



faces; and so our hopes of entering Hassa for the third time and of being able on this third visit to keep the door ajar, failed. We have not given up, but hope to try again during the year; meanwhile may we not ask for united prayer that this closed door may soon be opened. Ojeir is the only gateway, except Katif, from Bahrein into Hassa. The photographs are the first ever taken of this part of Arabia.

The distance from Menamah to Ojeir by native boat is about twenty hours, although sometimes the journey is made in twelve. One is in sight of land the whole way, for as soon as Jebel Dukhan disappears, the custom house at Ojeir can be seen. I have made three visits to this port, but there have been no improvements whatever in building or facilities for landing cargo for the last twenty years. The wharf or jetty is built out to a distance of about fifty feet, south-southeast from Ojeir, and native boats are able to come close alongside the wharf, which is built of stone filled in with rubbish.

The only building of any importance is the custom warehouse. It is a rectangle about 100 x 200 yards, surrounded by go-downs, one-half of which are in bad repair. The building occupied by the Mudir stands at the entrance of the enclosure in the middle of the southwest wall of the custom house. It has four rooms below and two above, all in bad condition and hardly fit for residence. About 600 yards to the northwest of the custom warehouse stands a small mud fort called Raka, and southwest from that another fort called Abu Zahmool. Each of these forts is circular, with a parapet, without guns and in bad repair. Between them and closer to the Raka fort is a well of fresh water which supplies Ojeir. The water is fairly good, although slightly brackish. The plain around these forts is



THE LANDING PLACE, OJEIR

of desert sand sloping to the sea. There is no vegetation whatever except beyond Raka fort where there are remnants of the old town and date gardens no longer cultivated. The fort at Raka marks an old settlement of the same name, as many of the deeds of transfer and the sale of property in Hassa are signed by the Kadhi of Raka.

Ojeir has a *Mudir*, Abdul Wadood, a custom house officer and a tax collector. The total number of soldiers and servants under these officials is perhaps sixty. Each fort has ten soldiers. The others are housed in the custom warehouse.

According to information received, about 250,000 bags of rice are landed at Ojeir every year. A caravan of from two hundred to six hundred camels leaves every week for Hassa. The first part of the journey is through the desert, gradually rising until four hours from Hassa one reaches the towns of Jissa and Jufair. Steamer anchorage is at least two hours sailing in ordinary wind from Ojeir wharf.

During our stay the weary hours were not altogether wasted. We sold a number of Scriptures and had an interesting time with the soldiers and the *Mudir*. All of them were anxious to have their photographs taken, and some of them were willing to study the portrait of Christ which we showed them in the Gospel.

S. M. ZWEMER.



Ten Years of Weather by the Clock in Bahrein.

There is no topic of conversation so widely used in Europe or America as that of the weather. Everywhere in the Occident the weather is recognized as a convenient opening for the exchange of ideas on any subject, between any two people. After the conventional "How are you?" comes the even more conventional "Lovely day, isn't it?" and so on. In the Orient, however, the weather is seldom discussed, and to venture an opinion on what weather we may expect a few hours hence is blasphemy in the ears of a Moslem. To any query on the subject he invariably replies, "God knows." Among the various duties of the Physician in Charge of Mason Memorial Hospital is that of Meteorologist to the Government of India. The science of meteorology is still in its infancy, and the work which is being done by meteorologists all over the world is little understood or appreciated by the man in the street, who laughingly makes fun of "The Weather Man" because he cannot always forecast the