GREAT RIVERS

THE EUPHRATES AND THE TIGRIS

A NARRATIVE OF DISCOVERY & ADVENTURE.

OF THE WORLD

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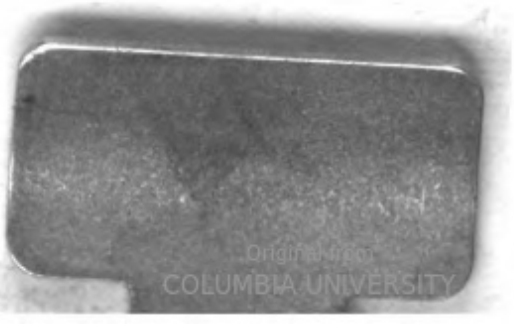

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GENERAL VIEW OF MOSUL.

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RUINS OF BABYLON.

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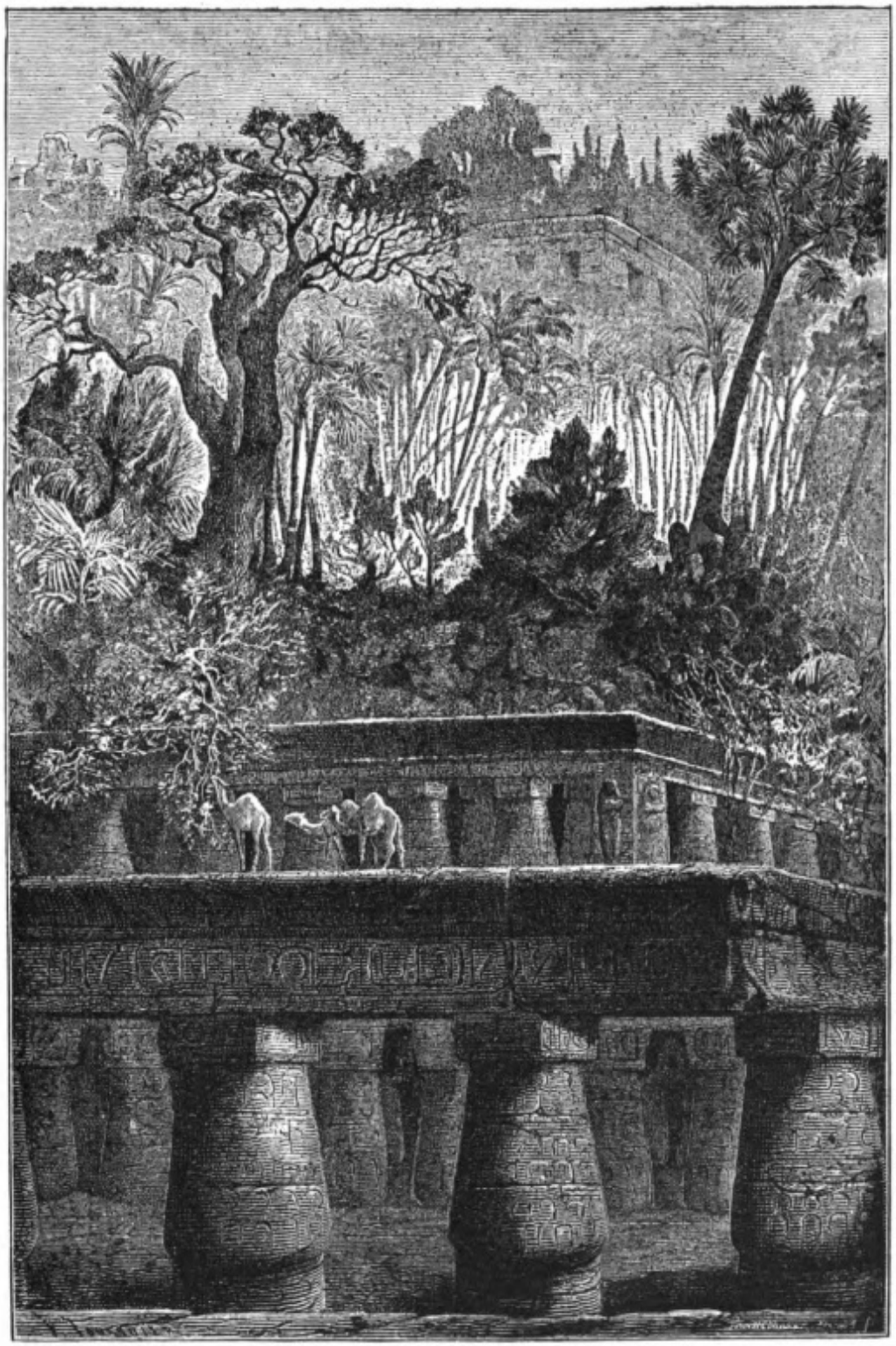

HANGING GARDENS OF BABYLON.

