

X.—*Route from Turbat Haideri, in Khorásán, to the river Herí Rúd, on the borders of Sístán.* Extracted from the Journals of the late Dr. FREDERICK FORBES, E.I.C.S.

[Dr. Forbes's Journal, kept with great care and perseverance during his travels in Mesopotamia, and his journey from Trebizonde, by Tehrán and Mesh-hed, to the banks of the Herí Rúd, near the Lake Zerreh, is well deserving of publication; but as the greater part of it describes routes already known by the narratives of former travellers, and a part of it has been printed in the 'Journal of the Royal Geographical Society,'* the only portion which could be given in this volume is that which carries the reader over untrodden ground, by a new route, through the southern part of Khorásán, a country rarely visited by Europeans. These notes, put down in the short intervals snatched from rest and visitors during long and harassing marches, show such unwearied ardour in all useful inquiries, and are so clearly and agreeably expressed, as to have required nothing but a few verbal corrections, for which, as for the orthography † of the Persian words and names, and the foot-notes added, the Foreign Secretary must be held responsible.

The journal mentioned above, fills two small quarto volumes of 168 and 146 closely-written pages. An account of the visit to the Sinjár (Shinear of Scripture) hills, E. of Mósul (properly Mausil), in 1838, and daily remarks made on the road from Trebizonde to Tehrán, and during a short residence there in April, 1841, fill the first, and the second volume contains the remainder of Dr. Forbes's journal kept on his way from Tehrán through Mesh-hed, where he also made some stay, and Turbat Haideri, to the banks of the Herí Rúd, where his remarks terminate abruptly, on Saturday the 26th of June, 1841.

As this was quite a private record of what the traveller saw and experienced, it could not be printed without some revision, and perhaps a few explanatory notes; but the liveliness and perspicuity of the narrative, amiable traits of character, judicious observations, and variety of objects noticed in almost every page, make the reader deeply lament the premature termination of Dr. Forbes's life and labours: and though preceding travellers have described the former part of his route, it can scarcely be doubted that the publication of his remarks would be an acceptable addition to our knowledge of the countries through which he passed.—F. S.]

June 6th, 1841 (Trinity Sunday).—Having assembled our party in the afternoon near the shrine of Haider, ‡ we left Turbat

* Vol. ix., p. 409.

† Which is the modification of that established by Sir William Jones and Sir Charles Wilkins, generally followed in this book; the consonants are sounded as in English, vowels as in Italian and German.

‡ Koṭbu-d-dín Haider, a descendant of Seffiyu-d-dín of the race of Husein, second son of 'Alí, was the father of Ismá'íl Šefí (improperly called Sophi), founder of the Safavi race of kings in Persia, who from him are also called Haideris. He first introduced the use of the red shawl twisted round the cap in twelve folds, whence the Turks gave the Persians the name of Kizil-báshes (Red-heads).—D'Herbelot, *Bibl. Orient.* v. Haidar. The proper name of Turbat (*i. e.* the Sepulchre) is Závéh.—*Jehánnumá*, p. 319.

Haiderí at 8 o'clock, soon after sunset, and kept 170° E. (S. by E. $\frac{1}{4}$ S.) through lanes and gardens, till, proceeding in the same direction, we passed over broken ground and ravines, and then crossed some low rounded hills, in a S.E. direction, which brought us into an extensive and perfectly level, clayey, sandy, naked plain, with here and there a scanty sprinkling of aromatic plants. The castles and villages of Hind-ábád and Moḥammed-ábád, about 11 and 12 miles from Turbat respectively, were surrounded by fine fields of ripened corn. The latter must at one time have been a place of strength and importance, though now in ruins, if one might judge from the height and solidity of its square outer wall, surrounded by a deep and wide ditch. It has also a second or inner wall, and the whole is commanded by a lofty and massive tower in its centre. The present inhabitants of these and several other villages in this district are of I'liyát race. From thence we advanced towards the rounded end of a chain of hills, or rather a single hill, of considerable length, said to be half-way between Kháff and Gunábad;* passed the castle of Gíet, or Kíet,† inhabited by I'ls; and, keeping through fields in which most of the crop was already cut, and collected on the threshing-floors, halted, a little before 2 A.M., on Monday the 7th of June, in an extensive meadow about half a mile from the village, knee-deep in natural grass, to get a few hours' sleep and recruit our cattle, having as yet only got over about half our journey to Fazlmand.

7th.—Having left our halting-place at 5 A.M., soon after sunrise, and kept a southerly course through meadows and broken ground, after crossing some water-courses, into one of which one of my mules fell, and my baggage had a very narrow escape from being thoroughly drenched (such a misfortune being about the last that one would have expected in a country so parched and arid as this), we reached, at a quarter before 7 A.M., the wide gravelly bed of a river called the Fazlmand Rúd (Fazlmand river). It is the stream which rises from the Pass of Kámeḥ to the N. of Turbat, and flows eastward of that town. In striking across the country by a shorter path, we had here altogether lost our way, and kept for some time along the bed of the stream, filled with tall reeds and tamarisk-bushes. On approaching a rocky height, some of the more timorous of our party, of whom we had not a few, raised an alarm that horsemen were in sight, having been deceived by the dark shadows of the rocky clefts in the morning sun. We therefore sent out horsemen on every side to reconnoitre the ground, which was certainly in every way favour-

* This place is also called Junábad. Its proper name seems to be Tunjah (*i. e.* Little Tún).—Jehán-numá, p. 326.

† Perhaps Gíyet or Kíyet.

able to the concealment or attack of a hostile party, being hilly and broken, and full of deep ravines and gullies, the dry beds of rain-torrents. The only fruit of our search, however, was the discovery of a few cows grazing in a hollow. At 10 minutes before 7 A.M. we got into the path of which we were in search, and keeping S., at 8 A.M. reached Sha'beh, half in ruins, and surrounded by traces of former extensive cultivation, having at the same time the ruined village of Ushturán (Camels) half a mile to the right. We soon afterwards passed the ruinous and deserted castle of 'Alí-ābād ('Alí's abode), surrounded by fields of barley nearly ripe, and near them a party of people in tents, who had come to reap the corn. The ruined castle of Sa'ad-ābād lay at some distance to the right. Having got a draught of dūgh (butter-milk), we proceeded in the same course, and at 9 A.M. reached the castle* of Fazlmand.

Not being able to get any tolerable accommodation in the confined and filthy houses there, we moved onwards about a mile further, to a meadow on the bank of the small stream already mentioned, where we found a party of horsemen in the service of the serdár † of Turbat, who gave up to us two small tents. The difference of temperature between the plain of Turbat and that containing the villages of Hind-ābād, Mohammed-ābād, Fazlmand, &c., is so great, that while the former was covered with snow, the latter was fresh and green, although they are only separated by a narrow chain of hills of no great height.

Fazlmand contains about forty families; and as it possesses two *kanáts* (artificial water-courses) of brackish water, a good deal of ground about it is cultivated. Its inhabitants are chiefly I's, with a few Kizil-básh (Red-heads, *i. e.* Persians) *ri'ayyats* (*i. e.* tributaries). A party of sixty Tímúrí horsemen is stationed here to watch the movements of the plundering hordes of Turkománs from Merv. The water of this small stream (which, when full, runs by Jangal, but is lost in the desert) is here brackish. *Assa-fetida* of indifferent quality is said to be gathered between this place, Turbat, and Gunábad. Little or no game or other wild animals are found in this district, with the exception of the gúr-khar (wild ass, or onager) and the wild boar. I passed the day, though warm, pleasantly enough. The suwár báshí (head horse-soldier), who waited on me, sent me a present of a lamb; and we had brought a quantity of ice in the túbrahs (saddle-bags) from Turbat, which here proved a great luxury. In the evening, also, I bathed in the stream, and felt much refreshed by it.

8th.—We left our ground at 35 minutes before 1 A.M., and, crossing the stream, kept a generally southern course, winding

* Kal'ah.

† Military commander.

among sandy hills covered with tamarisks, and then over a dry naked plain, bounded to the right by low rocky hills. Our guides, of whom we had two, were constantly reminding us that the roads here were very unsafe; but they said they had chosen the lower and more level of two as the safest and best. We therefore muffled the bells of our baggage-mules, and moved on in a close body. We heard the cry of some wild asses, but could neither see them nor stop to look for them. At half-past 3 A.M. we passed the ruined and deserted castle of Jennet-ábád (Paradise Place), which might now be more fitly named Jinn-ábád (Demons' Place). It stands in the level plain, and a little way beyond it we came to an empty tank (*hauz*). When we halted for the Muselmán namáz or prayer, there was a long discussion among some of our party about the direction of the Kiblah (the bearing of Mecca, the point to which they ought to turn in prayer). One or two of them had turned their faces westwards, and the others followed their example. One from Kandahár took a star (Sirius) for his guide, supposing that its direction would be the same wherever he might be; and he said that they were so taught by the móllás (doctors of the law). Another had a Kiblah-numá,* or compass, made at Işfahán, for that place, and fancied that change of place made no difference in the matter. After proceeding in the same direction, and passing over much ground that had been under cultivation, we reached, at 5 A.M., the castle of Jangal Haider-ábád (Haider-ábád-wood), the whole population of which appeared to have turned out to witness our arrival. I had tolerable quarters in a long narrow room, with several openings to the N.E., serving as ventilators or bád-gírs (wind-catchers). This was part of a building dignified by the name of the mesjid (mosque), the court of which contained a large covered tank (*hauz*) of rain-water. I had a visit from the yúz-báshí (centurion) of the suwárs (cavalry) stationed here, at Gunábad, and Fazlmand. He was very civil and attentive, and is a son of the náyib (chief) of the nearest of the cluster of villages named Gunábad. He gave me a letter to his father. He said that Ṭabas is 60 farsangs (220 miles) from hence, and Tún 14 farsangs (44 miles).

The people of this place are very poor and miserable. As there are no wells or *қанáts* (water-courses), they depend entirely on the rain for their supply of water; and if that fails, or is scanty, little or no corn can be raised, so that their fields sometimes lie untouched for years together. From the strong saline impregnation of the soil, all their water is brackish. The harvest

* Literally "Show-Kiblah." A line across it shows the direction of the Kiblah, with respect to the meridian of the place for which it is constructed. It is not properly a compass.

here is generally reckoned at 80 days after the Nau-rúz* (29th March—1st April), and the crops are now ripe. At Fazlmand they ripen at about the same time, and at Hind-ábád, Moḥammed-ábád, and Kiet, 10 days earlier.

Jangal, or, as it is commonly called, Jangal Haïder-ábád (the Wood of Haïder-ábád), belonged to the late 'I'sá Khán, who built and peopled it. Since his death it has gone to ruin, and may now contain about forty families within and without the walls, half 'I's and half Kizil-básh ri' ayyats. This village is now the property of the Ḥaẓrat Imám [Rizá], but the rapacity of the priesthood † is more ruinous than the violence of other temporal proprietors. There is a large bund, or dam, in the hills above Jangal, which formerly supplied water for the cultivation of corn to the extent of 2 or 3 miles round the place, but it is now out of repair. The estimated expense of repairing it is about 1000 tó máns (500*l.*), and the increase of annual income to the proprietors would be about 3000 (1500*l.*), yet they never think of laying out the money. ‡ The distances from hence are—to Róshanáwan, 7 farsangs (26 miles); to Gunábad, 13 farsangs (48 miles).

