BIBLE COMMERCE.

We all know what modern commerce is. Of vast extent, spread over the whole world, engaging almost all nations, it is the powerful agent of both good and evil. Now while the commerce carried on in Old Testament times was far less general than that of our own day, it was perhaps far more extensive and important than many suspect. We propose to direct attention to a few facts connected with this interesting subject, which will be profitable to the ordinary reader of the holy Scriptures.

It is difficult to say when commercial intercourse between various nations began, but it is easy to see that it would naturally commence when one nation perceived that another possessed advantages unknown to itself. Men soon became fond of comforts and luxuries, which were valued in proportion as they were rare and costly; they speedily grew dissatisfied with the products of their own country, and anxious to possess those of others. In this way commerce would begin; probably at first by land and between neighbouring states, afterwards with countries more remote. The invention of ships was an expedient of later date, and it required a degree of courage, which would not at first be found, to tempt the rough sea. In the tenth of Samuel we find mentioned the power of several

A century earlier than this, and for 1100 years afterwards, the Phenicians were famous as a trading nation. They are not merely mentioned as such in the Scriptures, but by Homer and the most ancient Greek writers. The wealth of Tyre and Sidon was everywhere known, and the ships of Tarshish sailed on almost every sea. Phenicia must have been the rendezvous of men from all the countries of the east, and have accumulated in its storehouses untold wealth. The vast extent and variety of its
cities are often alluded to in the writings of the prophets, while their luxury and vice are frequently the theme of denunciation.

A knowledge of these facts throws considerable light upon many passages of the Old Testament, and accounts for some interesting facts there recorded. For instance, we see why Solomon employed the fleet of Hiram, king of Tyre, to convey the materials of which the temple was built. It is very probable, too, that Solomon himself was induced to engage in maritime commerce from a consideration of the great advantages which it had conferred upon Tyre and Sidon. Hence we find that he availed himself of the assistance of these cities in order to undertake those long sea voyages, each of which occupied a period of three years. From the port of Ezion-geber on the Red Sea, the ships of Solomon, partly manned by his own servants, and partly by those of the king of Tyre, went to Ophir for gold and other articles of value. (2 Chron. ix. 21.) Many conjectures have been formed as to where Ophir was; but whether it was in India or in Arabia, it was a distant region, celebrated from the earliest times for its gold; hence we find it alluded to by Job xxii. 24, and xxviii. 16.

After the death of Solomon, an attempt was made to revive this trade, but without success, as his ships were wrecked at Ezion-geber. (1 Kings xxii. 48, 49.)

It would appear that the ships of Tarshish sometimes went from the Jewish port of Joppa, as we read that Jonah there embarked with the intention of going to Tarshish; but his design was frustrated by Divine Providence, in a remarkable way.

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Long before the topography of the Archipelago was known in Europe, or even the names of its principal islands, its productions had found their way westward, and got classed among the choicest luxuries of Asiatics and Europeans. Nearly three thousand years ago, during the reign of Solomon, part of his navy

—piloted by “shipmen that had knowledge of the sea, came to Ophir once in three years, bringing from Ophir gold, and silver, ivory, and apes and peacocks, great plenty of almug trees and precious stones.” The preponderance of opinion gives to this “Ophir” a situation beyond the Ganges,—some think Malacca, or Java, or Sumatra, or Celebes. The late Dr. Kitto remarks upon this point, after much research: “Perhaps the most probable of all is Malacca, which is known to be the *Aurea Chersonesus* of the ancients. It is worthy of remark, that the natives of Malacca call their gold mines *ophirs.*” But it is not likely that we shall ever be able to meet with a positive solution of the problem. Nevertheless, it may be regarded as certain that, at a subsequent period, a large trade was carried on by the nations of Hindostan with the islands of the Indian Archipelago. The natives of the Coromandel coast, in parti-
In his tenth chapter, Mr. McLeod refers to the past history of this coast, where, in the days of the Portuguese discoverers, mighty kingdoms were said to have flourished; Mocoranga, and Monomotapa, with cities of hewn stone, populous, and abounding in 'barbaric gold and pearl.' Although these kingdoms no longer exist, some of these cities remain to this day; and from a report in 1857 of the Governor-General of Mozambique, we find that far in the interior there are remains of large edifices, although by whom they were inhabited cannot be discovered. These edifices are called Zimböe, a word signifying a royal residence, and there are remains of a fort, with an inscription over the entrance that cannot be deciphered, and also the remains of a tower at least seventy feet high. The account also gives a long list of gold, silver, copper, and iron mines, which had formerly been worked, but are now wholly neglected, as the country is destitute of labour, the Portuguese having drained ancient Africa to supply the slave-trade of the new-found world. Sofala, on this coast, Mr. McLeod thinks, 'is indubitably the Ophir of Solomon'; and he argues against the general opinion that Ophir was on the eastern side of Arabia, from the fact that neither elephants nor apes were indigenous there, neither was the guinea-fowl, which he considers is intended by the word translated 'peacock.' The 'almug tree' too, which is supposed by the best authorities to mean sandalwood, is not indigenous in Arabia. Now all these, together with abundance of gold, silver, and precious stones, are to be found in the neighbourhood of Sofala. 'Almug trees' especially abound along the whole coast from Delagoa Bay to Mozambique, and not only the common sandalwood but a specimen
of red sandalwood has been brought from the Zambesi, which is very beautiful, 'not unlike the handsomest specimens of Bermuda cedar, but still having the scent of the common sandalwood.' Gold is still found here. There are the Manica gold mines, situated in a valley, and others more productive further off. In still portions of the rivers lumps of gold often reward the diver, but so little do the natives value the precious metal, that they make their ornaments of copper rather than of gold. The iron of Sofala, too, is highly prized for its malleable properties, and has been an article of commerce with India for many years. The Bazaruto Islands, near the mouth of the Sabia river, have long been celebrated for the pearl-fishery carried on there. The Portuguese flag is kept flying at these islands, but, according to Mr. McLeod's account, on the amiable principle of the dog in the manger; since they entirely neglect this fishery, which, if properly worked and protected, would, he thinks, rival that of Ceylon. Indeed, the 'capabilities' of Sofala, contrasted with its present wretched state, afford an emphatic comment on the ruinous and degrading influence of the slave-trade.

