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**'NOTES ON THE ISLANDS OF BAHRAIN AND ANTIQUITIES BY CAPTAIN E. L.
DURAND, 1 ASSISTANT RESIDENT, PERSIAN GULF.'**

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About this record

Letter No. 164 from Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Charles Ross, Her British Majesty's Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, to Alfred Comyn Lyall, Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, 1 May 1879, enclosing notes on the islands of Bahrain and Antiquities, written by Edward Law Durand, and commenting that some of the antiquities described had not been documented before and were of interest to the British Museum who were funding further research and excavation.

The notes are broken down into the following headings:

Bahrain

- Descriptive: describing the physical geography of the islands and their surrounding waters, the longitude and latitude and navigable access by sea;
- Trade: describing the pearl and date trades, and ways in which trade and harbour access might be improved;
- Interior of the Islands: describing geographical features inland;
- Water: describing the locations of fresh springs across the island and also the

availability of salt;

- Trees and Plants; describing the flora and fauna of the islands;
- Animals: tame animals including horses, donkeys, camels and cows
- Wild animals: including gazelle, mongoose and hares.

Antiquities

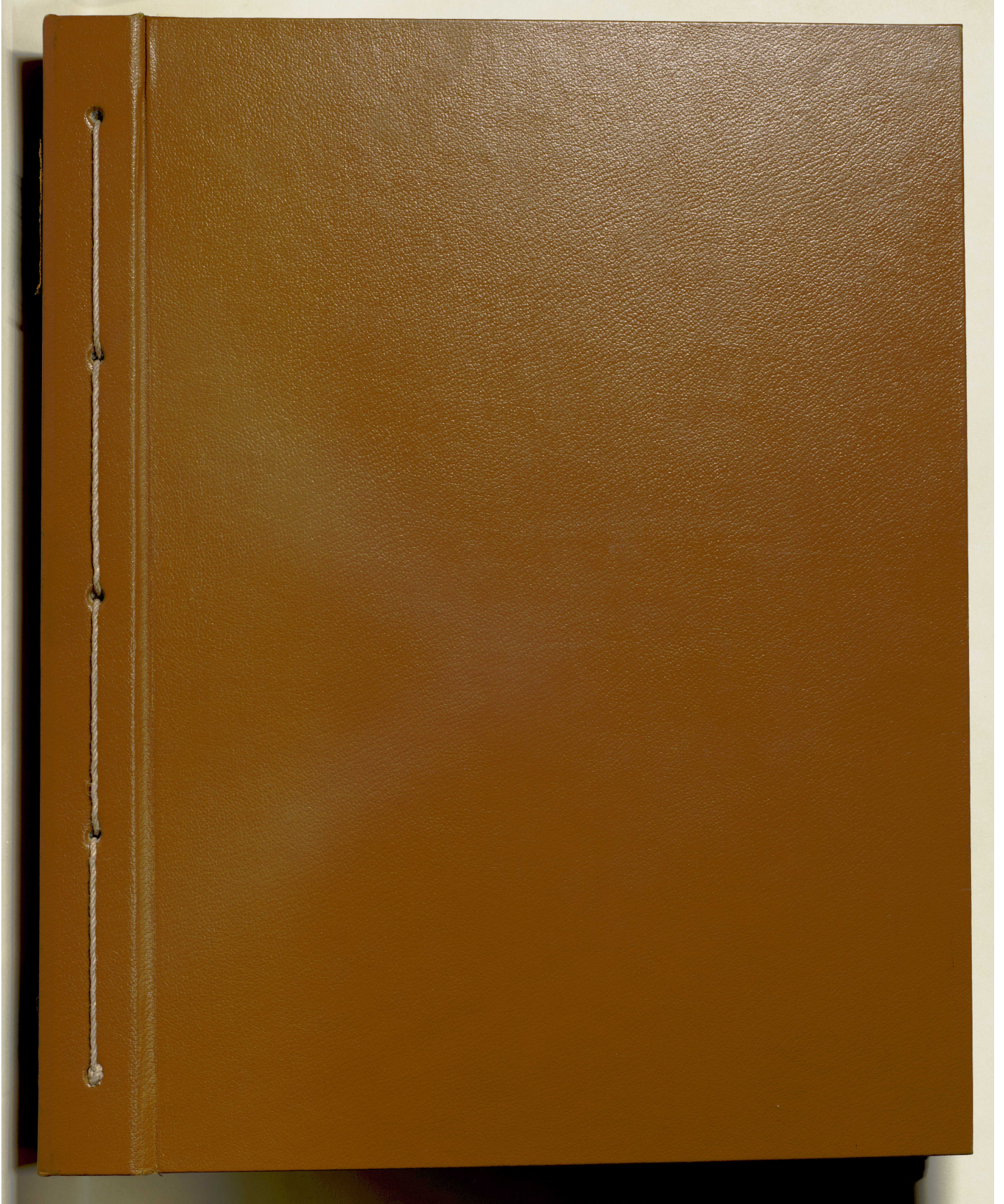
- Antiquarian: giving an account of the earliest known history of the islands, including their rulership by the Phoenicians, Babylonians, Persians, Arabs and Portuguese, before describing the antiquities to be found on the islands.

The notes describe the antiquities visited by Captain Durand during trips to Bahrain, including all the mosques on the islands; an old stone water well found in a date grove near Bilad-i-Kadim [Bilad al Qadeem]; a number of mounds at Ali [Aali] which were determined to be temples or tombs, which Durand speculates may have been the great Phoenician cemetery of Gerrha and which he spent several days exploring and excavating.

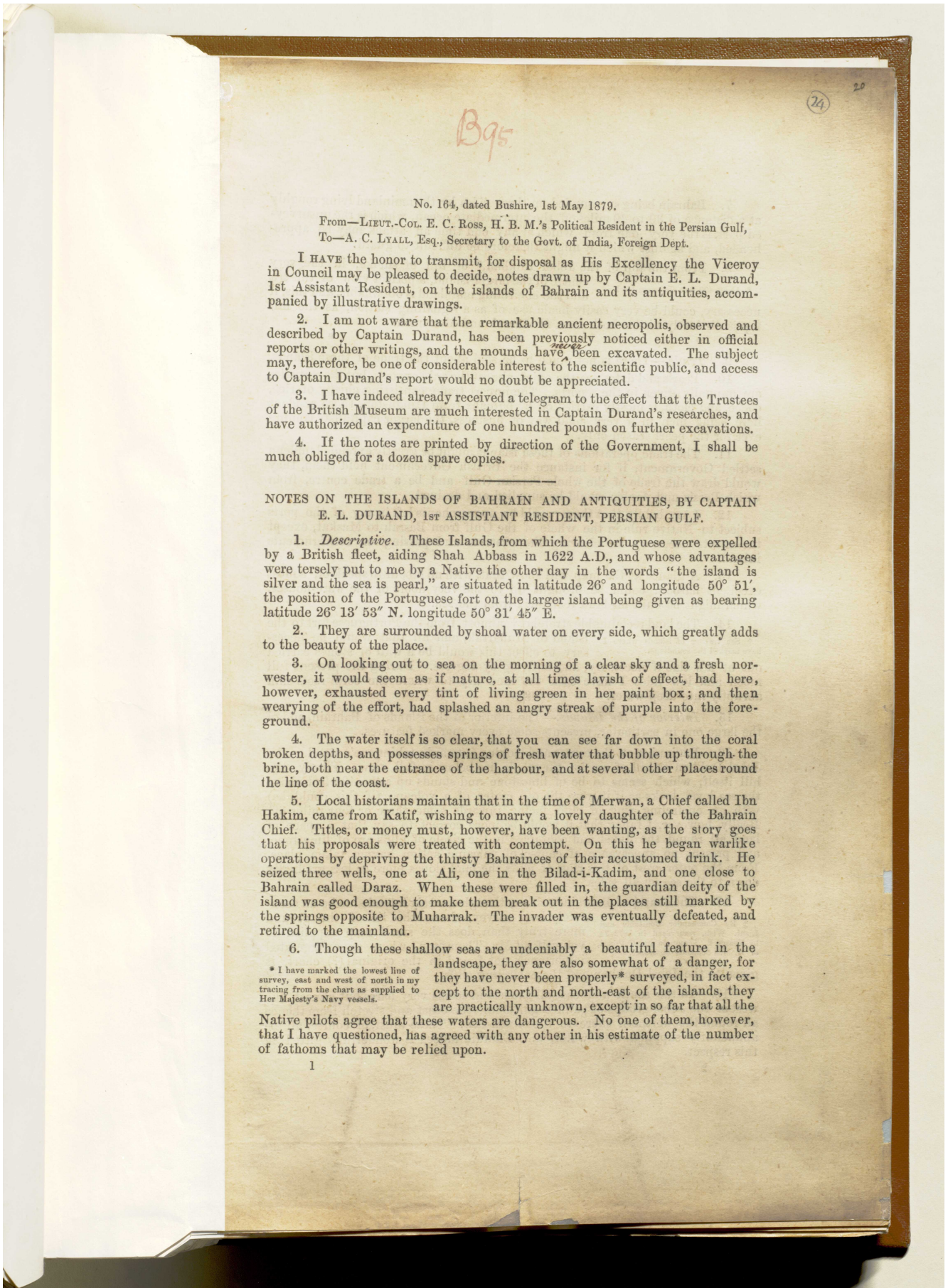
The notes include illustrations (folios 29, 30, 33 and 35) to accompany the report, which were lithographed from originals supplied by the Foreign Department of the Government of India.

The notes also included two maps which have since been removed and are kept in the India Office Maps Collection (IOR/W/L/PS/18/B95).

'NOTES ON THE ISLANDS OF BAHRAIN AND ANTIQUITIES BY CAPTAIN E. L. DURAND, 1
ASSISTANT RESIDENT, PERSIAN GULF.' [front] (1/32)



'NOTES ON THE ISLANDS OF BAHRAIN AND ANTIQUITIES BY CAPTAIN E. L. DURAND, 1
ASSISTANT RESIDENT, PERSIAN GULF.' [20r] (2/32)



No. 164, dated Bushire, 1st May 1879.