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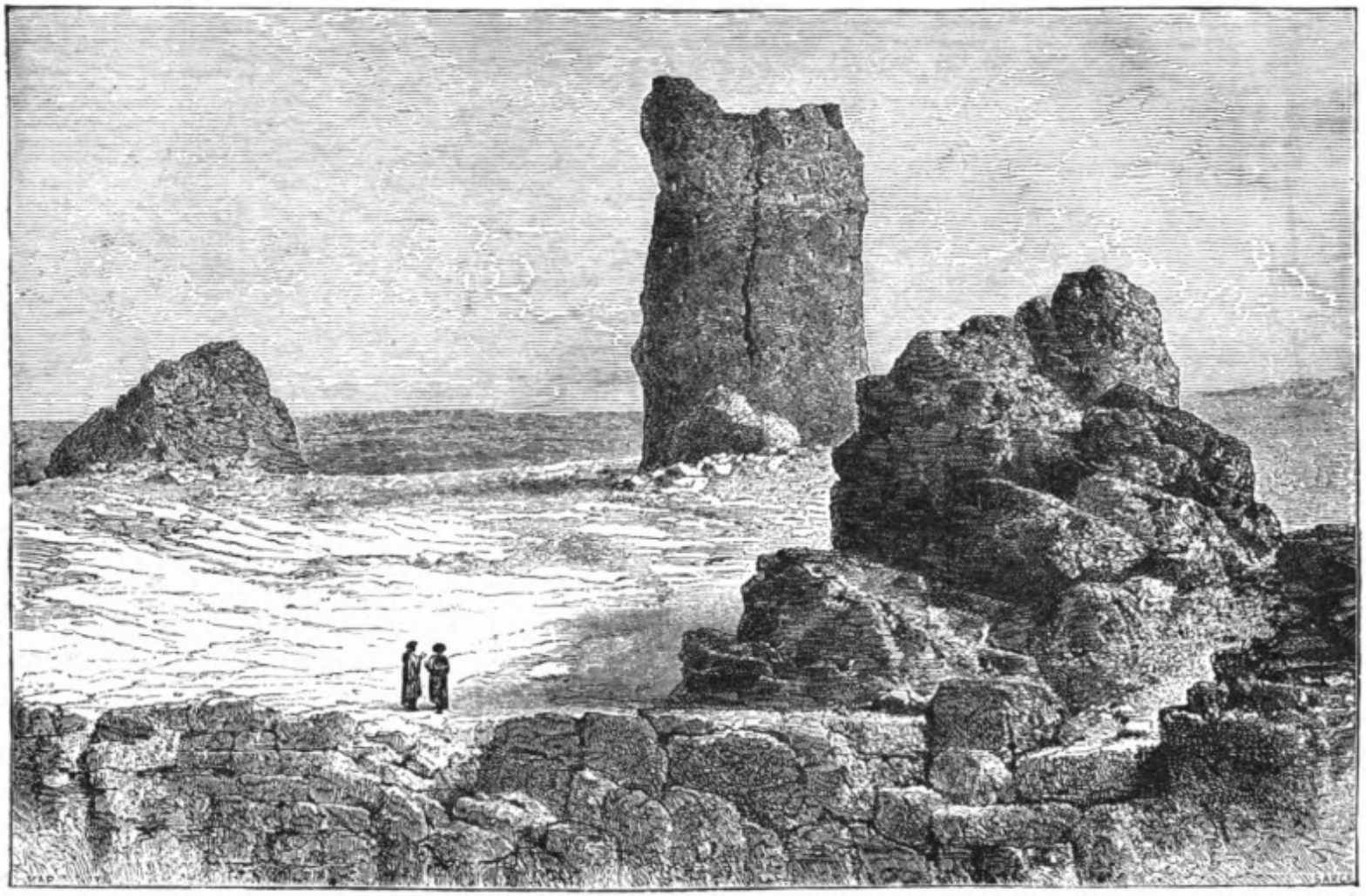

SUPPOSED REMAINS OF THE TOWER OF BABEL.

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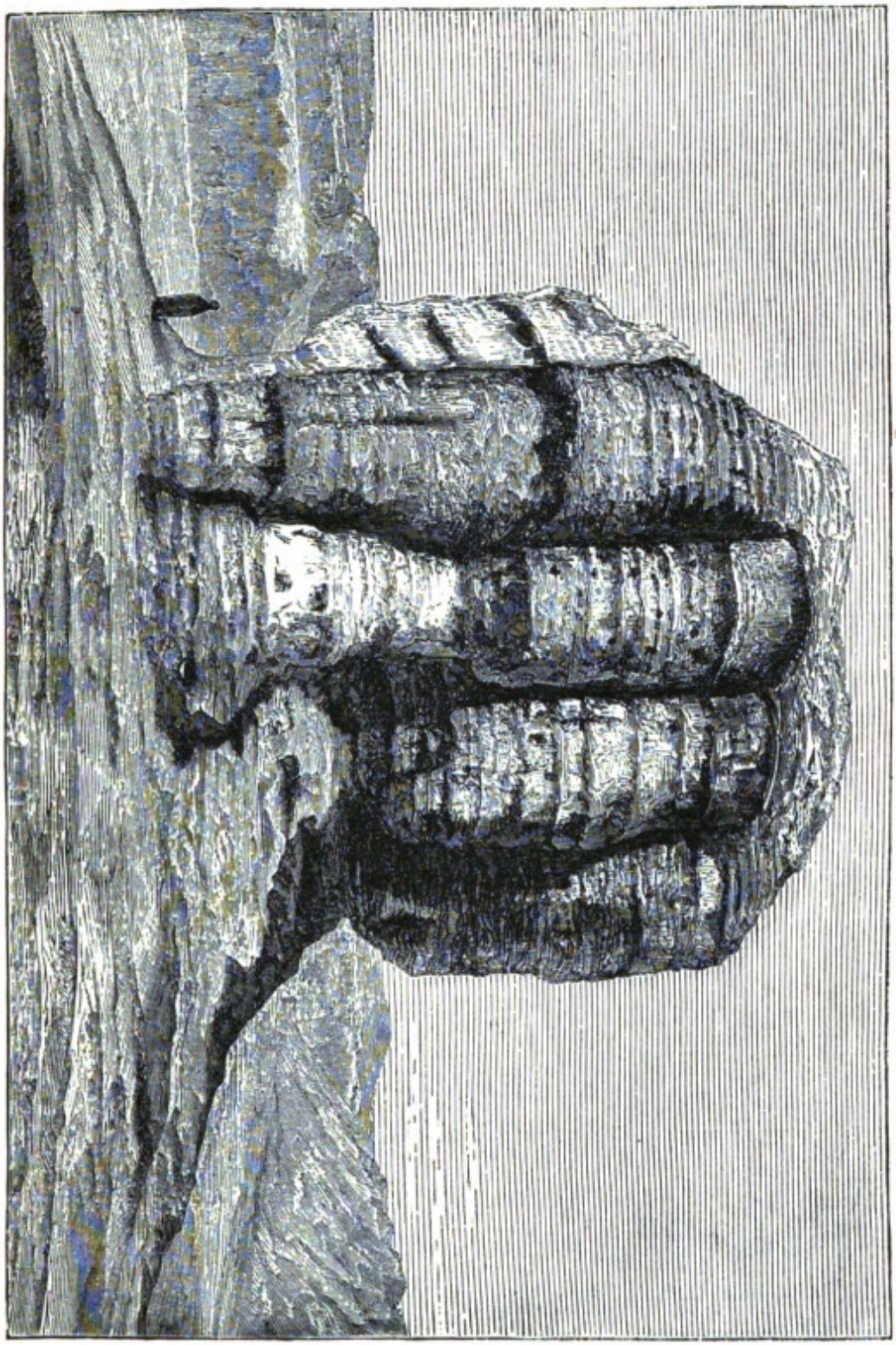

PYRAMID AT AKAR-KUF.

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CHAPTER II.