J. McCulloch, “What the World Owes to the Jews,” Good Words 4 (1863): “During the reigns of David and Solomon, facilities for blessing the nations were greatly enlarged. Both these princes had commercial relations, not only with Phoenicia, Egypt, and Arabia, but also with countries beyond the sea—with Tarshish and Ophir—the West and East Indies of that early time. Such widespread intercourse cannot but have served to extend that divine knowledge which was peculiar to the Jews... these reigns were rich in spiritual benefits to countries far beyond the frontier of Palestine” (777).

not bad policy to place Tyrian rather than Edomite sailors in the ships which traded in the Eastern seas; while Phoenicia herself would obviously derive benefit from this large development of her mercantile relations.* Thus there resulted the two great navies which are connected with the names of Tarshish and Ophir. We see no valid reason against identifying these two regions with the South of Spain and the South of India; and all the difficulties of the Scriptural expressions seem to be sufficiently removed (as is suggested here in a note) by accepting that circumnavigation of Africa which Herodotus shows to have been probable at a very early period. Solomon went himself to Ezion-geber, on the Red Sea, to see the preparations for some of these voyages;† and most interesting it is, in connection with this subject, to notice in the Book of Proverbs the frequent allusions to trade and to commercial products,‡ while even sea-sickness is employed there to point a warning for the shameful drunkard.§ And so, among the Hebrews, under the effect of this germ,
Sir Roderick I. Murchison thinks that the existence of the rich gold-fields on the river Thuti, or Tuti, an affluent of the Limpopo, and the proof of old works having been in operation there greatly favours the suggestion that the Ophir of Solomon was probably near the mouth of that great stream.* Sir Roderick justly shows that Ophir cannot with any show of possibility be placed in any part of India, where the great geographer Carl Ritter had supposed it to be, nor was it likely to be in Arabia, as advocated by Neibuhr and the learned author of the article “Ophir,” in Smith’s Dictionary of the Bible, as the mineral structure of that peninsula was such as to render it most unlikely that at any time it could have yielded gold. The Ophir of Scripture has indeed from early times been supposed to lie somewhere on the south-east coast of Africa.†

* Address at the Anniversary Meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, May 25, 1863.
† D’Anville, Disquisition on Ophir, Mém. de l’Académie des Sciences, t. xxx. p. 83.
It was this belief that led the Portuguese to send expeditions soon after the voyage of Vasco da Gama, and subsequently to colonise largely in these latitudes, the relics of churches built by the Jesuit fathers being, it is said, still to be traced. "It is only on reaching the latitude of 21 deg. south," Sir Roderick observes, "that auriferous rocks occur in the interior [an exception might be taken to this in the Egyptian gold-mines of Sénar and other reported gold districts], in a region from which, as before said, the waters flow to the Zambesi, on the north, but chiefly to the Limpopo, on the south. I venture therefore to say that, of all the sites hitherto suggested, the region which feeds these streams was, according to our present knowledge, in all probability the source which supplied the ancient Ophir. I have before stated that this region, besides gold, is rich in ivory and ostrich-feathers; and if Hebrew scholars see no objection to the supposition that the Biblical writers might not clearly distinguish between the feathers of the peacock and those of the ostrich, another difficulty in choosing this South African site of Ophir vanishes. I would also add that parts of this region are especially rich in ebony—so rich, indeed, that, according to Livingstone, great profit might be obtained by bringing home cargoes of those valuable trees from the river Rovuma. Now, may not these have been the famous almug-trees of which Solomon made pillars for the House of the Lord and the King's House, as well as harps and psalteries for the singers?"

Having discussed all the details of the question of the positioning of Ophir at considerable length in a previous number of the New Monthly, published two years ago, when we argued the identification of Ophir with Sofala, we are not going to re-enter upon those details at the present moment. Suffice it that Mr. Consul M'Loud also inclines to this view of the subject, and says: "I think it will be at length allowed that Sofala, on the east coast of Africa, is indubitably the Ophir of Solomon." And the identification is becoming to be admitted and recognised by the South Africans, for the Natal Mercury of December 19, 1867, says: "From the earliest times the site of Ophir, the Bible land of gold, has been by many geographers placed on the south-eastern coast of Africa, somewhere between Delagoa Bay and the Zambesi, and probably about Sofala."

