

bin Si Ali bin Senusi was born in the year A. H. 1206 (A. D. 1791). After spending some time in El Azhar as a student, he joined the Kadiriya Dervishes, but about the year 1843 founded the order called by his name. It grew very rapidly and *zaviyas* (monasteries) were founded in Egypt, Tripoli, the Central Sudan, Tunis, Algiers and Senegambia. The number of its members is very large, probably five or six millions. The Moslems in Wadai are nearly all Senusis, and are estimated at three millions. For a long time the headquarters of the order was situated in an oasis in the Libyan desert, midway between Egypt and Tripoli. It was the administrative centre of a vast organization, and a theological school for the training of its missionaries. It is said that there were at one time seven hundred students there. Sheikh Senusi was a remarkable man. To administrative abilities of a high order, he added the intense fervour of the fanatic. His success amongst the pagan tribes was marvellous, and from the shores of Lake Chad to the Mediterranean he established his power. In 1885 the people to the northwest of Wadai were all pagans : in 1888 they had all become Moslems and in fact the whole region round Lake Chad is now becoming more and more under Senusi influence. In 1894 the headquarters were moved away from Tripoli, which is Turkish, to an oasis, El Istat, situated in a desert to the northwest of Lake Chad. From a strategical point of view the position is an important one. Since then the Senusis have extended into Kanem. Politically they are a source of constant trouble to the French, whilst religiously they rouse a deep spirit of fanaticism and hatred of all non-Moslem people. The present headquarters has been thus described : "From this inaccessible fortress the Sheikh ul Mahdi (as the Senusi leader is called) now governs all the territories occupied by the Senusis. Swift messengers