon this towne, who bring great dearth of corne and water, but exceeding plentie of dates and flesh with them, and that out of *Numidia*, which region is almost an hundred three score and ten miles distant. In this citie for certaine yeeres the studie of the *Mahumetan* lawe mightily flourished, so that heere were the most famous lawyers in all *Affica*. It was at length destroyed, and replanted againe with newe inhabitants, but it coulde neuer attaine vnto the former estate. At this present it is inhabited by none but leather-dressers, who sende their leather vnto the cities of *Numidia*, and exchange it also for cloth of *Europe*. Howbeit they are so continually oppressed by the king of *Tunis*, that now they are brought vnto extreme miserie.

*Of the citie of Capes.*

**T**His ancient citie built by the Romaines vpon the *Mediterran sea*, was fortified with most high and stately walles, and with a strong castle. Iust by it runneth a certaine riuer of hot and salt water. It hath continually beene so molested by the Arabians, that the inhabitants abandoning their citie, resorted vnto certaine plaines replenished with great abundance of dates, which by a certaine arte are preserued all the yeere long. Heere is also digged out of the grounde a kinde of fruite about the bignes of a beane, and in taste resembling an almond. This fruite being ordinarie ouer all the kingdome of *Tunis*, is called by the Arabians *Habhazix*.

The isle of Sicilia  
subdued by  
the gouernour  
Cairaoan.

The fruite called  
Habhazix.

The inhabitants of the foresaide plaine are blacke people, being all of them either fishers, or husbandmen.

*Of the towne called El Hamma.*

**T**His most ancient towne founded also by the Romans, and being distant from Capes almost fiftene miles, is enuironed with most stately and strong walles: and vpon certaine marble stones therein are engrauen diuers monuments of antiquitie. The streets and buildings of this towne are verie base, and the inhabitants miserable, and addicted to robbery. Their fields are barren and vnprofitable, and will bring fourth nought but certaine vsfauorie dates. A mile and a halfe to the south of this towne beginneth a certaine riuer of hot water to spring, which being brought thorough the midst of the citie by certaine chanelis is so deepe, that it will reach vp to a mans nauell: howbeit by reason of the extreme heat of the water, there are but few that will enter thereinto. And yet the inhabitants vse it for drinke, hauing set it a cooling almost an whole day. At length this riuer not far from the towne maketh a certaine lake, which is called the lake of lepers: for it is of woonderfull force to heale the disease of leprosie, and to cure leprous sores: wherefore neere vnto it are diuers cottages of lepers, some of whom are restored to their health. The saide water tasteth in a manner like brimstone, so that it will nothing at all quench a mans thirst, whereof I my selfe haue had often triall.

*A riuer of hot water.*

*The lake of lepers.*

*Of the castle of Machres.*

**T**He castle of Machres was built by the Africans in my time vpon the entrance of the gulfe of Capes, to defend the same region from the inuasion of the enemye. It is almost fife hundred miles distant from the isle of Gerbi. All the inhabitants are either weauers, shipwrights, or fishermen, and haue traffick & recourse ouer all the foresaid isle. They haue al the same language that the people of the isle of Gerbi vse: but because they want grounds and possessions, al of them, saue the weauers, liue only vpon theft & robbery.

*Of the isle of Gerbi or Zerbi, where Iohn Leo the Author of this Historie was taken by Italian pirates, and carried thence to Rome.*

**T**His isle being neere vnto the firme land of Africa, and consisting of a plaine and sandie ground, aboundeth exceedingly with dates, vines, oliues, and other fruits, and containeth about eighteen miles in compasse. It hath also certaine farmes and granges, which are so farre distant asunder, that you shall scarce finde two or three in one village. Their ground is drie and barren, which though it be neuer so well tilled, will yeeld but a little barlie. And here corne and flesh is alwaies at an exceeding rate. At the sea shore standeth a strong castle, wherein the gouernour of the whole Island

and his retinue haue their abode. Not farre from hence there is a certaine village, where the Christian, Mauritanian, and Turkish merchants haue their place of residence; in which place there is a great market or faire weekly kept, whither all the merchants of the Island and many Arabians from the maine land with great store of cattle and wooll doe resort. The inhabitants of the Isle bring cloth thither to sell, which they themselues make, and this cloth together with great store of raisins they vsually transport vnto Tunis, and Alexandria to be solde. Scarce fiftie yeeres sithence this Isle was inuaded and conquered by Christians: but it was immediately recouered by the king of Tunis. And presently after (newe colonies being heere planted) the foresaide castle was reedified; which the kings of Tunis afterwarde enioied. But after the death of king Hutmen the Islanders returned to their former libertie, and presently broke the bridge from the Island to the maine land, fearing least they shoulde be inuaded by some land-armie. Not long after the said Islanders slaying the king of Tunis his gouernours of the Isle, haue themselues continued gouernours thereof till this present. Out of this Island is gathered the summe of fower score thousand Doubles (euery Doble containing an Italian ducate, and one third part) for yeerely tribute, by reason of the great concourse and resort of the merchants of Alexandria, Turkie, and Tunis. But now because they are at continuall dissension and controuersie, their estate is much impaired. In my time *Don Ferdinando* king of Spaine, sent a great armada against this Island, vnder the conduct of the duke of Alua, who not knowing the nature of the same, commanded his soldiers to land a good distance from thence: but the Moores so valiantly defended their Island, that the Spaniards were constrained to giue backe: and so much the greater was their distresse, in that they could not finde water sufficient to quench their extreme thirst. Moreouer at the Spaniards arriuall it was a full tide, but when they woulde haue returned on board, it was so great an ebbe, that their ships were constrained to put to sea, lest they shoulde haue bene cast vpon the sholdes. The shore was drie for almost fower miles together; so that the Spanish soldiers were put vnto great toile, before they could come to the waters side. And the Moores pursued them so eagerly, that they slew and tooke prisoners the greatest part of them, and the residue escaped by shipping into Sicilia. Afterwarde the Emperour *Charles* the fift sent a mightie flecte thither vnder the conduct of a Rhodian knight of the order of *Saint Iohn de Mesina*, who so discreetly behaued himselfe in that action, that the Moores compounded to pay fiuie thousand Doubles for yeerly tribute, vpon condition of the Emperours league and good will, which yeerely tribute is payde vntill this present.