Intending to move to Róshanáwan in the evening, as the march was long and waterless, I got two horsemen from the yúz-báshí to accompany us, and set out at a quarter before 6 P.M., keeping a W.S.W. course over a level plain, with some cultivated fields to the right, protected by sundry towers. We passed by the ruinous and deserted castle of Sangál, half a mile distant on our right, and continuing through sandy and broken ground, reached a covered tank (ḥauz), where we halted for evening prayer (namáz) at a quarter past 7 P.M. As our road to-night was said to be particularly exposed to visits from the Turkománs, we took the precaution of having a karáwul (sentinel) and rear-guard, muffling the bells of the mules, and forbidding smoking. We now proceeded over sandy ground covered with tamarisks, in a S.W. direction, towards a dead level with a smooth, clayey, naked surface. Soon after midnight we had a conical hill, in a low range, 3 miles on our right, and a ruined tank (ḥauz) to the left of the path.

9th.—At 1 o'clock A.M. we reached our halting-place, Rósha-

* Literally "New (Year's) Day," the Persian term for the Vernal Equinox; strictly, the day on which the Sun enters Aries: it is now kept either at the end of March or the beginning of April.—Fraser's Khorasan, p. 214.

† Dr. Forbes meant no doubt the móllás and dervishes who are employed to pray at the tomb of Imám. Though the Muselmáns have religious orders and endowed mosques and oratories, they have no priests or priesthood.

‡ Probably because any profit they might make would soon be absorbed by *avánias* or extortions imposed on them by the agents of the Sháh. This seems to have escaped the author's notice.

náwan, and I went to sleep in the cool air, in an enclosure which surrounds the outer part of the village. Róshanáwan, as well as several other villages, belongs to the Hazrat Imám,* and was farmed, together with six or seven more, to the amír of Káyin for 2000 tó máns (1000*l.*) per annum; but this year, these villages have been put under the superintendence of men appointed by Hájí Mírzá Músá Khán, guardian of the property of the Imám Rizá at Mesh-hed. One of these men is now here to look after the produce of the harvest, which they are now reaping. In these villages the owner takes three-fourths of the produce (wheat, barley, and cotton), and leaves the remainder to the cultivators.

Róshanáwan consists of about forty houses, mostly outside of the castle, surrounded by a slight mud-wall. There is a good mosque, and also a fine tank (*hauz*) of burnt brick, which is only opened in the hot weather. The supply of water is regulated and drawn off by a large brass cock, to prevent waste; and this is the only place in the East where I have seen that contrivance applied. The water is as cold as ice. This mosque and tank were built only about 100 years ago (A.D. 1740, A.H. 1154), but the name of their builder, the benefactor of the place, is already forgotten. There is a scanty supply of slightly brackish running water from a spring in the high ground to the W.

I had a visit from the steward or man employed by the proprietor to overlook the affairs of this and the other villages. He was an old sayyed (sherif, or descendant of the Prophet) and hájí (pilgrim), who had been formerly a merchant, and had seen a good deal of the world. He was intelligent, and free from much of the bigotry and prejudices of his caste and country. In consequence of the want of rain this year, the crops have been unusually scanty, and the hájí said he should be content to take 70 per cent. of the quantity usually produced; and in the evening the reapers, when they returned from their work, brought several baskets of blighted and half-filled ears of corn as a sample of the crop, to induce the hájí to moderate his demands upon them. I had many applications for medicine, and saw one or two dreadful cases of siphylis, which in this country appears still to retain much of that virulence which at one time made it so much feared in England.

At 11 o'clock P.M., soon after the moon rose, we set out, and proceeding W.S.W., in the direction of some low hummocks, passed through ground that had at one time been under cultivation.

10*th.*.—At 10 minutes past 1 A.M. we had the castle of Naukár

* See p. 149. The Turbat or Tomb (properly Tumulus) of the Imám Rizá is richly endowed for the maintenance of móllás (doctors) and dervishes, who day and night perform religious services beside the shrine.

on the right; and afterwards taking a W.S.W. course, passed a mill, some huts, and a tower near a small brook, by the ruins of a village. From hence we kept along the flat, bare, and clayey plain in a south-westerly direction, and at half-past 2 A.M. reached the gardens of the nearest of the Gunábad villages, and at a quarter past 3 A.M. the village of Delúwí itself.

We were kept a long time waiting for quarters, as the náyib, or ketkhodá (head-man), could not be found; but at last I got good quarters in the house of a weaver, and was soon afterwards visited by the náyib, an old hájí, father of the yúz-báshí at Jangal. He was followed by several large trays of mulberries, plums, and apricots; and soon afterwards by a good breakfast, which was the more acceptable as, with the exception of the mulberries, the fruit was barely ripe. The old man himself was very kind, attentive, and good-humoured, but wanted the intelligence and education of the merchant hájí of yesterday. He paid me several visits in the course of the day, accompanied by a train of his followers, whose curiosity was most childish and boundless at everything I showed them, from a compass to a bit of India-rubber; gaping with open mouths, in the utmost astonishment, and pouring in a continual succession of questions, some of them most ridiculous. The only exception was an old weaver, who appeared a particularly acute and intelligent man, and questioned me much about our laws, government, &c. The weavers here struck me very much as resembling a class of operatives in Scotland, now fast disappearing, the hand-loom weavers—as similarity of habits, no doubt, begets similarity of disposition to some extent. They all appeared intelligent, given to politics, disputatious, and possessed of a quaint and independent humour very different from that of the generality of Persians. The three points in our laws and customs which most surprise and puzzle the Orientals are, the inheritance of our throne by a queen, the absence of slavery or vassalage, and the prohibition of polygamy. The old man joined me in maintaining the advantages and expediency of monogamy, and said that, although some took as many wives as they could keep, yet, apart from their law, and as a matter of common sense and prudence, one wife is sufficient for every man.

The products of this place (which is 40 farsangs [150 miles] from Tabas, and at a like distance from Mesh-hed, Bihrján,* and Herát) are silk, fruit, opium, and cotton. Much coarse white cotton-cloth is also made here, the bulk of the population being weavers.

* The name of this place, a corruption of Míhrjánu (Jehán-numá, p. 330), has been changed by our Indian travellers into Bheerjoon, Beerjoon, Beerjund, Burjund, Burjun, &c.

Delúwí is a large village, with a ruinous castle* and about 100 houses, and numerous gardens well supplied with water by subterranean water-pipes.† It is about 1 farsang (4 miles) from Júmín, the residence of the náyib, or khán (chief), of Gunábad, and 4 farsangs (14 miles) from Róshanáwan.

I had many visits in the course of the day, and a good specimen of the extraordinary ignorance among the Mohammedans, even of some who have pretensions to learning, and might be supposed to know better. A sayyed gravely asked me whether we English perform the hájj, or pilgrimage to Mecca.

Delúwí contains about 300 people of Arab race, the hájj himself being one of them. He pays to the sháh for this village 30 Khorásán, = 70 'Irák tó máns (35*l.*), and 70 kharwárs ‡ of grain. The opium obtained here is of an inferior quality; tragacanth and galbanum are found in the neighbourhood, but no assafœtida. Two of the hájj's sons were carried off by the Turkománs some years ago, and it cost him 150 tó máns (175*l.*) to ransom them. They are at present in the hills with the flocks. The heat was so great that I was driven to the roof for the night.

11*th.*—We left Delúwí at 12 P.M., soon after the moon had risen, and kept in a southerly direction through corn-fields. At half past 12 we passed Gunábad, which has the rank of a town: its houses and gardens cover a great extent of ground. The castle is large, with very strong and lofty mud walls and towers. The whole cluster of the neighbouring villages is named after this place, though the present residence of the hákim (governor) is Júmín. Gunábad was formerly the property, or at least in the jurisdiction of Hájí 'Alí Nakí, khán of Tabas, but it was taken from him about a year ago by the amír (prince) of Káyin; and, after some fighting on both sides without loss of life, was taken from both by the Aşef-ed-dauleh (prime minister of the sháh), who has since kept possession of it; but the place has suffered much. The inhabitants of the town of Gunábad are Persian ri' ayyats (tributaries). From Gunábad we kept a south-westerly course, and at 4h. 10m. P.M. reached the town of Kákh, after a slight ascent, and got quarters in the small and only cáraván-serái which it possesses; the owner of which, a sayyed, was very civil and attentive. I had a visit immediately afterwards from the náyib, a morose, puritanical-looking sayyed and móllá, with his son, an agreeable, intelligent lad. The náyib had been in Mesh-hed when Riach arrived there about the surrender of Ghóriyán, and, taking me for that gentleman, as I was also a hákim, began a long string of inquiries about the arrangement

* Kal'ah.

† Káriz.

‡ One kharwár (ass-load) is equal to about 725 lbs. English; but as no ass could carry such a load, the term may perhaps be used merely to denote a great weight.—F. S.

that had been made with the sháh, until I undeceived him. The town of Kákh, or Kágh, is situated on a rising ground at the base of a range of hills, and contains about 300 houses, four good mosques, two of which are large and well-built; two colleges,* six baths, forty tanks (hauz), and several water-courses (kanáts). The shrine of Imám Zádeh Sultán Mohámmed is a fine building. He was a brother of the Imám Rízá. The original building was erected by one of the Sámánian kings, but enlarged and rebuilt by Sháh Ismá'il Şafaví. The imám's tomb is covered with brocade, and a number of móllás are constantly employed in reading the Korán near it. It has, however, fallen much into decay, especially the dome; of the inscription round which, formed of lacquered tiles, a large piece has fallen away. Some time ago a person left a sum of money for the repair of the tomb, but, as is usually the case with respect to bequests in Persia, as in other places, it was misappropriated; and what was laid out sufficed only to collect some materials for the work, and to erect a scaffolding round the dome, which will remain till the rotten wood-work increases the ruin which it was intended to prevent or remedy. The chief mosque† was erected by a sayyed, a native of the place, in A.H. 1180 (A.D. 1766), and has a good college‡ attached to it. Provisions of every kind are cheap and abundant here (I bought three sheep for my people for 3s. 6d.); but the inroads of the Turkománs, and the want of a ready market for the produce, keep down industry. About 1000 Káyin, or 500 Khorásán mans (7500 lbs.) of opium are gathered here annually, and it sells at from 3 to 6 kíráns per man: being cheap this year, on account of the non-arrival of traders or caravans § from Bokhárá, who used generally to buy up all the quantity produced, most likely for the China market. The opium yielded by poppies raised without irrigation is finer and dearer than that collected from plants which have been artificially watered. The juice, cleaned from impurities, is called shera'-i-tiryák,|| and sold in small cakes at from 16 sháhís ¶ to 1 old kírán the sér.**

In the evening they furnished me with most original-looking candles, being reeds wrapped round with clouts of cotton thread, and dipped in tallow. From the neighbouring villages about 2000 Khorásán tómáns (of 25 Fat-h'ali sháhi kíráns to the tómán), 2500*L.*, are annually raised by the government.

