

GENERAL NOTES.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.¹

AFRICA.—*The Ancient Gulf of Triton.*—Dr. Rouire (*Rev. de Geog.*, Janv., 1884) believes that he has satisfactorily identified the Gulf of Triton mentioned by Herodotus and other writers with Lake Kelbiah, and the country between it and the sea. The Chotts of the Tunisian Sahara can scarcely have been this gulf, since the bar of Gabes, which divides them from the sea, is not alluvial, but is composed of older geological beds, rising more than 130 feet above sea-level. Moreover, remains of prehistoric dwellings have been found upon this bar. To the north of Gabes, between Enchir Béniana and Erghela, is a veritable sand bar some four miles long, separating the "Sebka" Djériba from the sea. Further back rises the elevation of Djémiah, and on each side of this passes a branch of the dry Oued Menfes, leading into Lake Kelbiah, a sheet of water about thirteen miles long. Beyond this lake is the valley of Kroussiah, bounded by an abrupt cliff some 200 feet high, presenting indubitable signs of having been an ancient coast line. In rainy seasons the waters of the Oued Bagla pour into Lake Kelbiah, which rises until the valley of Kroussiah is inundated, and the waters fill the dry channels of the Oued Menfes, and communicate with the sea.

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For awhile the Gulf of Triton is formed as described by Herodotus. At the mouth of the gulf is the Island of Phla, equivalent to the temporary Island of Djémiah, between the branches of the Oued Menfes, and further inland the waters of the lake bathe the shores which, before the narrow sand bar was thrown up, were permanently washed by the sea. The Little Syrtes of Scylax is thus identified with the Gulf of Hammamet, Hadrumetum with Sousa, Leptis Parva with Lemta, and Neapolis with Nabel-Kedimi. Communication between the Sahel and the interior of Tunis is even now difficult and dangerous during much of the year, for, except to the south, towards Sfax and Gabes, the bed of the ancient sea, still marshy and apt to be flooded, must be crossed. These identifications necessitate a new interpretation of many historical passages referring to the history of Carthage.