

the bronze vessels ordered, while the rest should be used for the purchase of two varieties of cardamom etc. (v.11. 3-7)

I Order of 3 basins, two middle-sized, one big. (v.11 7-9)

J List of presents - 9 items in 5 packages - sent to the receiver of the letter. (v.11. 9-16)

K Request to forward presents and a letter to one Talhi. (v.11. 16-19)

L Reminder to send two drinking vessels due from last year. (v.11. 19-20)

M Recapitulation of ^{shipments} sendings. Greetings.

~~For the importance of this and the following letters see p~~

TS 12.320.

Translation

A. Losses and arrivals.

A (1) In (Y(our) name), O Me(roiful)!

(2) The letter of ^{your honor} the "presence" of the ^{elder} most illustrious Sheikh, my master has arrived. It was the most pleasant letter that came ⁽³⁾ and the most delightful message that reached me. ⁽⁴⁾ I read and understood it and was pleased to learn that you were well and your affairs successful, for which I praised the Lord very much. Now, I ask God to effect ⁽⁵⁾ that I and you should be united under the most pleasant circumstances and in the best of spirits, through His favour and mercy, ⁽⁶⁾ if God will.

B You, My master, + may God make your honored position permanent, + ^{wrote} mentioned that you kindly sold ⁽⁷⁾ the silk and sent goods for its proceeds and that you sent them in the ships of ^{sh} Rāshmit ^(sic!). ⁽⁸⁾ I learned, however, that ^{sh} Rāshmit's two ships were lost completely. May the H(oly ^{one} & ^{blessed} ~~Be~~ Ho) ^{praised} ⁽⁹⁾ com-

Rāshmit

that is

me
pensate ~~us~~ (fme) and you. Do not ask me, my master, how much I was affected by the loss of the cargo belonging to you. ^{But} (10) However, the Creator will compensate you soon. In any case, there is no counsel against (11) the decree of God.

C All the "copper" (vessels, nahās), which you sent with Abū Allī, (12) arrived, and there came also the "table-bowl". ³ It was exactly as I wished - ² *Give you a good* may God reward ~~you well~~ and ~~satisfy your need~~ *under take your recompensation (for only he is able to do it adequately).*

B. Excommunication of a tardy debtor.

D You, my master, mentioned that you approached the Kārdāl (13) gently, (14) in order to get back from him something for us. Perhaps you should threaten him that we here in Aden excommunicate (15) ^{any} everyone that ^e owes us something and does not fulfil his commitments. May be, he will be afraid of the excommunication. (16) ^{does} However, if he ~~will~~ not pay anything, we shall ^{issue} ~~write him an~~ ^{official} letter of excommunication (17) and send it to him, so that he will become aware of his crime.

C. Various orders, especially for bronze vessels.

E The re(d) betel-nuts arrived, (18) as well as the two wash basins ⁵ - ⁴ *Give you a good* may God reward ~~you well~~. Please do not send me any more red (19) betel-nuts, for they are not good. If there are to be had white, fresh betel-nuts, (20) it will be all right.

F Please do not send me anything in partnership with ^{one} anybody, either betel-nuts, (21) or any other goods you acquire for me, but specify each person and every (22) merchandise. ⁶

50/2

dippen

G(a) I am sending you (23) a broken ewer ~~and a deep~~ and a deep washbasin, ^{weighing together pounds} seven ~~rois~~ less a quarter of weight. Please (24) make me a ewer of the same measure from its copper, ^(or bronze, suf) for it is good copper. The (25) weight of the ewer should be 5 ^{pounds} ~~rois~~ exactly.

G(b) I am sending also ^{eighteen a pounds} 18 ~~rois~~ and ^{one} quarter (26) of good yellow copper (suf) in bars and five ^{pounds} ~~rois~~ of Qal'ī ^{"lead in a"} ~~bin~~ of big mould (27) and a piece of Egyptian "lead" ^{"lead"} ~~bin~~ (in the form of) a shell. Please put the bars, (28) the ^{lead} ~~bin~~, and what remains from the manufacture of the ewer together and ^{have made} ~~make~~ for your servant (29) ~~two~~ two "table-bowls" for two dishes, each "table-bowl" being of

Marginalia:

(1) ⁹seventeen fill, of the same form as the "table-bowl" you sent me; they should be of good workmanship.