12*th.*—We left Kákh at 1 A.M., and kept a S.S.W. course between low hills, towards a pass which we reached at 1h. 40m. A.M.

* Medreseh. † Mesjidi-jum'ah. ‡ Medreseh. § Kerwáns.

|| Legal theriaca. ¶ Equal to about 3 riyals or rupees=*4s. 6d.*

** 1 sér=9 miskáls=18 miskáls of Tabríz; and 40 sérs=1 man=360 miskáls=720 Tabrízí miskáls=7 lb. 10 oz.; 1 man sháhi=15 lb.

It was steep and difficult, and the descent on the other side bad. Having got out from among the hills to the edge of the plain of Ním Ballúk, we halted at 3h. 15m. to allow the loiterers to join us. At 4 we halted again, opposite to the village of *Ḳal'ah Sangúrí*, half a mile distant on the left: all the occupants of which, chiefly women, appeared to be assembled on the walls, watching our motions, and evidently not a little suspicious of our intentions. Having proceeded at 4h. 5m. in the same direction, at 5h. 15m. we reached the village and castle* of *Deshti Piyáz*. I took up my quarters in the mosque, but finding the place uncomfortable, and hearing that the brother of *Nejef Khán* was at *Khidrí*, only $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant, I determined to move onwards to that place, much against the will of the rest of my party.

Deshti Piyáz is a large village, and one continued garden of mulberry and fruit trees. It contains about 100 families of *Ḳizil-báshes*, and belongs to *Káyin*. Its products are fruit, silk, a little cotton, and opium. Near the principal mosque there is a magnificent *chinár* (plane-tree), about 12 feet in diameter. The extent of cultivated ground here was formerly much greater than at present, as is shown by the traces of the plough and dry water-courses and *kanáts* in the plain.† We set out again from *Deshti Piyáz* at 5h. 55m. A.M., on a course S.E. by S., towards *Khidrí*, which we reached at 6h. 30m., but met with a very inhospitable reception, and it was only after waiting about an hour and a half, that I got a shady spot under a tree in a garden to spread my carpet on. I had a visit from the *náyib*, a brother of *Nejef Khán*, who offered his services when I no longer wanted them; he, however, sent me a breakfast, and the present of a diseased goat, which I returned to him, as none of my party would look at it. The animal had probably remained in the village from being unable to accompany the flocks to the hills.

Khidrí, or *Khidr Beg*, contains about 100 houses outside of the ruinous castle, chiefly occupied by Arabs and shepherds; and they had a number of black tents pitched outside of the village, like those used by the *I's*‡ for their dairy operations. The *náyib* could give me no account of his race; from whence or when they had first come into this country; but said he believed that his ancestors came from the neighbourhood of *Maskaṭ*. There are here some extensive gardens of mulberry and other fruit trees; and a little silk of good quality, barley, wheat, and turnips is produced. The people complained much of poverty, and said they had only barley-bread, mulberries and turnips to eat, and that they prayed that we might come and take the coun-

* *Ḳal'ah*.

† Artificial channels for water.

‡ Like those of the *Yúruk* or migratory *Turkománs* in Asiatic Turkey.

try. I told them that it was scarcely such an one as we should covet. Some apple-trees bore a fine crop; but the fruit was small, and without flavour. The crops are not yet ripe here: the tragacanth grows in the hills, but the gum is not gathered: a little sesamum is cultivated for its oil, as well as at Kákh, where the castor-oil plant* is also grown. Raw silk is sold here at the rate of from 6 to 10 kíráns for a man of 40 sérs of 9 miskáls each. The wild ass, † in herds of from 40 to 50, abounds, and wild boars are so numerous that they destroy half the crops; and the náyib complained that, although all that could be found were killed, their numbers never appeared to be diminished. There is a very great difference between the temperature of Khidrí and Gunábad: here the cold immediately after sunset was very unpleasant.

13th.—We loaded, and set out about 1h. 55m. A.M., and kept a course S. by E. over a plain strewed with loose stones and gravel, and at 4h. 30m. entered a narrow winding defile, running between steep hills, through which runs a small brook, bordered by wild roses and sweet briars, barberries, willows, and tamarisks. After ascending for an hour and a half we reached, at 5h. 30m. A.M., the highest point of the defile, where there is a ruinous stone-tower, probably occupied formerly by a guard for the defence of the pass. From hence we kept a W. direction in our descent. At 5h. 40m. A.M., where the ravine opens a little between the hills, we had a bare, reddish, rounded hill of a very singular appearance on the right, about 200 feet high,—the deposit from a calcareous spring called here Tursh-áb. ‡ On ascending the hill we found the summit flattish and rounded, about 6 yards in diameter, occupied to within a couple of feet of the edge by a pool of discoloured water, from nearly the centre of which issued a considerable body of clear water, mingled with much carbonic acid gas. The depth of the basin was about 2 feet; the temperature of the mixed water and gas, where it issued, 53° Fahr.; its taste slightly acid and pungent, with a very faint earthy odour. None of the water finds its way to the bottom of the hill; the calcareous matter, which it contains in great abundance, being rapidly deposited in a solid form, and the aqueous part evaporated. The whole of a large hill above that which contains the spring, is a deposit of the same kind, rising to a height of between 300 and 400 feet, but of an old date; and the valley below, for the distance of nearly a mile to the S., is strewed with huge blocks of it. Much of the older formation is translucent and colourless: the later is deeply tinged with iron. This

* Bedanjír (for bádenján, properly the egg-plant: kharwa', or kharú', is the Palma Christi).

† Gúr-khar.

‡ Sour water.

spring is said to cure all sorts of diseases; and the people, when sick, resort to it from the neighbouring villages. Having re-joined our party, at five minutes before 6 A.M., we kept a south-western course through a narrow valley, containing one or two brackish springs; the declivities of the hills on either side being cultivated in patches for the dry, or *dáyimeh* (permanent) crop, which, however, from the failure of the rains this spring, is a miserably scanty one. When the rains are abundant the *dáyimeh* crops are said to yield sometimes fifty for one, and the quality of the grain is far superior to that obtained by irrigation.

At ten minutes before 7 A.M. we reached Nokab, where the old *Rísh sefid** or *Ketkhodá* † was as deaf as a post, but a hale, active-looking man, and we had great difficulty in getting supplies. Nokab consists of two divisions; one on each side of a hollow; the castle being in the midst of the southern one, but quite ruinous. The inhabitants are Arabs of the *Káyin* tribe, ‡ those of *Khidrí* being from *Neh* or *Nehbandán*. There were a few black tents pitched outside of the village. A considerable quantity of saffron is produced here, and a little silk; the saffron, however, can hardly be a very profitable crop, as a man brought to me for sale the whole produce of two tolerably sized fields in a small handkerchief. He told me that the root of the crocus decays in about ten years; but by that time, it has produced a numerous progeny which are planted out anew. The dried saffron, cleared from impurities, sells at from five to eight *miskáls* per *şáhib-kirán*. The chief place, however, for the cultivation of saffron, is about *Káyin*, and at the village of *Béhúdah*, about 2 *farsangs* ($7\frac{1}{2}$ miles) east of Nokab. There was a violent thunder squall, with a few drops of rain, in the afternoon. As the path between Nokab and *Teghab*, which is called 2 *farsangs* ($7\frac{1}{2}$ miles), is in many places so broken that it cannot be safely attempted at night with laden cattle, we determined to move onwards in the afternoon. A horseman who had come in the direction of *B'hirján* § [*Bihrján* for *Mihrján*], brought a long story about a *chappáo* [incursion] made in this quarter by 2000 *Turkomán* horsemen, which had frightened a man on his way to *B'hirján* out of his wits, and he proposed to accompany us. We left Nokab at 3h. 30m. P.M., and ascended the hills S. by E. by a very narrow rocky path, and at 5h. 10m. having ascended an elevated ridge, got out upon the edge of an

* Grey-beard. † Deputy. This word in Turkey is pronounced *kyahyá*.

‡ The author no doubt meant of the same tribe as those established at *Káyin*, as there is no tribe of Arabs bearing that name. This is evident by what he says of those of *Khidrí*, who are from *Neh* or *Nehbandán*, a Persian, not an Arab name.

§ Various spelt by our travellers *Bheerjón*, *Beerján*, *Bhurjund*, *Burjuu*, &c. It is doubtless the Persian word *Mihrján*, commonly pronounced *Mihrjúu* and *Bihrjúu*.

extensive plain stretching from N.W. to S.E. of considerable breadth, and bounded on all sides except the N.W. and S.E. by high, bare limestone-hills. At 5h. 20m. we had Dostábád about 5 miles, and Seráyán, the frontier village of Ṭabas, about 2 farsangs ($7\frac{1}{2}$ miles) N.N.W. of it, on our right, and keeping along a hard, bare plain, with a very gradual descent, at a quarter past 6 P.M. reached Teghab, which contains about twenty families of Arabs, with a considerable extent of rich corn-fields about it, fully ripe, from which part of the crop had been reaped, and was now undergoing the process of being trodden out and cleaned. As this process, however, was not yet completed, we had much difficulty in getting barley and straw for our cattle after a long contest. As the miserable villagers here are obliged to supply food and accommodation to every horseman and retainer gratis, a battle must always be fought, and sometimes violence used, before the hidden stores are forthcoming; and never having seen or heard of such a thing as a person travelling with a fermán from the Sháh, or an order from their chief, offering to pay for what is furnished to him, they believed the offer to be only a trick to induce them to show where their barley and straw were stowed, that we might help ourselves. Their excuse that the grain was not yet threshed out, was, as we afterwards found, merely a pretext. Their threshing apparatus consisted of a machine drawn by bullocks, and having a body like a sledge with two axles filled in below, furnished with flat pieces of wood or cogs about 3 inches long, by which the straw is chopped and broken up; the driver sitting on the machine to increase the weight. The water here is good; they have several cisterns and kárizes (underdrains). The property of the village consists chiefly in flocks. The night was cool and pleasant. Sun set at 115° W. (W.S.W. by S.)

