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Travels in Nubia

Burckhardt, Johann Ludwig

London, 1819

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Illustrationen

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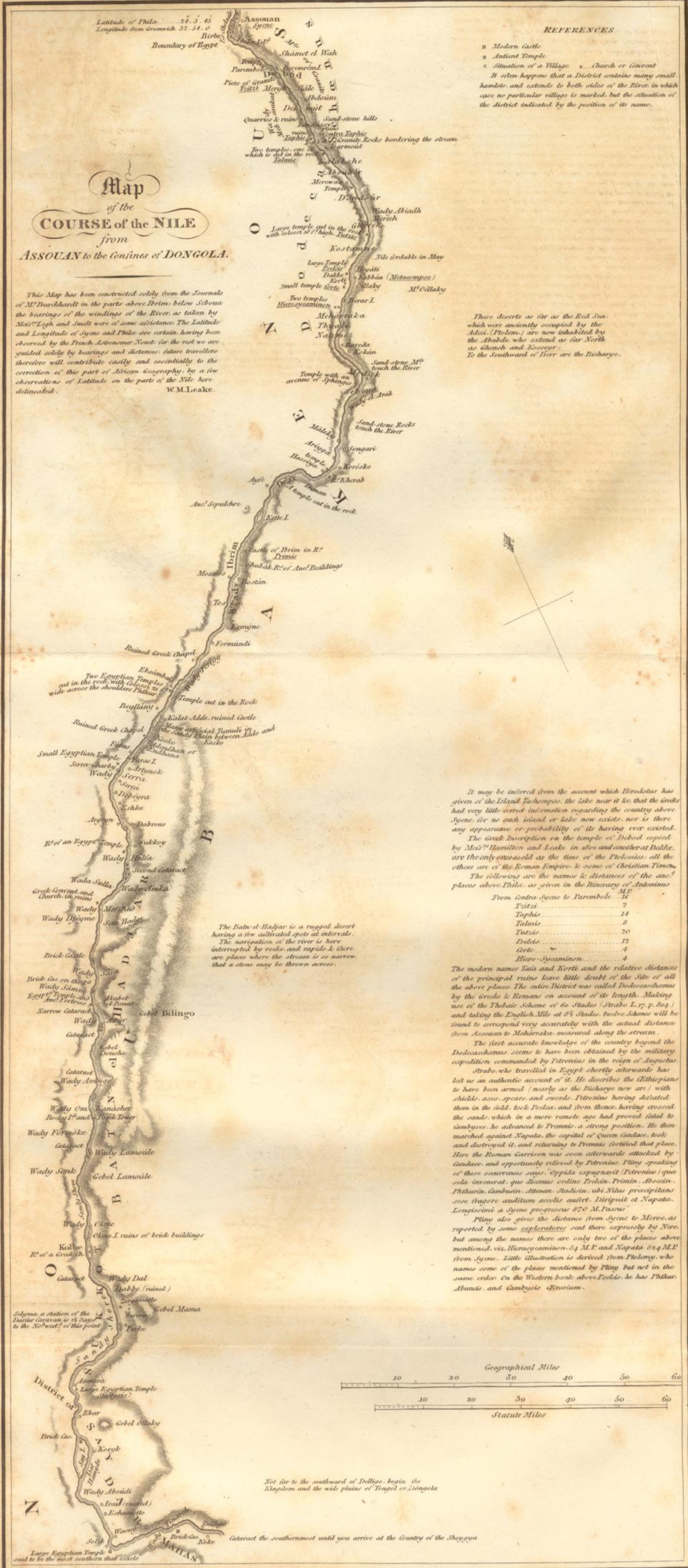
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Map
of the
COURSE of the NILE
from
ASSOUAN to the Confines of DONGOLA.

This Map has been constructed solely from the Journals of M^r Burckhardt in the parts above Ibrim below Schoua the bearings of the windings of the River as taken by M^r Leake and Smith were of some assistance. The Latitude and Longitude of Syene and Philæ are certain, having been observed by the French Astronomers; for the rest we are guided solely by bearings and distances: future travellers therefore will contribute easily and essentially to the correction of this part of African Geography, by a few observations of Latitude on the parts of the Nile here delineated.
W.M. Leake.