From—LIEUT.-COL. E. C. ROSS, H. B. M.'s Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To—A. C. LYALL, Esq., Secretary to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

I HAVE the honor to transmit, for disposal as His Excellency the Viceroy in Council may be pleased to decide, notes drawn up by Captain E. L. Durand, 1st Assistant Resident, on the islands of Bahrain and its antiquities, accompanied by illustrative drawings.

2. I am not aware that the remarkable ancient necropolis, observed and described by Captain Durand, has been previously noticed either in official reports or other writings, and the mounds have been excavated. The subject may, therefore, be one of considerable interest to the scientific public, and access to Captain Durand's report would no doubt be appreciated.

3. I have indeed already received a telegram to the effect that the Trustees of the British Museum are much interested in Captain Durand's researches, and have authorized an expenditure of one hundred pounds on further excavations.

4. If the notes are printed by direction of the Government, I shall be much obliged for a dozen spare copies.

NOTES ON THE ISLANDS OF BAHRAIN AND ANTIQUITIES, BY CAPTAIN
E. L. DURAND, 1ST ASSISTANT RESIDENT, PERSIAN GULF.

1. *Descriptive.* These Islands, from which the Portuguese were expelled by a British fleet, aiding Shah Abbass in 1622 A.D., and whose advantages were tersely put to me by a Native the other day in the words "the island is silver and the sea is pearl," are situated in latitude 26° and longitude 50° 51', the position of the Portuguese fort on the larger island being given as bearing latitude 26° 13' 53" N. longitude 50° 31' 45" E.

2. They are surrounded by shoal water on every side, which greatly adds to the beauty of the place.

3. On looking out to sea on the morning of a clear sky and a fresh nor-wester, it would seem as if nature, at all times lavish of effect, had here, however, exhausted every tint of living green in her paint box; and then wearying of the effort, had splashed an angry streak of purple into the foreground.

4. The water itself is so clear, that you can see far down into the coral broken depths, and possesses springs of fresh water that bubble up through the brine, both near the entrance of the harbour, and at several other places round the line of the coast.

5. Local historians maintain that in the time of Merwan, a Chief called Ibn Hakim, came from Katif, wishing to marry a lovely daughter of the Bahrain Chief. Titles, or money must, however, have been wanting, as the story goes that his proposals were treated with contempt. On this he began warlike operations by depriving the thirsty Bahrainees of their accustomed drink. He seized three wells, one at Ali, one in the Bilad-i-Kadim, and one close to Bahrain called Daraz. When these were filled in, the guardian deity of the island was good enough to make them break out in the places still marked by the springs opposite to Muharrak. The invader was eventually defeated, and retired to the mainland.

6. Though these shallow seas are undeniably a beautiful feature in the landscape, they are also somewhat of a danger, for they have never been properly* surveyed, in fact except to the north and north-east of the islands, they are practically unknown, except in so far that all the Native pilots agree that these waters are dangerous. No one of them, however, that I have questioned, has agreed with any other in his estimate of the number of fathoms that may be relied upon.

* I have marked the lowest line of survey, east and west of north in my tracing from the chart as supplied to Her Majesty's Navy vessels.

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7. Bahrain being surrounded on three sides by the mainland lying roughly at a distance of 30 to 40 miles off, the intermediate ocean, which is the unsurveyed part, is the very one from which at any odd time an attack may be apprehended, and against which it might therefore be difficult to guard.

8. From the top of the Jebel Dukhan,* or hill of smoke, in the very centre of the larger island, a perfect view of this sea and the encircling mainland is obtainable, and this, if necessary, could be very easily made use of as a signalling station, as the hill top is distinctly visible both from Muharrak and Manameh.

* About 400 feet above sea level.

9. *Trade.*—There is not much to be said about the trade of these islands.

10. Pearls and dates are the chief, almost the only exports, but the statistics are annually given in the reports. The import trade, consisting chiefly of rice, coffee, and cloth, is mostly carried on by buniahs from Hindustan, those resident here being men in a very small way of business, the larger capitalists coming over for the pearl season only.

11. The trade operations of these islands might be greatly extended under a settled Government, if for instance the British Government held them, they would draw the trade of the whole Persian Gulf and be a trade centre, from which Persia and Arabia would be supplied and drained.

12. I say boldly that there would be no merchants left in any of the ports subject to Native rule in the whole of the Gulf from Basrah to Maskat, except the agents necessary for clearing the customs and passing on consignments inland.

13. A glance at the map will show that, with no labour to speak of, a most excellent harbour could be brought up to the very doors of the ware-houses, which might be built on land reclaimed from the sea.

14. The land reclaimable stretches† almost from the Portuguese fort to the island of Muharrak, and all that would be necessary to effect this would be a wall of stones carried out at low tide if necessary, and built up by degrees. During the present full moon and low tides I have seen the land dry to where the coral reefs sink abruptly into deep water.

15. *Interior of the Islands.*—The interior of the islands of Bahrain, and of the large one in particular, presents some every marked features.

16. Beginning at the centre and looking outwards, taking one's stand on the Jebel Dukhan or hill of smoke, the whole lies below in full view. Firstly, the hill itself, which seems to be of limestone and stands up some 400 feet above the sea level, looks as if it were the old crater of a volcano (if this could be) with an encircling ring of cliffs facing inwards some three or four miles off. Really, however, I fancy that it would be more correct to say that a space of land all round the Jebel and contained in the circle of cliffs are of limestone, and present no appearance of course of volcanic action having taken place. From the outer crest of this ring of cliffs the land slopes more or less gradually down to the sea on all sides.

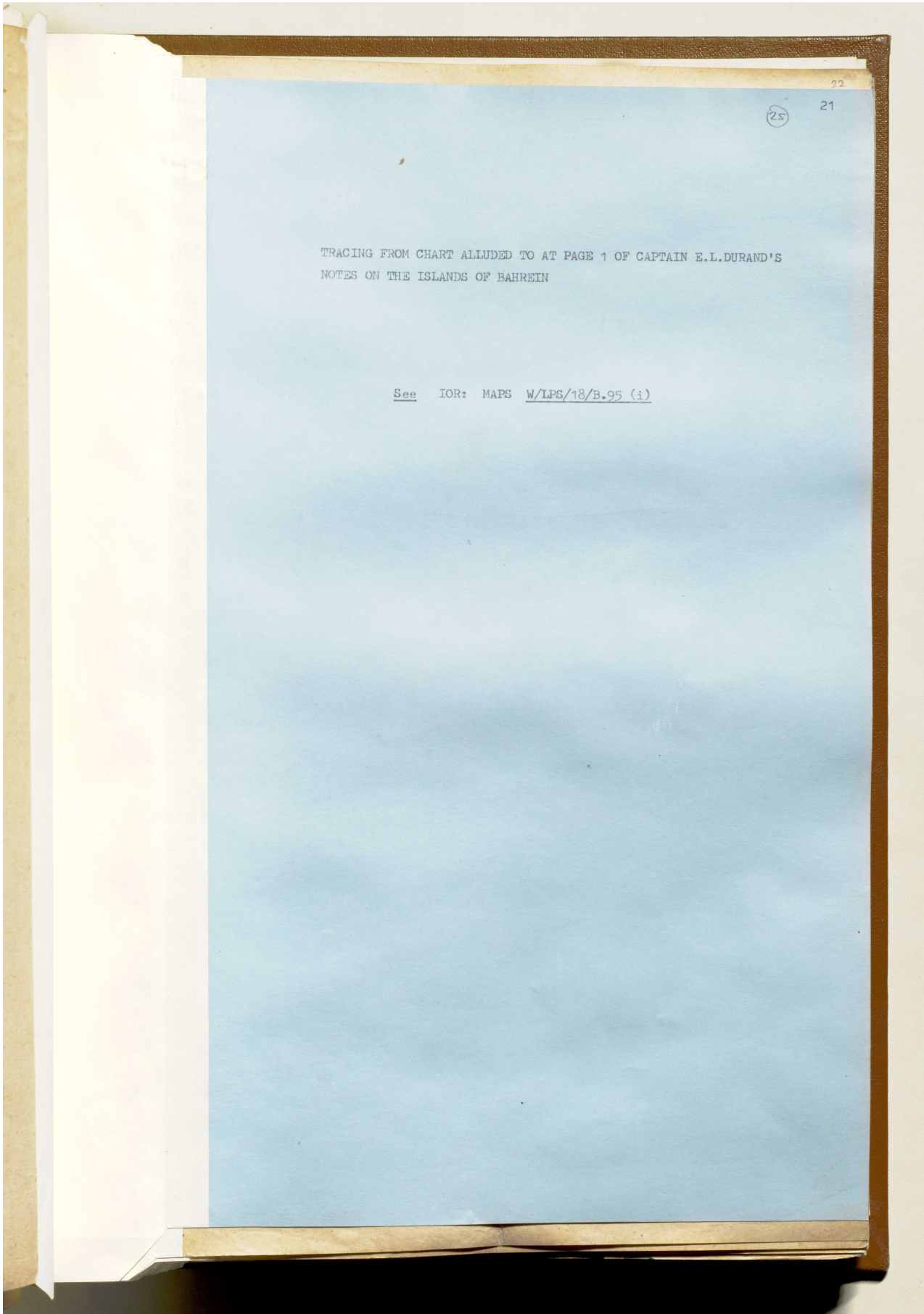
17. The chart‡ of Bahrain harbour, though scarcely intended to be an accurately land survey, shows the lie of the ground more truly than does the small map supplied to yourself by Mr. Thompson, where an exaggerated importance, not found in the original (?) chart, is given to the Jebel Dukhan and the encircling cliffs.

† See tracing of islands where I have marked the soundings.

‡ By Commander Constable and Lieut. Wish, resurveyed in 1872-74 by Messrs. E. Thompson and Culbert, of H. M.'s Schooner *Constance*.

18. To the south and east all the island seems very bare, but almost due west of the Jebel groups of palm begin to line the coast and stretch from thence all round the northern shore to the north-east. These must, of course, all be abundantly supplied with water, and Bahrain indeed is wonderfully gifted in this respect.