14th.—We left Teghab at 2 A.M. soon after the moon had risen, and keeping over a bare, level plain S.E. by S. at 4h. 35m. reached Mohammed-ábád, and got good quarters in a mosque. Seeing some fish in the *kanát* (watercourse), which runs past the mosque, I rigged out a hook and line with needles softened in the fire, and in a little more than an hour caught upwards of thirty good-sized ones (one or two being nearly a foot in length), much to the astonishment of the natives, who had never even heard of their being thus caught and eaten, and asked how we cooked them, so that they could be eaten. Mohammed-ábád contains about 250 families when they are all brought together from the hills. They are all Arabs, and proprietors,* i. e. owners of herds and flocks, of camels, sheep, &c. The little cultivation they have, is chiefly cotton. At the end of the

* Máljár.

summer, the water here is very salt; at present it is only a little brackish. In the afternoon, we had some heavy thunder squalls with threatening weather. We left Moḥammed-ábád at 2h. 20m. P.M., and proceeding S. by E. over a bare, flat plain, impregnated with saline matter, reached Chahak at 7h. 20m. P.M., and took up our place for the night on the roof of a deserted hut outside of the ruinous castle.* This place was at one time in a much more thriving condition than at present, as it is now in a great measure ruined; it has about fifty houses of one sort or other without and within the castle,* inhabited by Arabs. There is scarcely any cultivation about it; the water of the canal † is brackish. The night was very cloudy, close, and sultry, threatening rain.

15th.—I was delayed for more than an hour before starting, by the rest of the party who were not ready; but at length we set off at 3h. 15m. A.M., and kept S.E. along the plain, the hills to the left being about 4 miles off. At 4h. 40m. we passed a ruined reservoir, ‡ and from it, kept towards the point of junction of the two ranges of hills on the right and left. To the right, high up on the declivity, is the castle of Selának.§ In a range of red hills behind this, having the appearance of the earthy and saline formation common in this quarter, is found the *assa-fœtida* plant in considerable abundance. The whole plain here was covered with the withered stems, leaves and parsnip-like roots of the kamah, which has been dried up this year, owing to the failure of the rains, so completely that not a single green leaf of it is to be seen, nor has any of this season's growth thrown up a stem. The root of the kamah, which resembles the parsnip in appearance, but is much larger, is eaten. At 7 A.M., we reached the castle and village of Shu'shú', and got shady, but very hot quarters, in a small garden containing a few apple, apricot, and pomegranate trees. The apples were nearly ripe, and though without much taste or flavour, were tolerable in such a country: the very form of the fruits of one's native land is acceptable, and calls up many reminiscences, generally, however, painful ones. The crops here will not be ripe for ten or twelve days more. The apricots, although of a ripe colour, are small, hard and flavourless. Soon after my arrival, the chief of the village waited on me to request that I would prevent my people from entering and plundering the gardens. Shu'shú' contains about forty Arab families, and there is a good deal of cultivation. I procured from one of the villagers some of the dried leaves and stems of the *assa-fœtida* plant, which they use in decoction for various ailments, and in substance, as a medicinal condiment with their food. I

* Ka'ah.

† Káriz.

‡ Hauz.

§ Or Selónak.

had not time to wait for an entire specimen of the plant, which grows in the neighbourhood in considerable abundance, but is by this time dry and withered. This season no *assa-fœtida* gatherers (*anguzheh-chín*) have come hither. They commence operations in the beginning of spring, searching out the plants which grow thick and bushy, but not above 8 inches or a foot high; they mark and cover them up with stones, to promote their growth and protect them from the heat. The root often attains the thickness of a man's leg, and before the plant begins to change colour, they slice it off with a thin layer of the root, and next day, or the day after, collect the inspissated juice which has exuded; repeating the operation six or seven times, till the roots are exhausted.* One man can attend to from 500 to 1000 plants.

In the afternoon, I sent Rejeb on to Bihrján† with my *fermán*, and the *serdár* of Turbat's letter to the amír, who is absent at a castle ‡ named *Khusb*, 5 farsangs (19 miles) N.W. of Bihrján, besieging the *Nakhiyah* tribe, who, it seems, have thrown off his authority. I heard to-day from 'Alí Akber that about six years ago, *Shír Mohammed Khan Hazáreh* came to *Nokab*, our halting-place a day or two ago, with 1500 horse, and carried off the entire population, men, women, and children. It seems that women are particularly valued by them; a man being worth about 15 or 20 *tómáns* (15*l.* or 20*l.*), a stout child or lad 20, and a good-looking young woman 40 or 50. Some time ago, a party of *Merv Turkománs* arrived at a village in this neighbourhood, and riding boldly up to it, pretended that they were the retinue of *Sháh-pasand Khán's* uncle proceeding to *Lásh*. They thus induced the unfortunate villagers to open their gates, and receive them hospitably, bringing carpets and pipes (*qaliyáns*) for the supposed *Afghán* chief, when they were unexpectedly seized and carried off.

We left *Shu'shú'* at 3h. 20m. P.M., and ascending the hills above it, kept a course generally S. over a succession of rocky hills of limestone and clay-slate, with many mastic (*lentisk*) and pistachio-trees growing on the declivities, and tamarisk brushwood in the hollows. Mastic § is gathered from both the trees, which appeared to me to be the male and female *buţum* or turpentine-tree, the same as grows, but of smaller size, on the *Sinjár* hills; however, 'Alí Akber insisted that one of the two was the pistachio-tree, and that it produces in alternate years

* The author had probably never seen *Kœmpfer's* excellent account of the plant, in the '*Amœnitates Exoticae*,' *Lemgov.*, 1712, 4to. iii. 5, p. 535.

† Pronounced *Bihrjún*.

‡ *Kal'ah*.

§ It is probable that the pistachio and terebinth (*pistacia vera* and *terebinthus*) were the trees here seen: the mastic, as is well known, being the gum secreted by the *lentisk* (*pistacia lentiscus*), a smaller species of the same genus.

pistachios, and what he called a fruit, but which was evidently only a disease of the leaf common to both the trees; the sides of the leaves being reddened, thickened, and curled up; these are collected and used as a violet dye. We passed a scanty, brackish streamlet in a reedy hollow, and arrived at 6h. 30m. at a hamlet containing five or six houses, and a few tents surrounded by cultivation, and occupied by Arabs of the Káyin tribe. The assa-fœtida grows in considerable quantities on some of the hills along the course of to-day's route, but I could find none of it near the road, and it was not advisable to venture to any great distance in search of it. At our halting-place, the inhabitants were busy with several huge cauldrons of ghorrat or inspissated butter-milk, reducing it to a solid form. On seeing the first of our horsemen make his appearance over the hill, one or two men who were in the fields ran for their lives to the huts, supposing him to be the scout of a party of Turkománs. The hills, the range of which we had crossed in to-day's march, had, some of them, a most grotesque and singular appearance, strongly resembling the mountains on the coast of the Persian Gulf about Hormuz, Gamrún, and Kishm; being high, sharp and peaked, twisted, bare and desolate-looking. It seems that it is in such places that the assa-fœtida plant is generally found, especially where the soil is of a red, saline earth. We had lightning and a few drops of rain in the night.

16th.—We left the huts at 3h. 15m. A.M., and passed over a succession of steep, gravelly hills and deep ravines in a winding course, generally S.E. At 6 we got out from among the hills to the irregular border of the plain, and at ten minutes before 7 A.M. reached the city of Bhirján (Mihriján), and were met by a Ferrásh (chamberlain) of the amír, who conducted us to our quarters in the Ark (citadel). This palace, or Saráï, was at one time commodious, and a tolerably handsome building, but is now in quite a ruinous state. All our party were accommodated within it in one way or other; and although there were apartments enough for four times our number, it was a matter of no small difficulty to find a few habitable ones, so encumbered were they with filth and rubbish. We had one great luxury and convenience here, viz., a large tank* of running water in the court, none of the purest it must be allowed, but still very useful. I was visited by the ākhún,† who is left to look after the city in the amír's absence. He made an offer of his services, and said that whatever we wanted should be furnished at the amír's expense; and though against my custom, I was here obliged to comply, in order to avoid giving offence. I gave the ākhún the

* Hanz.

† Preacher or orator; a Sikh or Afghán title.

Asef-ed-dauleh's letter to be forwarded to the amir's camp. I had a visit from the Móllá, who said he had accompanied Captain Conolly on the part of the Russian government, from Lásh eastwards. I was also visited by some merchants from Yezd and Kandahár, who have been already, as is always the case with Orientals, getting up all sorts of lies about the state of affairs at Kandahár and Herát, and endeavouring to join themselves to my party, or induce me to wait till they are ready to return. The Kandaháris said that they had been only fifteen days from that place, having come in thirteen; and brought a long lying story about the arrival of forty regiments there. Since Herát began to be in a disturbed state some years ago, many of the carpet-weavers emigrated from it to this place, and carpets of a good quality are now manufactured here, both by them and by the workmen of Bihriján. No carpets, however, that I have seen, are at all to be compared with those made by the Il's in the south of Persia, consisting entirely of wool. The Herát carpets have a cotton warp (or woof?), and are comparatively coarse. Bihriján is celebrated for its manufacture of felt carpets (namads), which, in workmanship and materials, far surpass those of any other place; and they sell accordingly at a comparatively high price. Here, indeed, they are scarcer and dearer than at Mesh-hed or Tehrán. The floor of my apartment was spread with some of these namads, said to be more than a hundred years old, as might be known by the patterns having been quite worn out on one side. They had been turned, and the other side new wrought. They looked new, and were about an inch thick. The heat at present is excessive, and has been greater for the last few days than for many years before; but this is an universal way of speaking both at home and abroad. To-day the thermometer at 3 P.M. in the shade was at 92°, the weather was cloudy, and there was a shower in the afternoon. I find I have caught a bad cold, probably at Khidrí. In the evening I made myself better acquainted with some of the stars.

17th.—I had another visit from the merchants who came to me yesterday, along with several others who wished to accompany us on their return to Kandahár with laden camels; but, as we wish for no additional incumbrances, I gave them a positive refusal. In order to induce us to remain for some time here, that they might transact their business and join our party, they had spread a report that all our officers and troops have left Girishk, and that the road is shut up or unsafe. Their motives, however, being seen, and I having found that instead of 13 days, in which they said they had come from Kandahár, they had been on the road at least 18, and probably more, the falsehood of this report was the more likely. A man brought to me a few iron pyrites, very care-

fully wrapped up in paper. He said he had found them in the hills, and supposed them to be gold, or something equally precious: and he evidently did not believe me when I told him they were of no value. The credulity of the Persians and all orientals in regard to mines, treasures and talismans, is greater than was that of our own countrymen some 500 or 600 years ago. Saifúr Kúlí Khán very gravely told me a long story of a móllá and zergár (goldsmith) at the Kóh Sengín (Stony Mount) near Mesh-hed, the latter of whom found a ruby of some pounds weight under his hand while asleep. The heat is still very great; the thermometer in the shade, at 3 P.M., being 94°. In the afternoon a messenger arrived from the amír's camp, with a letter from him addressed to me, in which he said that he regretted there had not been an opportunity of our meeting, but that he had given orders that whatever we required should be furnished by his people, and recommended me to proceed by the way of Furķ, instead of Serbishah, as there were some horsemen of his at Furķ, one of whom would accompany me as guide. I had a consultation with 'Alí Akber and others as to the best of the two roads; of which, that by Serbishah is the shortest and best; but as the amír had recommended the other, and I also wished to see his two strongest forts, Furķ and Tabas, I decided on adopting the latter. The amír has now been for some time out against the Nakhíyah tribe at Kál'ah Khusb, 5 farsangs (19 miles) from Bihrjánd (Bihrján), with from 1500 to 2000 men, all the force he can muster; but he has not hitherto been able to do anything against them, though they number only about 300 fighting men. His operations have been limited to encamping at a distance from their fort, in the plain, without venturing to approach or attack it; carrying off what he can of the crop which is now ripe on the side nearest to his camp, without being able to prevent the besieged from coming out and securing that portion of it which lies nearest to the fort. I wanted to purchase some of the fine namads here, for which Bihrján is celebrated, but found that but few were procurable, and those dearer than at Tehrán or Mesh-hed. During the night I obtained a meridional altitude of Sirius.