D. Detailed description of a lamp ordered.

G(c) Of the rest of all the copper (qifr) make me (2) a nice lamp. Its column should be octagonal and stout, its base should be in the form of a lampstand with strong (3) feet. On its head there should be a copper (nahās) lamp with two ends for two wicks, which should be set on the end of the column so that it could move up and down. (4) All the three, the column, the stand and the lamp, should be separate parts. If they could

Verso

make the feet in spirals, let's be; for this is more beautiful. The late (2) Abu 'l-Faraj al-Jubailī made a lamp of such a description. Perhaps this will be (3) like it. ¹⁰

E. Additional orders.

H This year, I did not succeed in sending gold or silk. (4) Instead, I am

a pound of Maghrebi kohl,

5 51/9

12 20
sending currency, twenty Mālikī dīnārs, old dīnārs of good (5) gold. Please pay with it the price of the labor of the coppersmith and for the rest buy me (8) a quantity of "eggs" (a kind of cardamom) and cardamom, and if this ^{to be had} is not available, anything else which God, ~~may~~ ^{may} He be praised, makes available. (7) And, please, send everything with the first ship sailing.

I Please buy me (8) two wash basins, of middle ^{size,} ~~quality,~~ ^{some what larger} a little bigger than ~~that~~ ^{those} you sent me, and a ^{large} wash basin, which holds (9) two waterskins ^{measuring} of water, two siqāyas. 13

Present's sent.

J I am sending you what has no importance or value, (10) namely two ruba - ¹⁴ ~~siyyas~~ ¹⁵ of white sugar; a bottle, in a tight basket, entirely ^{filled} with raisins; and in (11) a ¹⁶ mazzān ¹⁷ ~~costus~~ ¹⁸ a ¹⁹ ~~ratl~~ ¹⁷ vitriol, half a ¹⁸ ~~ratl~~ ¹⁹ litharge, (12) ²⁰ three ounces of ²⁰ ~~ilk~~ ²⁰ gum, and five sets of Egyptian paper; furthermore, in a little basket seven ~~sets~~ ²¹ ~~moīlds~~ ²¹ of "kosher" ^{start} cheese; altogether 5 packages.

Furthermore, all the copper (nahās) sent by me is (14) in a canvas. This makes six packages. I wrote on each: "Abraham Fijū, ^{shipment} (15) ~~sending~~ of Joseph," and sent the whole together with the ²⁰ twenty dīnārs with the Sheikh (16) Ahmad the captain, b. Abu 'l-Faraj.

K Furthermore, in a bag there are two linen ²² ~~fūṭa~~ ²² ~~wrappers~~ ²² for the children and two network veils dyed with carthamus. ²³ Please ~~((forward them))~~ accept delivery and forward them (18) to the Sheikh Abu 'l-Surūr b. ^{Kh. L.} ~~Halūf~~ ²⁴ ~~al-ḥalī,~~ as well as the letter destined for him. His name is (19) on the bag.

L My lord mentioned that from ~~last~~ ^{year} there remained copper for the

manufacture of two bowls for the drinking (20) of water. Kindly send them with the other copper.

Altogether there are seven packages with the bag of (21) Abū 'l-Surūr al-Talḥī.

May my master receive for his honored self the best greetings. And upon y^{ou} be peace!

(Address. Right side;)

To the honour of my lord, the light of my eyes, and the ornament of my neck, my m(aster) a(nd) l(ord) Abraham, the wise and the prudent, the son of his h(onor), g(reatness) and h(oliness) ma(ster) Perahyā, (m(ay he) rest in) E(den), Yijū.

(Left side:)

He that loves you and is proud of your good name, Joseph b. Abraham, m-E.

C o m m e n t a r y

7 Silk was sent from the West to India, almost like gold, as a means of payment, see below verso 1.3; No.53, 1.12; No.56, 1.48; No.58 1.18; ^{and 21} No.60, 1.32 and 51 and vol. I Index Silk.

8-9 Rāsmī - The writer, a native of Aden, has difficulties with Persian names; thus he writes Rāsmī for Rāmīst and Kārdāl, 1.13, for Kardār. Details about Rāmīst, whose ships are frequently mentioned in our papers, above No.26, 1.3.