

8746 to 8752—Continued.**8749.**

Gunnami. A male variety. "Considered by Hadji Abdulla Negem as the best pollen-producing male in this region. It holds its pollen best, and the latter is found to be 'stronger' than that of any other sort. One male tree suffices for 100 female trees." (*Fairchild.*) (No. 898.)

8750.

Halawi. "One of the standard sorts grown on the Shat-el-Arab River, of Arabia, and it is one of the principal dates shipped to the American market. There must be millions of trees of this variety along the river. A fairly light-colored date, short and thick, with a good-sized stone, and very little fiber about the seed. Grown under the same conditions as No. 8747, and ripens in September." (*Fairchild.*) (No. 899.)

8751.

Khadrawi. "A darker colored, longer date than the *Halawi*, and inferior to it. It is one of the standard sorts for shipment to America, but is not a delicate skinned variety; therefore an excellent packing date. It is a sticky date, and ripens in September or the first of October." (*Fairchild.*) (No. 900.)

8752.

Unnamed variety. "Sent without label from 'Abu Kassib, by Hadji Abdulla Negem, with Nos. 8746 to 8752, for all of which I am indebted to the kind assistance of Mr. H. P. Chalk, agent of Hills Bro. & Co., of New York." (*Fairchild.*) (No. 901.)

8753. PHOENIX DACTYLIFERA.**Date palm.**

From Hassa, Arabia. Received through Messrs. Lathrop and Fairchild (No. 905, March 17, 1902), June 7, 1902.

Khalasa or *Khalasi.* "This date is known all over the Persian Gulf as one of the three best dates. It certainly has few equals, and its only rivals are the *Maktum*, *Taberzal*, and *Berhi*, and probably also, though I have not tasted it, the *Mirhage*. Palgrave, author of 'Travels in Eastern Arabia,' 1863, says the literal translation of the name *Khalasa* is 'quintessence,' and that it 'is easily first of its kind.' The country in which it is grown is, according to Zwemer, a sandy one, with underground springs or water courses, water being reached only a few feet below the surface of the soil. This country of Hassa or El Hassa lies 60 miles or so inland from Bahrein Island, and these palms were brought by camels from that region. The climate in winter is hot in daytime, but cold at night, and in summer it is excessively hot. This variety matures its fruit, I presume, sometime in August or September, though I can not state this positively. It is a variety worthy the serious consideration of our date growers, as it will probably be better suited to our conditions than the Bassorah dates, which will require more water to bring them to full development. We are indebted to H. B. M. Vice-Consul J. C. Gaskin, of Bahrein, for securing these sets and for many other favors, and also to Mr. H. M. Zwemer for information about Hassa dates." (*Fairchild.*)

8754 to 8761. PHOENIX DACTYLIFERA.**Date palm.**

From Maskat, Arabia. Received through Messrs. Lathrop and Fairchild (Nos. 906 to 913, March 21, 1903), June 7, 1903.

8754.

Fard. "A long, large-sized, late date, of dark color but good flavor. About 1,000 tons of this date are exported from Maskat to America every year, it being the principal export date of the region of Maskat. These young palms were brought from Semail, 50 miles in the interior, where there are extensive plantations of this and other sorts. There are estimated by Vice-Consul Mackirdy, who very kindly secured these for the Department, to be half a million date trees in the Semail Valley. This date ripens in August and sells for \$40 Mexican per 1,800 pounds. It is the best flavored soft packing date in the region. It is adapted to the hottest regions in America." (*Fairchild.*) (No. 906.)