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'NOTES ON THE ISLANDS OF BAHRAIN AND ANTIQUITIES BY CAPTAIN E. L. DURAND, 1 ASSISTANT RESIDENT, PERSIAN GULF.' [22r] (6/32)

19. *Water*.—I have already noticed the springs that burst out fresh in the seas around Bahrain. Forster mentions that the Arabs consider these as well as others on the mainland to have their source in an under-ground river still running from the Euphrates, as he puts it, this is most clearly the *Flumen per quod Euphratem emergere putant*, mentioned in this quarter by Pliny. (It is not an uncommon thing in Persia to see wells sunk apparently in hopeless ground, and to find that they tap a small stream running under-ground.)

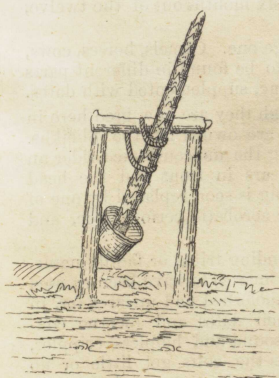
20. The principal springs are the Gassari on the road from Manameh to the Bilad-i-Kadim, the Umm-i-Shaoom, a mile to the eastward of Manameh, the Abu Geidan, in the Bilad-i-Kadim, and the Adari, which last supplies many miles of date-groves through a canal of ancient workmanship (whose stone in some places falling in) with a perfect river of fast running water some 10 feet broad by two in depth. The spring itself is some 30 to 35 feet deep, and rises so strongly that a diver is forced upwards on nearing the bottom. I do not mean that you cannot reach it, but merely that the force of the water is felt against you.

21. The water where it rises in this deep spring, whose basin artificially banked is some 22 yards across by 40 long, is as clear as crystal with a slightly green tint and very beautiful. It holds a shoal or two of large fish and many water tortoises. It is not perfectly sweet, and this applies to nearly all the wells, the drinking water for connoisseurs being brought on camels from the wells of the

* Names of two villages a mile or so apart on the top of the circle of cliffs.

*Umm Koefih and *Hanaini, said to be 20 fathoms deep, in the hills of Rifaa. The water is conducted from these various wells by ordinary unbanked channels, the larger of which have now come to look like natural streams. Where it is necessary to raise it this is done from wells by the ordinary skin bucket let down over a pulley and walked up to the cistern level by cattle pulling down an incline; from channels generally by leverage of a date† trunk lightly swung by ropes to a frame, and balanced at one end by a basket of earth into which it is inserted, so that little exertion is required to lift up the water.

† Something like this.



22. The Jebel Dukhan, as I said above, seems to be of a sort of limestone. I found some fossil shells upon it. The surrounding cliffs were, where I saw them, I think of sandstone; but they are generally limestone, and this stone was enormously quarried from here, I take it, to build the dead-houses under the tumuli.

23. On nearing the coast, white dusty ground, the cerecloth of dead races and habitations, intrudes everywhere as if to enforce attention; and mighty mounds† bare of vegetation tower above the palm groves. The map gives a very slight idea of this most noticeable feature. Mass upon mass, mound upon mound, they stretch on in endless chains all round the slope

† I append a sketch of one group of these, probably the largest on the island.

that falls from the cliffs to the sea, clinging more particularly perhaps to the higher ground, but found in separate clusters near the coast itself.

24. The parent group is perhaps that at Ali, a modern village, but other large ones are to be found at many places, noticeably those in the Bilad-i-Kadim. The red ones on the left of the high road to Rifaa, and the chain of five or six large ones facing the

See Map.

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northern sea near the village of Sirabe, which are only some out of very many groups, are all more or less worthy of notice. I shall have to recur again to these monuments later on.

25. Salt in considerable quantity is said to be obtainable at the southern end of the island (as also, I am told, on the adjacent mainland). (Compare Strabo's account of the houses built of salt in these parts and mended with salt-water douches.)

And Pliny—houses built of "fossil salt." Query, rock-salt? or white coral? or a hard sort of clay (found on Bahrain, which is strongly impregnated with salt).

On this subject an Arab from the mainland assured me that in one place, where they now quarry salt, the remains of old buildings and pillars are often seen.

26. *Trees and Plants.*—Foremost amongst the trees is of course the date, and some of the date-gardens are extremely fine. Many however are going and gone to ruin, the result of bad Government, and indeed in some places that were once flourishing gardens not a bearing tree remains.

27. The almond with its broad and coloured leaves grows well, and is seen to great effect amongst the palm.

28. The citron grows well in a garden now under Sheikh Ahmed. I saw many acres of these trees all bending with such masses of golden fruit that they seemed scarcely able to bear the weight. These were interspersed amongst palms, peach, and almond trees, and themselves were covered with scented blossom as well as fruit.

29. The tamarind flourishes, having probably been imported from India.

30. I give a general list in the margin, but perhaps not quite a full one.

Date Palm.	Pomegranate.	Tamarind.	Mulberry.
Vine.	Almond.	Citron.	Bair.
Fig.	Peach.	Apricot.	

31. The castor oil plant, that hardy invader of every Eastern soil, flourishes here as elsewhere.

32. Lucerne grass is very largely cultivated and (with dates) is about the only food supply grown or used for the animals of this island. Were the least attention given to this branch of agriculture, almost every known vegetable could be produced here, as the climate is good for at least six months out of the twelve, and water is abundant.

33. *Animals.*—The list of animals is not a large one. Camels, horses, cows, and donkeys (with the inevitable Eastern dog) are to be found in different parts of the island. All these feed principally upon lucerne, supplemented with dates.

34. The camels are mostly from Arabia, though they are now bred here in the marshes. A few good ones for riding purposes are owned by the Sheikhs. These feed even when going at a sharp trot giving the unaccustomed rider an odd feeling of helplessness, as the long neck disappears in front and the head becomes mixed up with the animal's legs; this feeling is soon replaced by one of implicit confidence when you get accustomed to the acrobatic performance, and find that no harm comes of it.

35. The horses, all rejoicing in some high-sounding tribal or family name, appear to me, with the exception of some old brood mares, to have been crossed with an inferior breed. They stand, unused and unclothed and uncared for, in summer and winter in the same place, and eat their dates and lucerne contentedly. Breeding is carried on from the most unsound and helpless cripples, some of whom can barely stand from disease, and as the colts get little or no exercise, the result of the breeding arrangements cannot be very satisfactory.

36. The Sheikhs are of course the only owners, and consider their misshapen cripples to be of enormous value. It is not worth while to undecieve them, as no one in his senses would think of buying one.

37. The cows were famed and are still good, but the race is dying out as no poor man or cultivator can keep them.

38. The white donkeys were famed, but are few and far between now, except those owned by the Sheikhs and a few big men. They are not so fine as those I have seen in Persia, and a much higher price is asked for them. The ordinary

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little dwarf grey donkey who picks up a subsistence as best as he can round the villages is plentiful, and used, generally raw with sores, to carry date branches, wood, &c., to market in the towns.

39. *Wild Animals.*—The wild animals are few. The gazelle, the hare, and the mangoose, are all that I know of.

40. The Arab gazelle in its perfect and slender beauty of proportion, differs as much from the Persian or Mesopotamian as a thoroughbred does from a cart-horse.

41. The hares are about the size of a three-quarter grown English rabbit, very small and blood-looking, with prominent eyes. This casty look is noticeable in every Arabian animal, man included. The Arab horse is well known, but the Arab greyhound of which a really good specimen is seldom obtainable, is a most beautiful animal, so light and slender as to seem useless for work, but when going, appearing rather to fly than gallop. These hares are easily tamed; I had two, rescued from a hawk and a greyhound respectively, which after four days became so tame that they played about the room, hopping up occasionally to see what I was doing, and only retiring behind a box on the arrival of a stranger.

42. The mangoose runs about in broad day everywhere.

43. There are several sorts of fish in the fresh water. One with peculiar marking drew my attention. I have never seen him noticed. The dorsal fin is the centre of 3 circular or oval bands of dark colour, which show very plainly against the silver sides of the fish and present an odd effect when he swims. The largest I saw was only probably a few ounces in weight. It would almost seem as if he had caught the colour of his coat from swimming constantly in these shallow crystal waters shaded by the long thin spikes of date palm, but perhaps this is too



Darwinian, as, although fish do constantly take, and even change their colour from the sort of water they live in, they would scarcely take their marking in this manner.

44. *Antiquarian.*—I have already given a slight sketch of the individuality of these islands, if I may use the term, in connection with the lie of the ground, and the certainty that is forced upon even the most superficial observer that he is standing upon no common soil, but on that of a land which, although now desolate enough has probably teemed with life, and under whose dust in all probability lies the history of countless generations of his fellows.

45. I have mentioned the tumuli, which cover the island on all sides, from the coast to the centre or the cliffs of the central basin, and the grey dust land, which crops out everywhere barren, between the date-groves, and tells its own tale.

46. I will just take one glance at what is known of the earliest historic days of the race that peopled these islands, and then give a brief account of what three weeks of constant research have disclosed, leaving it for others, who know more about these matters than I do to judge whether my conclusions are right or wrong.

47. We know that probably amongst other matters, these islands have been ruled by Phœnicians, Babylonians (?), Persians, Arabs, and Portuguese. With regard to the former Herodotus says that "the Phœnicians first dwelt upon the Erythrean Sea, having migrated to the Mediterranean when, &c.," and again later on in his account of the forces that Xerxes paraded for the conquest of Greece, after having mentioned that the Phœnicians of Sidon had won the regatta held at the foot of that monarch's marble throne on Abydos, that "according to their own account this nation dwelt anciently upon the Erythrean Sea, but crossing thence fixed themselves upon the Coast of Syria, where they still inhabit." In a note of Mr. Rawlinson's on the first mentioned

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of these statements, he says that the question commonly discussed has been whether the cities about the Persian Gulf are the mother cities of those on the Mediterranean, or colonies from them. Seetzen and Heeren incline to the latter view, but in favor of the former he notes—

(I) The double tradition, *viz.*, that of Herodotus, of the Phœnicians, of Phœnicia Proper, and that of the inhabitants of Tyrus and Aradus recorded by Erastosthenes, who probably followed Androsthene, the Naval Officer of Alexander.

(II) What may be called the argument for general probability. Both arguments would seem to be very strong ones, particularly that of the double tradition, for we know how jealously such race vouchers are handed down from father to son amongst Eastern nations, and it seems more probable that the Phœnicians should have been influenced by the law of the Semitic drift to the westward than that they should have been fighting against the tide. Mr. Rawlinson, however, remarks that the temples seen by Androsthene (at Bahrain) may have been built when the Phœnicians formed settlements in the time of their prosperity.

