

from the old castle, and about five o'clock, while writing, I heard some horses galloping; and, running out, I was surprised and gratified beyond measure to find Curtis and Greaves, who had ridden up from Jaffa, and had come with Mr. Finn from Jerusalem to see me. We all dined in the tent, and spent a most jolly evening.

*Tuesday, 7th.*—About half-past seven, leaving Toby to bring on the boat, I pushed forward to Jerusalem in order to procure further assistance. I arrived there at 3 P.M., and lost no time in sending to him some fresh camels and six swarthy Arabs, for all which I had to pay 80 piastres. But it was not till 2 P.M. on

*Wednesday, 8th,* that he and the boat entered the walls of Jerusalem by the Damascus gate. In the mean time I went with the consul to wait upon the Pasha, and to thank him for all his civility.

*Thursday, 9th,* was passed in bargaining for camels to carry the boat to the sea-coast. On the 10th we finally left Jerusalem, and after two days I had the pleasure of finding myself once more on board H.M.S. Spartan, and of rejoining my three lost comrades.

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XI.—*On Eastern Africa.* By Lieut. BARKER. (Communicated by Mr. M<sup>c</sup>Queen.)

[Read 8th May, 1848.]

THE islands of Mushakh having been purchased for the British Government from the Sultan of Tadjourah, I had the honour of taking possession of them, in the name of Our Most Gracious Queen, on the 31st of August, 1840.

These islands are situated on a coral reef lying in a direction N.E. and S.W., 7 miles by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles N.W. and S.E., consisting of one elevated about 30 feet above the sea in the highest part, with a few trees scattered about them, such as the mangrove, but not a drop of water. The N.W. end of the N.E. island is situated in lat.  $11^{\circ} 43' N.$ , and long.  $43^{\circ} 19' 29'' E.$ , allowing Bombay to be in long.  $72^{\circ} 54' 26'' E.$ , variation of the compass  $5^{\circ} 30' W.$  There is a tolerable anchorage to be found in from 9 to 6 fathoms, muddy bottom, in a gap of the reef N.  $39^{\circ} W.$ , more than half a mile from N.E. end of Mushakh. Nearly in mid-channel there is a small rocky patch, having only 9 feet water. The soundings on this anchorage they have omitted in the printed chart. The rise and fall of the tide on the full and change of the moon, is 7 and 8 feet. The tides are, however,

very irregular, being much under the influence of the prevailing winds. Time of high water 7h. 15m. A.M.

Tajourah has been sufficiently described by Sir William Harris. I must point out, however, another error—in the map lately constructed, where there is 16 fathoms water, they have put down two small islets surrounded by a reef!

Joobul Kharib, situated at the head of the Bay of Tajourah, is worthy of a short notice from its extraordinary formation. The whole of this portion of Africa has evidently been subject to violent volcanic agency. This bay is connected with the Bay of Tajourah by two narrow channels. The whole width across from coast to coast being about three-quarters of a mile, with a small rocky isle, 40 feet high, situated rather nearer to the Dannakil than to the Eessah coast; the channel formed between it and the former being but 40 yards wide, having 17 fathoms, and the other about 350 yards, having but 3 fathoms on its rocky bottom. The bay lies in a direction N.W. by W. and S.E. by S., 13 miles by nearly 6 miles broad. The western portion is decidedly volcanic. The northern and southern sides are formed by precipitous limestone cliffs, from 400 or 500 feet to 2000 feet above the level of the sea, with very deep ravines. In the S.E. portion the water is deepest, there being 115 fathoms, with the shore equidistant to the northward. Just three-quarters of a mile, a line of soundings across the centre gave 105 fathoms.

In the western extremity there is a small basin, having 16 fathoms water in it, about 300 yards in diameter, surrounded by precipitous volcanic cliffs; the entrance is closed at low-water. Having a small gig with me, I had it carried across this barrier, and sounded all round the basin. Large masses of lava abound in this part of the bay. At a short distance from the small basin there are two islands called Good Alli; they are both precipitous: in one the traces of the lava, or the course of it rather, is plain; the other is of a reddish-white appearance, being thickly covered on all sides with some vegetable matter and earth mixed together.

There are so many reefs and dangers in the vicinity of Zeylah, that it is difficult to give a clear description of the place. The harbour is bounded on the west side by a range of sand-banks extending from Ras Tacooshah in a N.N.E. direction towards Taddickdeen Island, having three channels for small ships, each about 300 yards wide, 18 feet at low-water.