It is not only that from time immemorial Sofala has produced in great abundance gold, silver, pearls, precious stones, apes, and monkeys, but also guinea-fowls, which is most likely to be the true meaning of the word translated in our version "peacock," and sandal wood, which, as the 'allawa of the Arabs, and agar of India, is more likely to be the almug of the Hebrews than ebony; but that the Arabs, who are so persistent in their nomenclature, call this hour the river leading from the ocean to the Manica gold-mines—which are the great mines of the country—the river
The Gold-fields of South Africa.

Sabaea, or Sabia, as it has been incorrectly written, and the large district adjoining Sofala, and in which are the important Egypto-Phoenician ruins of Zimboë, lying between the rivers Sabaea and Sofala, has been ever since Europeans appeared on the coast, and is now called Sabaea—the name of regions of contemporaneous age in Arabia and on the Upper Nile—the Meroë of Cambyses.

The ancient kingdom of Sofala, or Ophir, extended north to the Luvo mouth of the Zambesi, and to the south as far as to the river Sabaea, and it is possible, as some minor ruins are noticed by Mr. George Thompson as existing south of the Limpopo, that it may have also embraced part of the country at the head-waters of that river; but the great port, or entrepôt, of Ophir appears to have been at or near Sofala, in Sabaea, and east of Manica, and not “in the lower part of the Limpopo.”

All the products already described as appertaining to Inhambane are to be found at Sofala; while if the valley of the Zambesi and the countries beyond are included, it may be safely said that there is nothing grown in the torrid and temperate zones which may not be produced in this extensive territory, reaching from the Indian Ocean to the crest of the Luputa mountains, which are, in places, covered with perpetual snow.

The Manica gold-mines are, according to consul McLeod, situated in a valley, inclosed in an amphitheatre of hills, having a circuit of about a hundred miles. The spots containing gold are known by the barren and naked aspect of the surface soil. The district is called Matuka, and the natives who obtain the gold are the Botongos. Although this country is situated between the equator and the tropic of Capricorn, in the cold season the mountains surrounding the mining district are covered with so great a quantity of snow, that, if the natives are caught there at that season, they are said to perish from the cold; but in the hot season, the sides and summits of these mountains enjoy a serene, bracing, equable temperature, while it is hot in the inclosed valleys.

These mountain heights afford at once a desirable residence for Europeans, and will doubtless be found similar in temperature to the upper terraces of Natal. The natives dig in any small crevice made by the rains of the preceding winter, and there find gold in dust. They seldom go deeper than one or two feet at the most from the surface, and on digging five or six feet deep they reach the rock. There are other mines, where the gold is found in solid lumps, or as veins in the quartz rock. The natives also frequently dive in the still portions of the rivers to obtain the lumps of gold which have been washed down by the winter torrents. They will sometimes join together in hundreds, and deflect a stream temporarily from its course, to drain the holes or gullies, and obtain the rich deposits which they contain.

The Bazaruto Islands, near the mouth of the Sabaea river, have
been long celebrated for the pearl fishery carried on there. It was from these islands that the pearls, which accompanied the gold and ivory and precious stones to the court of King Solomon, were doubtless obtained. The Portuguese flag is kept flying at these islands, "but for what purpose, except to keep others from benefiting by the pearls which they neglect," M'Lecod says, "one cannot imagine." "On both banks of the river Sofala, and from that river northwards," adds the same writer, "to the southern bank of the Zambesi, the country is one mass of mineral wealth—gold, silver, copper; and towards Tete [and above might have been added] even iron and coal are found in abundance."

"To an old-fashioned denizen of the northern country," a writer in the Illustrated Sydney News remarks, apropos of Nashville in Queensland, "the rapidity with which the site of a new gold-field develops into a town, must seem something magical. To-day a passing miner finds a speck of gold amongst primeval trees in some out-of-the-way gully; a week later a rush has set in, storekeepers follow, the usual main street is formed, and in a few months a town has taken the place of some waste plain or dreary scrub." It is not too much to say that towns will rapidly rise up in each of the three gold-fields of South Africa—on the head waters of the Maputa and Limpopo rivers, on the river of Sabaea, in renowned Manica or Matuka, and at the head of the Longwe river in the Matebele or Mashona district. Such settlements in the interior, which virtually involve the occupation of the whole country between Natal and the Transvaal Republic and the river Zambesi, will necessitate outlets on the coast, and these will be found by purchase, or cession, from the Portuguese, or by arrangement with the natives or otherwise, at Sofala, Inhambane, Delagoa Bay, or San Lucia. A new colony of vast territorial extent, with a climate well suited to European constitutions, wonderously fertile, and of untold mineral wealth, will thus be added to the already splendid possessions of the British Empire.
THE GOLD-FIELDS OF EASTERN AFRICA, AND
THE LAND OF OPHIR.

Bekesbourne, Nov. 9, 1868.

In the last number of the Athenæum I stated that, though the “gold of Ophir” of the Hebrew Scriptures was obtained from the east coast of Africa, Ophir itself was in Arabia. With your permission I will now give my reasons for this paradox.