The armie of  
don Ferdinando  
defeated.

Gerbi made  
tributarie vnto  
Charles the fift  
by meanes of a  
knight of the  
Rhodes.

#### Of the towne of Zoara.

**T**histowne built by the Africans vpon the Mediterranean sea, standeth eastward from the Isle of Gerbi almost fiftie miles. The towne wall is weak,  
and

and the inhabitants are poore people, being occupied about nothing but making of lime and plaistering, which they sell in the kingdome of Tripolis. Their fields are most barren: and the inhabitants haue continually beene molested by the inuasions of the Christians, especially since the time that they woon Tripolis.

*Of the towne of Lepide.*

**T**His ancient towne founded by the Romans, and enuironed with most high and strong walles, hath twise beene sacked by the Mahumetans, and of the stones and ruines thereof was Tripolis afterward built.

*Of the olde citie of Tripolis.*

**O**lde Tripolis built also by the Romans, was after woon by the Goths, and lastly by the Mahumetans, in the time of *Califa Homar* the second. Which Mahumetans hauing besieged the gouernour of Tripoli six moneths together, compelled him at length to flee vnto Carthage. The citizens were partly slaine, and partly carried captiue into Egypt and Arabia, as the most famous African Historiographer *Ibnu Rachich* reporteth.

*Of the new citie of Tripolis in Barbarie.*



After the destruction of old Tripolis, there was built another city of that name: which city being inuironed with most high and beautifull wals, but not verie strong, is situate vpon a sandie plaine, which yeeldeth great store of Dates. The houses of this citie are most stately in respect of the houses of

*Plentie of dates.*

Tunis; and heere also euerie trade and occupation hath a seuerall place. Weauers here are many. They haue no wels nor fountaines; but all their water is taken out of cisterns. Corne in this citie is at an exceeding rate; for all the fields of Tripoli are as sandie and barren as the fields of Numidia. The reason whereof is, for that the principall and fattest grounds of this region are ouerflowed with the sea. The inhabitants of this region affirme, that the greatest part of their fields northward are swallowed vp by the Mediterran sea, the like wherof is to be seene in the territories of Monaster, Mahdia, Asfacos, Capes, the Isle of Gerbi, and other places more eastward, where the sea for the space of a mile is so shallow, that it will scarce reach vnto a mans nauell. Yea, some are of opinion, that the citie of Tripolis it selfe was situate in times past more to the north, but by reason of the continuall inundations of the sea, it was built and remooued by little and little southward; for prooffe whereof there stand as yet ruines of houses drowned in certaine places of the sea. In this citie were many faire tem-

ples

ples and colledges built, and an hospitall also for the maintenance of their owne poore people, and for the entertainment of strangers. Their fare is verie base and homely, beeing onely the forenamed *Befis* made of barley meale: for that region affordeth so small quantitie euen of barley, that he is accounted a wealthe man that hath a bushell or two of corne in store. The citizens are most of them merchants; for *Tripolis* standeth neere vnto *Numidia* and *Tunis*, neither is there any citie or towne of account between it and *Alexandria*: neither is it farre distant from the *Isles* of *Sicilia* and *Malta*: and vnto the port of *Tripolis* Venetian ships yeerly resort, and bring thither great store of merchandize. This citie hath alwaies benee subiect vnto the king of *Tunis*: but when *Abulhasen* the king of *Fez* besieged *Tunis*, the king of *Tunis* was constrained with his Arabians to flee into the deserts. Howbeit when *Abulhasen* was conquered, the king of *Tunis* returned to his kingdome: but his subiects began to oppose themselues against him: and so that common-wealth was afterward grieuously turmoyled with ciuill dissensions and warres. Whereof the king of *Fez* hauing intelligence, marched the fifth yeere of the said ciuill warre with an armie against the citie of *Tunis*, and hauing vanquished the king thereof, and constrained him to flee vnto *Constantina*, he so straitly besieged him, that the citizens of *Constantina* seeing themselues not able to withstand the king of *Fez*, opened their citie gates to him and to all his armie. Whereupon the king of *Tunis* was carried captiue vnto *Fez*, and was afterward kept a while prisoner in the castle of *Septa*. In the meane season *Tripolis* was by a *Genouese* flecte of twentie sailes surprised and sacked, and the inhabitants carried away captiue. Whereof the king of *Fez* beeing aduertised, gaue the *Genoueses* fiftie thousand ducates, vpon condiion, that he might enjoy the towne in peace. But the *Genoueses* hauing surrendered the towne, perceiued after their departure, that most part of their ducates were counterfait. Afterward the king of *Tunis* being restored vnto his former liberty by *Abuselim* king of *Fez*, returned home vnto his kingdome, and so the gouernment thereof remained vnto him and his posteritie, till *Abubar* the sonne of *Hutmen* together with his yoong sonne was slaine in the castle of *Tripolis* by a nephew of his, who afterward vsurped the kingdome: but he was slaine in a battell which he fought against *Habdul Mumen*, who presently thereupon became Lord of *Tripolis*. After him succeeded his sonne *Zacharias*, who within a few moneths dyed of the pestilence. After *Zacharias*, *Mucamen* the sonne of *Hesen* and cosin to *Zacharias* was chosen king; who beginning to tyrannize ouer the citizens was by them expelled out of his kingdome: and afterward a certaine citizen was aduanced vnto the royall throne, who gouerned verie modestly. But the king which was before expelled sent an armie of souldiers against *Tripolis*, who loosing the field, were all of them put to flight. Afterward the king that began to raigne so modestly, prooued a verie tyrant, and being murdered by his kinsman, the people made choise of a certaine nobleman, leading as then an *Hermite* life,

and

*Tripolis taken  
by a flecte of  
Genouais.*

and in a manner against his will appointed him their gouernour: and so the government of the citie of Tripolis remained vnto him and his posteritie, till such time as king *Ferdinando* sent *Don Pedro de Nauarra* against it: who on the sudden encounttring this citie, carried away many captiues with him. The gouernour of Tripolis and his sonne in lawe were sent prisoners vnto Messina. Where, after certaine yeeres imprisonment, they were restored by the Emperour *Charles* the fit vnto their former libertie, and returned vnto Tripolis, which towne was afterward destroyed by the Christians. The castle of Tripolis being enuironed with most strong walles, begin (as I vnderstand) to be replanted with new inhabitants. And thus much as concerning the cities of the kingdome of Tunis.

