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# A PILGEIMAGE TO NEJD,

*THE CRADLE OF THE ARAB RACE.*

A VISIT TO THE COURT OF THE ARAB EMIR, AND  
"OUR PERSIAN CAMPAIGN."

**BY LADY ANNE BLUNT.**

AUTHOR OF "THE BEDOUIN TRIBES OF THE EUPHRATES

IN TWO VOLUMES. — VOL. I.

WITH MAP, PORTRAITS, AND ILLUSTRATIONS FROM  
THE AUTHOR'S DRAWINGS.

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*THESE VOLUMES ARE DEDICATED*  
TO

**SIR HENRY CRESWICKE RAWLINSON,**  
**K.C.B., F.R.S.**

BY

THE AUTHORESS.

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PORTRAIT OF LADY ANNE BLUNT IN ARAB COSTUME (BY  
MOLONY).

## PREFACE BY THE EDITOR.

READERS of our last year's adventures on the Euphrates will hardly need it to be explained to them why the present journey was undertaken, nor why it stands described upon our title page as a "Pilgrimage." The journey to Nejd forms the natural complement of the journey through Mesopotamia and the Syrian Desert; while Nejd itself, with the romantic interest attached to its name, seems no unworthy object of a religious feeling, such as might prompt the visit to a shrine. Nejd, in the imagination of the Bedouins of the North, is a region of romance, the cradle of their race, and of those ideas of chivalry by which they still live. There Antar performed his labours of Hercules, and Hatim Tai the more historical hero entertained his guests. To the Anazeh and Shammar, especially, whose northward migrations date only from a few generations back, the tradition of their birthplace is still almost a recollection; and even to the Arabs of the earlier invasions, the townsmen of such places as Bozra, Palmyra, and Deyr, and to the Tai Bedouins, once lords of Jebel Shammar, it appeals with a fascination more