‘In my ‘Origines Bibliæ’ the opinion is recorded that the people from whom the country of Ophir derived its name were originally placed on the western side of the head of the Persian Gulf, in the vicinity of Havilah and Sheba, the three being named in conjunction in the tenth chapter of the Book of Genesis (“And Joktan begat ... Sheba and Ophir and Havilah”); Havilah, like Ophir, being named for its gold, and Sheba being also
noted for its supplies of the precious metal (Ps. lxxii. 15; Ezek. xxvii. 22). Thus we read of the Queen of Sheba, who, on the occasion of Solomon's first sending ships to Ophir, was induced to cross the Arabian desert to Jerusalem, carrying with her as a present 120 talents of gold, at the same time that the Tyro-Israelitish fleet brought 420 talents from Ophir, by the way of the Sea of Edom, or Red Sea. There is no evidence, however, of gold having ever been the natural production of those Arabian districts.

Why the "gold of Ophir" should have obtained the name of a place which did not produce it is easily explained. Ophir was the principal country from which the gold was last exported. I will adduce several similar instances, which, whilst elucidating the present question, will at the same time serve to throw light on the history of the emporia of antiquity, which were, and in some cases still are, imagined to have produced the articles bearing their names, whereas the same were merely brought to them for sale, sometimes from immense distances, either by sea or by land.

The coffee of the shores of the Red Sea, when first imported into Europe from the Turkish ports in the Levant, came to us as "Turkey" coffee; and though it is now known to us as "Mocha" coffee, Mocha is not the place of its growth, but simply the port of shipment; and even this it is now no longer. The rhubarb of the druggists, Rheum palmatum, is to this day called "Turkey" rhubarb, because our Turkey merchants were its first importers; though all that even now is known of its origin is, that the Russians buy it from the Chinese at the frontier market-town of Kiachta, and hence it is supposed to be the produce of Thibet; but the precise place of its growth and even the species of rheum are, I believe, still unascertained. The slaves of Kaffa and the neighbouring countries of Southern Abyssinia, when taken to the market of Baso in Gédjam, are by the Galla slave-dealers called Sidámas—this being the general denomination for Christians, which many of those poor creatures are; but, in the transit across Abyssinia, they become "Gallas"; and when carried from the latter country into Arabia, Egypt, or Persia, they are known as "Hubshees," or Abyssinians. The products of Indian looms, purchased by the traders of the West in the markets of Mosul and Damascus, became with us "muslin" and "damask".
of the West in the markets of Mosul and Damascus, became with us "mualins" and "damasks"; as the silken fabrics of France and England, when carried from the fair of Leipzig into Circassia, are "Leipzig" silks, whose lustre serves the Circassian poet as a foil to the glossy hair of his mistress. So, too, Brazil sugar sent from Lisbon to the Mediterranean was called "Lisbon" sugar, as in like manner Welsh or English coal, shipped from Liverpool to North America, is there known as "Liverpool" coal. The marble quarried in the mountains of Carrara and shipped at the port of Luna became "Lunar" marble, just as the straw hats of Tuscany are called "Leghorn" hats.

Many other instances might be given, but one more shall suffice, and it is the more conclusive because it is that of a production of Eastern Africa, carried thence in the same direction as the gold. The article known in our London market as "Bombay gum-anime" is, in fact, the produce of the continent of Africa, near Zanzibar, where the supply is said to be limited only by the will of the lazy natives to dig it up and bring it to market. Carried from Zanzibar to Bombay, its origin is there altogether lost sight of—perhaps is designedly concealed; and this Zanzibar copal comes to England under the name of "Bombay" gum-anime, being said to be the produce of India, washed down by the rivers to the coast.

So was it with the gold of Ophir, Havilah, and Sheba, which, brought from the east-coast of Africa to these maritime districts of Arabia by the south-west monsoon, which at the present day carries the gum-copal of the same region to the port of Bombay, obtained its name from them instead of the country of which it was the natural product.

As regards the length of the voyage from Ezion-geber to Ophir, it has to be explained that the "three years" which Solomon's "ships of Tarshish" employed in performing it, mean three years inclusive, which become practically only two years. They
wrote one year, returned the next, and went again
the third; and native vessels trading between the
head of the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf at the
present day would take just as long. In 'Origines
Biblice' I have adduced several similar and even
stronger instances of this mode of computation. I
will repeat one here:—"It is on this principle that
the Jews computed their kings' reigns: according
to the doctrine of the Talmud, Treatise Rosh Hash-
shanah, 'a king who has been elected on the 29th
of Adar (the last day of the year), has on the 1st
of Nisan (the first day of the next year) completed
a year, and commences another, . . . . since one day
of a year is considered to be a (whole) year.' In
this case, while the Jewish historian would record
that the king had reigned two years, we should say
he had reigned only two days."

Before concluding I wish to correct an error
in my former communication. The last sentence
of the penultimate paragraph should read thus:—
"On the contrary, as I stated in a lecture on the
Sources of the Nile, delivered in the theatre of
the London Institution on the 20th of January,
1864, 'In truth, the whole of the east coast of
Africa, from Berenice Panchrysos (the all-golden
Berenice) of the Greeks in the north, to Sofalat-ed-
Dhabab (the Gold Coast) of the Arabians in the
south, is auriferous; and the gold-fields discovered
by Herr Mauch appear to be the southernmost ex-
tremity of the deposits of the precious metal.' That
is to say, Herr Mauch's discovery, made towards
the end of 1867, is the realization of my prediction
in 1864, which itself, as I have stated, was merely
an amplification of that of 1852, repeated in greater
detail in 1861.               CHARLES BEKE.
Dr. Petermann has just issued a lithographed circular, dated the 3rd inst., and headed as above, giving an interesting account of the discovery actually made by the now famous German explorer, Carl Manch, of the remains of one of the ancient cities which for many years past have been reported to exist in the interior of Southern Africa, at no great distance from the east coast.