*Tripolis surprized by Pedro de Nauarra.*

*Of the mountaines belonging to the state of Bugia.*

**T**He territorie of Bugia is full of ragged, high, and woodie mountaines: the inhabitants being a noble, rich, and liberall people, and possessing great store of goats, oxen and horses, haue alwaies continued in libertie, since the time that Bugia was surprized by the Christians. The people of these mountaines vse to haue a blacke crosse vpon one of their cheekes, according to the ancient custome before mentioned. Their bread is made of barley, and they haue abundance of nuts and figs vpon those mountaines, especially which are neere vnto Zoaoa: in some places of these mountaines are certaine mines of iron, whereof they make a kinde of coine of halfe a pound weight. They haue also another sort of siluer coine weighing fower graines a peece: these mountaines yeeld abundance of wine and hempe; but their linnen-cloath that they weaue is exceeding coarse. And these mountaines of Bugia extende in length vpon the coast of the Mediterran sea almost a hundred and fiftie, and in bredth fortie miles: each mountaine containeth inhabitants of a diuers kinred and generation from others, whom because they liue all after one manner, we will passe ouer in silence.

*Iron-mines.*

*Of mount Auraz.*

**T**His exceeding high and populous mountaine is inhabited with most barbarous people, that are wholly addicted vnto robberie and spoile. From Bugia it is distant fowerscore, and from Constantina almost threescore miles. Also being separated from other mountaines it extendeth about threescore miles in length. Southward it bordereth vpon the Numidian deserts, and northward vpon the regions of Mesila, Stefe, Nicaus, and Constantina. From the very toppe of this mountaine issue diuers streames of water, which running downe into the next plaines, increase at length into a lake, the water whereof in sommer time is salt. The passage vnto this mountaine is very difficult, in regard of certaine cruell Arabians.

*Of the mountaine of Constantina.*

**A**ll the north and west part of the territorie belonging to the citie of Constantina is full of high mountaines, which beginning at the borders of Bugia, extend themselves to the Mediterran sea, euen as farre as Bona, that is to say, almost an hundred and thirtie miles. Their fields vpon the plaines are replenished with oliues, figges, and all other kindes of fruites, which are carried in great quantitie vnto the next townes and cities: all the inhabitants for ciuill demeanour excell the citizens of Bugia, and do exercise diuers manuarie arts, and weaue great store of linnen cloth. They are at continuall dissention among themselves, by reason that their women will so often change husbands. They are exceeding rich, and free from all tribute: and yet dare they not till their plaines, both for feare of the Arabians, and also of the gouernors of the next cities. Euerie weeke vpon sundry daies heere is a market, greatly frequented with merchants of Constantina, & of other places: and whatsoeuer merchant hath no friend nor acquaintance dwelling vpon the mountaines, is in great hazard to be notable cozened. Vpon these mountaines they haue nether iudges, priests, nor yet any learned men: so that when any of the inhabitants would write a letter vnto his friend, he must trudge vp and downe sometime twelue, and sometime fiftene miles to seeke a scribe. Footemen for the warres they haue almost fortie thousand, and about fower thousand horsemen. The inhabitants are men of such valour, that if they agreed among themselves, they woulde soone be able to conquer all Africa.

*Of the mountaines of Bona.*

**T**he citie of Bona hath on the north part the Mediterran sea, on the south and west parts certaine mountaines adioining almost vnto the mountaines of Constantina, and on the east side it hath most fruitfull fieldes and large plaines, whereupon in times past were diuers townes and castles, built by the Romans; the ruines whereof are now onely remaining, and the names quite forgotten. All these regions by reason of the Arabians crueltie are so desolate, that they are inhabited but in very fewe places; and there they are constrained to keepe out the Arabians by force of armes. The mountaines of Bona extend in length from east to west almost fcorescore miles, and in bredth about thirtie miles. Heere are great store of fountaines, from whence certaine riuers issue, running through the plaines into the Mediterran sea.

*Of the mountaines standing neere vnto Tunis.*

**T**he citie of Tunis standing vpon a plaine hath no mountaines nigh vnto it, but onely on the west side towards the Mediterran sea, where  
it

it hath a mountaine like vnto that which enuironeth Carthage. Neere vnto Tunis standeth another high and colde mountaine called Zagoan : inhabitants heere are none at all but a fewe that tende the Bee-hiues, and gather some quantitie of barley. Vpon the toppe of this mountaine the Romaines built certaine forts, the ruines whereof are yet to be seene, hauing epitaphes engtauen vpon them in Latine letters. From this mountaine vnto Carthage, water is conueighed by certaine passages vnder the ground.

*Of the mountaines of Beni Tefren and Nufusa.*

**T**Hese high and colde mountaines are distant from the desert, from Gerbi, and from Asfacus almost thirtie miles, and yeelde very small store of barley. The inhabitants being valiant, and renouncing the law of Mahumet, do follow the doctrine of the patriarke of Cairaoan in most points, neither is there any other nation among the Arabians that obserue the same doctrine. In Tunis and other cities these people earne their living by most base occupations, neither dare they openly professe their religion.

