

American missionaries, "toying with typhoid fever," but that he is in fine shape now. "With my brother Wilson's help I was able to work up the Bushire date varieties pretty thoroughly. As you state, commercialism has kept the growers pretty well confined to a few kinds. I discovered only 30 or 35, half of them insignificant. Khadrawi appeals to me most strongly, in view of its performances in the United States, but I am importing ten or a dozen kinds, some of which will be certain to interest you. I do not know if your importation of Berki was successful, but I am getting 100 offshoots (they are scarce) for both Wilson and I agree with you that it is the best date of the region, and we think that as far as flavor alone is concerned there are few better in the world. Mr. Chalk puts 'Aweydi' ahead of it, and probably there is not much to choose, except that offshoots of the latter variety cost \$2 up apiece. You may have seen this date, although you do not mention it. It is very similar to Hwezi (Hevezi). I fancy some of my Oman discoveries will interest you as much as anything, I have five varieties for instance that mature before June 15, and a new Fard that ripens one month sooner than the regular article but otherwise can not be distinguished from it. Through a friend at Bahrein I was able to get 1000 Khlasa offshoots and unless something unforeseen occurs, I believe it will be a memorable day for California date culture when they are unloaded at Indio. Wilson and I think that as a commercial date this is fully equal to the Deglet Noor (although perhaps not as a simple confectionery) and that its lighter color and attractive appearance will make it compete successfully with that date when the two are placed side by side in the open market."