

**BARBARY, THE
ROMANCE OF THE
NEAREST EAST**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649071302

Barbary, the Romance of the Nearest East by A. Maccallum Scott

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A. MACCALLUM SCOTT

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CARTHAGE : THE ANCIENT HARBOURS
The Mountain of Bou Korneta in the background

BARBARY

THE ROMANCE OF THE
NEAREST EAST

BY
A. MACCALLUM SCOTT, M.P.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

NEW YORK
DODD, MEAD AND COMPANY
1921

**TO
MY WIFE**

500244

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PREFACE

ONE thought runs through every chapter of this book. It is the Eternal Conflict, through all the ages, between Europe and Africa, between the organised conquering energy of Europe and the invincible passive resistance of Africa.

The Barbary States, or the Maghreb, are that portion of North Africa which lies between the Syrtes and the Atlantic, the Sahara and the Mediterranean. It is a high plateau, supported by the Atlas Mountains, and with fertile valleys and plains along the Mediterranean shore. It is almost European in its climate and in its vegetation, and ethnologists maintain that the indigenous native stock, the Berbers, are a branch of that same Mediterranean race which is one of the main sources from which the population of Europe is derived.

For five centuries the Romans laboured to Europeanise this country. For centuries it seemed that they had been completely successful. The standardised Roman civilisation, the Roman arts and science, and the Roman Church were supreme in Africa. They burgeoned and blossomed, but they struck no roots. Almost at one blow they were utterly exterminated by the Mohammedan invasion. In our own generation,