*Of mount Garian.*

**T**His high and cold mountaine containing in length fortie & in bredth fifteene miles, and being separated from other mountaines by a sandie desert, is distant from Tripolis almost fiftie miles. It yeeldeth great plentie of barley and of dates, which vnlesse they be spent while they are new, will soone prooue rotten. Heere are likewise abundance of oliues: Wherefore from this mountaine vnto Alexandria and other cities there is much oile conueighed. There is not better saffron to be found in any part of the worlde besides, which in regard of the goodnesse is solde very deere. For yeerely tribute there is gathered out of this mountaine threescore thousand ducates, and as much saffron as fifteene mules can carrie. They are continually oppressed with the exactions of the Arabians, and of the king of Tunis. They haue certaine base villages vpon this mountaine.

*Most excellent saffron.*

*Of mount Beni Guarid.*

**T**His mountaine being almost an hundred miles distant from Tripolis, is inhabited with most valiant & stout people, which liue at their owne libertie, and are at continual war with the people of the next mountaines, & of the Numidian desert.

*Of the castle called Casr Acmed.*

**T**His castle builte vpon the Mediterran sea by a captaine which came with an armie into Africa, standeth not farre from Tripolis, and was at the last laide waste by the Arabians.

*of*

*Of the castle of Subeica.*

**T**He castle of Subeica erected about the same time when the Mahumetans came into Africa, was in times past wel furnished with inhabitants, being afterward destroyed by the Arabians, and nowe it harboreth a fewe fishers onely.

*Of the Castle called Casr Hesin.*

**T**His castle was founded by the Mahumetans vpon the Meditteran sea, and was afterward destroyed by the Arabians.

*Here endeth the fifth booke.*

# IOHN LEO HIS SIXTH BOOKE OF

the Historie of Africa, and  
*of the memorable things*

contained therein.

*Of the village called Gar.*

**H**Auing hitherto intreated of the mountaines, it now remaineth that we say somewhat as touching certaine villages, hamlers, and territories: and afterward we will describe in order the cities of Numidia. And first the village of Gar, situate vpon the Meditteran sea, and abounding with dates, offereth it selfe: the fields thereto belonging are drie and barren, and yet bring they forth some quantitie of barley for the sustenance of the inhabitants.

*Of Garell Gare.*

**I**T is a certaine little territorie or Grange, containing caues of a maruellous depth, whence (they say) the stones were taken wherewith olde Tripolis was built, because it is not far distant from that citie.

*Of the village of Sarman.*

**T**His large village standing not farre from old Tripolis, aboundeth with dates, but no corne will grow there.

*Of the village called Zanias Ben Iarub.*

**T**His village being situate neer vnto the Mediterran sea, yeeldeth great plentie of dates, but no corne at all, and is inhabited by certaine religious persons.

*Of the village of Zanzor.*

**T**His village also standing neere vnto the Mediterran sea, within twelue miles of Tripolis, is inhabited by fundrie artificers, and aboundeth with great store of dates, pomegranats, and peaches. The inhabitants haue benee verie miserable euer since Tripolis was taken by the Christians; and yet they traffique with the citizens of Tripolis, and carrie dates thither to sell.

*Of the village of Hamrozo.*

**I**T standeth fixe miles from Tripolis, and the gardens thereof bring forth great plentie of dates, and of all other kinde of fruits.

*Of the plaine of Taioira.*

**T**His plaine standing two miles eastward of Tripolis, containeth many granges exceedingly replenished with dates and other fruits. The surprize of Tripolis was verie profitable for this place, for then many principall citizens fled hither for refuge. The inhabitants being ignorant and rude people, and altogether addicted to theft and robbetrie; build their cottages with the boughes of palme-trees. Their food is barley bread, and Bezin before described: all round about are subiect vnto the king of Tunis and the Arabians, saue those onely that inhabit vpon this plaine.

*Of the Prouince of Mesellata.*

**T**His Prouince standing vpon the Mediterran sea about fiue and thirtie miles from Tripolis, and being fraught with rich villages, castles, and inhabitants, aboundeth also with great plentie of oliues and dates. The inhabitants being free from all forren authoritie, haue a Captaine among themselues, which gouerneth their common-wealth, and fighteth their battles against the Arabians: and the soldiers of this Prouince are about 5000.

*Of the Prouince of Mesrata.*

**T**His Prouince being situate also vpon the Mediterran sea, about an hundredth miles from Tripolis, hath manie villages both vpon the plaines and mountaines. The inhabitants are rich and pay no tribute at all,

and exercise traffique with the Venetians resorting to this Prouince with their galleies, carrying the Venetian wares to Numidia, and there exchanging the same for slaues, muske, and ciuet, which is brought thither out of Ethiopia.

*Of the desert of Barca.*

**T**His desert beginning at the vtmost frontire of Mesrata, and extending eastward as farre as the confines of Alexandria, containeth in length a thousand and three hundreth, and in bredth about 200. miles. It is a rough and vnpleasant place, being almost vtterly destitute of water and corne. Before the Arabians inuaded Africa, this region was void of inhabitants: but now certaine Arabians lead here a miserable and hungrie life, being a great way distant from all places of habitation: neither haue they any corne growing at all. But corne and other necessaries are brought vnto them by sea from Sicilia, which that egerie of them may purchase, they are constrained to lay their sonnes to gage, and then goe rob and rife trauellers to redeeme them againe. Neuer did you heare of more cruell and bloodie theeues; for after they haue robbed merchants of all their goods and appa-  
rell, they powre warme milke downe their throats, hanging them vp by the heeles vpon some tree, and forcing them to cast their gorge, wherein the lewd varlets search diligently for gold, suspecting that the merchants swallowed vp all their crownes before they entred that dangerous desert.