This important intelligence is conveyed in a letter from that traveller, dated September 13th, 1871, and written at Zimbabwe, in 20° 14' S. lat., and 31° 48' E. long.,—under 200 geographical miles due west of the port of Sofala, and little more than 100 miles north of the River Limpopo. Here Herr Manch has found the ruins of buildings with walls 30 feet high, 15 feet thick, and 450 across, a tower, and other erections formed exclusively of hewn granite, without mortar, and with ornaments which seem to show that they are neither Portuguese nor Arabian, but are of much greater antiquity, not improbably of the age of the Phœnicians, or Tyrians and King Solomon.

Dr. Petermann is inclined to the opinion, very prevalent among scholars, that here in southeastern Africa is the Land of Ophir of the Bible, whence the Tyro-Israelitish “navy of Tarshish” of Kings Hiram and Solomon “came once in three years, bringing gold and silver, ivory and apes, and peacocks” (1 Kings, x. 22). On this archaeological question it will be sufficient to remark that, even admitting that Herr Manch has now and on former occasions actually discovered the regions which produced the “gold of Ophir,” it does not at all follow that that precious metal was the natural production of the country whence it derived the appellation by which it is known in history, and may formerly have been known in the markets of the world.

I drew attention to this distinction as long ago as 1834, in my ‘Origines Biblica,’ and since then on repeated occasions; especially in the columns of the Athenæum for November 14th, 1868.
(No. 2142), when I explained how the gold of Ophir would have been so called, because Ophir was the principal country from which it was last exported; and I instanced "Turkey" rhubarb, "Mocha" coffee, "Leipzig" silks (among the Circassians), "Leghorn" hats, &c., and in particular the semi-fossil Copal of Zanzibar, the digging up of which is described by Capt. Burton in his work noticed by you on the 27th ult. (Athen. No. 2309), and which, as I explained, is "carried from Zanzibar to Bombay, where its origin is altogether lost sight of—perhaps is designedly concealed; and this Zanzibar Copal comes to England under the name of 'Bombay' gum-animé, it being said to be the produce of India, washed down by the rivers to the coast!"

The Arabian country of Havilah is, in Gen. ii. 11, described not only as a gold-producing country, like Ophir and Sheba, with which it is joined in Gen. x. 28–29, but as likewise containing נִיר and פַּיָּד; which articles are in our Authorized Version called "bdellium" and the "onyx-stone," but may possibly be "gum-animé" and "diamonds"! Brought, like the gold of "Ophir," "from the east coast of Africa to those maritime districts of Arabia by the south-west monsoon, which at the present day carries the gum-copal of the same region to the port of Bombay, they obtained their names from them, instead of the countries of which they were the natural produce."

The country containing the remarkable ruins now visited by Herr Manch is more than 4,000 feet above the sea level, well watered, fertile, and thickly inhabited by an industrious and well-disposed agricultural and pastoral people, of the tribe of Makalaka, growing rice and corn, and possessing horned cattle, sheep, and goats.

The traveller had heard of other ruins, with obelisks, pyramids, &c., situate three days' journey north-west of Zimbabwe, which he purposed visiting. He has discovered gold sand near Zimbabwe, which he intends to collect and wash.

Charles Beke.
Athenaeum 16 March 1872
new trade in that direction, preferring the continuance of the ancient overland route, which could be more easily kept under native control; and that she brought with her such an abundance of the rich produce of India and Africa by the old road, in order to show how unnecessary the new one was.

Be this as it may, this maritime route to Ophir and Sheba did not last long. Passing over the allusions to it in 1 Kings xxii. 48 and 2 Kings xix. 22, which show that it must have been often interrupted, we read (2 Kings xvi. 6) that in the reign of Ahaz, King of Judah (c. 740 B.C.), "Rezin, King of Syria, recovered Elath to Syria, and drive the Jews from Elath; and the Syrians came to Elath, and dwelt there to this day"; so that, under any circumstances, the whole duration of this Red Sea commerce did not exceed two centuries and a half. During that brief interval it is not likely that the Tyro-Israelitish fleets continued their voyages to the east coast of Africa, even if the Arabians had allowed them to interfere with their monopoly, and still less that they should have penetrated as far inland as Zimbabwe. The ruins discovered there are, therefore, certainly not Tyro-Israelitish.

They may, however, have been constructed by the Southern Arabians, who, as the representatives of the Biblical nations of Sheba and Ophir, have traded with the East coast of Africa, and had settlements there down to the present day. Still this does not afford any reason for attributing to these buildings a remote antiquity. The prevailing notion that all "Cyclopean" or megalithic remains must necessarily date from the earliest ages, has sustained a severe blow from Mr. James Fergusson, who, in his recent work, 'Rude Monuments in all Countries: their Age and Uses,' contends that the monuments in England, Brittany, and elsewhere, which during centuries have evoked the wonder of antiquaries, belong to a period far more recent than the Roman age; just as he showed in the Athenæum of July 30th, 1870 (No. 2231), that "the Giant Cities of Bashan," which Dr. Porter would have us believe were inhabited by King Og in the time of Moses, were, without a single exception, "erected during the six centuries which elapsed from the time of Christ till the age of Mahomet." The buildings at Zimbabwe are not improbably of the same age. CHARLES BEKE.
The French geographers, excited thereunto by the gold and diamond discoveries made by Herr Carl Mauch in Southern Africa, have entered upon the oft-discussed question as to the site of the Biblical Ophir. M. Duveyrier adopts the same opinion as that long ago advocated by Mr. McLeod in his "Travels in Eastern Africa," that Ophir was identical with Sofala and the neighbouring country. M. Joseph Halevy, on the contrary, argues in favour of Ophir being a region of Arabia. M. Vivien de Saint Martin holds, with a greater amount of probability, that there were two Ophirs, one in Arabia the other in Africa, the latter deriving its name from the other, either from early communication, from the meaning of the word, or some other cause.