THE COURSE OF THE EUPHRATES.

BEFORE we proceed to sketch the more interesting features of the Euphrates valley, which may yet become of great importance to England in connection with the overland route to India, it will be desirable that we shall briefly indicate the general direction of the river.

In Central Armenia, at no considerable distance from the shores of the Black Sea, the Euphrates, or El Frat, rises. It is formed by the junction of two streams, the Kara-Su, or "Black River," and the Mourad-Chai. The sources of the former are situated in the Anti-Taurus, twenty-five miles north-east of the town of Erzerúm, in about lat. 40° N., and long. 41° 30′ E.; those of the Mourad, which is the larger branch, about seventy miles further to the

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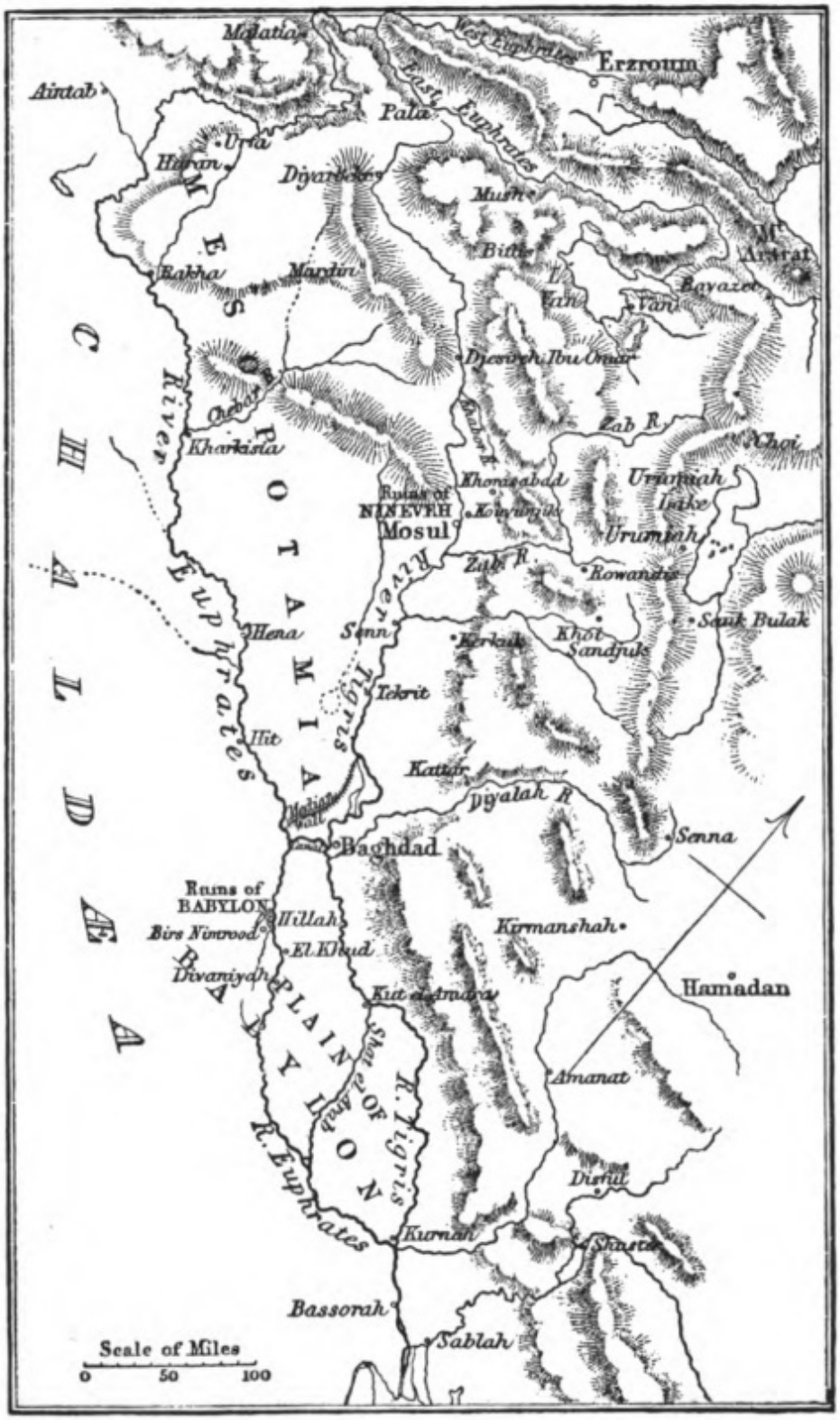

THE EUPHRATES AND TIGRIS.