18th.—I rode out this morning through the town and bázár. There is, however, hardly what can be regularly called a bázár; but in the quarter so named, there are many tolerably good shops, more in the European than in the oriental style; that is, they are not altogether open to the street, but the goods are placed in neat rooms inside, and protected from the heat and dust. Bihrján contains from 4000 to 5000 houses pretty well built of crude brick, three or four good caravanseráis,* and several good mosques

* Kúrwanserás.

and baths. It has no walls or defences, though the amír was desirous of erecting them; but he was prevented from doing so by the sháh. There are a few small gardens outside of the town, which produce little except jujube* and barberry† trees. The water of the canals (kanáts) which supply the place is very brackish.

The cookery of Bihriján is about the worst I have ever seen; strong and greasy: so fond do they seem of highly-seasoned food, that even the bread is thickly covered with shreds of onions and aromatic herbs; and all their dishes are full of pepper, grease, garlic and onions. As this was Friday (Jum'ah), I did not see the process of making the namads, as the workshops were shut. I had a visit from a jerráh, or surgeon, who told me that he had practised for some time in Kandahár, Herát, and among the Házárehs. He came to show me a ball-forceps that he had constructed for the purpose of extracting a ball which a patient of his had received in the thigh ten days before, and which, he said, had partly lodged in the bone. He had tried to extract it with levers, pincers, &c. without success. The instrument he had contrived was a rod armed at one end with three claws furnished with springs, so that it could be projected from a tube or drawn into it by means of a screw-handle. The idea was good; but the size and appearance of the instrument were enough to frighten any patient. He asked me many questions about our remedies for siphylis, and I gave him a little advice about the indiscriminate use of mercury. He showed me his case of instruments, many of which were curiosities in their way, and would astonish a London chirurgeon: among others, some brass and copper channeled probes, for drawing off the humours of the eye. The inhabitants of Bihriján are chiefly Persians and Shí'ahs, and have a very bad character for treachery, dishonesty and rapacity.

Having at length got ready for a move, and received an order from the amír's deputy, the ākhún, for accommodation and súrsát [suwar sá'at?] in the various villages on the route, I left Bihriján at 3h. 40m. P.M. under an excessively hot sun, amidst an assemblage of all the idle fellows in the place, of whom there were abundance, as it was Friday. Before we left our quarters, a man came to me with a paper, and read over a few names of Persian kháns, one of them designated as of Tális; he supposed that I knew them, and said that they had desired him to read or show the paper to any European or English officer who might probably be acquainted with their names.

We kept E.S.E. by S. in an excessively hot sun, at first close to

* 'Unnáb.

† Zirishk.

the base of the low hills which bound the plain to the left, and advanced by degrees more towards the centre of it, keeping in the direction of Buzhd:* we reached that place at 5h. 30m., and took up our station among some threshing-floors outside of the gardens. Buzhd is situate on the western base of a bare gravelly hill which forms the terminating point of a line of low hills projecting into the plain from the E.S.E. Below the village there is an extensive line of gardens, vineyards, and fields watered by a most copious clear stream from a *kanát*. The trees are chiefly jujubes† and mulberries:‡ wheat and barley are cultivated in considerable quantity; and some beet-root and cotton are also raised as well as turnips. The village contains about 200 families of sunnis. Almost the only article of manufacture is an open, thin, cotton cloth§ for shirts. This cloth, however, is produced of a better quality in the villages on the skirts of the hills. The distance of Buzhd from Barjand [Mihriján] is called 2 farsangs ($7\frac{1}{2}$ miles). Some people of Herát visited me here, and told the common story of their having been obliged to quit their native place by the tyranny of Yár Moḥammed. An old and very intelligent móllá here gave me a description of the caves or dakhmehs|| in a hill at Chemeshk, about 3 farsangs (11 miles) W.N.W. of Mudh, which I was very desirous of visiting; but I found that they lay too much out of my road. He said that on entering the first chamber (which, like the others, is cut out of the rock) by a doorway in the face of the hill, the bodies of three men are seen, in a half-sitting posture, against the wall in shrouds (kufens). The hair of their bodies is quite fresh, as well as what appear to be sword-wounds on their faces. From this chamber a gallery leads into another containing a tank of water, near which is the body of an old white-bearded man in a state of perfect preservation. From this several passages lead in different directions to chambers containing large heaps of bones, which can only be visited with lights, and which the people are afraid fully to explore.

19th.—We left Buzhd at 3h. 20m. in a cool morning, and kept through the upper part of the village, and round the shoulder of the hill, then in an easterly direction, over a hard gravelly plain, partly that of Barjand (Bihriján or Mihriján), and partly separated from it by the ridge of low gravelly hills at the W.N.W. end of which Buzhd is situated, which ridge runs out obliquely towards the centre of the plain. At 8h. 5m. A.M. we reached our station,¶

* Busjd (in the MS.)

† 'Unnab and sinjid.

‡ Sháh-tút.

§ Táb-dár (i. e. warm).

|| Burial-places of the Gabrs (Gauris or Jauris), who adhere to the doctrines of Zoroaster (Zerátusht), and are called by us, Parsis.

¶ Menzil.

the village of Isfizár, and got tolerable quarters in a garden. This place has a ruinous castle* on a hillock,† which, with a few houses outside, contains about twenty families, partly shí'ah,‡ and partly sunní.§ There are a few gardens and corn-fields around it; the latter are just changing colour. I prescribed for the ketkhodá,|| a poor, blind, paralytic man, whom the native physicians had nearly killed with pepper, ginger, opium and things of a similar nature which they had given him as remedies. He asked me whether the English wanted this country, and when they intended to take possession of it, saying that he and all his people were ready to receive us as deliverers. Isfizár has a good and sufficient supply of water from a canal.¶ We left Isfizár at 4h. 35m. P.M., and ascending gradually its narrow valley bounded by low, round, green hills, came to a small ruined fort on the right, and the remains of houses on the left called Terughdeh. From hence we kept ascending by a tortuous path among rugged shale rocks stratified perpendicularly, and twisted and jutting out in every direction. At half-past 6 P.M. we reached the highest point in the Pass, at which there is a very scanty spring of water. The descent on the other side was very steep and difficult, and the path much cut up by ravines and dry beds of torrents. After a very tedious ride, having taken every opening and successive line of round hills to be the Pass, and having proceeded for some time in the broad, gravelly, dry bed of a torrent, at 9h. 25m. P.M. we reached an abundant spring at the head of a fine valley filled with walnut, mulberry, and jujube** trees; and near the road a most magnificent nestereh or white rose-tree of great size hidden in snowy wreaths of blossoms near a fine plane†† tree. On the bare, rugged hills to the left, were the remains of a stone tower for the defence of the Pass, and in the hollow, two groups of Arab tents, near which we halted at 9h. 45m. The ruinous castle here, in the midst of a few gardens, is named Doshunde.

20th.—Last night was cool and pleasant, and I slept soundly till the time of starting at 3h. 45m. A.M., when we left the tents and proceeded down the narrow valley S.E. by E. through a fertile and cultivated country with ripening crops till we came at 4h. 45m. A.M. in sight of the castle of Furķ, and keeping the same course, reached our halting-place in a garden opposite to the village and castle, at 5h. 15m. The náyib showed the greatest alarm at the sight of thirty horsemen entering the village or approaching the gate of the fortress. This castle has the repu-

* Kal'ah. † Tepeh. ‡ Adherents of 'Alí.
 § Followers of 'Omar. || Deputy chief. ¶ Káriz.
 ** 'Uunáb. †† Chinár.

tation of being the strongest place in Khorásán ; and I have no doubt that the amír recommended this road on purpose that I might see that he has a place of such strength in his possession. In this country, where there is not a single gun to be found, and where a battering-train has never been heard of, it is no doubt a strong place ; and the very idea of a stone fortress in a country where none but mud walls are to be seen, is of itself something. This castle is situate on a hill about 200 or 250 feet high, but it is commanded by hills to the N. and W. within cannon-shot (point blank) : another hill to the southward, on the opposite side of the ravine, is about 1200 yards from the summit to the walls of the fort. The building itself is of an oblong square form with three tiers or ranges of building ; the foundations and lower half of the walls and houses being of undressed stone and lime, and at the upper and inner parts partly hewn from the rock (limestone) on which it stands. The upper portions of the walls, houses, and battlements, are a mixture of stone, mud and crude brick, and in some places are of mud and crude brick only, which is already crumbling to pieces. At the angles of the walls there are round towers of stone and crude brick loopholed, as are also the outer walls ; the whole, however, is clumsily and unskilfully built, and a few rounds of shot would probably bring down an entire side of the structure. The gateway is on the eastern side, partly covered by the houses of the village, but without other defences. Within the fort there are three large tanks, said to be sufficient for the supply of a large garrison for a year and a half : the water comes from a spring in one of the hills to the westward, and is conveyed to the fort by a covered aqueduct. A large store of corn is usually kept here ; and the granaries can hold from 2400 to 2600 kharwárs* of 100 Káyin, or 50 Tabríz mans (each).* When the sháh was besieging Herát, 18,000 Káyin kharwárs are said to have been supplied to his army at once from Furk. Before the time of Mírzá Rafi' Khán of Der-miyán, there was a ruinous stone tower on the hill surrounded by a few huts ; but about thirty or thirty-five years ago (1806) he erected the present fortress, it is said, partly by the labours of Turkomán prisoners, and rendered himself by its means, with only a small district, richer and more powerful than Mír-'alem Khán, father of the present amír of Káyin. When Seifúr Kulí Khán visited it from Herát, about twenty-five years ago (1816), a short time after it had been built, there were only a few trees and one or two gardens in the valley beneath, though it is now quite full of them. Mírzá Rafi' Khán constantly resided in the fort, where he kept all his riches, not

* See note, p. 152.

admitting into it even his own sons ; having, as an oriental, sufficient experience and examples that in such cases parricide is a crime too common. The care of the place was entrusted to his *názir* or steward, *Mírzá Ahmed*, in whom he placed the greatest confidence, and whom he loaded with favours. This man having been gained over by *Mír-'alem Khán* about fourteen years (1827) since, drew up a large party of the amír's men by ropes at the back of the castle during the night ; and they, seizing *Mírzá Rafí' Khán* and most of his followers while asleep, put them to death, and remained masters of the fortress and the riches it contained : among other things, the pearl-adorned tent of *Nádir Sháh*. The *názir* met with the just reward of his villainy ; for some time afterwards, on professing his devotion and attachment to the amír, and his fidelity to him, the amír asked him what salary and emoluments his former master, *Mírzá Rafí' Khán*, had allowed him annually : the unsuspecting traitor, in hopes that the amír would even increase what he had received, recapitulated all the riches and benefits which had been bestowed upon him. The amír, on this, said that the return for all this kindness had been the destruction of his benefactor and his family ; he wondered that he had credulity or assurance enough to offer himself for any office of trust, or even to speak of such a thing as faithful service, ordered him to be driven from his presence, and his eyes to be put out ; he still lives, old, blind and in great poverty, in the village of *Der-miyán*, all his wealth having been confiscated.