REFERENCES

- Modern Castle
 - Ancient Temple
 - Situation of a Village
 - ✕ Church or Convent
- It often happens that a District contains many small hamlets, and extends to both sides of the River in which case no particular village is marked, but the situation of the district indicated by the position of its name.

These deserts as far as the Red Sea, which were anciently occupied by the Adas (Ptolemæ) are now inhabited by the Ababde, who extend as far North as Ghanch and Koseyr: To the southward of Derr are the Bisharye.

It may be inferred from the account which Herodotus has given of the Island Tachonpe, the lake near it &c. that the Greeks had very little correct information regarding the country above Syene, for no such island or lake now exists, nor is there any appearance or probability of its having ever existed. The Greek Inscription on the temple of Debod copied by M^r Hamilton and Leake in 1802 and another at Dakke, are the only ones as the time of the Ptolemæ; all the others are of the Roman Empire & some of Christian Times.

The following are the names & distances of the ancient places above Philæ, as given in the Itinerary of Antoninus

Place	From Contra Syene to Parembole	M.P.
Taiti	16	
Taphis	2	
Talmis	14	
Tutze	8	
Poleis	20	
Orte	12	
Hieroglyphicon	4	

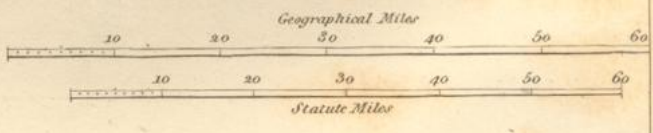
The modern names Taha and Korti and the relative distances of the principal ruins leave little doubt of the site of all the above places. The entire District was called Dedecarchamus by the Greeks & Romans on account of its length. Making use of the Theban Scheme of 60 Stades (Strabo L. 17. p. 804) and taking the English Mile at 8 1/2 Stades, twelve Skanas will be found to correspond very accurately with the actual distance from Assouan to Maharrak, measured along the stream.

The first accurate knowledge of the country beyond the Dedecarchamus seems to have been obtained by the military expedition commanded by Petronius in the reign of Augustus.

Strabo who travelled in Egypt shortly afterwards has left us an authentic account of it. He describes the Ethiopians to have been armed (nearly as the Bisharye now are) with shields, axes, spears, and swords. Petronius having defeated them in the field, took Fedasa, and from thence, having crossed the sands, which in a more remote age had proved fatal to Cambyses, he advanced to Prensia, a strong position. He then marched against Napata, the capital of Queen Candace, took and destroyed it, and returning to Prensia fortified that place. Here the Roman Garrison was soon afterwards attacked by Candace, and opportunely relieved by Petronius. Pliney speaking of these occurrences says, *Oppida capta sunt (Petronius) que sola invenerat, quo dicimus ordine Poldia, Prensia, Abocin, Pithurin, Gambusin, Altan, Sudisin, ubi Nilus precipitans sese fragore auditum acerbis auferit. Diripuit et Napata. Longiarimi a Syene progressus 870 M. Prensia*

Pliney also gives the distance from Syene to Meroe, as reported by some exploratory sent there expressly by Nero, but among the names there are only two of the places above mentioned, viz. Hieroglyphicon 54 M.P. and Napata 624 M.P. from Syene. Little illustration is derived from Pliney, who names some of the places mentioned by Pliney but not in the same order. On the Western bank above Poldia, he has Pithur, Abucis, and Cambyses Ecurium.

The Bahr-el-Hadjar is a rugged desert having a few cultivated spots at intervals. The navigation of the river is here interrupted by rocks and rapids & there are places where the stream is so narrow that a stone may be thrown across.



Not far to the southward of Delligo, begin the Kingdom and the wide plains of Tingo or Dongola

Cataract the southernmost until you arrive at the Country of the Shegga