

formation, surpassing in these respects the travels of the Buddhist priests of Thibet and China, Marco Polo, and the Christian missionaries, who were sent on an embassy to the Mongolian princes. Important elements of Asiatic knowledge reached Europe through the intimate relations existing between the Arabs and the natives of India and China (for at the close of the seventh century, under the califate of the Ommajades, the Arabs had already extended their conquests to Kaschgar, Kabul, and the Punjaub).^{*} The acute investigations of Reinaud have taught us the amount of knowledge regarding India that may be derived from Arabian sources. The incursion of the Moguls into China certainly disturbed the intercourse with the nations beyond the Oxus, but the Moguls soon served to extend the international relations of the Arabs, from the light thrown on geography by their observations and careful investigations, from the coasts of the Dead Sea to those of Western Africa, and from the Pyrenees to Scherif Edrisi's marsh lands of Wangarah, in the interior of Africa.† According to the testimony of Frähn, Ptolemy's geography was translated into Arabic by order of the Calif Mamun, between the years 813 and 833; and it is not improbable that several fragments of Marinus Tyrius, which have not come down to us, were employed in this translation.‡

Of the long series of remarkable geographers presented to us in the literature of the Arabs, it will be sufficient to name the first and last, El-Istâchri and Alhassan (Johannes Leo Africanus).§ Geography never acquired a greater acquisition

^{*} Reinaud, in three late writings, which show how much may still be derived from Arabic and Persian, as well as Chinese sources; *Fragments Arabes et Persans inédits relatifs à l'Inde antérieurement au XI^e Siècle de l'ère Chrétienne*, 1845, p. xx.—xxxiii.; *Relation des Voyages faits par les Arabes et les Persans dans l'Inde et à la Chine dans le IX^e Siècle de notre ère*, 1845, t. i., p. xlvi.; *Mémoire Géog. et Hist. sur l'Inde d'après les écrivains Arabes, Persans, et Chinois, antérieurement au milieu du onzième Siècle de l'ère Chrétienne*, 1846, p. 6. The second of these memoirs of the learned Oriental scholar is based on the incomplete treatise of the Abbé Renaudot, *Anciennes Relations des Indes, et de la Chine, de deux Voyageurs Mahométans*, 1718. The Arabic manuscript contains only one notice of a voyage, that of the merchant Soleiman, who embarked on the Persian Gulf in the year 851. To this notice is added what Abu-Zeyd-Hassan, of Syraf, in Farsistan, who had never traveled to India or China, had learned from other well-informed merchants.

† Reinaud et Favé, *Du Feu Grégeois*, 1845, p. 200.

‡ Ukert, *Ueber Marinus Tyrius und Ptolemaus die Geographen*, in the *Rheinische Museum für Philologie*, 1839, s. 329—332; Gildemeister, *De Rebus Indicis*, pars 1, 1838, p. 120; *Asie Centrale*, t. ii., p. 191.

§ The "*Oriental Geography of Ebn-Haukal*," which Sir William