Furk der-miyán contains about two hundred families of sunnís, but has no manufactures except a little *kirbás*,* or coarse calico. The gardens furnish a considerable quantity of walnuts, and some of the trees from 30,000 to 40,000 ; but this year there has been a failure of the crop. The barberry (*zerishk*) is cultivated in large quantities, and the fruit exported to the eastward. They say that the crop is good only every second year. There is not a single gun in the castle, and only a few men ; all the disposable force being with the amír at *Khusb*. I had a visit from the *Ketkhodá* or *Náyib*, and many female patients applying for remedies for their multifarious complaints, but especially for barrenness. They told me here, as they had done at *Bírjand* (*Bihrján*), that an English *hakím* had come from that place about a year ago, and remained here several days, exploring the hills for minerals, &c. I took a hasty sketch of the fort in the forenoon, and in the afternoon ascended the hill to the southward, and had a good view of the fort, the village, and the surrounding country.

Our guide, *Ali Akber Beg*, was now generally known and wel-

* Or *karpás* : the *carbasus* of Pliny.

comed in the different villages, whether from fear or liking, it would be difficult to say. A report was brought by the Náyib of an inroad* having been made a few days ago, and again yesterday, in the plain of Ṭabas, in the direction of our intended march, by a number of horsemen, variously stated at from 2000 to 10,000: and some of my party, who are ready to take alarm at everything, wished me to remain at Furķ until the danger had passed by, without reflecting that, if the inroad had been really made, the danger was already past—at least from that party. I was much inclined to believe that this was the same report as that we heard at Nokab, which, after an interval of about a week, had travelled hither; the numbers of the enemy increasing with the distance.

We left Furķ at 2h. 50m. P.M., without our promised guide, who was brought by Rejeb, with his hands tied, after we had gone some distance; which, had it been seen by any of the country people in the fields, they would certainly have accused us of man-stealing, as he was a poor old man. After we had gone about 4 miles I dismissed him with a present.

After a very tedious ride in a direction E. by S., we reached the castle† of Ṭabas at 7h. 30m. P.M., and were well received by Ahmed Khán, the commandant of the fort; but I preferred cool and airy quarters on a platform outside of the gate, to the confined and dusty huts within the walls. The sun set W.S.W by S.‡

The castle† of Ṭabas is considered as a very strong place, and ranks next in importance in this respect, to Furķ. It has a lofty mud-wall, glacis, and dry ditch, with a sort of drawbridge. The gate is defended by two massive mud-towers. Neither here, however, nor at Furķ, is there a single gun. The greater part of the amír's horsemen and retainers is generally stationed in this place, under a trusty officer. The interior of the place exhibits a mass of filthy, ruinous mud-huts, huddled together in complete confusion, containing, it was said, about one hundred families. All the disposable men are now at the amír's camp. We had here more credible information of another inroad having been made, a few days ago, by a party of Hazáreh (Afghán) horse, in number about twenty-five, on some of the neighbouring villages in the plain. The inhabitants of Ṭabas are a mixture of I's and Persians.

21st.—I intended to have set out at daylight, but the horseman promised by the khán had not been sent overnight, nor a supply of barley, which it seems there was not much chance of our being able to obtain at our next halting-place, and which it was therefore necessary we should carry with us. The khán sent a mes-

* Chappáó.

† K'al'ah.

‡ More exactly $114\frac{1}{2}$ W.

sage to say that he wished to visit me, if I would wait, but I could not afford to lose my day's march by so doing, and we accordingly set out at 4h. 10m. A.M., keeping a little out from the castle in the plain, with a N.N.W. course.

Before we left the place I rode out to look at some windmills near the fort, of a novel construction, at least to me; they were in full operation, as it was blowing a gale of wind from the N.W. There were two buildings, one containing eight, and the other ten, arranged in a semicircular form, each in a partition open on two sides; the breadth of the partition was filled up by an upright spindle, furnished with six vanes made of reeds; this spindle passes through an aperture in the roof, and turns the upper millstone, to which it is attached: the flour runs down into the apartment below. Tabas has several watercourses,* and abundance of good water.

At 4h. 30m. A.M. we had the ruined and deserted castle † of 'Ali-ābād, 1 mile to the right. It, as well as many others, has gone to decay since the murder of Mirzá Rafi' Khán. A little further on, we saw a number of people running, as if for their lives, towards two small round towers in the fields near the road. On riding up to the towers in which they had taken refuge, and from which they were brandishing sundry swords and matchlocks, we found that they had taken us for a party of Turkománs, or men-stealing Afgháns, an incursion ‡ having been made on a neighbouring village to the W. last night, and the chief's § son carried off.

At 5h. A.M. we reached the fortress || of Mohammed-ābād, built in a circular form, with lofty mud-walls, and containing about sixty houses, some within the walls and the rest without, forming a circle around it. On approaching it we could see the whole population in commotion, and the people from the fields, tents, and houses outside of the fort running helter-skelter to it, the tower of which, over the gate, was thronged with people, and in front of it a large body of men had turned out, armed with matchlocks and swords. Their fears and suspicions of us had been increased by seeing us come across the fields, and not by the regular path, and by our dress, as well as by the news they had received that an inroad had been made. Our Tabas horseman, in his Persian costume, having ridden ahead, waving his cap, quieted their apprehensions a little; and two horsemen, who had been ensconced behind the musketeers, ¶ dashed out to meet us, with a most superabundant display of courage, galloping and wheeling about, and brandishing their matchlocks. When they had once

* Káriz.

† Kál'ah.
|| Kál'ah.

‡ Chappáo.
¶ Tufenkchí.

§ Ketkhodá.

discovered who we were, old and young, men, women and children, turned out to receive us; and we could hardly believe that the place could have contained so many inhabitants. They brought us a *ḳaliyán** and a draught of sour milk.† When they heard that I was an Englishman they immediately began to accuse our government of being the cause of the late frequent inroads of the Afgháns, by the restoration of Ghóriyán to Sháh Kámrán. They say that the parties of Afgháns generally rendezvous at that place, or at least pass by it, both in coming and returning, and that the Hákim of Ghóriyán receives from them a tithé of the prisoners they make. I could not convince them, however, that—setting any other reasons aside—the time of harvest, when almost the whole population, especially the women and children, are in the fields, is the very season in which the men-stealers would be most likely to make their inroads. They said they begged and prayed that the English would come and take possession of their country, to deliver them from the tyranny and exactions of their own chiefs, and from the incursions of the Afgháns and Turkománs. The inhabitants of Moḥammed-ábád are chiefly I'ls.

From Moḥammed-ábád we kept a southerly course, and at 6h. 5m. reached the village and castle ‡ of Destgird, containing about forty I'liyát families, with scarcely one man to be seen among them, most of the men having been carried off by the Turkománs, by the stratagem mentioned above, when the plunderers pretended to be the retinue of the uncle of Sháh-pasand, khán of Lásh, proceeding to Mesh-hed. Many of the villages in this plain are in such extreme poverty, on account of the inroads of the Afgháns and Turkománs, that their wretched inhabitants have bread to eat only for about three or four months of the year, subsisting for the remaining eight or nine months on turnips, beet, or such food, although the soil, when cultivated, yields luxuriant crops of grain. The fúlgehs about the Nakhíyah Ḳal'ah of Khusb to the W. of Barjand (Bihrján), and those in the plain of Ṭabas, are the granaries of the amír's country, and without them the population could not exist; yet not a twentieth, nor even a fiftieth, part of the plain of Ṭabas is tilled, though it might be brought under cultivation from the one range of hills to the other.

Destgird is inhabited by I'ls, and there were a good many of their black tents outside of the castle.‡ From hence we kept a course S.E. by S. $\frac{1}{2}$ S.,|| through rich dáyimeh wheat-fields, in which they were reaping the ripe corn with most clumsy sickles.

* The Persian pipe, in which the smoke is made to pass through water.

† Dúgh.

‡ Ḳal'ah.

|| 150° E.

On seeing us approach, about a hundred men, women, and children, who were busy in the fields, collected in a body, the men with their matchlocks some way in advance; but when they found who we were, they received us joyfully. They repeated the same story about the surrender of Ghóriyán's being the cause of the inroads,* and said that three of their people had been carried off the night before by a party of seventeen Afghán horsemen. They knew 'Alí Akber, our guide, who, when on his way to Mesh-hed, had told them that our army was coming in this direction; they now surrounded him, asking why they had not come, and when they were to expect them.

The whole plain, to about 2 miles S. of Destgird, its southern limit, has at one time been under cultivation, and the quantity of corn that might be raised from it is enormous. They never allow the land they are in the habit of tilling, or that near the forts,† to lie fallow, but spread on it, every two or three years, a small quantity of the earth of old mud-walls, salt, ashes, or pigeons' dung. All over the plain there are, thinly scattered, rounded pieces of vesicular lava, which appear to have come from some low, dark, rocky hills, between the higher limestone ranges at its south-eastern corner.

At 6h. 30m. A.M., having gradually ascended for about 10m., we got among low hills, where the path divides, leading, one way to Derah or Derahí, through the hills to the left, without either villages or water, and the other by Rúzah, which we followed, to the S.E.‡ At 7h. 10m. A.M. we reached the top of a rugged and difficult, rocky pass, the path winding among huge blocks of obsidian, of which the lower hills entirely consist. At 7h. 40m., after a rugged descent, we kept E. At 7h. 50m. we reached a narrow valley, filled with torrent-worn, earthy mounds, covered with a saline efflorescence; and there were in front of us, two remarkable rocky hills, rising up, bare and perpendicular, to a height of about 250 feet. At the base of the southern one, there were a few gardens, a burying-ground,§ and a small castle.||

At 8h. 5m. A.M. we reached the castle|| and village of Rúzah; ¶ the whole population being collected on the walls, expecting us as enemies. They mustered a considerable body of matchlockmen, several of whom fired off their pieces at us; one of their bullets striking the ground a few yards in advance of us. When once, however, they discovered who we were, we met with a more hospitable reception, and, getting good quarters in a garden, passed the day pleasantly under the shade of some fine mulberry-

* Chappáó. † Kál'ah. ‡ 135° E. § Mazár.
 || Kál'ah. ¶ Or Rauzah, *i. e.* garden.

trees, the heat being tempered by a strong north-westerly breeze. The red and white mulberries, apricots, &c. were ripe, and the crop cut, but the grapes require another month or six weeks to bring them to maturity.

