with layers of tuff intercalated alone occurs in large quantities. Coal is found, and also mined. The action of the Ice age can be clearly made out.

The climate is what we would expect to find in an archipelago. The winter is mild, the summer cold; there is a heavy annual rainfall; storms and fogs are of frequent occurrence.

Of the Phanerogams and Vascular Cryptogams no representatives have been found to be endemic in the Færøes, having all been recorded from the neighbouring countries, seven species only not occurring in Great Britain. Although trees are absent, the flora is of a type characteristic of a woody district in temperate Europe, being most like that met with in Northern Great Britain. Ostenfeldt proves at some length the post- Glacial age of the flora. The plants migrated across a post- Glacial belt of land, and were not brought to the island by birds, wind, or man.

The remaining portion of the first volume is devoted to lists of plants recorded from the Færøes. These are continued in the second volume, which in its turn is concluded by a detailed account of the history of the flora of the Færøes. The third volume will contain a description of the vegetation of the island as an organic whole.

O. V. D.

ASIA.


This second volume of the "Story of Exploration" fully maintains the promise held out by Sir Harry Johnston's 'Nile Quest,' with which the series was opened. Although not himself an Arabian traveller, the established reputation of the author for sound scholarship, and especially for an extensive knowledge of the history, geography, and archaeology of the Near Eastern lands generally, was sufficient guarantee that he would give us a valuable book on the progress of geographical research in the Arabian peninsula. A critical study of the rich though not very accessible literature of the subject has enabled him to present a clear and nearly complete picture of exploration in this at once attractive and repellent region from early times down to the present day.

For convenience of treatment, the subject-matter is disposed in two main divisions, the first dealing with "The Pioneers," the second with their "Successors," the whole concluding with a lucid and very welcome summary of the salient physical features of the land. In the introductory chapter, "Before Exploration," there is also a good deal of geographical detail, and here occurs the statement that, "despite Ptolemy, Arabia has not, and probably never had, a true river in all its immense area." This, no doubt, is practically true for the historic period which, in the light of the recently discovered Himyaritic inscriptions, must now be set back to at least the third millennium B.C. But it is difficult to believe that in more remote times the Wady er-Rumma and the other now nearly dried-up arteries were not great perennial watercourses like the corresponding Igharghar, Masarawa, and many others in the Sahara.

But, if here criticized, Ptolemy is elsewhere amply vindicated from the aspersions of Bunbury, who charged him with filling empty spaces with fictitious names "assigned with a vain parade of science to imaginary situations." Many of these names have since been identified, and Thaim, the Tema of Job, is now known from Assyrian documents to have had a very real existence in Minaean times (A. Jeremias, 'Das Alte Testament' (1904), p. 232).
Conspicuous amongst the later "Pioneers" is the name of Carsten Niebuhr, whose signal services, both as an explorer and archaeologist, receive the fullest recognition. As is here pointed out, the primacy always conceded to the Danish traveller is not due to his priority in time, for he was preceded by others (Varthema, Hamilton, Barbier); nor to the extent of his surveys, which were confined to a very narrow corner of the peninsula; but entirely "to the priority of his merit." So accurate are his descriptions, that Playfair is quoted as stating that, after a lapse of over a century, "we have never since been given a clearer or more interesting and valuable account of Yemen." This term Yemen is usually taken as synonymous with Pliny's Arabia Felix, which is wrongly restricted to south-west Arabia. "Felix was really applied by the ancients to the whole of the peninsula. Petraea was only the district of Petra, and Deserta the North Hamad or 'Syrian Desert'" (p. 41). It is, however, to be noted that if, instead of yemen = south, we are to read yaman = happy, this expression would then appear to be equivalent to Arabia Felix in its more restricted sense, and the general aspect of the country certainly lends colour to this now current use of the term.

In the pioneer section the scene shifts from Yemen to the northern territory of Hejaz and Nejd, then to the south-west and south, and so back to the "unknown north." Here the reader will be able to follow the steady progress of the first rough surveys of the greater part of the interior and coast lands in company with such skilful guides as the erudite Burckhardt, the keen-eyed Seetzen, the accurate Wellsted and Wallin, and the ubiquitous Burton. All receive ample justice at the hands of our most conscientious author, who carefully traces their often intricate itineraries with unwearied patience. The monotonous task of this necessary work is continuously relieved by graphic accounts of Wahhabis and Shommars, of desert life, and of renegades and adventures, such as Keith, the Scot, governor of the Holy City of Medina in 1815, Atkins the Englishman, and the Italian Finati, both carereing up and down the peninsula during the Egyptian campaigns.

The rest of the volume, about one-half, is given up to the "Successors" of the pioneers, "the second generation of Arabian explorers," whose operations begin with the middle of the nineteenth century, and are still far from concluded.

Here the regions visited and more fully explored are the western, southern, and eastern borderland, the central north, the centre, and the central south, all in the order named. Amongst the names which now begin to crowd the author's pages, the more prominent are J. Halevy, Glaser, Bent, Manzoni, Palgrave, Pelly, Huber, Euting, and the never-to-be-forgotten C. M. Doughty. All receive due recognition with the rather important exception of the late Theodore Bent, whose fruitful researches amid the extensive ruins that I have been able to identify as those of the Biblical Ophir have been strangely overlooked.

The publishers deserve all praise for the way they have turned out this handsome volume, with its stout paper, bold type, copious index, plans, maps, ancient and modern, and excellently reproduced portraits of Niebuhr, Burton, Seetzen, Burckhardt, Halevy, Palgrave, Doughty, and some other Arabian worthies.

A. H. KEANE.

AFRICA.

MAJOR GIBBONS ON HIS AFRICAN JOURNEYS.

'Africa from South to North through Marotseland.' By Major A. St. H. Gibbons. 2 vols. London and New York: John Lane. 1904.

For the extent of his routes through unknown or imperfectly known African countries, Major Gibbons stands well in the front rank of recent travellers in that continent. While from some points of view his journey of 1898-1900 may be