*The Arabians  
of Barca most  
cruell and bloodie  
theeues.*

*Of the citie of Tesser in Numidia.*

**I**N the first Booke of this present discourse we said that Numidia was accounted by the African Cosmographers the basest part of all Africa, and there we alleaged certaine reasons for the same purpose: we signified also in the second Booke, writing of the Prouince of Hea, that certaine cities of Numidia stood neere vnto mount Atlas. Howbeit \*Sus, Guzula, Helchemma, and Capes, are within the kingdome of Tunis, albeit some would haue them situate in Numidia. But my selfe following the opinion of *Ptolemy*, suppose Tunis to be a part of Barbarie. Being therefore about to describe all the cities and townes of Numidia, I will first begin with Tessel: which ancient towne built by the Numidians neere vnto the Libyan deserts, and enuironed with walles of sunne-dried bricke, deserueth scarcely the name of a towne; and yet containeth fower hundred families. It is compassed round about with sandie plaines, sauing that neer vnto the towne grow some store of dates, of mill-seed, and of barley, which the miserable townesmen vse for food. They are constrained also to pay large tribute vnto the Arabians inhabiting the next deserts. They exercise traffique in the land of Negroes and in Guzula, insomuch that they spend most of their time in forren regions. They are of a blacke colour, and destitute of all learning. The women indeed teach their yong children the first rudiments of learning, but  
before

\* Error.

before they can attaine to any perfection, they are put to labour, and to the plough-tayle. The said women are somewhat whiter then other women: some of them get their living by spinning and carding of wooll, and the residue spend their time in idlenes. Such as are accounted richest in this region, possesse but verie few cattell. They till their ground with an horse and a camell, which kinde of plowing is obserued throughout all Numidia.

*Of the village of Guaden.*

**T**His village situate vpon the Numidian desert neere vnto Libya, is inhabited by most miserable and grosse people. Here groweth nothing but dates: and the inhabitants are at such enmitie with their neighbours, that it is dangerous for them to go abroad. Howbeit they giue themselves to hunting, and take certaine wilde-beasts called Elamth, and ostriches, neither do they eate any other flesh. All their goates they reserue for milke. And these people also are blacke of colour.

*The beast called Elamth.*

*Of the castles of Ifran.*

**F**ower castles there are called by this name, built by the Numidians three miles each from other vpon a certaine riuer, which in the heat of sommer is destitute of water. Neere vnto these castles are certaine fields greatly abounding with dates. The inhabitants are verie rich, for they haue traffique with the Portugals at the port of Gart Guessem, whose wares they carrie to Gualata and Tombuto. These castles containe great store of inhabitants, which make certaine brazen vessels to bee solde in the lande of Negros: for they haue copper-mines in fundrie places thereabout. Euery castle hath a weekly market; but corne and flesh are at an extreme rate there. They goe decently apparelled, and haue a faire temple to resort vnto, and a Iudge also that decideth none but ciuill controuersies: for criminall matters they vse to punish with banishment onely.

*The port of Gart Guessem.*

*Copper-mines.*

*Of the castles of Accha.*

**T**hree castles of this name built vpon the Numidian deserts not far from Libya were in times past well stored with inhabitants, but at length by ciuill wars they were vtterly dispeopled. Afterward (all matters being pacified) there were, by the meanes of a certaine religious man, who gouerned the same people, certaine new colonies planted. Neither haue the poore inhabitants any thing to do, but onely to gather dates.

## Of the Prouince of Dara.

**T**His Prouince beginning at mount Atlas extendeth it selfe southward by the deserts of Lybia almost two hundred and fiftie miles, and the bredth thereof is verie narrow. All the inhabitants dwell vpon a certaine riuer which is called by the name of the Prouince. This riuer sometime so ouerfloweth, that a man would thinke it to be a sea, but in sommer it so diminisheth, that any one may passe over it on foote. If so be it ouerfloweth about the beginning of Aprill, it bringeth great plentie vnto the whole region: if not, there followeth great scarcitie of corne. Vpon the banke of this riuer there are sundrie villages and hamlets, and diuers castles also, which are enuironed with walles made of sunne-dried bricke and mortar. All their beames and planchers consist of date-trees, being notwithstanding vsfit for the purpose; for the wood of date-trees is not solid, but flexible and spungie. On either side of the said riuer for the space of fiue or fixe miles, the fields abound exceedingly with dates, which with good keeping will last many yeeres: and as here are diuers kindes of dates, so they are sold at sundry prices: for a bushell of some is woorth a duckat, but others wherewith they feede their horses and camels, are scarce of a quarter so much value. Of date-trees some are male and some are female: the male bring forth flowers onely, and the female fruit: but the flowers of the female will not open, vnlesse the boughes and flowers of the male be ioined vnto them: And if they be not ioined, the dates will prooue starke naught and containe great stones. The inhabitants of Dara liue vpon barlie and other grosse meate: neither may they eate any bread but onely vpon festiuall daies. Their castles are inhabited by goldsmithes and other artificers, and so are all the regions lying in the way from Tombuto to Fez: in this prouince also there are three or fower proper townes, frequented by merchants and strangers, and containing many shops and temples. But the principall towne called Beni Sabih, and inhabited with most valiant and liberall people, is diuided into two parts, either part hauing a seuerall captaine or gouernour: which gouernours are oftentimes at great diffension, and especially when they moisten their arable grounds, by reason that they are so skanted of water. A merchant they will most courteously entertaine a whole yeere together, and then friendly dismissing him, they will require nought at his hands, but wil accept such liberalitie as he thinks good to bestow vpon them. The said gouernours so often as they fall a skirmishing, hire the next Arabians to aide them, allowing them daily halfe a duckat for their pay and sometimes more, and giuing them their allowance euery day. In time of peace they trim their harquebuzes, handguns, & other weapons: neither saw I euer (to my remembrance) more cunning harquebuziers then at this place. In this prouince groweth great store of Indico being an herbe like vnto wilde woad, and this herbe they exchange with the merchants of Fez and Tremisen for other

The strange  
propertie of the  
paine or date-  
tree.