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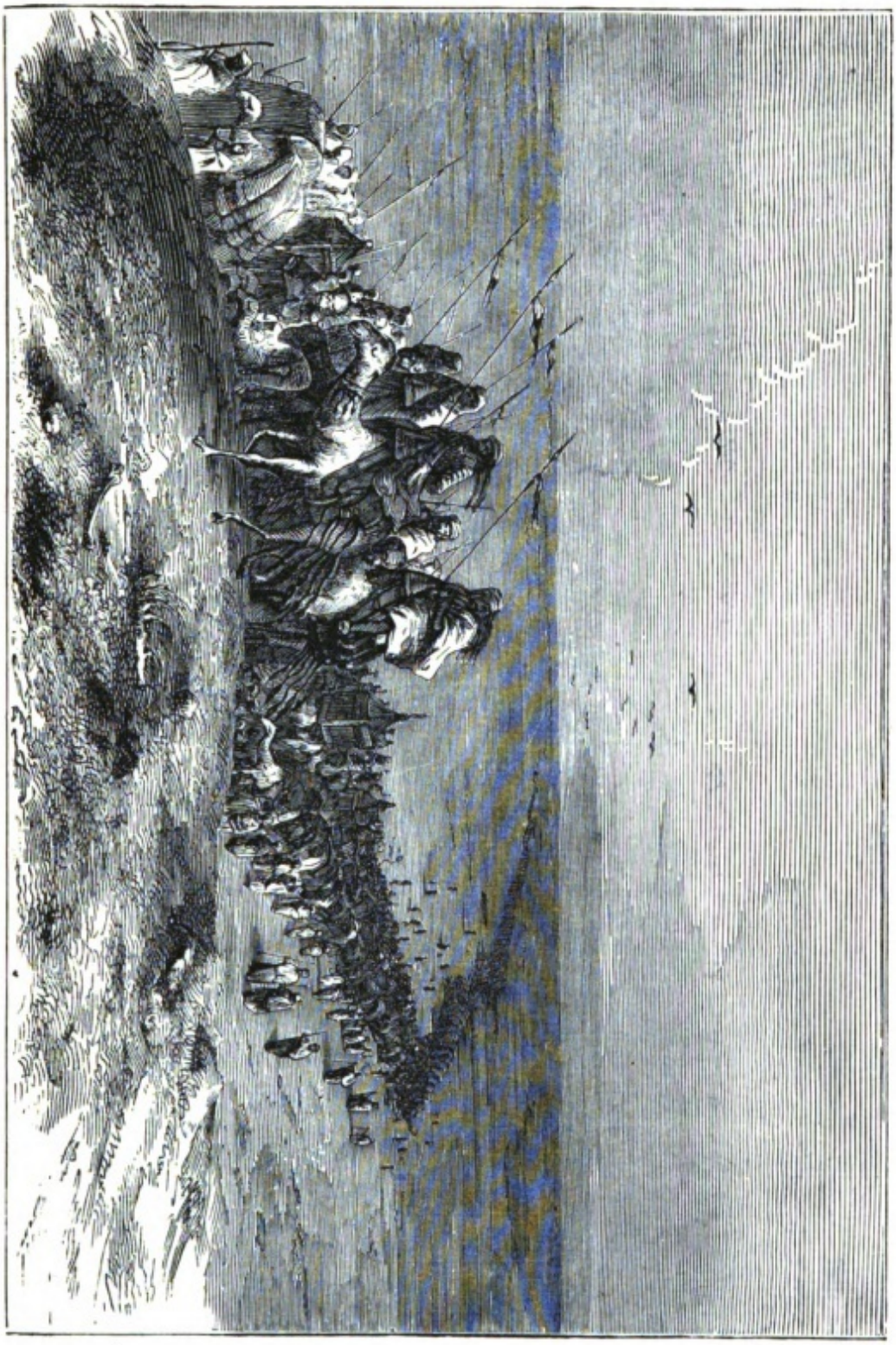

CARAVAN CROSSING THE DESERT.

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PART II.

The Tigris.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

ACCORDING to Pliny, this celebrated river, in the upper part of its course, where its current flowed equably and tranquilly, was called *Diglito;* lower down, where it moved with greater swiftness, it bore the name of *Tigris,* which, in the Median language, signified an arrow. These appellations it still retains, "*Diglito*" having been slightly modified into *Daghell, Dadschla,* or *Didschle.*

The two principal sources of the Tigris rise on the southern slope of the Anti-Taurus, at a distance of not more than fifteen miles south of those of the Euphrates. Uniting in a single stream, it flows for about one hundred and fifty miles first in a north-

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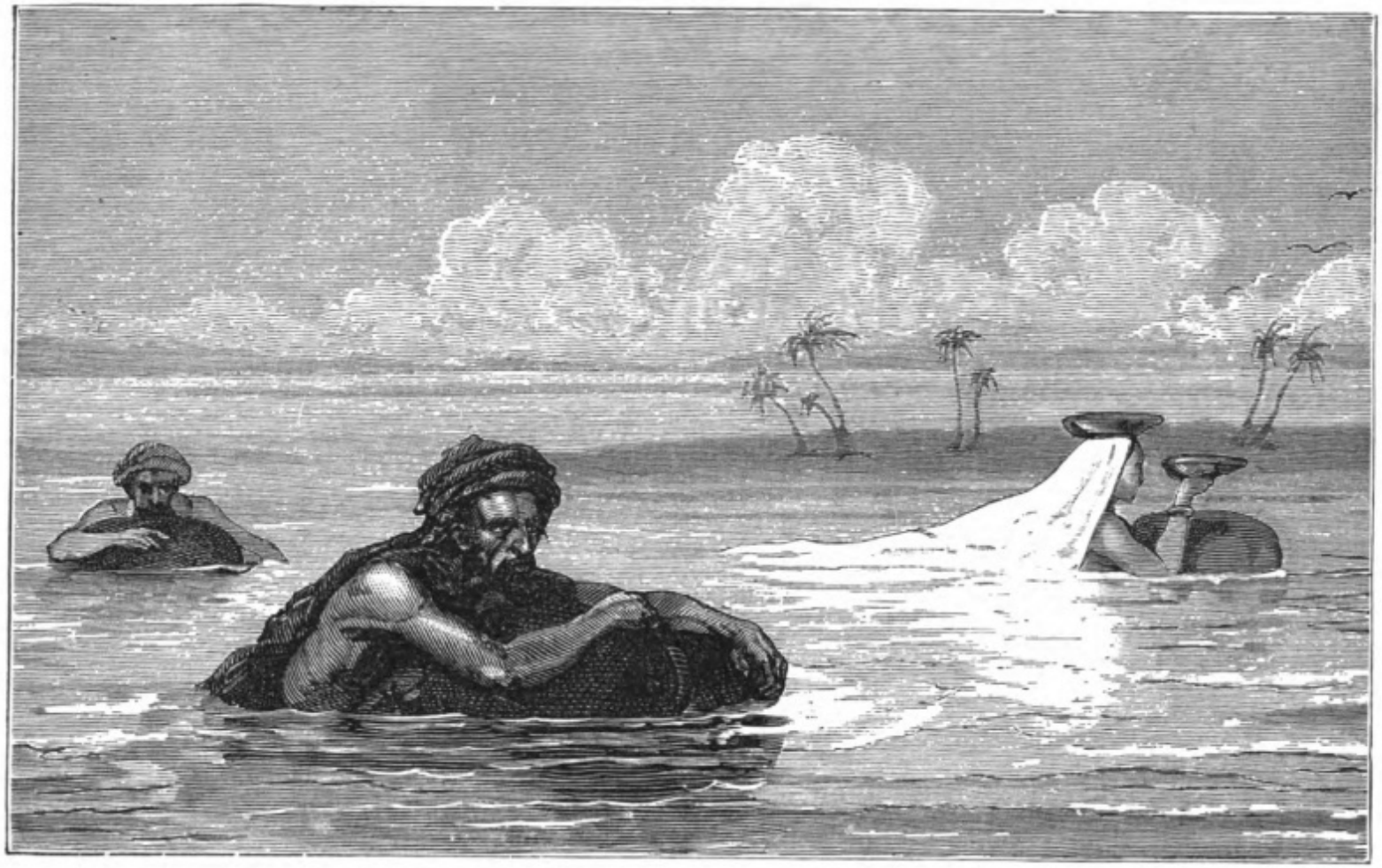

MILKWOMAN AND ARABS CROSSING THE TIGRIS.

