

CHAP. IV.

FIRST VIEW OF THE OASIS. — DELIGHT ON ARRIVING AT THE WATERING-PLACE. — RUINS OF CHRISTIAN EDIFICES. — SOURCE OF WATER. — MOUNDS OF SAND. — ROMAN AQUEDUCTS. — VISIT FROM THE SHEAKH AND PRINCIPAL INHABITANTS OF THE VILLAGE OF GENAH. — EXCHANGE OF PRESENTS.

EVERY countenance was animated with joy, in which even our camels seemed to participate, by quickening their pace. We were all glad that our present fatigues were over; but the delight of the camel-men and of our servants was especially great, as they had been on short allowance of bad water for nearly five days. They rejoiced, therefore, exceedingly, at seeing again an inhabited country, and groves of their favourite palm-trees.

The view of the Oasis from the summit of Hagel Bel Badah, by no means equalled my expectations. Let the reader imagine a long and broad valley bounded nearly on every side by low, and, I might say, horizontal ranges of