48. Without offering an opinion that I am unqualified to give, I would draw attention to Mr. Rawlinson's more elaborate essay on the same subject, which, leaving the origin of the tradition of a Phœnician emigration still doubtful in so far as it might really have related to an early Hamitic movement, which he does not dispute, lays down that the Phœnician, like other Semitic races in these parts, did emigrate from Babylonia, the primitive seat and home of Semitism, but he apparently objects to Strabo's cradling them specially in Bahrain, and to the more elaborately worked out story of Trojus Pompeius, giving the reasons of their movement and the road they took.

49. It will however scarcely be called in question that these islands of Bahrain were in old days inhabited by a Phœnician race, and that they had here temples to their gods actually seen by Androsthene, when he led the naval expedition under orders from the Macedonian boy conqueror.

50. Interested in these matters as every one must be, whose good or evil fortunes lead them to these classic lands, I have taken every opportunity of going about the island, cross-examining the people, and looking for anything that might be old enough to bear upon such questions.

51. My first visit to the Sheikh resulted in an immediate call for horses and a ride out on Muharrak to the date-groves of Simabi, where the Chief said they had lately come upon an old well.

52. The sand hills on this side of the island evidently cover old buildings,* and the "well" that had been found was either a stone conduit with cross branches or the foundations of some old stone building, some six or seven feet below the surface, now holding water. The ground had been struck with a scraper to make room for a young date plant, and had fallen in, thus disclosing the stone work below. I could not ask to search there, as it would have damaged the garden, but told the gardener to go down, work, and find out what it was. He promised, but of course that was all.

53. After this I rode a round of visits to every mosque on this side of the island drawing them as being the most likely find for an intelligent inhabitant, and afterwards led on in hopes of further discoveries. I was taken to many into whose walls old Arabic inscriptions had been let, to the ruined mosque of the Meshed-i-Abu† Zeidan, near the Bilad-i-Kadim, said to have been built with the material of a still older fallen one, and a sure find for old writing. It contains one old tablet, and a ring of stones round one, if not

* I have since heard from Abdullah bin Rijjah, one of a rich firm of brothers, engaged in the pearl trade, that when he was a boy he remembers seeing the officers of a French and an English frigate accompanied by a Persian (Alich) Ambassador digging and turning over stones in this very place. He did not know with what results.

† The well of Abu Zeidan is worth mentioning. It springs under an arch of stone, which serves as the foundation of part of the walls of a small mosque. The water is beautiful and warm in the cool weather being said to become cold in the hot. I suppose the change is merely in the temperature of the air. A stone pillar with 2 circular stones as a basement rising from the water supports part of the superstructure. The pattern on the outer arch is peculiar.

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two, of its room walls are scored with large Cuphic letters probably taken from an old building as the plaster had been laid over them. These I did not copy.

54. At last, after having visited 20 mosques at least, which produced nothing but a cup of coffee, a kallian, and innumerable complaints of the tyranny of the

*The bad
are clear
cut -*
S.D.
↑↑



- + 2 feet and 2 inches long.

Shekhs and their tribe, I was told of a stone that nobody could read. This therefore I went to see and found it embedded in the "holy of holies" in the Madrassah-i-Daood, in the Bilad-i-Kadim. In the margin is a life size transcript of the inscription. The stone itself is of black basalt (?) shaped like the prow of a boat, or an animal's tongue, and has the dimensions noted in the margin. I had no difficulty in getting it, in spite of its holy situation, telling the Moollahs simply that it was a fire-worshipper's stone, probably an idol, and so had no business where it was. To back my argument I gave a few rupees to repair the mosque and the loss was made up to them. Sheikh Ahmed sent a slave who dug it out and carried it home for me. I thought at first that it might be the prow or figure-head of some old ship, and I suppose this is possible.

At any rate, however, we know that the Phœnicians above all worshipped the Phallus, and that the goddess Astarte, their particular favorite and the protectress* of mariners, was worshipped by them under the form of a conical stone. Whether under this form she was ever let into the prows of their ships I cannot say; as a figure-head I believe that her image was so used. This, however, is a mere speculation, the writing will probably tell its own tale.

55. Here again is a puzzle to any but an adept. Some of the characters are evidently ordinary cuneiform, whether of Babylonian, Assyrian, or Achæmænian, the type seems much the same, but some of the characters interspersed are hieroglyphic, as well as the tree or palm bough itself probably, that stands on the left of the inscription, a fact that might point to the stone having been engraved at a time when emblematic writing was being converted into alphabetical. This again is a mere surmise. At any rate it is not of the real Phœnician type that Cadmus‡ taught the Greeks, and from which their alphabet emanated, as the Phœnicians were supposed to have known this writing 1500 years B.C.

56. Mr. Rawlinson would, I think, make Cadmus merely a mythical personage, under the form of Kedem,§ the East seeking Ereb the West, or Europe, but still he admits the cumulative force of the arguments¶ that he enumerates, as very great towards the proof of a Phœnician settlement in Bœotia.

* In which capacity she appears on coins of Sidon, Gaza, and Aradus standing on the prow of a boat. (Rawlinson.)
† Pliny.
‡ He gives the Hebrew spelling.
§ Note I, Book II, Chapter 49.

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57. Going further than he does* Mr. Forster says "that this name of Cadmus can be traced through Kademah or Kadmas," which latter form, he states, to be a truly Arabic idiomatic one, and quotes it, through Mele, through Eusebius, and Alexander Polyhistor who gives the twelve sons of Abraham (Ishmael) by his Egyptian wife, and again that the only "direct notice of the Arabs as among the early peoplers of Europe to be found among the classic writers occurs in Strabo," who in his account of the peopling of Eubœa off the coast of Bœotia reckons as the first inhabitants a colony of Arabs, who had accompanied Cadmus into Greece." This statement carries within itself marks of its authenticity, since all the circumstances of the case attest the correctness of Strabo's information, &c., &c. He then continues, that Cadmus is simply the Greek form of Kedemah, which is rendered Kedimah in the LXX, and Cadmos by Josephus, and the Ishmaelite tribe of Kedemah, we have already seen, was seated in the very locality assigned on independent grounds as the cradle of the Phœnician Cadmus, the namesake, and it may justly be inferred the youngest son of Ishmael.

58. He further goes on to clench his argument with an Arab tradition, also proving the national consanguinity between the Peleponesians and Bœotians and the Arabs (Zebeydi Ishmaelites).

59. To return, however, without being sure that Cyrus ruled these islands, we know that Darius did as they formed a part of his 14th satrapy, and were used by him as a penal settlement (the jockey King could scarcely have invented a better).

60. The stone may therefore well belong to this period of Persian rule, or again it may simply have found its way down from Assyria. The latter being the most likely, for the cuneiform seems to me to differ from the Achæmenian that I have seen, and the more so that no signs are used under that form of writing. Of course an expert would settle the question at once.†

61. With regard to the tumuli, we are standing on surer ground and cannot go far wrong. Whether some of these may not be the remains of the Phœnician temples noticed by Androstheneis it would be hard to say. Without doubt those nearest to the village of Ali have had buildings on the top of them formed of shaped blocks of sandstone. I cannot mention all the places on these islands which probably contain buried buildings, but content myself with drawing attention to one or two of the most prominent.

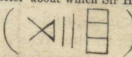
62. On leaving the town of Manameh, the western road passing through lines of date gardens, lands one in the Willayet-i-Kadim or Bilad-i-Kadim, the ancient city, where, probably from time immemorial, building has been piled upon building; be this how it may, we go a little further and find ourselves near the mosque of the minarets.† Here several mounds rising white and shrubless, attract attention, but leaving these again and inclining to the north of west, passing the Portuguese fort on the sea-board still massive and imposing in its decay, we come upon a line of high sandhills, chained together facing the northern sea, at the distance of a mile or so from the beach, near the villages of Barboora and Shirebi. These I walked over, but found only one outlying

† I have since writing the guesses in the text of this report been favored with the translation‡ of the inscription by the kindness of Sir H. Rawlinson himself.

‡ It would seem that the palm branch has some connection with Phœnician, but I have not worked this out thoroughly as yet. The palm branch is at the top of the inscription which must be read from right to left.

There is one letter about which Sir H. Rawlinson is not quite satisfied, viz.,—

Of palace the
Ringas.
Tuzak, God, the, of, servant
Atarian † the



The writing is Hieratic Babylonian cuneiform. Ringas was not a King, probably an Arab Sheikh.

No explanation is offered as to the use to which such stones were put. It may possibly have been merely a stamp for bricks, or it may have been in or on the tomb of this servant of the God Tuzak.—E. L. D.

'NOTES ON THE ISLANDS OF BAHRAIN AND ANTIQUITIES BY CAPTAIN E. L. DURAND, 1 ASSISTANT RESIDENT, PERSIAN GULF.' [25r]
(12/32)



'NOTES ON THE ISLANDS OF BAHRAIN AND ANTIQUITIES BY CAPTAIN E. L. DURAND, 1
ASSISTANT RESIDENT, PERSIAN GULF.' [25v] (13/32)