Indico.

wares

wares. Corne is very scarce among them, and is brought thither from Fez and other regions, neither haue they any great store of goats or horses, vnto whom in stead of prouender they giue dates, and a kinde of herbe also which groweth in the kingdome of Naples, and is called by the Neapolitans Farfa. They feede their goates with the nuts or stones of their dates beaten to powder, whereby they grow exceeding fat, & yeeld great quantitie of milke. Their owne foode is the flesh of camels and goates, being vsfaurie and displeasent in taste. Likewise they kill and eate ostriches, the flesh whereof The flesh of the  
Ostrich. tasteth not much vnlike to the flesh of a dunghill-cocke, sauing that it is more tough and of a stronger smell, especially the ostriches leg, which consisteth of slimie flesh. Their women are faire, fat, and courteous: and they keepe diuers slaues which are brought out of the land of Negros.

*Of the prouince of Segelmesse.*

**T**His prouince called Segelmesse, according to the name of the principall citie therein contained, beginneth not farre from the towne of Gherfeluin, and stretcheth southward by the riuer of Ziz an hundred and twentie miles, euen to the confines of the Libyan deserts. The said prouince is inhabited by certaine barbarous people of the families of Zeneta, Zanhagia, and Haõara, and was in times past subiect vnto a certaine prince, which bare rule ouer the same prouince onely. Afterward it fell into the possession of king *Ioseph* of the Luntune-family, and then into the hands of one *Muabidin*, and not long after it was enioied by the king of Fez his sonne. But since that time, the prince of this region was slaine in a rebellion, and the citie of Segelmesse was destroied, and till this day remaineth desolate. Afterward the inhabitants built certaine castles, whereof some are at libertie, and others are subiect to the Arabians.

*Of the prouince of Cheneg.*

**T**His region extending it selfe by the riuer of Ziz vnto mount Atlas, containeth many castles, and bringeth forth great abundance of dates, which dates are but of small value. Their fields are barren and of little circuit, saue onely betweene the riuer Ziz and the foote of mount Atlas, where some store of barlie vseth to grow. The inhabitants are some of them subiect to the Arabians, others to the citie of Gherfeluin, and the residue liue at their owne libertie. And vnto these the high way leading from Segelmesse to Fez is subiect, and they exact great tribute of the merchants trauellling the same way. Neere vnto the said high way stand three castles, the first whereof being situate vpon an exceeding high rocke, seemeth to touch the cloudes. Vnder this castle there is a certaine house where a garde of soldiers continually stand, who for the load of euery camell that passeth by, demand one fourth part of a ducket. The second castle being fiftene miles

distant from the first, standeth not vpon an hill but on a plaine, and is farre more stately and rich then the former. The thirde castle called Tammaracrost is situate vpon the common high way about twenty miles southward of the second. There are certaine villages also, and other castles of meauer account. Corne is maruellous scarce among them: but they haue goates great plentie, which in winter they keepe in certaine large caues, as in places of greatest safetie, whereinto they enter by a most narrow passage. Likewise the entrance into this region for the space of fortie miles is so narrow, that two or three armed men onely may withstand mighty forces.

*Of the region of Matgara.*

**T**His region beginning southward from the region last described, containeth many castles built vpon the riuier of Ziz, the principall whereof is called Helel, wherein remaineth the gouernour of the whole region being an Arabian by birth. The soldiers of this Arabian gouernour dwell in tents vpon the plaines: and he hath other soldiers attending vpon his owne person also, who will suffer no man to passe but vnder safe conduct, without depriving him of all his goods. Here are likewise diuers other villages and castles, which not being woorthy the naming I haue of purpose omitted.

*Of the territorie of Retel.*

**R**etel bordering vpon the region last described, extendeth also fiftie miles southward along the riuier of Ziz, euen to the confines of Segelmesse. It containeth many castles, and yeeldeth plentie of dates. The inhabitants are subiect vnto the Arabians, being extremely couetous, and so faint harted, that an hundred of them dare scarce oppose themselues against ten Arabians: they till the Arabians ground also as if they were their slaues. The east part of Retel bordereth vpon a certaine desolate mountaine, and the west part vpon a desert and sandie plaine, whereunto the Arabians returning home from the wildernes, do resort.

*Of the territorie of Segelmesse.*

**T**His territorie extending it selfe along the riuier of Ziz from north to south almost twenty miles, containeth about three hundred and fiftie castles, besides villages and hamlets: three of which castles are more principall then the rest. The first called Tenegent, and consisting of a thousand and moe families, standeth neere vnto the cite of Segelmesse, and is inhabited with great store of artificers. The second called Tebuhasan, standeth about eight miles to the south of Tenegent, being furnished also with greater numbers of inhabitants, and so frequented with merchants, that there is not in that respect the like place to be found in all the whole region besides.

besides. The third called Mamun is resorted vnto by sundry merchants, both Iewes and Moores. These three castles haue three seuerall gouernours, who are at great dissension among themselues. They will oftentimes destroy one anothers chanel, whereby their fieldes are watered, which cannot without great cost be repaired againe. They will stow the palme-trees also to the very stocks: and vnto them a companie of lewd Arabians associate themselues. They coine both siluer and gold-money: but their gold is not very speciall. Their siluer coine weigheth fower graines apeece, eightie of which peeces are esteemed to be woorth one peece of their gold-coine. The Iewes and Arabians pay excessiue tribute here. Some of their principall men are exceeding rich, and vse great traffique vnto the land of Negros: whither they transport wares of Barbarie, exchanging the same for gold and slaues. The greatest part of them liue vpon dates, except it be in certaine places where some corne grow. Here are infinite numbers of scorpions, but no flies at all. In summer-time this region is extremely hot, and then are the riuers so destitute of water, that the people are constrained to draw salt water out of certaine pits. The said territorie containeth in circuit about eightie miles, all which, after the destruction of Segelmesse, the inhabitants with small cost walled round about, to the ende they might not be molested by continuall inrodes of horsemen. While they liued all at vnitie and concord, they retained their libertie: but since they fell to mutuall debate, their wall was razed, and each faction inuited the Arabians to helpe them, vnder whom by little and little they were brought in subiection.

Infinite numbers of Scorpions.

