

The negroland of the Arabs examined and explained, or an inquiry into the early history and geography of central Africa

William Desborough Cooley



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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1841 Excerpt: ...escaped the much dreaded difficulties: fresh rain-water lay in all the hollows and crevices of the rocks; and at one place was found 21 Teghaza £5 is described, though not named, by El Bekri (Not. et Extr. p. 436). The salt mines, he says, are two days from the Great Desert, over which passes the road to Ghfinah, and twenty from Sijilmésah. Ibn Batfitah, tlavelling slowly, found the latter distance to be a journey of twenty-five days. The Morabite general, Abfi Bekr ben Omar, purchased Negro slaves at a place in the desert called Gasza, whom he sent to Spain, and exchanged for European slaves, to recruit his army (Conde, Hist. de la Dom. 11. p. 86). The Gasza. here mentioned is probably Teghaza mutilated in the original text, and further disfigured by the Spanish writer. El Idrisi (Rec. de Voy. p. 107) mentions a place in the desert called Taghiza. According to Cadamosto (c. XII. fol. 137 v), Teghéza signifies Cargadore, or a loader (an old word, ill changed into Caricatujo in the recent edition of Ramusio); importing that the place so called was the residence of those who loaded the camels, or furnished the freight for the trade with Negroland. Peritsol (Itinera Mundi, ed. by Hyde, p. 124), explains it otherwise, and translates Teghéza, earth loaded with gold. Ibn Batfitah says, that at A'I'walatin the salt fetched from ten to eighteen mithlghls the load, and at Mali twenty or thirty, or sometimes forty mithkals; and Leo states that when he was at Tomboktfi, the price of a load of salt rose there to eighty ducats.-Cadamosto quotes Inuch higher prices. The ducat or mithlgal is valued by Jackson at 3s. 8d. Another writer infoIms us, that the load of salt (600 lb.), worth 4s. at Teghéza, paid 51. duty at Gago (True Historical Discours...

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