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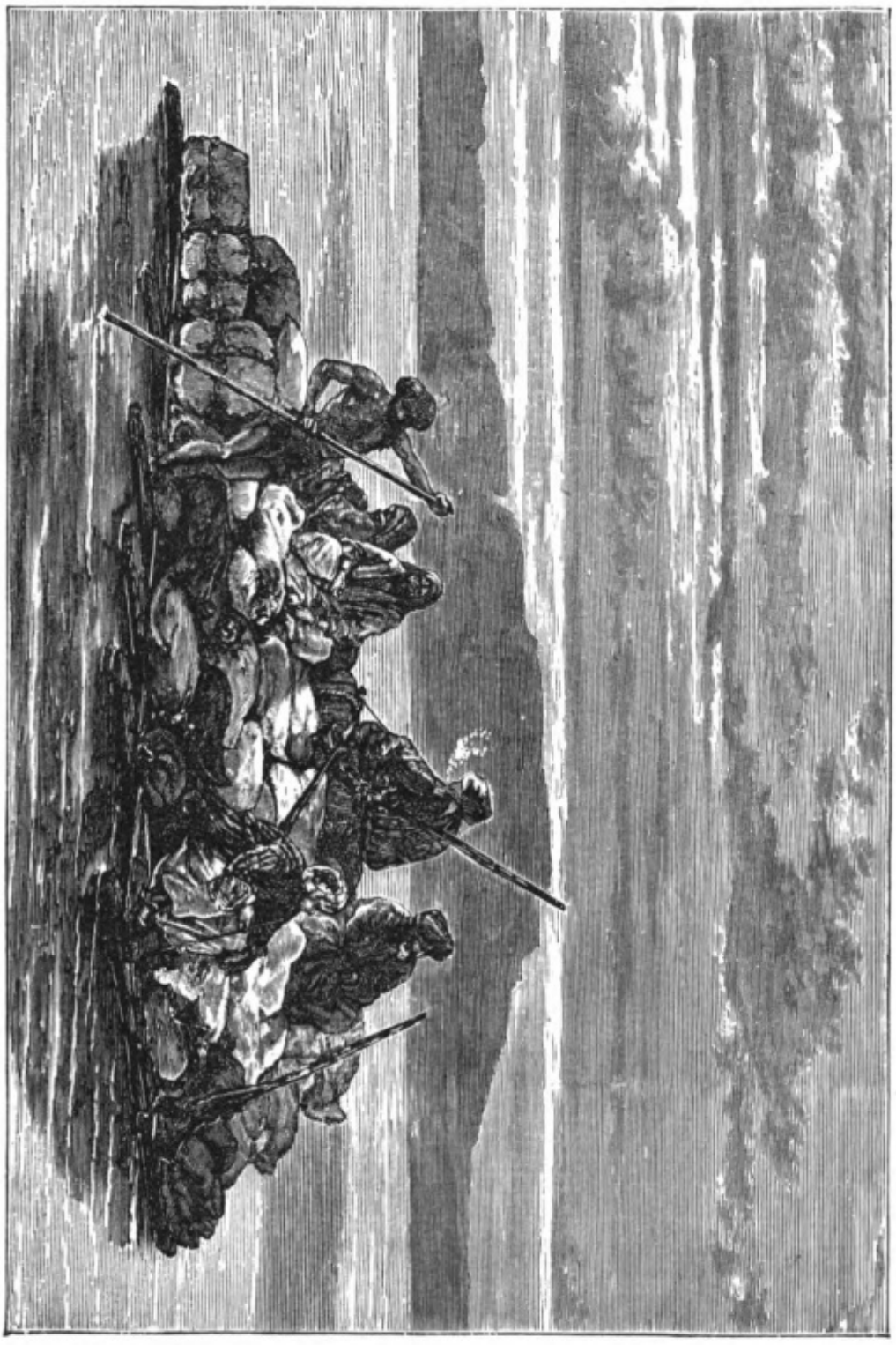

MERCHANTS ON THE TIGRIS.

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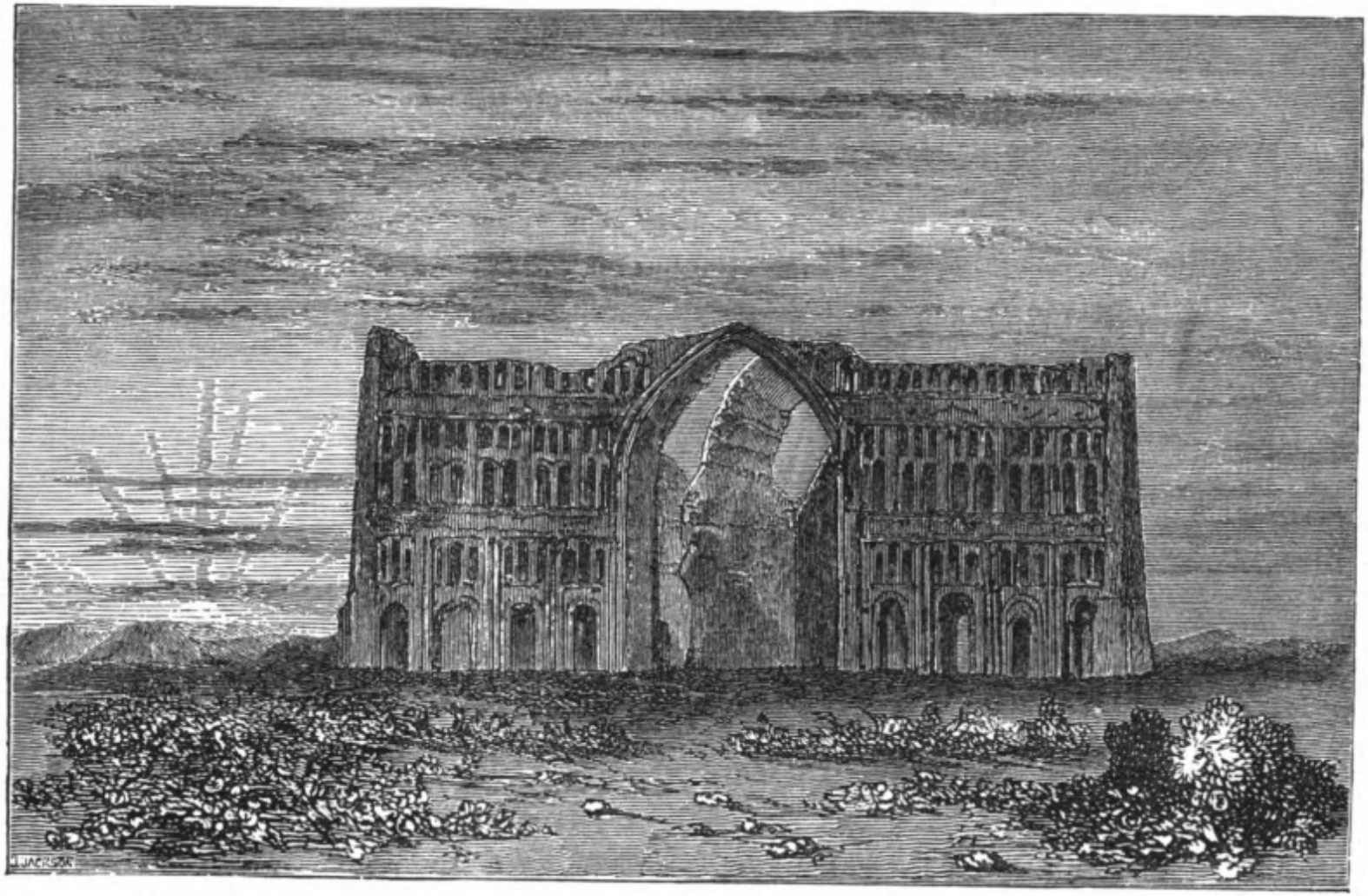