Zeylah is the only port on the Eessah coast. It is built on a low sandy cape called Ras Mahmahr. It has a wall round it in a very ruinous and dilapidated condition; there are a few

stone buildings and about 200 huts. At the time I visited it, it was a dependency of Mocha. The Governor generally resided at the latter place; his deputy governing for him, with a guard of about 30 Arab soldiers armed with matchlocks and shields. They have four or five very ancient guns. The people are supplied with water from the bed of a watercourse situated about 4 miles to the S.W. of the town, called Ta-cooshah, where there is a small round tower, and a guard of five or six Arab soldiers to protect the watering-place. They have an old iron gun, made of bars of iron hooped together. There are some few Arab merchants residing in the town, and some few of the Eessah Goodoo-booric Somaulis. These people are not allowed to enter the town with their arms, depositing them at the gate.

From October to April, which is the rainy season, the coast from Goobul Karab to Core Kurangarub, called by the natives Bhurt Eesal or Eesaulie, is inhabited by wandering parties of the Eessah Somauli, who return to the interior as soon as the pasturage becomes scarce on the approach of the dry season. They are a very powerful tribe; said to be like the sand of the sea-shore for multitude; and are much feared by the Dannakil, who inhabit the opposite side of the Bay of Tajorah, extending along the western shores of the Red Sea to Howakil Bay. These latter people describe Eessah as a race of treacherous thieves and murderers. As far as my experience goes, I found them a timid and inoffensive race.

They are professedly Musselmans, but do not appear to know much of the religion they profess. They lead a wandering life, dwelling not in towns or fenced cities, but roving about from place to place, wherever they can find pasturage for their flocks and herds. It is only a few of them that wear any clothing; most of them, both males and females, wearing a kind of leathern apron. They are armed with spear and shield, and also bow and arrows. They are said to be very expert in the use of their arms, more particularly the latter. The bow is formed of a very tough kind of wood, with but little spring in it; the spring being in the string, which is made of the entrails of sheep or other animals. The arrow is but 14 inches long, made of a reed very nicely feathered and balanced, with an iron barbed head; below the barb there is a small ball of poison; the head of the arrow is fitted so slightly into the reed, that it immediately becomes detached from the reed on striking any object, thereby rendering it difficult to extract. With these arrows they slay the ostrich, zebra, and indeed all kinds of animals.

They are very partial to red hair, dyeing it of that colour,

and are very particular in dressing it. Those who are not favoured by nature with good heads of hair make wigs of sheep-skin, dyeing them their favourite colour. I bought one of a man, who was trimming it by the road-side, for one dollar. They never wear the turban, or indeed head-dress of any kind. They only who frequently visit the coast know the value of money. They are, in common with other savage people, very fond of ornaments and trinkets. The produce of their country—consisting of hides, ostrich feathers, horns, ghee, or clarified butter, gums, &c. &c.—are brought to Zeylah, and there exchanged for trinkets and blue cloth (cotton of a very common kind), made at Surat and other parts of India.

Their chief is called Oogass, and is much respected. The title is, I believe, hereditary.

I know not of any rivers in their country; neither could I obtain any satisfactory data as to the extent of their country, except that it extends to the kingdom of Hurrurh—about which more anon.

While I was at Zeylah, in November, 1840, I saw a small caravan or cafila, as it is called here by the Goodoo-boorrie Somaulis, consisting of about 25 men and several women, with some few children. They had come to Zeylah to exchange the produce of their country, the same as that of the Eessah, for grain, blue cloth, &c. They gave me a description of the ruins of an ancient town, which they called Harrowah, nine days' journey to the S. of Zeylah. This must not be confounded with Hurrurh, which they also knew.

Berberah is the principal place of trade along the coast, on account of its beautiful harbour, which is formed by a curvature in the coast-line, and a low sandy cape, projecting out nearly at right angles with the general line of coast, to the distance of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  mile nearly. The extreme of this sandy cape is in lat.  $10^{\circ} 26' 20''$  N., and long.  $44^{\circ} 6' 20''$  E. At the entrance the harbour is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile wide, with 13 fathoms mid-channel; direction of the harbour E.N.E. and W.S.W., gradually contracting and shoaling to five fathoms, within about 200 yards of the town. The tribes from the interior commence arriving about the end of October, and continue to do so till March. At the end of that month, in a few days, the place, from containing a population of 10,000 or 15,000, becomes totally deserted. About the time that the tribes commence to assemble, boats also from India make their appearance, as well as from the several ports on the coast of Arabia and from the Gulf of Persia. The imports are white and blue cotton-cloths of Indian manufacture; also piece goods, Indian handkerchiefs, brass and copper wire, zinc and

beads, dates and grain from the coast of Arabia, and some few prints for the Hurrurh market. Some English shawls I saw there were valued at 20 to 30 German crowns each. The exports are ghee, hides, deer's horns, ivory, gums, ostrich feathers, coffee, sheep and horned cattle.