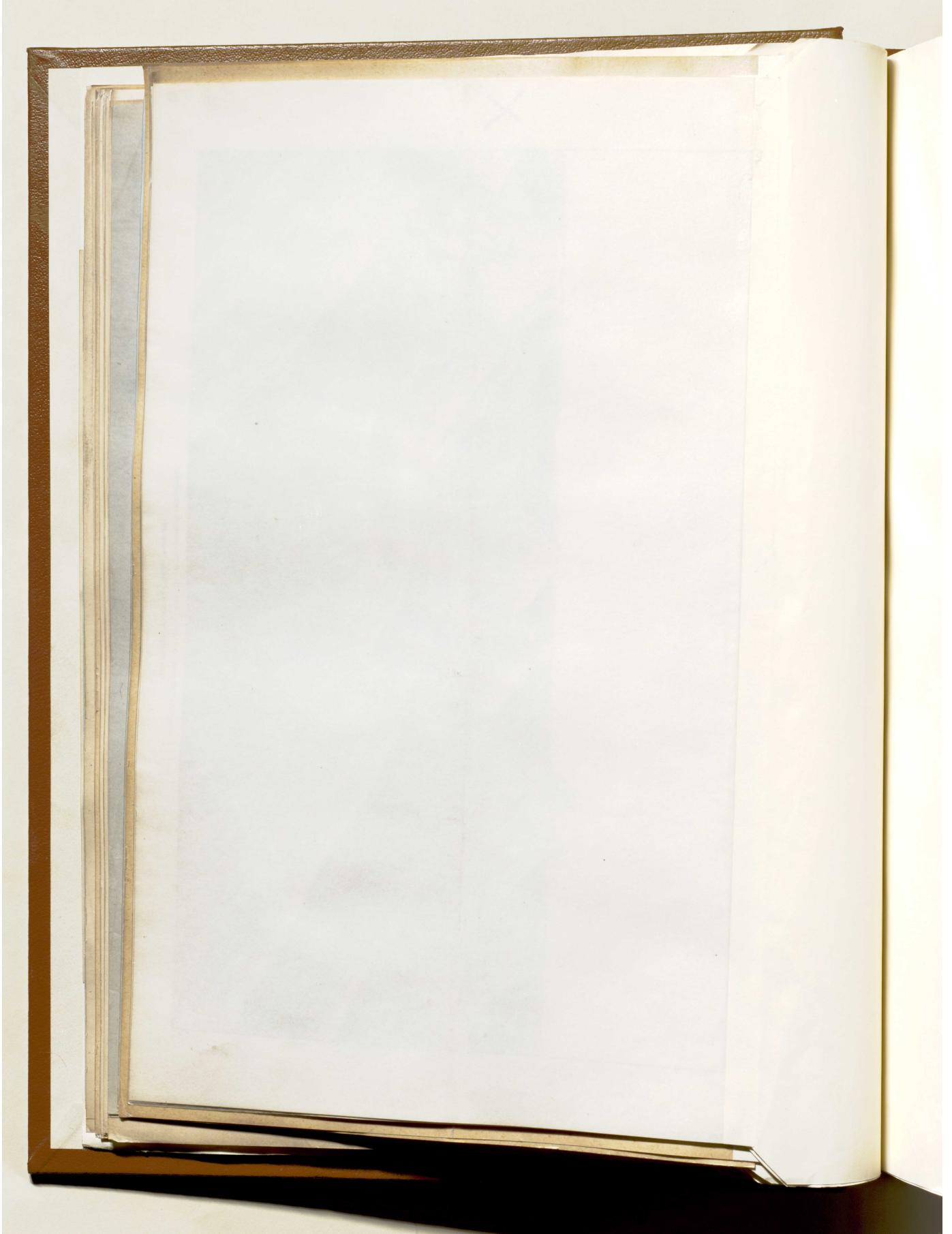
To accompany CAPTAIN E. L. DURAND'S Report on the Islands of Bahrein.



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at the Surveyor General's Office, Calcutta, August 1879.

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'NOTES ON THE ISLANDS OF BAHRAIN AND ANTIQUITIES BY CAPTAIN E. L. DURAND, 1
ASSISTANT RESIDENT, PERSIAN GULF.' [26v] (15/32)

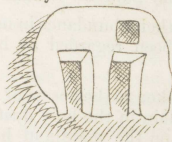


'NOTES ON THE ISLANDS OF BAHRAIN AND ANTIQUITIES BY CAPTAIN E. L. DURAND, 1
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27

stone, a large mass that bore signs of shaping. One square cut hole, as if for the jamb of a large door, was obvious, as also two channels square cut on the same face. I regret that I took at the time scant notice of this,* it is only deductively, after seeing other mounds and going over half the island, that I have been led to attach importance to these particular mounds, and from the fact, firstly, of their size, and, secondly, of their position in line facing the sea, and from the further fact also that there are no mounds of lesser proportions near them.

* I give here a very rough diagram from memory.



63. Leaving these, however, and retracing our steps to the Bilad-i-Kadim, I would start again from thence.

64. Again, we pass through date groves, and find ourselves almost immediately on a broad road entirely devoid of a single blade of grass, and appearing to be raised an inch or two above the surrounding soil, which bears a few scattered shrubs. This, I am sure, for part of its length was at one time a made road, whether paved or not, probably not. It seems to have been laid down with some sort of clay, as it becomes as hard as stone in the dry, and like ice in the wet weather. It has a pink tinge in places, and of course may be only earth impregnated with saltpetre which has gained its present apparent character of a once made road, by the constant passage of traffic; there is not, however, enough of this latter at the present day between "Ali" and Manameh to beat out a sheep track.

65. This village of "Ali," where the road lands us in a small tumbled-down village, inhabited by Shiah, is built of and over old habitations, and immediately outside of it there is a most singular group of mounds, to which I would draw attention. Of these I append a rough chalk sketch. They number about 25 to 30, some larger, some smaller, but all being of a size to ensure notice. I had no means of measuring them, but roughly the biggest are from 40 to 50 feet high, and from 40 to 50 yards through their broadest base; they are somewhat furrowed by the weather, not much so, retaining a strong family likeness to one another, particularly in the squareness of their tops, which are often indented; are bare and close together, which facts (in spite of the enormous blocks of shaped sandstone cropping out *near and on the top* of some and the gallery in one of them, also near the summit) made me doubt the correctness of my first conjecture that they must be temples, and which would have urged their classification as tombs. Still as they were the only distinctly shaped mounds of their size that I had examined (at close quarters), whilst from immediately behind them stretched chain upon chain, and group upon group of lesser tumuli, which can be nothing but graves, I clung to the hope that this large group might be something more. I had written some weeks ago in regard to these. "This large series of mounds packed together, and of regular rounded shapes, cannot be the ruins of houses, as asserted by the Arabs, tombs simply they must be, and this is rendered the more probable, I think, from the fact of their diminution in size, in the measure of their distance from the parent group at Ali. Moreover, I never saw more than a few blocks of stone on any single one of these series of lesser heaps, such blocks being of a size to preclude the possibility of any house built of like material, having found space under the small earthen dome over which they individually brooded."

66. Since writing the above, I have ascertained the truth of this self-evident surmise.

67. One only puzzle remains. If these miles upon miles of crowded heaps are tombs, where did the inhabitants live?

68. The first answer that comes to hand is, that they must have followed the lie of the coast line, as at present, and have built their house of the branches of the palm tree, as do the poorer classes to the present day.

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69. Secondly, and this I think a more probable answer to the question, or at any rate one worthy of consideration, that these islands were the cemetery of Gerra, which was the great Phœnician mart in these parts, and which is believed to have lain at the bottom of the long bay behind Bahrain.

70. Causes, such as their fertility, their temples (?), their abundance in most beautiful water, may have caused these islands to have been regarded as holy ground.

71. Even at the present day the Hindoos look to be taken to the bosom of the Ganges, or the devout Mahomedan of these parts to be lain in the holy dust of Kerbela. May not some ancient tribe of Phœnicians on the mainland have looked to sleep their long sleep in the hallowed dust of these sacred islands? This may seem a far-fetched idea, but the vastness of the series of mounds must be my excuse. I have not heard of such another necropolis above ground in the world.

72. With regard to the distance as likely to negative this idea, compare the distances that the tribe of Royal Scythians are said to have carried their Kings before they laid them finally to rest in their appointed places of sepulture on the Borysthenes in the land of the Gerra.

73. The Thracians or Goths buried under tumuli, the Scythians, Lydians, and Libyans also, and indeed the custom appears to have been very generally adopted by the wandering Indo-European populations of the earth.

See Chapter 71, Book IV, Rawlinson's Herodotus with the notes bearing on these subjects.

74. With regard to the bones of animals found,* compare the Scythian customs. These gentlemen, when Kings at any rate, had a pet wife, a pet horse, and other valued possessions buried with them. This was hard on the wives and attendants, as also on the body of 50 handsome youths and horses who were killed, stuffed, and staked round the tomb as a mortuary body-guard—a ghastly sight.

* Related below.

75. To return, however, to Gerra, as the first cause of these cemeteries, the correct site of which has been somewhat disputed† D^r Anville would have placed it at Katif, Niebuhr at Koweit or Grain, and so on, but Forster places it, I think probably correctly, at the bottom of the bay behind Bahrain. [See Map.] Not content with his argument supported by Pliny and Strabo's accounts, whose descriptions, if they fail to apply here, will scarcely apply anywhere in the Gulf, Forster argues further that it is the received opinion that this country (the modern province of Hagar or Bahrain) derived its scriptural name and primitive colonization from the Cushite Havileh,

See Section 1, Part I.

76. The Pison of Genesis enclosed this land, which was the name for the branch‡ of the Euphrates, that ran parallel to the Gulf and fell into the Bahrain Islands.

77. He contends that a direct proof of this region having borne the name of Havileh is supplied in Aval, a name still retained for the larger island of Bahrain.

78. Ptolemy places Gerra at the bottom of this same bay, and it is the precise site assigned by Abul Feda Nasir Ettarsi, and Ulug Beg to the city of Hagar, said by Strabo to have been founded by Chaldean exiles.

79. Forster says that the word Gerra is merely the anagram for Hagar, whose descendants he traces in the Agrai of the classics.

† Vincent in his Erythrean Sea or Periplus, I forget which, makes Gerra to have been on the site of the present Katif, and as to deducing Tyrians and Aradians from the names of these Gulf islands, says simply, or rather unfairly, that it is consonant with the perpetual vanity of the Greeks, who reduce everything unknown to the standard of their own fabulous history.

‡ I think that this place may, amongst other reasons, have drawn importance from its situation in regard to the monsoon and the shimal winds of the Gulf itself, as well as perhaps from the debouchure of a mouth of the Euphrates? With regard to this, see some account of monsoons, &c., in Vincent's preliminary observations to the "Voyage of Neuchus."

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80. He would make the land of Hagar the birth place of the Chaldeans,* the sons of Khalid (Ben Khali), intimately connected with the Ishmaelites,† and the founders of Babylon. He traces Khaled, Khalid, Khanlah, Khalt, Huale, Huile, Hanilah, Aval, and Havileh, as mere verbal forms of the same root.

* Beni Khalid.
Chanlothai of Erastothenes.
Chanlasii.
Chablasii.
Chavelai and Colingii of Pliny.

