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M. ÉDOUARD CHARTON.

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KAIROWAN.

This city, says an Arab author, is located in the middle of a extensive plain. To the north is the sea of Tunis; to the East, the sea of Safakes and Kâbes; the closest is the eastern sea, which is at a distance of one day's walk. From this city to the mountains is also one day. To the East is a salt marsh. The land of all these districts have an admirable fertility; but all yield precedence to the Western territory, called the plain of Dawarah, where the grains, in an abundant year, produce a hundred for one.

The air of this district is perfectly healthy and salubrious: The doctor Ziad-Ben-Halioun, when he left Kaïrowan to go to Rakkadah, and whenever he passed in front of the door of Asram, did not fail to raise his turban and uncover his head in order to receive, as a salutary remedy, the impression of such a pure atmosphere.

Kaïrowan had from time immemorial eight enclosures, of which four are outside and four inside the ramparts... The merchants or travellers who wanted to bring into Kaïrowan some food products likely to pay duty were made to pass by Sabrah, a neighboring town. The city has fourteen gates: the Palm Gate, the Gate of the Tradition, the Factory Gate, the New Gate, the Spring Gate, etc).

(Note from an Arab manuscript containing the description of Africa, and entitled: *History of Time, and Roads and Empires*, preserved at the imperial Library. - See. Vol. XII of the *Notes and extracts from the manuscripts of the Library of the king and other libraries*; 1831. - Mr. Quatremère de Quincy supposes that it could be a fragment of a Treaty of geography and history made up by Abou-Obaïd, of Cordoue, around the year 353 of the Hegira. The mosque of Kaïrowan was famous; one admired there especially two splendid red stone columns marked with yellow spots. It was claimed that emperor of Constantinople had offered for these columns their weight in gold, when they decorated an ancient church. The minaret was 30 meters [lit. 60 coudées] high.)

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sous la direction de M. Édouard Charton
(under the direction of M. Edouard Charton)

Paris, 1854