

RELATION  
UNIVERSELLE  
DE L'AFRIQUE

ANCIENNE ET MODERNE,

Où l'on voit ce qu'il y a de remarquable,  
tant dans la Terre ferme que dans les Iles,  
avec ce que le Roy a fait de memorable  
contre les Corsaires de Barbarie, &c.

EN QUATRE PARTIES.

*Par* le Sr. DE LA CROIX.

TOME SECOND.



A LYON,  
Chez THOMAS AMAULRY,  
rue Merciere, au Mercure Galant.

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M. DC. LXXVIII.  
AVEC PRIVILEGE DU ROY.

246. 7. 56.

## SECTION VII.

(pp232-234)

### *The Government of Cairoan or Carvan*

This Government includes the towns of *Cairoan*, *Tobulba* & *Asfachus*. *Cairoan* & by corruption *Carvan* is located seven miles from the Sea, 20 from Tunis & 11 from Carthage; it owes its birth to Ocuba General of the Army of Odman the successor of Mahomet & the third Caliph who chose it in the year 652 to be the base & the assembly of his Troops; he enclosed it with brick walls well furnished with towers: he had a superb Mosquée built there, supported by pillars of marble, amongst which which there are two of them that are priceless, one of which is a bright red, shiny marble with small white spots like Porphyry. All the Country around is nothing but a sandy & sterile desert, where one does not find any springs or wells; the people there bring provisions by wagon from towns on the Coast, which all are to five or six miles from there.

*Tobulba* or *Tabulba* is a Roman Colony built on the Coast three miles from Monester towards the east: in the time of Elagleb, who was Governor; this town grew so large that the inhabitants were obliged to build another one close by that they called Recheda, where the Prince & his Courtiers established their Court; but it was ruined by the wars: & although it has since been repopulated, it will never have such glory.

*Asfachus*, *Esfucho* or *Elfachus* is a small town of 400 houses, according to Marinol, built on the Coast by Ancien Moors, & enclosed in good walls. The soil of *Asfachus* grows nothing but barley; that of *Tobulbe* is almost totally uncultivated, because of the [races] of the Arabs; though they grow olive-trees in it & some other trees: there are great number of *Carvan* Traders, who send their prepared leather to the *Biledulgerid* (*Balad el Jerid*), where one does not find many of our European cloths. The town one of *Carvan* [*Kairouan*] is famous, because it is the seat of Sovereign Pontiff & Vicar of Mahomet: the Arabs hold this town to be so holy, that they believe that those who are buried there will not be damned, because they are participants in the Prayers of the Pontiff & his Priests: the great Lords take off their shoes in respect, before they enter the town; they have built Chapels there & they pay large amounts, imagining that afterwards, they go straight to Paradise.