Of the towne or citie of Segelmesse.

Some are of opinion that this towne was built by a certaine Romaine Captaine, who hauing conducted his troupes foorth of Mauritania, conquered all Numidia, and marching westward, built a towne, and called it Siggillumesse, bicause it stood vpon the borders of Messa, and was as it were the seale of all his victories, and afterward by a corrupt worde it began to be called Segelmesse. The common people together with one of our African Cosmographers, called *Bicri*, suppose that this towne was built by *Alexander* the great, for the reliefe of his sicke and wounded soldiers. Which opinion seemeth not probable to me: for I could neuer read that *Alexander* the great came into any part of these regions. This towne was situate vpon a plaine neere vnto the riuier of *Ziz*, and was enuironed with most stately and high wals, euen as in many places it is to be seene at this present. When the Mahumetans came first into Africa, the inhabitants of this towne were subiect vnto the family of *Zeneta*; which family was at length dispossessed of that authority by king *Ioseph* the son of *Tesfin*, of the family of *Luntuna*. The towne it selfe was very gallantly builte, and the inhabitants were rich, and had great traffike vnto the land of Negros. Heere stood stately temples and colleges also, and great store of conducts, the water whereof was drawn

drawen out of the riuer by wheeles. The aire in this place is most temperate and holesome, sauing that in winter it aboundeth with ouermuch moisture, which breedeth some diseases. But now since the towne was destroyed, the inhabitants began to plant themselues in the next castles and villages, as we haue before signified. I my selfe aboade in this region almost seuen moneths at the foresaid castle of Meniu.

*Of the castle of Essuashila.*

**T**His castle was built by the Arabians in a certaine desert place, twelue miles southward of the towne last described; and here they keepe their wares free from the danger of their enimies. Neere vnto this castle there is neither garden nor field, nor any other commoditie, but onely certaine blacke stones and sand.

*Of the castle of Humeledegi.*

**T**His castle was built also by the Arabians vpon a desert eightene miles from Segelmesse, like as was the former. Neere vnto it lieth a certaine drie plaine, so replenished with sundrie fruits, that in beholding it a farte off a man would thinke the ground were strewed with pome-eitrons.

*Of the castle of Vmmelhesen.*

**I**T is a forlorne and base castle, founded by the Arabians also fise and twentie miles from Segelmesse vpon a desert, directly in the way from Segelmesse to Dara. It is enuironed with blacke wals, and continually garded by the Arabians. All merchants that passe by, pay one fourth part of a ducate for euery camels lode. My selfe traueiling this way vpon a time in the companie of fourteene Iewes, and being demanded how manie there were of vs, we saide thirteene, but after I began particularly to reckon, I founde the fowerteenth and the fifteenth man amongst vs, whom the Arabians woulde haue kept prisoners, had we not affirmed them to be Mahumetans: howbeit not crediting our words, they examined them in the lawe of Mahumer, which when they perceiued them indeede to vnderstand, they permitted them to depart.

*Of the village of Tebelbelt.*

**T**His village standing in the Numidian desert, two hundred miles from Atlas, and an hundred southward of Segelmesse, is situate neere vnto three castles, well stored with inhabitants, and abounding with dates. Water and flesh is very scarce amongst them. They vse to hunt and take Ostriches, and to eate the flesh of them: and albeit they haue a trade vnto the

the land of Negros, yet are they most miserable and beggerly people, and subiect to the Arabians.

*Of the prouince of Todga.*

**T**His little prouince standing vpon a riuier of the same name, hath great plentie of dates, peaches, grapes, and figs. It containeth fower castles and ten villages, the inhabitants being either husbandmen or lether-dressers. And it standeth westward of Segelmesse about fortie miles.

*Of the region of Farcala.*

**I**T standeth also vpon a riuier, and aboundeth with dates and other fruities, but corne is greatly wanting heere. Heere are in this region three castles, and fiue villages. It standeth southward of mount Atlas an hundred, and of Segelmesse almost threescore miles. The poore inhabitants are subiect to the Arabians.

*Of the region of Teserin.*

**T**His beautifull region situate vpon a riuier, is distant from Farcala thirtie, and from mount Atlas about threescore miles. Dates it yeeldeth in abundance, and containeth villages to the number of fiftene, and sixe castles, together with the ruines of two townes, the names whereof I coulde by no meanes enquire. And the worde Teserin in the African language signifieth a towne.

*Of the region called Beni Gumi.*

**T**His region adioining vpon the riuier of Ghir, aboundeth greatly with dates. The inhabitants are poore and miserable, and buie horses at Fez, which they sell afterwarde vnto merchants that trauell to the lande of Negros. It containeth eight castles, and fiftene villages, and standeth southeast of Segelmesse about an hundred and fiftie miles.

*Of the castles of Mazalig and Abuhinan.*

**T**hey are situate in the Numidian desert vpon the riuier of Ghir, almost fiftie miles from Segelmesse. Inhabited they are by certaine beggerly Arabians: neither doth the soile adiacent yeeld any corne at all, and but very fewe dates.

of

*Of the towne of Chasair.**Mines of lead  
and antimonie.*

**T**His towne standing vpon the desert of Numidia twentie miles from Atlas, hath mines of lead and antimonie neere vnto it, whereby the inhabitants get their liuing; for this place yeeldeth none other commoditie.

*Of the region of Beni Besseri.**An iron-mine.*

**T**His little region situate at the foote of mount Atlas, and abounding with all kinde of fruits saue dates, will beare no corne at all. It containeth three castles and a certaine iron-mine, which serueth all the prouince of Segelmesse with iron. Villages heere are but fewe, which are subiect partly to the prince of Dubdu, and partly to the Arabians; and all the inhabitants employ themselues about working in the foresaid iron-mine.

*Of the region of Gauchde.*

**T**His region standing seuentie miles southward of Segelmesse hath three castles and sundrie villages situate vpon the riuer of Ghir. Dates it yeeldeth great plentie, and but very little corne. The inhabitants exercise traffique in the land of Negros; and are all subiect, and pay tribute to the Arabians.

