

## CHAP. XIV.

OASIS OF DAKKEL, DISCOVERED BY SIR ARCHIBALD EDMONSTONE. — DROMEDARIES AND HORSES. — DESERT. — ELEVEN VILLAGES. — DESCRIPTION OF THE METROPOLIS. — BATHS. — POPULATION. — CLIMATE. — DISEASES. — SOURCES. — MANUFACTURE OF INDIGO. — PRODUCTIONS OF THE OASIS. — CHARACTER OF THE INHABITANTS. — ANIMALS. — ANTIQUITIES. — SEPULCHRES. — TEMPLE BEARING THE NAME OF NERO AND TITUS. — THE TEMPLE OF AIN AMOOR.

SIR Archibald Edmonstone, Mr. Houghton, and Mr. Masters were the first Europeans who, in modern times, visited the Western Oasis, or the Oasis of Dakkel. They had heard from Belzoni and others of its probable existence; but on their departure from Syout, in the beginning of February 1819, they were apparently unconscious towards which Oasis they were travelling. They commenced their investigations very judiciously, making valuable presents to the Arab chiefs, sheakh Daoud Waffee, and sheakh Hamet, whose influence might have retarded the expedition.