It has not, indeed, been sufficiently taken into consideration by learned disputants upon this question, that the Ophir of Genesis may be a different place to the Ophir of the Book of Kings. In other words, the first descendants of Ophir may have had a settlement in Arabia among their Joktanite brethren, but having emigrated, as the descendants of Ophie are supposed to have done, to Africa, they called the country after their own name, and this was the Ophir of Solomon, now Sofala.

Neibuh, Forster, and others have placed the first Ophir in Arabia, identifying it with the Ofor of Sale and d'Anville, a town and district in the mountains of Oman, west of the coast of Maham; but it is evident that this could not be the country that produced gold and silver, ivory, apes and peacocks, or paroquets, or guinea-fowl, but the derivation of the Hebrew word takujem from takah, "to cling," is in favour of parrots being meant. Sir R. I. Murchison even proposed (Journ. of R. G. S., vol. xxxviii. p. 186), to read "ostrich feathers." Elephants, however, are not met with in Arabia, nor are apes, whilst such abound in Africa, and the Roman ladies were supplied with pet monkeys from the now well-known port of Adule. Nor does Arabia abound in gold and silver, or pearls and precious stones, or in sandal-wood, all of which are met with in Africa, the latter, according to Mr. McLeod, growing to a large size, and having a pleasant scent like cedar.

Old Portuguese writers long ago pointed out the existence of ancient ruins in the kingdom of Sofala, more especially at a place called Fura, or Atura, which Joas dos Santos supposed might be a corruption of Ophir. Barros also described other ruins at Zimbó, and others have since been discovered, as also a river bearing the name of Saba.

Solomon and Hiram had, when they first sent forth their fleets from Ezion-geber to Sofala, the example before them of a previous navigation of the south coast of Africa by the Phenicians under the order of Pharaoh Necho. The very fact which caused Herodotus to doubt the authenticity of this voyage—viz., that they travelled till they had the sun on their right hand, is one of the most convincing proofs of its truth, for to reach Sofala they would have to cross the equator.
**Perak and the Malays: "Sarong" and "Kris."**

By Major Fred. McNair, Colonial Engineer and Surveyor-General, Straits Settlements, &c. Illustrated. (Tinsley Brothers.)

