

As the life of nations is, independently of mental culture, determined by many external conditions of soil, climate, and vicinity to the sea, we must here remember the great varieties presented by the Arabian peninsula. Although the first impulse toward the changes effected by the Arabs in the three continents emanated from the Ismaelitish Hedschaz, and owed its principal force to one sole race of herdsmen, the littoral portions of the peninsula had continued for thousands of years open to intercourse with the rest of the world. In order to understand the connection and existence of great and singular occurrences, it is necessary to ascend to the primitive causes by which they have been gradually prepared.

Toward the southwest, on the Erythrean Sea, lies Yemen, the ancient seat of civilization (of Saba), the beautiful, fruitful, and richly-cultivated land of the Joctanidæ.\* It produced incense (the *lebonah* of the Hebrews, perhaps the *Boswellia thurifera* of Colebrooke),† myrrh (a species of *Amyris*, first concluded a treaty with the patriarch favorable to the Christians. (*Fundgruben des Orients*, bd. v., s. 68.)

\* It would appear from tradition that a branch of the Hebrews migrated to Southern Arabia, under the name of Jokthan (Qachthan), before the time of Abraham, and there founded flourishing kingdoms. (Ewald, *Geschichte des Volkes Israel*, bd. i., s. 337 und 450.)

† The tree which furnishes the Arabian incense of Hadramaut, celebrated from the earliest times, and which is never to be found in the island of Socotora, has not yet been discovered and determined by any botanist, not even by the laborious investigator Ehrenberg. An article similar to this incense is found in Eastern India, and particularly in Bundelcund, and is exported in considerable quantities from Bombay to China. This Indian incense is obtained, according to Colebrooke (*Asiatic Researches*, vol. ix., p. 377), from a plant made known by Roxburgh, *Boswellia thurifera* or *serrata* (included in Kunth's family of *Burseraceæ*). As, from the very ancient commercial connections between the coasts of Southern Arabia and Western India (Gildemeister, *Scriptorum Arabum Loci de Rebus Indicis*, p. 35), doubts might be entertained as to whether the *libanos* of Theophrastus (the *thus* of the Romans) belonged originally to the Arabian peninsula, Lassen's remark (*Indische Alterthumskunde*, bd. i., s. 286), that incense is called "*yáwana*, Javanese, *i. e.*, Arabian," in Amara-Koscha, itself becomes very important, apparently implying that this product is brought to India from Arabia. It is called *Turuschka' pindaka' sihló* (three names signifying incense) "*yáwanó*" in Amara-Koscha. (*Amarakocha*, publ. par A. Loiseleur Deslongchamps, Part i., 1839, p. 156.) Dioscorides also distinguishes Arabian from Indian incense. Carl Bitter, in his excellent monograph on the kinds of incense (*Asien*, bd. viii., abth. i., s. 356-372,) remarks very justly, that, from the similarity of climate, this species of plant (*Boswellia thurifera*) might be diffused from India through the south of Persia to Arabia. The American incense (*Olibanum Americanum* of our Pharmacopœias) is obtained from *Icica gujanensis*, Aubl., and *Icica tacamahaca*, which Bonpland and myself fre-