THE ARCH OF KHOSROES.

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CHAPTER II.

BAGDAD.

BAGDAD is the chief town of a Turkish pashalik of the same name, which is bounded by the pashaliks of Diarbekir and Van on the north; by Syria and Arabia on the west and south; and on the east by Persia. On the south-east it touches the Persian Gulf. It is generally divided into three parts; that east of the Tigris, comprising the districts of Kurdistan and Khuzistan; the barren wilderness west of the Euphrates; and the region between the two rivers, the northern portion of which, the ancient Mesopotamia, is now known as Algesirah, or "the Island," and the southern, the ancient Babylonia and Chaldea, as Irak-Arabi.

Bagdad, the famous city, which figures so largely in the narratives of the early travellers, and formerly

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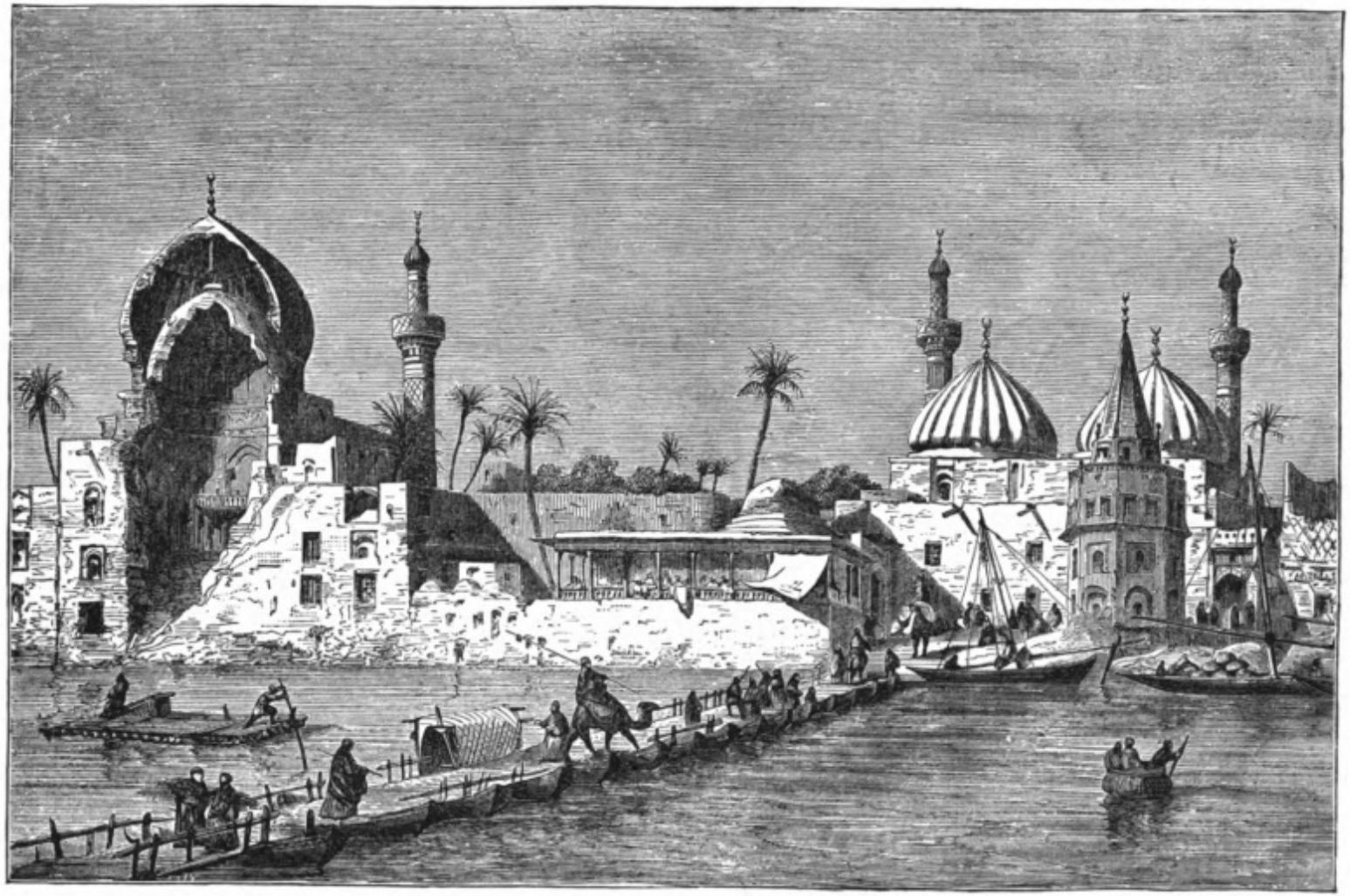

BRIDGE OF BOATS AT BAGDAD.