Major McNair undoubtedly enjoyed great advantages for writing a book about the Malays, for he has been engaged during more than twenty years in various official duties in the Straits Settlements, and has thus had access to Colonial State Papers and other sources of information not within the reach of ordinary travellers. The opportunity, too, was a good one; there is room for a work on the Native States of the Malay Peninsula; and for these reasons we had been looking forward to the present publication with some interest; but we must confess that the author has disappointed us. He has, indeed, provided for the general reader (for whom, as the author says, the volume is intended) has had any general reading, he has probably read about fireflies and the Malay dress in many books of travels. However, those who write for general readers ought to be careful not to mislead when treading on really unfamiliar ground. If a question of genuine difficulty arises, on which there has been a conflict of views among the highest authorities, the general reader has at least a claim to be supplied with the best information. Such questions are those connected with the trade-routes in early times to the remote East—the question, for example, of the locality of the Ophir of King Solomon. Major McNair (who, by the way, never gives a single reference throughout his book) alludes to this point several times, and elaborately argues it in favour of the Malay Peninsula. The dispute is as little likely to be ultimately settled as Homer's birthplace; but Major McNair, if he had ever read what
General Cunningham has said on the matter in his 'Ancient Geography of India,' would probably have mentioned his name, whereas he wholly ignores that distinguished Orientalist, and puts forward arguments in support of the Malay Peninsula theory which a reference to General Cunningham's book would have immediately corrected. Thus, of the "peacocks" Major McNair says: "The word for peacock, which in the modern Malay is 'marrak,' is in the aboriginal 'chim marak'; and here we have the exact termination of the Hebrew 'tuchim' in the language of the very people who must have lived in the peninsula, and near Mount Ophir in the days of Solomon; and further on he mentions that "tchem" or "chim" among the wild tribes is the "name for a bird." This is philology extraordinary. The Malays call a peacock "marrak," a wild tribe in the interior call it "chim marak," "chim" or "tchem" being their "name for a bird" simply, not their name for a peacock. These expressions are to be identified with the Hebrew "tuchim"; eliminate, therefore, the "marrak" from Malay, and the "tu" from the Hebrew form, and the remainder in each case is "chim," quod erat demonstrandum. Now, General Cunningham writes the Hebrew word "tukim," translating it "parrots," deriving it from the Sanscrit "suka," and pointing out that the "chim" (of which Major McNair makes so much) is "the mere addition of the Hebrew plural termination"; in fact, the apes are kophim, and the elephants' teeth sen-habim. Space does not permit the further pursuit of this topic here, but we may say that General Cunningham's case in favour of locating Ophir in the Gulf of Khambay goes so far to convince by its display of ability, learning, and careful research, that writers who still maintain a contrary view will find it easier to ignore him, as Major McNair has done, than to convict him of error. When Major McNair writes further on this subject,
These statements of Oriental writers might have been dismissed with a smile were they not supported by the strongest evidence in other quarters. We know on authority which cannot be doubted, that about 1,000 B.C., Solomon received enormous sums in gold in fleets which went and returned by the Red Sea to and from Ophir. It has been long disputed whether this Ophir was in Arabia, Africa, or India. Those who are of opinion that Arabia or Africa is meant, are obliged to resort to very strange reasoning. As the ships which brought the gold are said also to have brought ivory, the almug tree, apes, and peacocks; and as peacocks are not found in Arabia or Africa, it has been said that the word in the Hebrew which is rendered peacock, means rather parrot. But this word tuqki, is evidently the same as the Tamil word toka, which means “peacock,” as being caudatus, from the remarkable tail which distinguishes the bird. Those who believe Ophir to mean Arabia have, in the first place, to disregard the authority of Josephus, who distinctly states that it was a part of India; and support their view by referring to Genesis x. 29, where Ophir is said to be a son of Joktan, or Kahtan, the ancestor of the Arabs; for which see the genealogical table in Sales’s Korán. But may not Ophir, or one of his descendants, have migrated to India, and so have given his name to that part where the Arab colony settled? Be that, however, as it may, it may well be asked where are the mines in Arabia which could have supplied the enormous quantity of gold which was brought annually to Solomon? If it be alleged that Ophir was an Arabian emporium, to which gold was brought from some other region, then cadit quasitio, for that region was no doubt India. Probably, had it been known that there were enormous mines in India, close to the Malabar coast, between which and Arabia traffic has been carried on from time immemorial, no discussion regarding Ophir would have arisen, but it would at once have been admitted that the gold brought to Solomon came from those mines. We shall come to this point presently, but let us first consider what sort of mines those must have been which annually supplied to Solomon during his reign of forty years 666 talents of gold, and which enabled him to use in one ornament of the Temple alone, that is in the shields and targets there, 5,483 lbs. pure gold. On the authority of Scripture we must conclude that

1 The Periplus states that brass, sandal wood, ivory, ebony, and gold, were brought from Barugaza or Broach to Arabia.
the gold brought to him by way of the Red Sea alone amounted to 3,330,000 lbs. weight of gold, or, in round numbers, about 160 millions sterling. The mines, therefore, that produced this enormous sum must have been equal in productiveness to those of Australia. Now the gross produce of the Australian mines from the first discovery of the gold-fields in 1851 to December 31, 1868, was 147,342,767 pounds sterling (see the "Gold Fields of Victoria," by R. Brough Smyth, p. 7). What could be got from the washing of auriferous sand in Arabia or Tofala to make up anything like such a sum as this, and a fortiori the still greater sum that reached Solomon? But the fact is, those who have written on the subject of the import of gold into Palestine had no idea of the now well-established fact that immense gold mines existed in the south of India. Thus Heeren, in his "Researches" (Asiatic Nations, vol. iii. p. 355), says: "The great quantity of the precious metals, particularly gold, possessed by India may well excite our attention and surprise. Though it had neither gold nor silver mines, it has always been celebrated, even in the earliest times, for its riches. The Rámáyaña frequently mentions gold as in abundant circulation throughout the country, and the nuptial present made to Tántá, we are told, consisted of a whole measure of gold pieces, and a vast quantity of the same precious metal in ingots. Golden chariots, golden trappings for elephants and horses, and golden bells, are also noticed as articles of luxury and magnificence." It will be shown presently how great a mistake Heeren committed in this assertion that India had neither gold nor silver mines, but let us first exhibit the series of proofs that gold, from whatever source, was present there in enormous quantities. In the passage last cited, reference is made to the Rámáyaña, which Wilson, in his latest view on the subject, supposed to have been written 300 B.C. But it refers to a time antecedent to that by several centuries, and certainly not later than the time of Solomon, so that there is the clearest proof that gold was abundant in India 1,000 years before the Christian era.
Academy 11 June 1881

*Das Goldland Ofir.* By Ad. Soetbeer. (Berlin: Herbig.) Dr. Soetbeer argues with considerable ingenuity in favour of placing the Biblical land of Ophir on the western side of Arabia, in the neighbourhood of the present district of Asyr, where, according to Agatharkides, gold was found. The arguments, however, with which he attempts to set aside the identification of Ophir with the Indian Abhira are not convincing. He has not fairly met the philological arguments, more especially the remarkable similarity of the Hebrew *thukiyim*, “peacocks,” to the Tamil *toge*. His chief argument is based on the assumption that the gold brought from Ophir to Solomon was the product of a single expedition. But there is nothing in the Biblical account to justify this; on the contrary, it would seem from 1 Kings x. 22 that expeditions returned home every three years, and that the large amount of gold collected by Solomon was the combined result of these. Dr. Soetbeer is not likely to find other critics to agree with him in thinking that the passage he quotes from Eupolemos is other than a confused echo of Biblical history.
The Gold Fields of the Transvaal.

