

captured from the Italians. These people move offshoots in the late summer, setting them out at once. Their time to take them off is February, if they have to go a long distance. By agreement with the governors of Dongola and Halfa, aided by the old Shiek, a supply of all these varieties will be secured then and Brown has a very well trained man who will go down there for them. I can learn of no date called "Succotah." It must be one of these four varieties, taking the name from having come from the Succote country. Mr. Brown does not know its true characters.

This "Bentamouda" or "Bintamoda" may be the "Bartamoda" which Aaronsohn found a few of at Assouan. Gondala has been brought down there from the Succote country. From the fact that the name Barakawa does not appear in any list and is the great export date, first of Succote, then of Dongola, I am of the opinion that the date of Aaronsohn's list, S.P.I. number 32713, may prove to be this variety. The twenty offshoots secured, 10 Bentamouda and 10 others, will be planted by Brown till spring, when we will send them on with the lot to be cut in February. They came in fine condition. I am debating whether to go into Dakhla Oasis where Mr. Brown thinks the true Sultani comes from. It will take a five days' camel journey from Khargeh, the end of the branch railway. Birket el Haggi is only a district, the variety is Hayany, which with Zaglool and Samani are dates adapted to a much cooler climate and are grown along the shore dunes near Ramleh, Edkou and Rosetta *without irrigation*. They should be best suited to Phoenix and Tempe, and perhaps succeed at Santa Barbara and San Diego, California.

Egypt. Dakhla Oasis. Prof. Mason also writes, October 15; "This is about as far into the real desert as I expect to address a letter from. I find that the long arm of the Egyptian-English Government reaches here in a mild form, but one which affords a weekly camel past, so can start this word toward the Nile in the morning. This is the Capital of the oasis and the seat of a court, has a Government doctor here and so on.

We left the hotel in Kharga Saturday at 6 A. M., mule trolley over the narrow gauge to Kharga whence we took the camels. I have a very good English speaking Egyptian in charge who lived here for two or three years in the employ of the "Company" and knows nearly every one. We reached the first water yesterday about 2 P. M. and spent the night there, came in here with the guide and one baggage camel at 1:30 to-day. Not much poetry of motion about a camel on the "trot" but I have stood up to the punishment