I learned from several individuals that the ancient name of the coast, now called "Bhur Hebrawal," was "Bhur Eesakh," who was the father of the Somauli. He dying, left three sons, Aboo-ghur-hajiz, Hebrawal, and Aboo-teezayah. The latter's mother was a slave. From these three are descended the numerous tribes of Somauli, the principal of whom are the Ayal Aboo-ghur-hajiz, Ayal Hamed, Ayal Gudeed, Ayal Shoor Drooan, Ayal Hosha, Ayal Mahomoad, and Ayal Grums. I could not obtain any information as to the strength of each tribe. In former years they inhabited the coast from Meeat, in the vicinity of Mette Island, eastward, to Cape Guardafui, and along the east coast of Africa towards the equator; but as the Galla, who then inhabited this part of the coast, retreated towards the interior, they occupied their places.

Like the Eessah, they lead a wandering life, halting from time to time at such places as they can obtain pasturage for their flocks and herds, in which they are said to be very rich. I do not think that they have any rivers of importance in any part of their country.

They profess the Mohammedan religion, but have but an imperfect knowledge of its tenets. I was too short a time with them to obtain any knowledge of their language, further than that it has not the slightest resemblance either to the Arabic, Amharic, or Hurrurhje (or that spoken by the Hurrurh people). Each tribe is governed by its own chief, somewhat after the patriarchal manner. The men, as well as the women, are tall, and of pleasing manners.

From Berberah the coast extends with a slight curve to the southward, towards Sayaral, on a line of bearing E.N.E. At Sayaral there is a tolerable anchorage in an open roadstead, 10 fathoms, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile from the shore. Good water may be easily obtained from a few small wells situated about 60 yards from the beach. The water at Berberah being very brackish, the inhabitants are supplied from this place; but a more unpromising place for water I have never visited—a barren, sandy soil, not a blade of grass to be seen in any direction, and in some parts the adjacent hills are covered almost to their summits with drift-sand. There is a very extensive burial-ground, but no inscriptions of any kind, and the ruins of a mosque. Tradition says that in former times there was a con-

siderable town here. Sayaral is in lat.  $10^{\circ} 35' 26''$  N., and long.  $45^{\circ} 22' 56''$  E. There are two rude stone buildings and five or six huts.

There is great difficulty in obtaining any information of the interior, either from the natives of the country or its inhabitants: no reliance can be placed on what the natives say, and there is great difficulty in getting to the interior, owing to the jealousy of the people.

Hurrurh may be said to be situated about 192 miles to the eastward of Ankobar, and about 150 S.S.W. from Zeylah. It is situated in a verdant valley, almost encircled by hills. It has a wall round it, of stones and mud, which is kept in good repair: the height thereof is 12 feet, and thickness 3 feet, and in circumference about 2 hours' quiet walking. There are five gates—Emá-e-deen Burri (which means gate), facing towards Shoah; Siektal Burri, towards the Arroosie Galla; Budderoo-Burri, towards the Alla Galla; Assoom Burri, towards Zeylah; Argoboh Burri, towards Berberah. The Galla approach near to the town on all sides, and N. towards the W. the Nooli Galla; W. towards the S. the Alla Galla (these are two powerful tribes, mostly pagans); to the N.E. dwell the Beero Galla, who are Mahommedans; and to the E., and thence towards Berberah, the tribes of Jarsoo, Babili, Bursoob, Burtera, and Gooti Galla, many of whom are said to be Mahommedans. The ruler of Hurrurh governs with the title of Emir. The present Emir's name is Aboo Beker: he has reigned seven years. The succession is hereditary, as is the case in Shoah. The male relatives of the reigning prince are all confined. It is said they are shut up in vaults, from which they are but seldom allowed to remove. Should the prince, however, at any time need their services, they are released, and frequently on such occasions preferred to situations of great trust. On the slightest suspicion, however, that they are plotting against the government, or should they become too popular, they are speedily sent back to their vaults again. The soil in the vicinity is very rich, producing coffee, wheat, barley, jowarie, &c. in great profusion. They have also a great variety of fruits and vegetables. Coffee is the most important export.