There exists an old Portuguese map of South Africa where on the present site of Kimberley is marked 'Here be diamonds.' The date of that map is 1670. And yet it required an interval of two hundred years before an accident confirmed the earlier discovery, and brought to light the enormous diamondiferous deposits of Griqualand West.

In like manner, it has been known for the past two centuries that gold was obtained from the East Coast of South Africa in barter from the natives. Sofala and the adjacent countries were supposed to be the Ophir of the Bible; that the amorous Queen of Sheba held dominion here; and that Solomon had drawn his supplies of the precious metal from these African mines, with which he had astonished the Eastern world. But these legends were surrounded with the halo of romance; they had not received the stamp of scientific confirmation; and it was reserved for the travellers Carl Mauch and Thomas Baines to make those discoveries which, if they did not accentuate the truth of these legends, at least proved the existence of vast beds of mineral wealth, of remains of old workings, and, what was far more interesting, of ruins of ancient buildings, pointing to a civilisation of which all records have been lost, although far ahead of the present inhabitants of these comparatively unknown regions. In the years extending from 1860 to 1875 many travellers had made journeys through the Transvaal as far as the Zambesi. Erskine, Mohr, Hübner, Elton, Osborne, Sanderson, Mauch and Baines had all passed over what was then unfamiliar ground. But it was certainly Mauch and Baines who were the most indefatigable. They had sketched out their routes, filled in with correct observation a tract of country which in the old atlases was marked unknown deserts, or decorated with pictures of elephants and lions, and had, moreover, made geological observations on the tracts over which they had passed. And throughout
the whole extent of that vast country wherever they went were indications of gold, silver, iron, copper, and coal. The gold was generally found in exposed quartz reefs, but alluvial only in patchy deposits.

The diamond fields discovered in 1867 brought the Transvaal and the adjacent countries into fuller notice. But the romantic attractions which Kimberley offered to the prospector, and the comparative ease with which the first diamonds were withdrawn from the soil, proved a greater inducement to those seekers after wealth than the speculative and dim uncertainty as to what the Transvaal gold fields might yield. Besides, the difficulties of communication, the wild and rugged country, the hostility of the natives were difficulties insurmountable to the slender resources of the individual prospector.

About 1873 to 1875 payable gold had been found in the Leydenberg district of the Transvaal, and many miners from California and Australia were attracted to these fields. In 1875 Mr. H. H. Solomon, of Port Elizabeth, returned from a lengthened tour in the Transvaal, bringing with him 140 lbs. weight of gold in grains and nuggets which had been purchased in the Pretoria and Leydenberg districts. A great deal of scepticism existed as to the payable nature of these discoveries, and as no capitalists stirred in the matter there was no move made for any further development of these discoveries. Occasionally paragraphs appeared in the colonial papers relative to some lucky diggers who had made their pile and were returning home; but beyond these vague rumours nothing further was known. In 1877 occurred the Sekoakoeni war, in which the Boers called in the help of the British, which was succeeded by the occupation of the country by our troops. The rebellion and the retrocession of the country after the terrible disaster of Majuba Hill are too fresh in the minds of Englishmen to need recapitulation. Suffice it to say that the Boers are now in possession of a country which is about the size of France, rich in every mineral product, with a climate, although variable in some parts, as healthy as the Cape (owing to its great elevation above the sea level), and which, with the influx of population and the development of railways, bids fair to become one of the most prosperous countries in the world.
All the Year Round 16 Feb 1889
THE GOLD-FIELDS OF THE BRITISH ISLES.

In Mr. Baring-Gould's novel of "John Herring," a reverend gentleman finds absolutely conclusive proof that the Phœnicians were once settled in the West of England, in the "singular and significant fact that clotted cream is made nowhere in the world except in Devon, Cornwall, and Phœnia." The argument is continued to show that not only were the Phœnicians settled there, but that they actually discovered and worked gold-mines. And then, in the story, occurs the "discovery" of a mine which is proclaimed to be the identical Ophir of King Solomon.

Now Ophir has been "discovered" in almost every quarter of the globe—from Cornwall to China, and from North India to South Africa; and we need not remind readers of "John Herring" that the Ophir in Cornwall turned out to be a swindle. Yet it is not only pretty certain that the Phœnicians were in Britain in Solomon's time, but it is also probable that they found gold there. It is said that they contracted to supply the Jewish King with tin, and tin was only found to any extent in the Old World in Cornwall. Pliny says that gold is found in tin, and, as a matter of fact, it is sometimes found in tin-washings. There is abundance of evidence in the old Latin historians that the mineral wealth of South Britain was the object of trade with the Phœnicians some centuries before the Romans came.
IN CEYLON.

These stones—alas! these grey stones... left to Time
By buried centuries of pomp and power!

SERENDIB of the Arabs, Elengy of the Tamils, Lanka of the Singhalese, Ceylon of the English—what a charm has history woven around its name! The pious Mahomedan finds in it the site of the Garden of Eden; in testimony whereof witness, ye heretics, our First Parent's foot-print, plainly to be discerned upon the summit of Adam's Peak! King Solomon was probably acquainted with its stores of wealth, and drew from Ophir—the modern Newera Ellia—gold, precious stones, ivory, apes and peacocks, which were brought from the interior to the coast and shipped from Tarshish—now known as Point de Galle.