81. The Chaldeans are, however, supposed to have had a Scythic or Turanian origin, and a large library and much study would be necessary before judging of the reliability of such derivations.

82. Is it possible that the forms of burial of different races were distinct enough to give some clue, and that further researches amongst the wilderness of tombs in good preservation here may throw some light into a dark page of history?

83. I noticed above the Scythic customs of burial and transport of the dead to the land of the Gerrhi, to the point at which the Borysthenes becomes navigable.

84. Is it possible that there should be any ethnic affinity, to account for the likeness of names between Gerrhus and Gerrha, or is it one of those mere resemblances which are so common and unreliable?

85. Granting however that Gerrha was near here, what more likely than that these islands might have been used in the manner suggested above?

86. I have been told by Arabs that there are many large ruins on the mainland, and one man in particular told me that they found traces of building, stone, and pillars at a place where salt is quarried. The bottom of the Gulf behind Bahrain has, I believe, never been carefully explored.

87. To return however to the mounds at Ali. On my first arrival I went over and round many of the bigger ones, and at last my perseverance was rewarded by finding an entrance into one of these (under a flat stone near the summit) through which, lying down, we were just able to creep, and on getting beyond the opening we found ourselves in a long passage or gallery, which was however blocked with fallen masonry a few yards in front of us.

88. The roof of this passage is formed by transverse blocks of flat stone, laid from wall to wall, about six feet in breadth, the width of the passage being somewhat less.

89. The walls, where still intact, were covered with a coarse grained hard plaster, and where broken showed their enormous thickness of large stones, welded together in the same rough plaster building.

90. From the general form of these greater mounds I should think they had been pillared circular edifices with slightly domed or flat roofs. I saw no trace of carving on any of the blocks of stone lying about on these mounds. All that were so exposed were of huge size, and I think most are of a species of hard sand-stone, of limestone at any rate; though every block bore evidence of having been shaped, they were so worn by age, that no writing, however deep, could have remained.

91. No doubt as time wore on the inhabitants have made use of these mounds as quarries, which may partly account for the bare appearance of many of them, where no stone is left on the surface. The stones that were buried,

† In regard to this see his argument from the concurrent testimony of Dionysius, Perieryetes, and the elder Pliny to prove the mixture of Agrai or Hagarites and Chaldusii or Beni Khalid Cushite populations. He says the former obscured, if they did not expel the latter, and again Chronicles, Chapter V, 1st book, in describing the Arab tribes bordering on Gilead, does so first generally as Hagarites, and then specifically distinguishes as Jetar Naphish, and Nadab of Kedemah. (With regard to the derivation, &c., &c., of Kedemah, see above.)

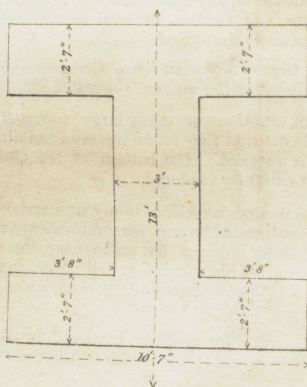
'NOTES ON THE ISLANDS OF BAHRAIN AND ANTIQUITIES BY CAPTAIN E. L. DURAND, 1 ASSISTANT RESIDENT, PERSIAN GULF.' [28v] (19/32)

however, may have fared better than their exposed comrades, and I have some hope of finding out more about these buildings before leaving the islands.

92. With regard to the positions of the mounds themselves, I could see no trace of any unity of design in the grouping, except perhaps in one place, where four corner mounds seem to be connected by a wall, and where in the centre of the so formed quadrangle appears a mound of indefinite shape, smaller but of course analogical to the rest.

93. If I have time, I shall devote a few days to further exploration and research.

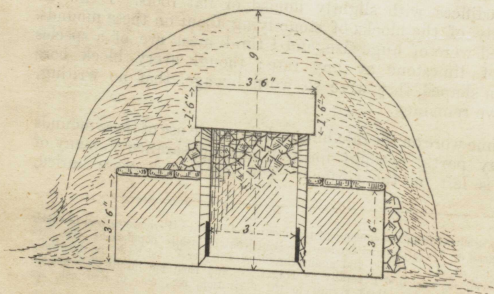
94. I wrote the above some weeks ago, and have let it stand as it fairly describes the look of the mounds and the conclusions (wrong in part) that I drew at the time.



95. Since writing it I have opened a small mound to the westward of the large group, and have begun upon a larger one. Of the latter I will give an account later on. This small one is one of many hundreds that lie grouped together. It appears to be simply a single tomb, though oddly chambered.

96. It was 57 paces in circumference, and between nine and ten feet in height.

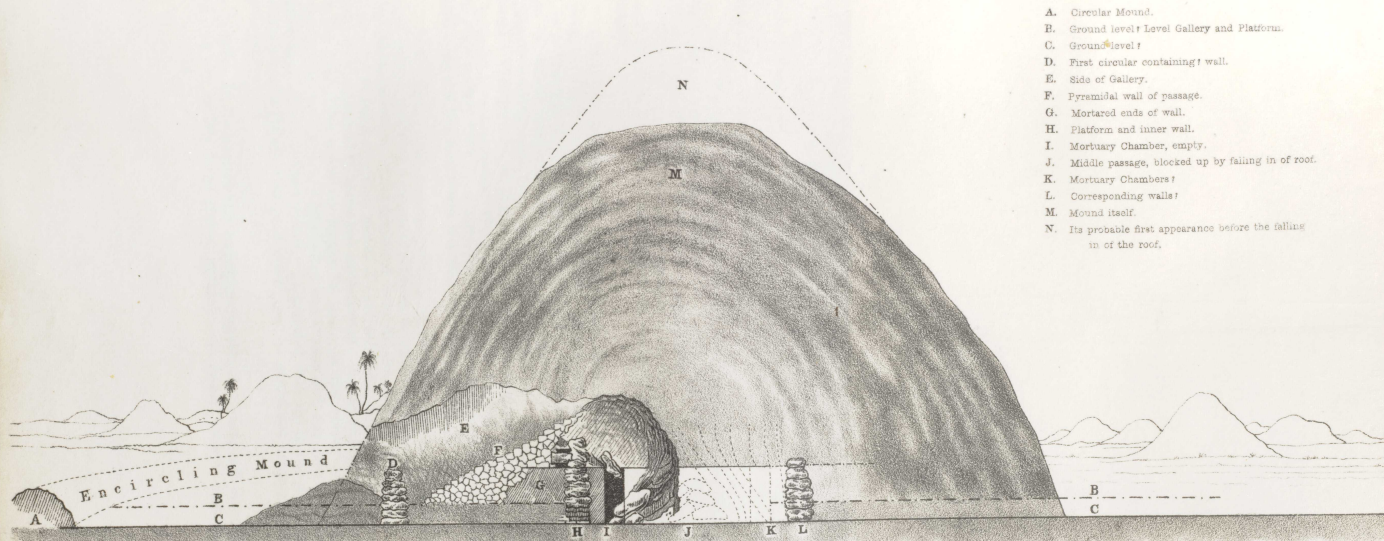
97. The centre passage was 4' 9" high from the ground and roofed with single slabs of rough hewn limestone stretching across about 3' 6" each. The width of this passage being three feet clear.



98. The height of the side chambers, which were only 3' 6" combined with their shortness 3' 8", as well as the fact that I found the skull between the thigh bones, shows that the man must have been buried in a sitting position.

'NOTES ON THE ISLANDS OF BAHRAIN AND ANTIQUITIES BY CAPTAIN E. L. DURAND, 1 ASSISTANT RESIDENT, PERSIAN GULF.' [29r]
(20/32)

To accompany CAPTAIN E. L. DURAND'S Report on the Islands of Bahrein.



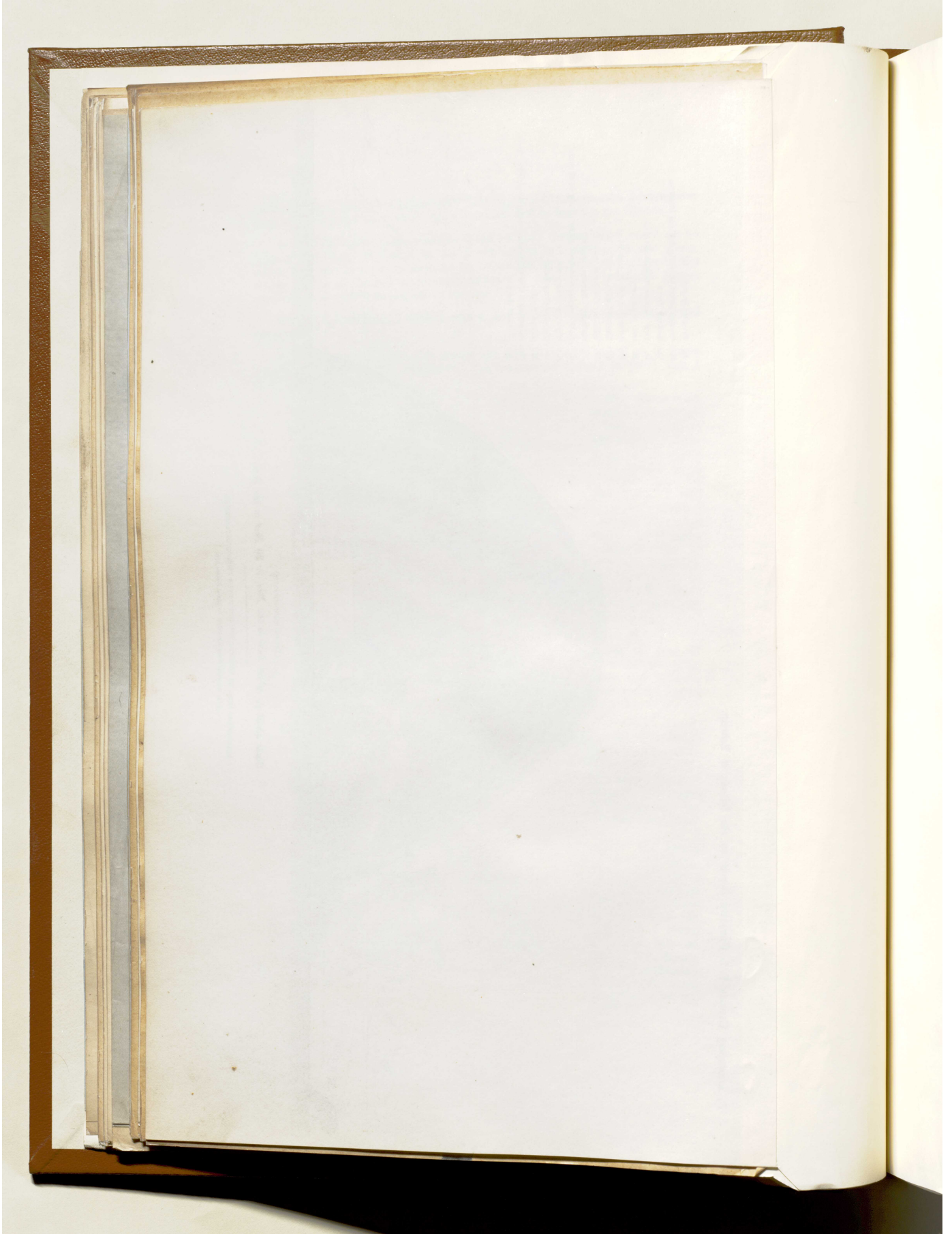
- A. Circular Mound.
- B. Ground level? Level Gallery and Platform.
- C. Ground level?
- D. First circular containing? wall.
- E. Side of Gallery.
- F. Pyramidal wall of passage.
- G. Mortared ends of wall.
- H. Platform and inner wall.
- I. Mortuary Chamber, empty.
- J. Middle passage, blocked up by falling in of roof.
- K. Mortuary Chambers?
- L. Corresponding walls?
- M. Mound itself.
- N. Its probable first appearance before the falling in of the roof.