They have a small copper coin called mahalah, twenty-two of which are equal to a nominal coin called ashreeffi; forty ashreeffi are equal to one German crown. The mahalah resembles the small copper coin used about Jeddah: on the one side is written in Arabic characters "there is no God but God," and on the reverse the name of the reigning prince. Cafilas are coming from and departing to various quarters at all seasons. The principal are those that trade to Berberah, Zeylah, Chercher,

and Arroosie. There are smaller cafilas that trade to Arreea, Ogahdeen, and other parts of the Somauli country. Hence cafilas trade yearly to Berberah between the months of October and March, occupying from 30 to 40 days on the road. Camels are used for the journey, laden with coffee, ivory, ghee (clarified butter), ostrich feathers, gums, &c., and slaves, both male and female, are also exported to Zeylah as well as to Berberah. In return they receive blue and white coarse cotton and Indian manufactures, Indian piece goods, English prints, silks, shawls, red cotton-yarn, beads, zinc, copper, copper wire, &c.; and, from the Somauli country, frankincense and book-koor Somauli. The Hurrurh people are called "Hurrurhji," and also "Hurrij." They are rigid Mohammedans, paying strict attention to the fasts and ceremonies enjoined by the false prophet. Their language bears some affinity to the Amharic. They use the Arabic character. The climate resembles that of Alio Amba, which is 3000 feet below Ankobar. Hurrurh possesses advantages that certainly no other town on this side of Africa has of penetrating to the interior.

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XII.—*On Eastern Africa*. By Lieut. CRUTTENDEN, I.N. (Communicated to Mr. M'Queen by Sir Wm. Harris, Political Resident, Aden.)

[Read 8th May, 1848.]

THE Bur e Somal, or Somali country, properly speaking, extends from Ras el Khyle, on the eastern coast, to the Esa tribe, who reside in the neighbourhood of Zeylah. The people of Mukdeeshah are not Somalis, but of the Haweea tribe. The river usually known as the Webbe forms their southern boundary, or, as they express it, is "the separation of the Moslem from the Kaffirs" (under which common term they include English as well as Galla). The country, as you proceed to the westward from Cape Jered Hafoon, changes in its productions. Coffee in great abundance is found in the mountains of the Gidr Beersi, but no gums; whilst to the eastward the coffee vanishes, and the hills produce so great an abundance of gums that the "regio thurifera" ought, properly speaking, to be looked for there, rather than on the plains of Morebat and Háseh.

The Somalis, especially those who live on the coast, are fond of dating their origin from the Arabs. By their tradition, Sheikh Isaakh, an Arab chief of great sanctity, settled on the Somali coast near Mette, and, marrying a female of that place, became the father of the Habr Awal, Habr Gerhajis, and



In the mountain range of Bugama, rise 3 rivers, the Jib, the Shebeyli, and the Hawash.

Between the Shebeyli and Gananch rivers the country is well cultivated, producing abundance of grain and watered by 3 small streams which are lost in the sand.