Rúzah has many good houses, but is almost deserted, not numbering more than twenty families of I'liyáts. It is surrounded by gardens, vineyards, and a good deal of cultivation. Most of the Persian I'ls, at least those in the eastern part of the kingdom, acknowledged the father of the present amír of Káyin, Mír-'álem Khán, as their chief.

Our rate of travelling to-day was about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour. We are now beyond the limits of the Turkomán forays; at least they rarely come beyond the pass between this and the plain of Tabas. I had a visit from one of the villagers, whose brother, one of the amír's chief men, is at the camp at Khusb. He was deaf and dumb, and amused me much by his inquiries and gestures. Another of the villagers acted as interpreter. He asked why we did not come and take the country, and put out Yár Moḥammed's eyes?—a punishment which to him, already deprived of speech and hearing, must appear worse than death itself. He indicated Yár Moḥammed by twirling his hand about his head, as if tracing the folds of a shawl-turban, and pointing to his side, as to a sword. The Kájárs* and Moḥammed Sháh he designated by putting on a look of great consequence and twirling his mustachios; and Aḥmed Khán, the governor of Tabas, who is a stout man, by placing his open hands on either side of his belly and blowing himself out like the frog in the fable.

As our next march was a long one, said to be 7 Káyin farsakhs, † we left Rúzah at 11h. 45m. P.M., and kept a S.E. by E. course over rocky and broken ground.

At 4h. 35m. on Tuesday the 22nd of June we came to a cultivated spot in a narrow valley, with some corn-fields and a few fine trees of the large black mulberry, or sháh-tút, just ripe. We mounted the large one in the road, which appeared to be public property, and feasted for nearly an hour, much to the disfigurement of our hands, visages and clothes. This spot belongs to the Kal'eh Makháneq, in advance of us, which we reached at 6h. 10m. This small castle was hidden behind some low hills to the right of the road, so that unless we had been told of it by the guide we should not have been aware of its existence, and had not the people taken alarm at our party, and shut themselves up within their mud walls, discharging a few matchlocks now and then to inspire us with a wholesome dread. They had left out two or

* King's tribe.

† The Arabic form of the Persian word "farsang."

three men, so old and decrepit as to run no danger of being carried off by men-stealers, to answer questions and to watch our motions; but they were either stupified with terror, or pretended to be so, so that we could not get an intelligible reply from them. As my people wished to halt here, instead of going on to Derah at once, I rode up to the top of the hill near the castle,* and endeavoured to parley with its occupants; but as they would listen to nothing, and as neither I nor Rejeb wished to be any longer a mark for their shot, several of which they had fired at us, nor to end our lives thus ingloriously, we decided on retreating, and again moved onwards at 6h. 25m. in a general course of S. by E. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. The water-course† and pool on the road side were surrounded by fine jujube ‡ trees, with a very tempting shade. The villagers here had some sufficient reason for their fears and precautions, as since the time that 'Alí Akber passed, about six weeks ago, five of them had been carried off by the Afgháns; and one of the old men said that no less than sixteen from their village were in slavery at Bokhárá, or in its neighbourhood. At 6h. 50m., our course being S.S.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ S., we got into the broad, dry bed of another torrent,§ overgrown with tamarisks and brushwood, and bordered by rugged limestone cliffs, with a few mastic trees|| at intervals, showing their decayed trunks in the clefts of the rocks; their scathed and stunted appearance, and the blackened snake-like roots and stems of the tamarisks, giving the scene a singularly wild and savage appearance, to which the dry and arid appearance of these fantastic hills, and the total absence of animal life, gave double force. After emerging from this narrow ravine, the road crossed some more open but still very uneven ground, with ranges of hills apparently volcanic to the right, about half a mile off, and successive lines of high, sharp and precipitous limestone hills 2 miles and a half distant on the left, and stretching out far away to the eastward. Over the low ground there were scattered many large rounded blocks of vesicular lava. The plain beyond the point of a low range of hills to the right, opened out wide to the southward and westward. At a quarter past 9, on turning round a bare limestone hill to the right, we saw Derah bearing S.E. by S. $\frac{1}{2}$ S., and keeping along the edge of the dry and stony plain about 1 mile from the hills, but gradually approaching them, we reached our halting-place at a quarter past 10 A.M., and were well received in the absence of the chief, Mohammed Rizá Kálanter, ¶ by his brother, Khwájah** 'Abbás, and accommodated with as

* Kál'ah.

† Káriz.

‡ 'Unnáb.

§ Rúd-kháneh, i. e. river house.

|| Lentiscs—*Pistacia Lentiscus*, Lin.

¶ Or Kálender.

** Pronounced khájá, or khojá.

good quarters as the place could furnish in another brother's house.

The chief here owes a nominal allegiance to the amír of Káyin, and has at present 100 of his men in the amír's camp at Khusb; but Sháh-pasand Khán also claims allegiance from him, on the other side, and has 50 of his men at Juwein.* He very naturally wishes to be independent of both, and made many protestations of his desire to serve our government, especially should our forces march against Herát, as he expressed the most bitter hatred of Yár Moḥammed. Sháh-pasand Khán and his family had been his guests here for about six months, when threatened by Sháh Kámrán. From the poverty and ruinous state of the village, they have no horsemen, but he said that if he had money to pay the expense of clearing out an old water-course† in the plain, it would enable him to keep at least 20, or a number sufficient to guard the passes to the plain of Tabas.

Derah, or Derahí as it is generally called, contains about 250 families of Persian shí'ahs, and can furnish 300 of the most hardy, active, and brave foot soldiers in the country. The village is situated on the southern base of a bare limestone hill, surmounted by a ruinous fort, with a few gardens and corn-fields; but its chief produce, though but scanty, is cotton and turnips, which last are its chief article of food for many months. To it is attached the small village of Lámú, about 2 farsangs (7 miles) to the E.N.E. Nothing is manufactured here but a little coarse calico.‡ The chief complains that his people have nothing to do, and, as is generally the case under such circumstances, they are miserably poor, and bear a bad character for dishonesty. There is great abundance of large game in the neighbourhood, especially of the wild asses.§ Assa-fœtida grows in considerable quantities both on the hills and in the plain. In the forenoon 'Alí Akber sent off a courier|| to Lásh, to apprise Sháh-pasand Khán of my coming. The messenger engaged to perform the journey between noon and nine o'clock the next morning, being at least 22 farsakhs¶ (or 88 miles) with water at only three places.

23rd.—I passed the night on the roof very uncomfortably, owing to a furious gale from the N.W. I intended to have set off in the evening, but as many of the cattle were knocked up, I complied with the wishes of the party to give them another day's rest before we ventured on the desert. After breakfast, I visited the

* Joaen in Arrowsmith's Map of Central Asia (1834).

† Káríz. ‡ Kirbás. § Gúrkhar. || Kásid.

¶ Farsakh is Arabic, and Farsang (whence Parasanga) Persian: he engaged to travel upwards of 88 miles in 21 hours—above 4 miles per hour.

old castle * on the hill top, over the village, but found it a mere ruinous heap of stones and mud; and it has never been either large or strong. The road to Serbishah, 12 farsangs (45 miles) distant, bore from it W., and two black mounds† in the plain, distant 2 miles S.W. There is a lofty steep round-topped mountain, with a ruined fort on it, called Kāl'ah Síband, E.S.E. about 12 miles off the opening in the hills, by which the road leads to Khurmáki S.S.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ S.

In the plain, which is longest from W. to S.E., there are one or two spots that have water, but no villages. The furious westerly gale still continues. Thermometer in the shade at 3 P.M. 90° Fahrenheit.

24th (Nativity of St. John the Baptist).—The violent gale still continues. Intelligence was brought of some men having been seen lurking about in the desert by the Shikáris‡ from this place; and last night a plundering party of Belúches mounted, as they always are, on camels, passed close to the gardens, and sent one of their party to procure bread. The Belúches never take men, but carry off whatever cattle they can lay their hands on, from a sheep to a camel. Their number amounted to 15.

Khwájah 'Abbás accounted for the greater frequency of inroads§ since the surrender of Ghóriyán, by saying, that the usual and most direct road of the plundering Hazárehs (Afgháns) lies through that place. He stated the price of a stout child, man, and woman to be respectively about 20, 15, and 40 khorásání tómáns (27*l.*, 19*l.*, and 54*l.*). I learned that Baron Boré had gone and returned by this route and by Lásh to Kandahár, when the sháh was besieging Herát, charged with 8000 tómáns (11,000*l.*) from the sháh to the serdárs (commanders or chiefs). He had not failed to magnify the power of his own country and depreciate ours by every representation possible. He remained only one day at Lásh.

Having got, as a guide, a stout, one-eyed shikári, named 'Alí Kadáng, celebrated as a pedestrian, with his large balls of calves stuck up under his hams, and his long legs wrapped round with cotton rollers, we left Derah at half-past 2 P.M., and having, at 20 minutes past 5, reached a small well of good water, we halted 25 minutes to water our cattle, this being the only well or spring in our journey. After crossing a marshy waste generally covered with a saline crust, and containing many pools of brackish water bordered by reeds, with a course generally S.E., at half-past 6 we proceeded by a path winding among rocky hills. We now moved along quietly, with every precaution to prevent surprise or

* Kāl'ah. † Tepehs—mounds, or tumuli. ‡ Hunters. § Chappáo.

confusion, in case we should encounter a party of Belúches, an event by no means improbable, as there are several grassy hollows in the neighbourhood, where they are in the habit of halting. We intended to have remained till day-light at a small spring to the right of our path, about 2 farsangs (7 miles) from Khurmákí, but, as we found it dried up, we went on, till at 11 P.M., having a remarkable conical hill about 1 mile to our left, we halted in a patch of sandy ground covered with long coarse grass and tamarisks, to wait the return of daylight. It was probable that, if the Belúches or Afgháns were out, we should find them at this spring; and it was better that we should meet them in the day than in the night, for, as the saying is, "in the desert no man meets a friend." The northerly gale, which has been blowing for some days, still continues. We got a few hours' disturbed sleep, and our cattle a mouthful of food, though nearly overwhelmed with sand and dust.

25th.—We left our uncomfortable quarters when daylight appeared at a quarter past 3 A.M., and kept a S.S.E. course along the dry sandy bed of a torrent, gradually turning to N.W. round the end of the rugged range of limestone hills, one of which is the conical hill already mentioned, and thence over dry, rocky ground, which by its appearance, gave no indication of the vicinity of water. At 20 minutes past 4 A.M. we reached the scanty spring of Khurmákí at the foot of a precipitous limestone hill. This spring is so named from a single date-tree,* apparently a female, which grows close to it, and indicates a tropical climate, being the first I had seen since I left Baghdád, now nearly a year ago, except some young ones in the botanical garden at Edinburgh. Though no stream at present flows from this spring, there is abundance of water, which soon returns after the hollow receiving it has been emptied. The water, though hard, is good. There is much large game hereabouts, such as the antelope and wild ass,† as was manifest from their recent tracks about the spring. In the same chain of hills, about 1 farsang (4 miles) to the north, there is another scanty spring of fresh water, and a copious saline one with abundance of grass and reeds; the name of the place is Ghurghurí. From the precipice overhanging the spring, the conical hill above-mentioned, with a pointed shingly summit, bears 95° W. (W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. by S.), distant half a mile, and it is a good landmark for the well, especially from the eastward. On its western side there is another very scanty spring of fresh water, with a single date-tree. The centre of the Kóh Atesháneh bore 85° E. (E. by N. $\frac{1}{2}$ E.), distant about 10 miles. On its northern end there are two large streaks or beds of white sand, which is used by the in-

* Khurmá.