(Drawn approximately)

Scale about $\frac{1}{20}$ of an Inch to one Foot, or 20 Feet to the Inch.

LITHOGRAPHED FROM AN ORIGINAL SUPPLIED BY THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
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'NOTES ON THE ISLANDS OF BAHRAIN AND ANTIQUITIES BY CAPTAIN E. L. DURAND, 1
ASSISTANT RESIDENT, PERSIAN GULF.' [29v] (21/32)



'NOTES ON THE ISLANDS OF BAHRAIN AND ANTIQUITIES BY CAPTAIN E. L. DURAND, 1
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99. The walls of the tomb were of rough hewn stone and unmortared, so that dust had drifted into the chambers, sifting in between the stones and covering most part of the floor to a depth of several inches.

100. I opened from the eastward and came upon the central passage lying about east and west, a fact that I have since utilized in beginning my work on the larger mound.

101. On carrying away the earth we found no entrance, but made one by removing large blocks of stone, luckily in the very centre of the big passage. From here we had to step down about three feet six inches.

102. On creeping in under the huge slab above us I was sickened by a smell, which I cannot describe, and being new to the trade of body-snatching was assailed by some qualms of conscience as to the propriety of my conduct. On reflection, however, I came to the conclusion that the golden rule of life was, "do unto others, &c." Applying this practically, and putting myself in the place of the defunct Phœnician, I thought that if I could think, under the circumstances, I should probably not mind being disturbed after being shut up for some thousands of years. So I went in bravely, "ce n'est que le premier pas," and since then I have become hardened and keep several of the gentlemen's bones in a basket in my room. I was however disturbed, not to say distressed, at hearing them begin to rattle in the dark, but found on timid inspection that the noise proceeded from the intelligent researches of a very nice bull pup that I have. I remonstrated with him, as I thought that he might have drawn the line at such very innutritive substances, but the matter gave food for further reflection. I thought that such a subject might almost have supplied Montaigne with a text for one of his humorous philosophical essays, and that treated by Artemus Ward or Mark Twain, the Castor and Pollux of modern wit and humour, it might almost become ludicrous. Reverting, however, to my previous argument, I returned to bed.

103. However we went in, as I said, to the tomb, and found in the first compartment to the right (and north) the skull and bones of a man. Unfortunately a slight shake was given to the basket after I had placed it carefully on one side, and the skull, though propped in dust, fell to pieces. Judging by the thigh bones the man could not have stood much, if at all, over five feet nine inches.

104. The skull seemed a very small one, specially low in the forehead, with a good development of the orbital ridge, narrow and more developed in length than in breadth, but even here, a small skull. It lay between the thigh bones, one of which was broken, as I had to use some (very little) force to break the other for packing, and there were no stones fallen into this part of the grave it is odd. This position of the skull, however, in conjunction with the lowness of the chamber, and its want of depth, would seem to show that the corpse was buried in a sitting posture. This I believe was a common practice with many tribes.

105. In the small compartment facing the first, we found the bones of some small animal, probably a gazelle or a sheep, and some remains of a rather delicate clay drinking vessel, whilst scattered here in the dust of the central passage were a lot of small shapeless pieces of oxidized metal, brass or copper, and some fragments of a vessel of coarse red earthenware. An intelligent Native remarked to me that these could no longer be made, as the colour of the earth had changed, he had found old bits before and always red, but now they can only make dirty white and light yellow. I suggested that age in the pots themselves might account for the change of colour, but he would not consent to the proposition.

106. In the western and corresponding side chambers, both partially blocked with one or two large stones, nothing was found, except dust and a few

'NOTES ON THE ISLANDS OF BAHRAIN AND ANTIQUITIES BY CAPTAIN E. L. DURAND, 1 ASSISTANT RESIDENT, PERSIAN GULF.' [30v] (23/32)

laminated bones. These came out of the south-western chamber, but with them there was no skull or recognizably human bones.

107. Here and there scattered amongst the dust throughout the tomb were pieces of what appeared to me to have been once ivory or wood: these were found on sifting the baskets of dust which came out when the tomb was being laid bare to the stones of the foundation.

108. I have retained specimens of all these things by me, in case they should turn out to be of any interest.

109. The only thing that at all struck me after examination of the tomb was the scattering of the bones and the breakage of crockery. Could the animal or animals, whatever they were, have been inhumed alive when the burrow was closed up?

110. *April 6th, 1879.*—I can now give some account of the larger mounds that I have been engaged upon since I wrote the above.

111. In the first place I chose the most perfect looking of the large tumuli, Its present height is about 45 feet, circumference 200 paces, and the circular mound around it 330 paces, 20 paces of level ground separate this latter circle from the base of the mound, a line of wall joins the outer circle to the base of the mound. I cannot from it explain the plan of the large mound near the top of which I found the gallery. The two must be essentially different.

112. After losing a day or two in making pickaxes* in the bazaar, which tools were necessary to cut away the hard amalgam of earth and flint, which had become very firmly welded together, we began work, and began at the top and centre to see if by working there we could disclose anything.

* There are only two agricultural tools known in the island, the iron crow bar with one end chisel shaped, and a single handed mud scraper.

113. The shape of the mound in its then state, I give roughly in the margin.



114. I made use of my detachment of the 21st Native Infantry working them in relays of a few men for a few hours, keeping them out in camp and of mischief. A cheerier more willing lot of men, especially when sheep were forthcoming I never saw. They worked and joked, and had not an hour's sickness amongst them during the whole time we were out. Had it not been, however, for the

kindness of Captain Pringle of Her Majesty's *S. Vulture*, who interested himself in the work and sprang away masses of earth over my gallery, I should have found it difficult to get to the end of it. The sepoy were helped by Arab Shiah from "Ali," a broken-spirited helpless lot, who seemed barely able to carry away small baskets full of earth broken by the picks.

'NOTES ON THE ISLANDS OF BAHRAIN AND ANTIQUITIES BY CAPTAIN E. L. DURAND, 1
ASSISTANT RESIDENT, PERSIAN GULF.' [31r] (24/32)

To accompany CAPTAIN E. L. DURAND's Report on the Islands of Bahrein.



LITHOGRAPHED FROM AN ORIGINAL SUPPLIED BY THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
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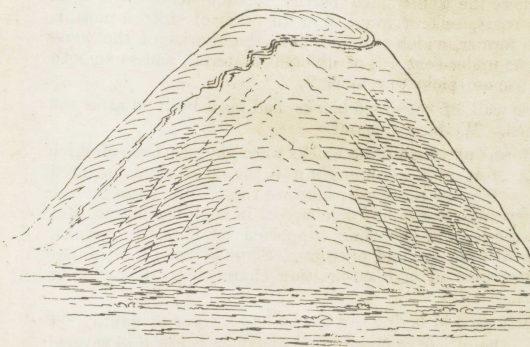
'NOTES ON THE ISLANDS OF BAHRAIN AND ANTIQUITIES BY CAPTAIN E. L. DURAND, 1
ASSISTANT RESIDENT, PERSIAN GULF.' [31v] (25/32)



'NOTES ON THE ISLANDS OF BAHRAIN AND ANTIQUITIES BY CAPTAIN E. L. DURAND, 1 ASSISTANT RESIDENT, PERSIAN GULF.' [32r] (26/32)

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115. Thinking and hoping that from its size, as well as misled by the other one, that I had slightly seen into, the mound might cover the ruins of a small circular temple, and not those of a tomb, we began work at the top and centre cutting, down several yards deep steps.*



116. Finding however nothing but a ring of large stones, I left the top and began work again a few feet above the base, running a cutting into the mound and taking care to retain the same line east and west guided by my previous experience of the lie of the smaller tomb, and

also by having remarked a depression or shallow channel from the top to the bottom of the mound in this direction. Here on going in a few feet our progress was blocked by enormous stones which appeared, on removal, to form part of a cyclopeian circular containing wall. One of these blocks of limestone, which we had to break up with the crow bars to remove, measured roughly over six feet long, by three feet six broad, by eighteen inches deep.

117. The height of this wall above the ground level of my tunnel was about

† Some of the outlying blocks on the other large mounds (already noticed) are of sandstone, and have been carefully shaped, perhaps the architects were equal to shaping sandstone, but not to shaping the harder limestone, or at any rate did not think that it was worth while to do so.

seven or eight feet, which would make it at least 10 feet high from the level of the ground. The blocks used were of rough hewn limestone,† unequal in size and unmortared.

118. On breaking through the wall I almost at once found myself in a passage or gallery, about six feet broad, and gradually narrowing (as I found afterwards) to five feet three inches at the inner end.