*Of the castles of Fighig.*

**T**He three castles of Fighig stand vpon a certaine desert maruellously abounding with dates. The women of this place weaue a kinde of cloth in forme of a carper, which is so fine, that a man would take it to be silke, and this cloth they sell at an excessiue rate at Fez, Telenfin, and other places of Barbary. The inhabitants being men of an excellent wit, do part of them vse traffique to the land of Negros, and the residue become students at Fez: and so soone as they haue attained to the degree of a doctour, they returne to Numidia, where they are made either priestes or senatours, and prooue most of them men of great wealth and reputation. From Segelmesse the said castles are distant almost an hundred and fiftie miles eastward.

*Of the region of Tesebit.*

**T**He region of Tesebit being situate vpon the Numidian desert, two hundred and fiftie miles eastward of Segelmesse, and an hundred miles from mount Atlas, hath fower castles within the precincts thereof, and many villages also, which stand vpon the confines of Lybia, neer vnto the high way that leadeth from Fez and Telenfin to the kingdome of Agadez and to the land of Negros. The inhabitants are not very rich, for all their wealth consisteth

consisteth in dates, and some small quantitie of corne. The men of this place are black, but the women are somewhat fairer, and yet they are of a swart and browne hue.

*Of the region of Tegerarin.*

**T**His great and large region of the Numidian desert standing about an hundred and twentie miles eastward of Tesebit, containeth fiftie castles, and aboue an hundred villages, and yeeldeth great plentie of dates. The inhabitants are rich, and haue ordinarie traffique to the land of Negros. Their fields are very apt for corne, and yet by reason of their extreme drouth, they stand in neede of continuall watering and dunging. They allow vnto strangers houses to dwell in, requiring no money for rent but onely their dung, which they keepe most charily: yea they take it in ill part if any stranger easeth himselfe without the doores. Flesh is very scarce among them: for their soile is so drie, that it will scarce nourish any cattell at all: they keepe a few goates in neede for their milks sake: but the flesh that they eat is of camels, which the Arabians bring vnto their markets to sell: they mingle their meate with salt tallow, which is brought into this region from Fez & Tremizen. There were in times past many rich Iewes in this region, who by the meanes of a certaine Mahumetan preacher, were at length expelled, and a great part of them slaine by the seditious people; and that in the very same yeere when the Iewes were expelled out of Spaine and Sicily. The inhabitants of this region hauing one onely gouernour of their owne nation, are notwithstanding often subiect to ciuill contentions, and yet they do not molest other nations: howbeit they pay certaine tribute vnto the next Arabians.

*Of the region of Meszab.*

**T**His region being situate vpon the Numidian desert, 300. miles eastward from Tegerarin, and 300. miles also from the Mediterran sea, containeth sixe castles, and many villages, the inhabitants being rich, and vsing traffike to the land of Negros. Likewise the Negro-merchants, together with them of Bugia and Ghir make resort vnto this region. Subiect they are and pay tribute vnto the Arabians.

*Of the towne of Techort.*

**T**He ancient towne of Techort was built by the Numidians vpon a certaine hill, by the foote whereof runneth a riuer, vpon which riuer standeth a draw-bridge. The wall of this towne was made of free stone and lime, but that part which is next vnto the mountaine hath instead of a wall an impregnable rocke opposite against it: this towne is distant fise hundred miles southward from the Mediterran sea, and about 300. miles from Tegerarin. Families it containeth to the number of  
fise

five and twentie hundred: all the houses are built of sunne-dried bricke, except their temple which is somewhat more stately. Heere dwell great store both of gentlemen and artificers: and bicause they haue great abundance of dates, and are destitute of come, the merchants of Constantina exchange come with them for their dates. All strangers they fauour exceedingly, and friendly dismisse them without paying of ought. They had rather match their daughters vnto strangers, then to their owne citizens: and for a dowry they giue some certaine portion of lande, as it is accustomed in some places of Europe. So great and surpassing is their liberalitie, that they will heape many gifts vpon strangers, albeit they are sure neuer to see them againe. At the first they were subiect to the king of Maroco, afterward to the king of Telenfin, and now to the king of Tunis, vnto whom they pay fiftie thousand ducats for yeerely tribute, vpon condition that the king himselfe come personally to receiue it. The king of Tunis that now is, demanded a second tribute of them. Many castles, and villages, and some territories there be also, which are all subiect vnto the prince of this towne: who collecteth an hundred and thirtie thousand ducates of yeerely reuenues, and hath alwaies a mightie garrison of soldiers attending vpon him, vnto whom he alloweth very large paie. The gouernour at this present called *Habdulla*, is a valiant and liberall yoong prince, and most curteous vnto strangers, whereof I my selfe conuersing with him for certaine daies, had good experience.

*Of the citie of Guargala.*



His ancient citie founded by the Numidians, and enuironed with strong wals vpon the Numidian desert, is built very sumptuously, and aboundeth exceedingly with dates. It hath some castles and a great number of villages belonging thereunto. The inhabitants are rich, bicause they are neere vnto the kingdome of Agadez. Heere are diuers merchants of Tunis and Constantina, which transport wares of Barbarie vnto the lande of Negros. And bicause flesh and come is very scarce among them, they liue vpon the flesh of Ostriches and camels. They are all of a blacke colour, and haue blacke slaues, and are people of a courteous and liberall disposition, and most friendly and bountifull vnto strangers. A gouernour they haue whom they reuerence as if he were a king: which gouernour hath about two thousand horsemen alwaies attending vpon him, and collecteth almost fiftene thousand ducates for yeerely reuenue.

*Of the prouince of Zeb.*

**Z**eb a prouince situate also vpon the Numidian desert, beginneth westward from Mesila, northward from the mountaines of Bugia, eastward from the region of dates ouer against Tunis, and southward it bordereth vpon a certaine desert, ouer which they trauaile from Guargala to Techort.