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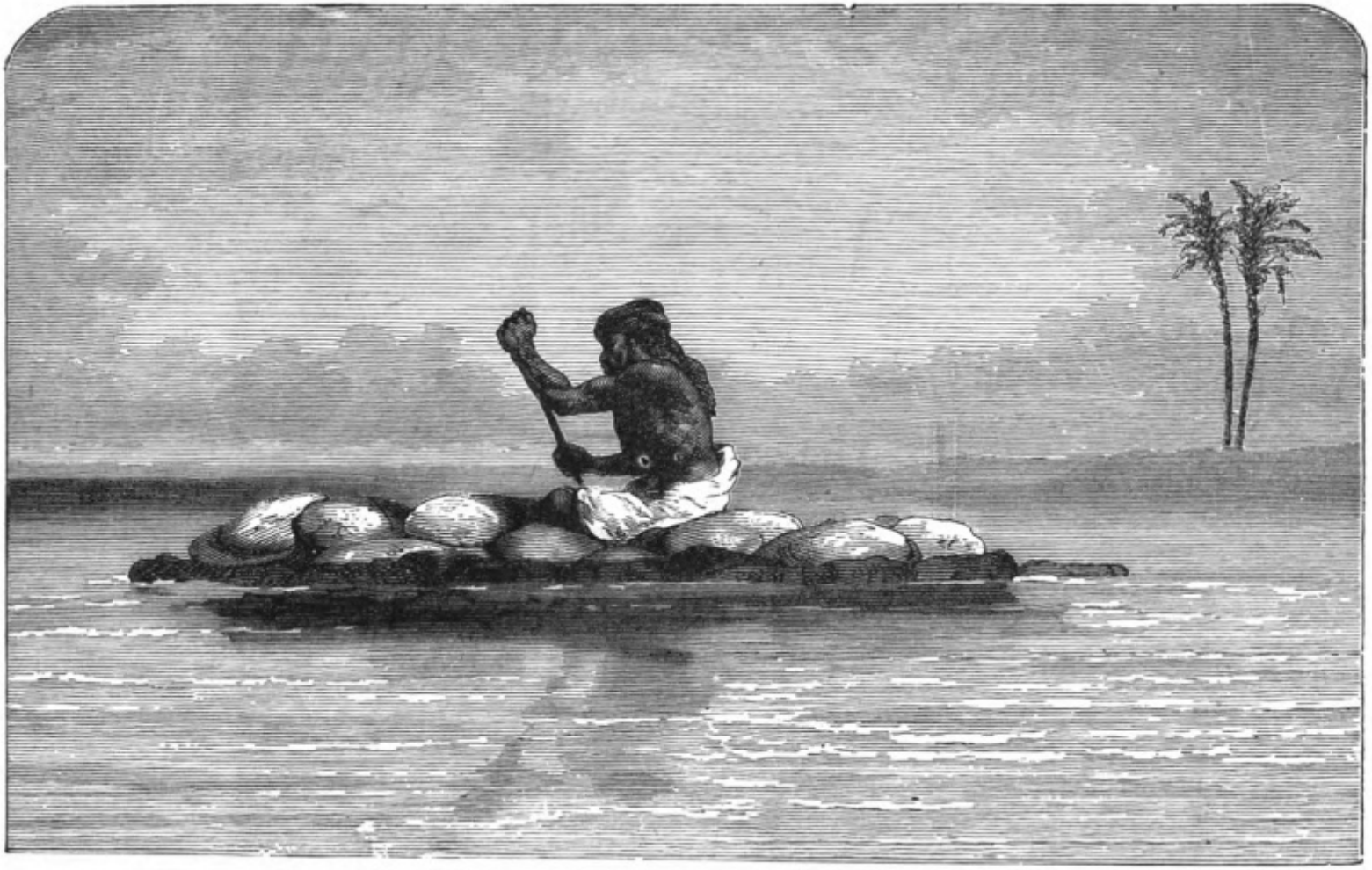

RAFT OF INFLATED BLADDERS ON THE TIGRIS.

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ARAB VILLAGE OF KHORSABAD.

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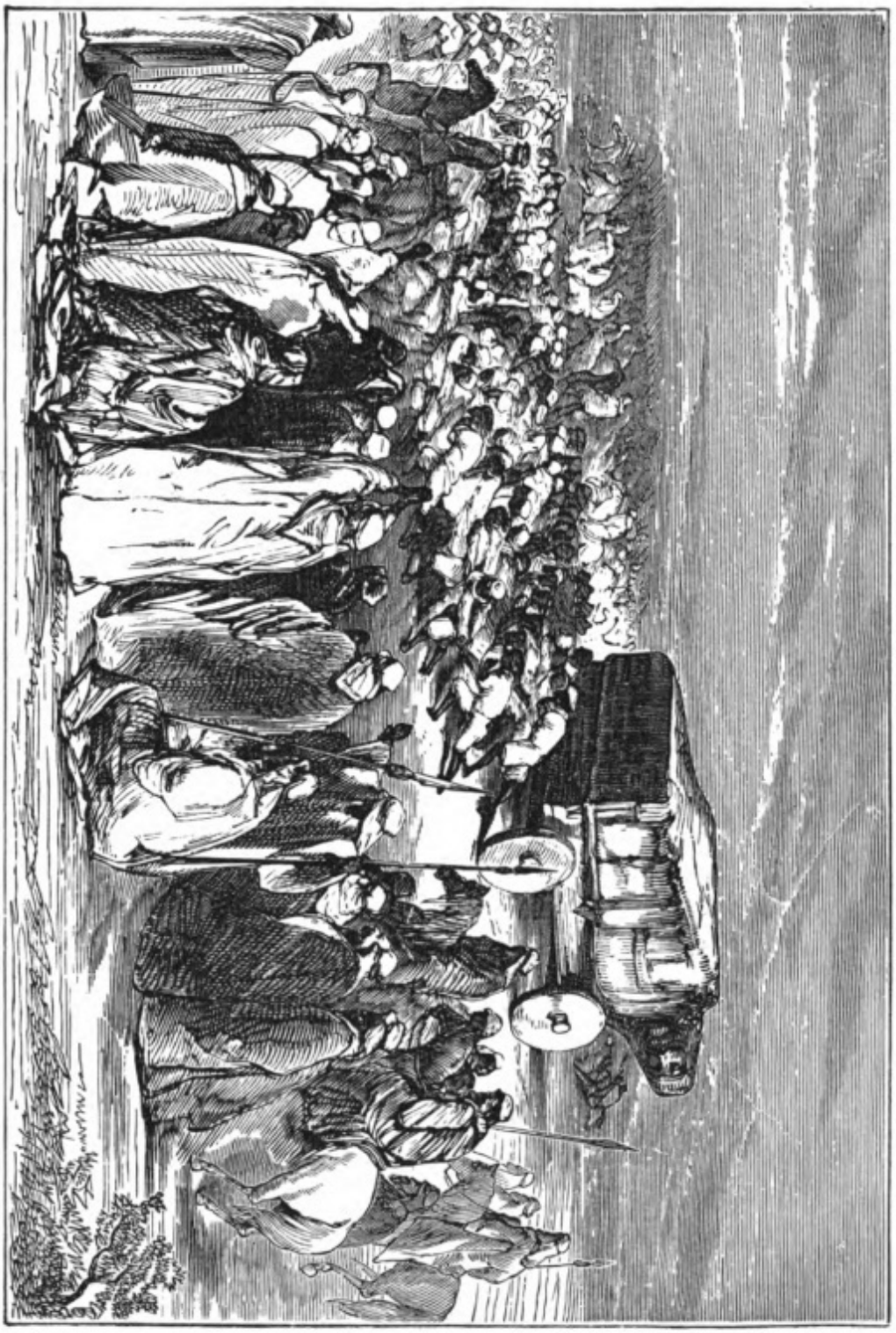