119. The walls on either side were of rough, unmortared, and carelessly fitted limestones varying in size, and sloped pyramidally upwards from the encircling wall of blocks, and also slightly outwards from their base.

120. I picked my way along between these containing walls, removing the earth as I went, as also blowing down the mass of hard flint limestone, and concrete soil from above us, thus gradually filling up the passage behind us as we proceeded.

121. This increased the labor enormously, and was I believe unnecessary from the compactness of the mass, the relative small size of our gallery, and the outward slope of the walls, which gave a good sound thrust to the arch we left over us; but not being an engineer I could not risk it, and once having blown in a portion of our roof, it was *ipso facto* necessary to continue to do so, as the earth was thoroughly loosened and weakened by the shock of this first explosion. The necessity however might have become more apparent when we came to the inner wall, for here gunpowder had to be used.

122. I append a sketch of this that may give some idea of the massive character of the work, taken however after the picks had been well worked on it through soil, &c. We had not recognized at first that we were attacking a stout wall.

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123. This second barrier blocked the entrance to the tomb itself at a distance of thirty feet six inches from the first circular wall of blocks.

124. On nearing this inner wall we found the passage on either side to be roughly mortared, and where the well welded barrier forbade access, the wall on either side had two coats, one of rough and the other of smooth mortar. The latter underlying the former, which still here bore the marks of the plasterer's finger smears. The under-coat was of different material, and so smooth and hard that we had to use our picks to remove it.

125. The transverse wall of cemented blocks had been built in after the side-walls had been finished. We blew this out.

126. From the platform* on which these blocks were placed, a drop of three feet six inches brought us to the smooth and mortared floor of the tomb; here we turned up, amongst the stones and rubble masonry, a large amount of charcoal in such big pieces, that I take it the roof must have been at one time supported by date tree trunks, which have become charcoal from age and pressure. Some pieces of a thinner character present the appearance of bamboo-matting charcoaled. I have kept specimens of these things.

127. The mortar itself used in laying the blocks had a layer of damp (?)[†] palm leaves laid as well above as below it in several places; for we found thin layers of charcoal, which could not well have been anything else in such positions.

128. On the right and left of the passage were two shelves on either side, the lowest of which at any rate was carefully lined with mortar, but held nothing but yellow dust, with which they were filled up. These were four feet long by seven inches of aperture, by eight in depth, and a height of six feet nine from the ground or platform. There is nothing to show to what use these can have been put.

129. On descending from the platform (the end of the passage) the walls carefully mortared still continued right and left for three feet two inches, and then turned at right angles forming small mortuary chambers of the same shape as those in the lesser tomb previously described.

130. No doubt, also, they have their counterparts at the other end of the central passage, and in one of these no doubt also are to be found the remains of the person entombed, as it was in the north eastern chamber of the small tomb that I found the skeleton as previously related.

131. The dimensions of these chambers right and left of the passage are roughly seven feet three (length) by three feet three (breadth) by five feet six (height).

132. From the interior walls of these chambers stretched back through piles of rubble and fallen blocks the side walls of a passage some four feet broader than the gallery by which we had entered.

133. I give a plan and section of all roughly correct.

134. Having got so far, I was obliged disappointedly enough to stop work, partly from uncertainty as to the time left me to finish clearing out the tomb and as to the safety of the work, and partly because I thought that nothing worth having could be obtained from under such a crushing mass of rubbish as that which filled the inside passage.

135. This latter alone however would not have made me stop work, as there is every chance of the mortuary chambers at the other end being clear of debris, the roof having probably fallen in, in the middle and outwards towards this end. These are likely enough left for a luckier man to explore without much trouble.

136. To give an idea of the size of the stones used, there is a big mass now lying in the passage, probably a whole stone, and one of those that formed the roof, whose dimensions are five feet by four, by two feet nine, and another lying alone in the left hand side chamber, five feet long by one foot ten thick. Of

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FROM CHART SHEWING THE ASSERTED RE-ENTRANCE OF THE BAY OF
SULWEH. TO ACCOMPANY CAPTAIN E.L.DURAND'S REPORT ON THE
ISLANDS OF BAHREIN.

See IOR: MAPS W/LPS/18/B.95 (ii)

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course all round and over, and under these there are smaller masses buried in mortar flints and earth.

137. Though I searched most carefully, I found no marks of writing anywhere, not even a mason's mark on any of the stones.

138. I take it that the roof of the tomb, which from the breadth of the central passage could not be made of single transverse blocks, was unequal to supporting the weight of earth piled upon it, and had gradually slipped in. I say gradually, as at one place, where there was a large mass of stone resting against the sharp corner of the wall, the mortar was still uninjured.

139. The peculiar sinking in or squareness of top of all these mounds is thus accounted for, and the hollow channel more or less discernible in all towards the top of the mounds will probably indicate where the passage lies.

140. Out of all the number of large tombs, there is still one, though not of the very biggest, whose top is yet fairly tall and rounded, and this one will, to a certainty, repay the labor of opening it, if any can do so, as it is of a size to warrant the assumption that the mortuary chambers have been carefully mortared and the air thus excluded.



Original tomb. Present state exaggerated.

141. After my disappointment with the large one I should much like to have tried this, but I had no longer the time to spare.

142. The whole subject may or may not be worth investigation,* but if it be, I shall be happy to give any further help in my power.

* It is astonishing that no scientific societies should have sent out to examine these coasts, where the climate is so perfectly adapted to preserve everything not attacked by man.

143. From October to April the climate of Bahrain is delightful, during the other months of the year it would be impossible to carry on work.

(Sd.) E. L. DURAND.

P.S.—Since shutting up my report I have had a visit from Abdullah bin Rijab, who brought with him two Arabs from the mainland. They could not understand the map, but from their verbal explanations it would seem that from about where in the map a dotted line at the bottom of the Bay of Selweh marks our ignorance, the Bay at first narrows considerably, and for some distance it then again spreads into a large inland sea, reaching almost to Odaid, whilst on the north-west an arm goes upwards towards Zuknunwyeh.

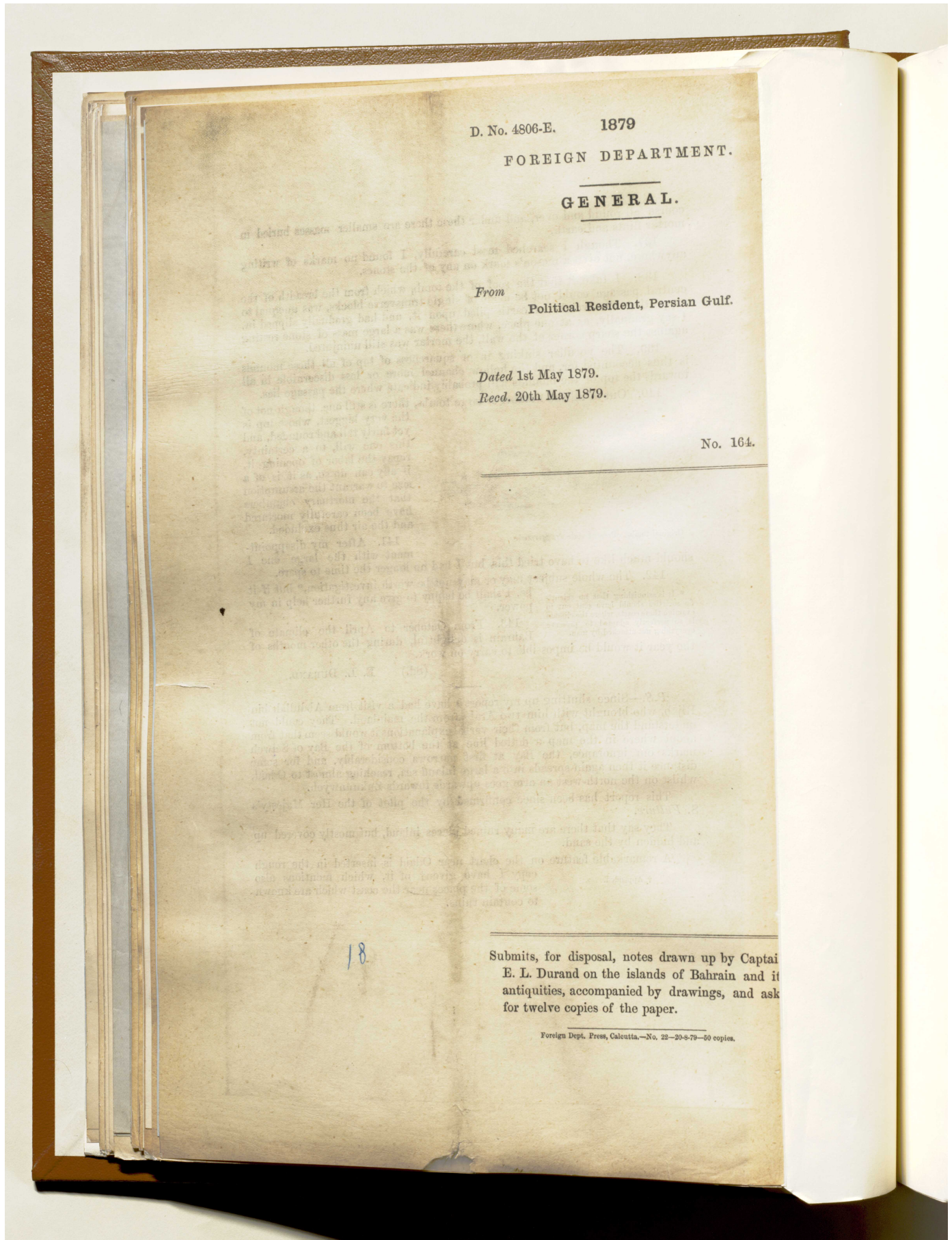
This report has been since confirmed by the pilot of the Her Majesty's *S. Vulture*.

They say that there are many ruined places inland, but mostly covered up and hidden by the sand.

A remarkable feature on the chart near Odaid is inserted in the rough copy I have given† of it, which mentions also some of the places near the coast which are known to contain ruins.

† Appended.

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Submits, for disposal, notes drawn up by Captain E. L. Durand on the islands of Bahrain and its antiquities, accompanied by drawings, and asks for twelve copies of the paper.

Foreign Dept. Press, Calcutta.—No. 22—20-8-79—50 copies.

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