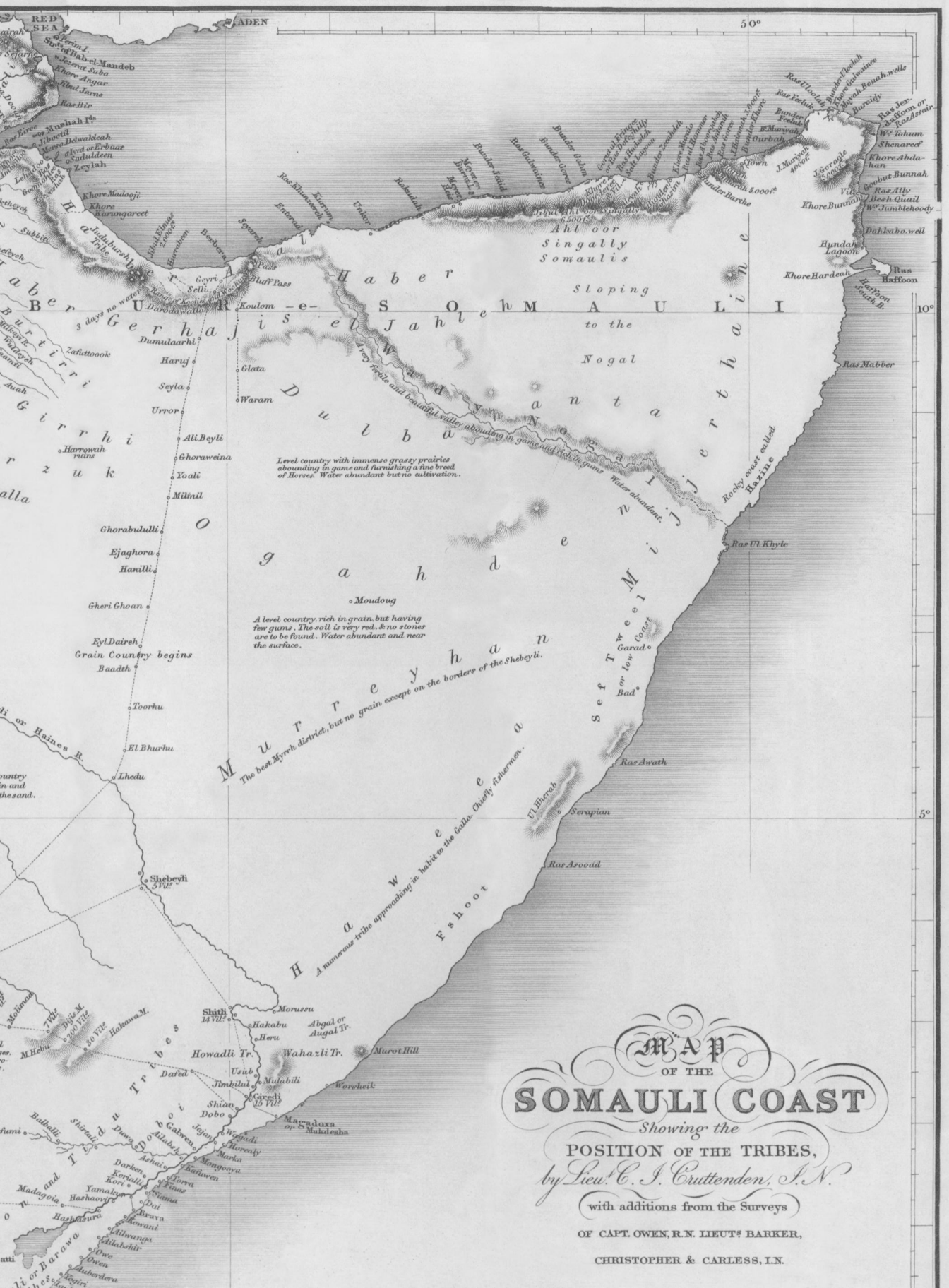
Gananch is described as a small province containing many villages, the inhabitants of which act as brokers between the Somali traders and the Galla.

Level country with immense grassy prairies abounding in game and furnishing a fine breed of horses. Water abundant but no cultivation.

A level country, rich in grain, but having few guns. The soil is very red, & no stones are to be found. Water abundant and near the surface.

The best Myrrh district, but no grain except on the borders.






50°

10°

5°

  
**MAP**  
 OF THE  
**SOMALI COAST**  
 Showing the  
 POSITION OF THE TRIBES,  
 by Lieut. C. I. Cuttenden, I.N.  
 (with additions from the Surveys)  
 OF CAPT. OWEN, R.N. LIEUT. BARKER,  
 CHRISTOPHER & CARLESS, I.N.

**Avlloor**  
 Singally  
 Somaulis

Level country with immense grassy prairies  
 abounding in game and furnishing a fine breed  
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 few gums. The soil is very red, & no stones  
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 the surface.

The best Myrrh district, but no grain except on the borders of the Shebeyli.

A numerous tribe approaching in habit to the Galla. Chiefly fisherman.

**Haber**  
 Sloping  
 to the  
**S O M A U L I**  
 Nogal

**D u l b a**  
 A very fertile and beautiful valley abounding in gums and rich in game. Water abundant.

**O g a d e n**  
 Water abundant.

**M u r r e y h a n**  
 The best Myrrh district, but no grain except on the borders of the Shebeyli.

**H a w e e**  
 A numerous tribe approaching in habit to the Galla. Chiefly fisherman.

**F s h o o t**

**T r i b e s**

**I n d i a n**



10°

5°

0°

40°

45° Longitude East from Greenwich.

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Wardai Gallas

Somali or Barawa Tribes

Equator



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