REMOVAL OF A BULL AT NIMRUD

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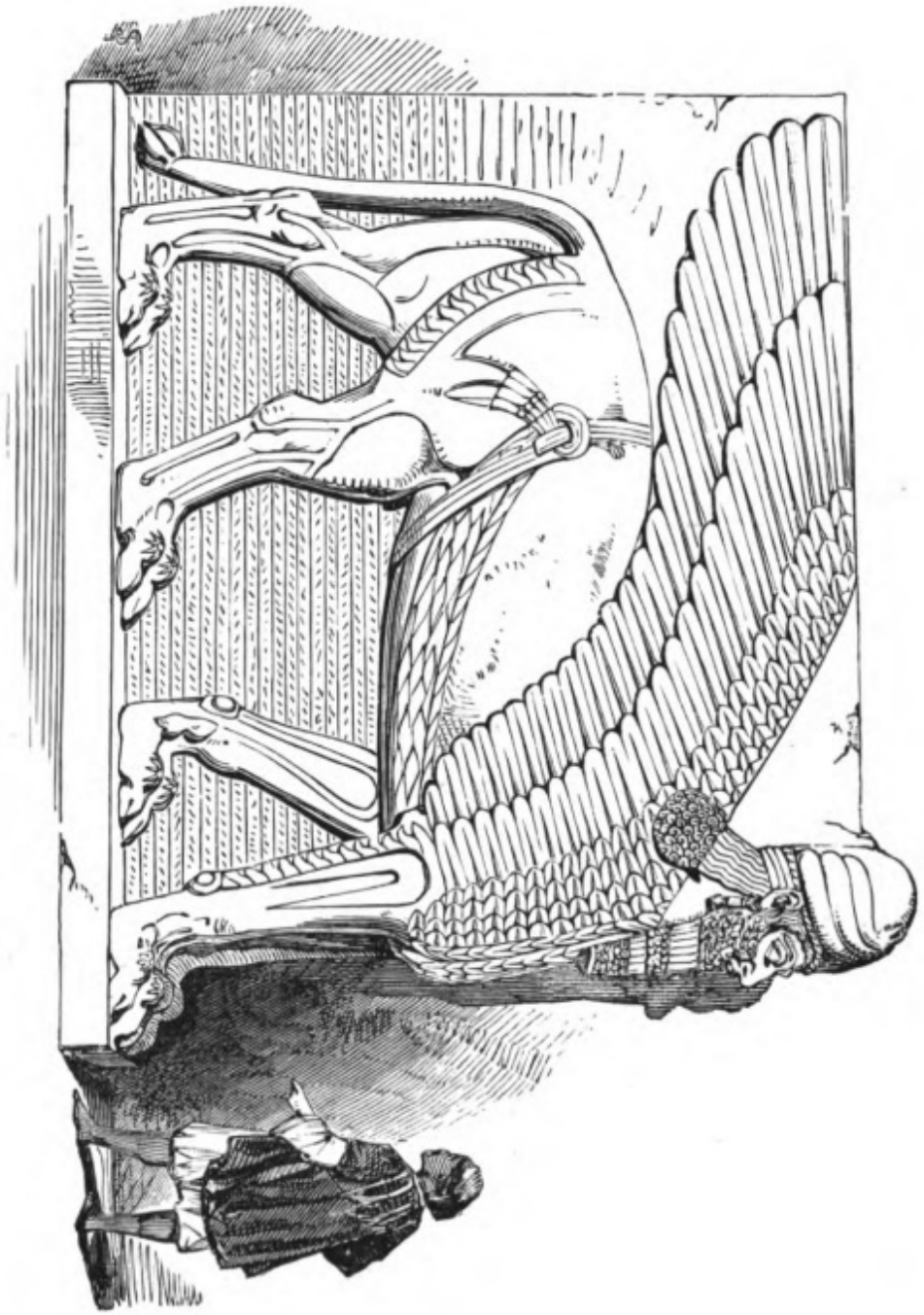

WINGED LION.

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FIGURE CARRYING A GOAT, NIMRUD

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PART III.

Mr. George Smith's Discoveries.

THE late Mr. George Smith, an Assyriologist of high repute, made some discoveries among the ruins of Nineveh in 1866–72, including the tablets containing the Chaldean account of the Deluge, which excited great public interest, and induced the proprietors of the *Daily Telegraph* to place at his disposal a sum of one thousand guineas for further explorations, on condition that he supplied their journal from time to time with accounts of his journeys and the results of his researches.

In April 1873 he commenced work on the mound of Nimrud. Thence he proceeded to Kouyunjik. Having formed a collection of antiquities, he transported it to England, returning to the scene of his profitable labours in January 1874,

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RESTORATION OF AN ASSYRIAN PALACE, KHORSABAD.

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