xiv PREFACE.

The "Tahdheeb" of El-Azheree, [who was born in the year of the Flight 282, and died in the year 370 or 371. This is a very excellent lexicon, and one from which I have largely drawn, immediately and through the medium of the Lisán el-'Arab and of the Táj-el-'Aroos. Its arrangement is the same as that of the 'Eyn, which it calls "the book of El-Leyth," and from which its contents are in a great measure derived. I possess a large portion of this work in a volume of the "Tahdheeb et-Tahdheeb;" and a small portion, consisting of 193 pages, of a copy in large 8vo., corresponding to a part of the former.]

The "Moḥeet" of the Ṣáḥib Ibn-'Abbád. [Ibn-Khillikán* states that he was born in the year of the Flight 326, and died in 385: and describes this work as "in seven volumes; arranged in the order of the letters of the alphabet; copious in words, but having few confirmatory examples:" thus resembling the Ķāmoos. Much has been drawn from it in my own lexicon.]

The "Mujmal" of Ibn-Fáris, [who died in the year of the Flight 390 or 395.] He restricted himself, in his lexicon, to the mention of genuine words; excluding the unfamiliar and ignored; on the authority of oral tradition, and from books of good repute; aiming, as he says, at abridgment and conciseness. [His work is highly esteemed. The arrangement is that of the usual order of the letters of the alphabet.]

The "Siháh," or, as some call it, "Saháh," of El-Jowharee, [commonly, now, pronounced "El-Jóharee," who died, according to Abu-l-Fidà, in the year of the Flight 398, and "was from Fáráb, a city of the country of the Turks, beyond the river," that is, beyond the Seyhoon: or, according to Ibn-Esh-Shihneh, he died in the year 307, as I find in two copies of his history in my possession: or, according to Hajjee Khaleefeh, in 393.] Et-Tebreezee says that it is commonly known by the title of the صفاح, which is pl. of صفاح; but that some call it the صفاح, which is synonymous with ____. As its title imports, the author restricted himself to the mention of genuine words, like Ibn-Faris, his contemporary. [But his lexicon is far more comprehensive, and more excellent in every respect, than that of Ibn-Fáris.] As he says in his preface, he composed it in an order which none had before pursued, [mentioning each word according to the place of the last letter of the root, and then the first and second, in the usual order of the alphabet,] after collecting the contents in El-'Irak, and rehearsing them by lip [as I have before mentioned] to [those whom he terms] العُرب العارية in their abodes in the desert (ابادية). Eth-Tha'álibee says that he was one of the wonders of the age. His lexicon, however, is not free from instances of inadvertence or mistakes, like all great books; and such as cannot be attributed to the copyists. Yakoot says, in the "Moajam el-Udabà," that the cause of the mistranscriptions in it was this: when he had composed it, it was read to him as far as [the section of] the letter في, and an evil suggestion occurred to his mind, in consequence of which he cast himself from a housetop, and died: so the rest of the book remained a rough draught, not pruned, or trimmed, nor fairly copied out; and his disciple Ibráhecm Ibn-Sálih El-Warrak made a fair copy of it, and committed mistakes in some places in it. Ibn-Barrec wrote a commentary, or series of annotations, (حَوْثَثَي, plural of مُوَاثِي,) on the Ṣiḥáḥ, [an extremely valuable work] in which he reached the middle [of the section] of the letter س; and the sheykh 'Abd-Allah Ibn-Mohammad El-Bustee completed it. [But I have invariably found passages from every part of it cited as the sayings of Ibn-Barree.] And Eș-Saghánee, or, as he is called by some, Es-Sághánce, wrote a Tekmileh (عُنْتُ, i. e. Supplement) to the Siḥáḥ; exceeding it in bulk. [Some further remarks on the Sihah (my own copies of which have been already described) will be found in my account of the Kámoos. The abridgment entitled "Mukhtár eş-Siḥáḥ" is well known: it is too scanty to be of much use except to those who desire to commit to memory the most usual words and significations. A very superior abridgment is the "Jámi" of the seyyid Mohammad Ibn-es-seyyid-Ḥasan, which was finished, according to Ḥájjee Khaleefeh, in the year of the Flight 854. It is copious, well digested, and enriched with additions from the Mughrib of El-Mutarrizee, the Fáïk of Ez-Zamakhsheree, the Niháyeh of Ibn-El-Atheer, &c. Of this work I possess a very good copy.]

^{*} I have the express authority of the Taj el-'Aroos (in art. 414) for thus writing the name of this author.