† Gur-khar.

habitants of Kalákah (?) for softening and cleansing their woollen cloths. The distance from Derahí to this place is called 6 farsangs (20 miles), but it is at least 9 farsangs (31 miles). I found a shady cave in the face of the hill, and took up my abode in it when the day got hot, and passed the afternoon very pleasantly. 'Alí Akber's man went to sleep, and allowed his horse and pony* to stray into the desert among the low hills, and several horsemen had to search for them an hour or two before they were found.

We left Khurmákí at 5 minutes before 5 P.M., and, retracing our steps for a short distance, reached the dry bed of the stream† in a quarter of an hour, and crossed a gravelly plain with a course 95° E. (E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. by S.). At about 6 P.M. we saw a herd of wild asses‡ half a mile to the right, and rode in that direction to get a shot at them; but they were too shy to let me get within range, though I was near enough to have a good view of them. The herd consisted of about thirty old and one or two young ones. I galloped some way after them in expectation that the foals would fall behind, but the little fellows kept ahead of all. There was another large herd also, close to the right of our path; and the plain, they say, is here sometimes covered with them. Among the herds of wild asses, horses, which have escaped and become wild, are occasionally seen.

This plain is quite level, hard, and bare, exhibiting many rounded pieces of lava and jasper, with a scanty sprinkling of the usual dry, thorny, and aromatic shrubs of the desert, bent down and nearly uprooted by the furious gales that sweep over its surface. The tracks which lead over it are very indistinct, and further to the S.W. there are no land-marks to guide a traveller unaccustomed to traverse the desert. Seifúr Kúlí Khán was travelling many years ago from Láš to Bírjand (Bihrján), in company with some merchants, Uzbegs, Turkománs, and Hindús, when one of the latter lagged behind and was never again heard of, though every possible search was made, and a man well acquainted with the desert sent from Derah to look for him. The unfortunate man had with him a few water-melons and some bread, which would only serve to prolong his sufferings. His bones are, in all probability, whitening in the desert. The appearance of the high land we had left over Khurmákí is very remarkable, and cannot be mistaken: a high though not extensive table-land, with a pointed conical hill at its southern extremity, and a mammillary hill a little higher at its northern end.

At 9 o'clock P.M. we had the end of the Kóh Atesháneh (fiery mount) 2 miles to the left. It is so called from the extreme heat

* Yábú [a Hindí word].

† Rúd-kháneh.

‡ Gúr-khar.

and aridity of its neighbourhood; and we were fortunate in having the strong northerly gale still blowing, without which the heat would have been insupportable. After crossing broken, clayey, saline ground, covered with tamarisks, with an easterly course at the rate of 3 miles per hour, we reached our halting-place in the bed of the Herút (Herí Rúd), and went to sleep among the sand in a tamarisk-bush at 25 minutes past 12 in the morning of Saturday the 26th of June, 1841.

This place is said to be 7 farsangs (25 miles) from Khurmákí, but is in reality about 8 (29 miles). From the hill above the spring at Khurmákí, the Deryái Hámú,* I learned from our guide, 'Alí Kadáng, that the flesh of the wild ass † is dried and cured for winter-use, and its fat is considered as a great delicacy. As much as 3 Tabríz mans ‡ (21 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.) are sometimes yielded by one carcase. Their hides sell for a good profit at Bihrján and Mesh-hed. The donkey which our guide had brought with him to carry a load of bread, onions, &c., and occasionally to mount his weighty carcase on, fell sick, and would neither eat, drink, nor walk. Bleeding and the cold effusion which I tried were of no use, so he was left behind for the wolves. A camel, that had been in like manner left behind at the Herí Rúd, and was supposed to have died, got so fat and savage among the abundance of grass and water, that when he was found again by his owners some months afterwards, they could not catch him, and he attacked his pursuers, biting and kicking them with great fury, so that he seriously wounded several of them, and was at last shot for the sake of his flesh.

The Herí Rúd § river, in the bed of which we had taken up our quarters, is a continuation of the Adraskand, which rises about 13 farsangs (48 miles) S. of Herát, and when full, in the early part of spring, is large and not fordable without a guide. It now, however, is reduced to a chain of pools filled with stagnant though tolerably good water. It falls singly into the Deryái Hámú. There are some large pools of salt water and saline marshes near its bed, which is thickly bordered by dense tamarisk underwood and reeds, reminding me (as I looked out upon it from a sort of cave in its hard shingly bank, in which I had taken shelter from the burning sun) of the banks of the Tigris between Baṣrah and Baghdád. My habitation was not very comfortable, as the thermometer in the afternoon rose in it to 110°, and everything we had, our clothes, baggage, mouths, eyes, and food, were filled

* Properly Deryái Hámún, the sea of the desert, i. e. the lake Zarrah, or Dharrah.

† Gúr-khar.

‡ 1 Tabrízí man = 600 mişkáls, or 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.; and 1 Kandaharí and Sistáuí man = 800 mişkáls; 1 káyíní man = 400 mişkáls.

§ Pronounced Herút. Herí-rúd signifies Herát river.

with the sand and dust raised by the furious wind. One of my servants saw a large fish in one of the small muddy pools; we immediately set to work, and caught about a dozen with a turban-cloth, weighing from 1 to 4lbs. each; but they were all, as we say of the salmon in Scotland, foul. They were divided among the party, who discussed them with great relish. Early in the forenoon two horsemen arrived from Lásh, having been sent on by Sháh-pasand Khán the evening before, with a present of a basket of grapes and cucumbers, and orders to conduct us to the castle.* The courier† sent from Derah had reached Lásh in about 28 hours, but would have done it in 12 or 14 had he not hurt his foot.

From the Herí Rúd the centre table-hill of Khurmáki bore 103° W. (W. by S. $\frac{1}{2}$ W.S.W.), the extremity of Kóh Atesháneh 106° W. (W. by S. $\frac{2}{3}$ W.S.W.), and its centre 120° W. (nearly S.W. by W.).

[Thus ends abruptly the journal of this highly-gifted and enterprising traveller, the sad termination of whose exertions for the advancement of geographical knowledge was announced by the President of this Society at its anniversary meeting on the 23rd of May, 1842 ('Journal of the Royal Geographical Society,' vol. xii. pp. xxxix., lxxv.). As the reader of the above narrative cannot but desire to learn every particular respecting the remainder of Dr. Forbes's journey, a copy of the deposition made at Kandahár by his confidential servant, who had been strongly recommended to him by a gentleman attached to the mission in Persia, is here subjoined.]

COPY.—*Deposition of a Persian servant who accompanied the late Dr. Forbes to Sístán, and was present at the time of that officer's murder.*

At Lásh, Sháh-pasand Khán made use of every possible argument and entreaty to dissuade Doctor Forbes from prosecuting his journey to Sístán, representing to him that the roads were unsafe, and that, at the present season, it was particularly dangerous for a British officer to place himself in the power of the Belúches; but the Doctor would not be convinced; and to free himself from the importunities of the Khán, he gave him a sealed paper, exonerating him from all responsibility, should any thing unfortunate occur in the course of the journey. "I only require your guarantee," said the Doctor, "as far as the Sístán frontier; beyond that, let the risk be on my own head." Six days were taken up in

* Kál'ah.

† Kásid.

these discussions, at the expiration of which the Doctor hired three camels, and set off on his journey. We halted the first day at a village dependent upon Lásh, and the Mihmándár,* whom Sháh-pasand Khán had sent to escort him to the frontier, paid him every attention, and procured him whatever he required. In the morning Sháh-pasand's man made a last attempt to induce Doctor Forbes to change his mind regarding the Sístán journey; but he failed, and, on the frontier, took his leave, and returned to Lásh.

On the third day from this we reached Chiling, † where Moḥammed Rizá Khán, the chief of Sístán, resided. Here we were most hospitably entertained, and remained three days, the Doctor taking notes from Moḥammed Rizá Khán of all the tribes, forts, ruins, &c., in the province, and entering the same in his journal. This was the general practice of the Doctor throughout the journey; and I frequently remarked that the chiefs appeared to dislike answering his questions, and replied to his inquiries by asking his object in seeking such information. My master used, as he travelled along the road, to note carefully all the distances, which he put down in his tablets. He also inquired the name of every fort and village that we saw, and he was constantly using a compass, and sometimes a larger instrument, which he called an astrolabe. He also sometimes made sketches and plans of the different forts, and showed them to the kháns who inhabited them, at which they did not always seem well pleased. None of the people with whom we servants associated appeared to understand what could be the object of the Doctor's travelling; some said he was an engineer, others a magician, but most people, I think, looked on him as a spy. He always said himself, when asked, that his object was merely siyáhat (travelling for amusement), or on a pilgrimage; but it was not believed that any one would come at such a season into Sístán for the mere pleasure of looking at old mounds; and his visit was, I think, generally supposed to be connected with the state of political affairs, and with the probable advance of British troops against Herát.

Moḥammed Rizá Khán did not, however, in his personal intercourse with the Doctor, show any signs of suspicion, or treat him in any way with discourtesy. After remaining three days at Chiling the Doctor asked for a guide to take him to the Kúhi-khwájah in the lake of Sístán, ‡ and the Khán immediately appointed a suitable escort. We crossed the lake to the island, and spent a day very agreeably in this excursion, after which we again returned to Chiling, and passed another night there as the guests of Moḥammed Rizá Khán. On the morrow, the Khán sent an escort with us to his other fort of Síkóhá, appointing a mihmándár to attend upon the Doctor. We remained there three days, and were treated most hospitably; Dr. Forbes employing himself in sketching the fort and collecting information regarding the surrounding country.

From Síkóhá we went on to Dashtak, the fort of Moḥammed Hashám

* Protector.

† This and other names are doubtful.

‡ The lake Zerreh, also called Deryái Hámún, i. e. sea of the desert.—F. S.

Khán; and our sojourn there was protracted to five days. On the day of our arrival there was some confusion in the place, owing to the death of the Khán's son; but afterwards, the Doctor was treated with the same attention and respect that he had experienced at Chiling.

The Doctor made excursions from Dashtak to several places in the neighbourhood, but we did not accompany him. The servants and people of Hashám Khán were constantly asking us why the English gentleman had come into Sístán, and what the English were going to be about in Herát. They seemed generally to think Dr. Forbes must be visiting the different Sístán chiefs, to associate them in a league against Yár Moḥammed; but I heard it sometimes surmised that the English intended to join Sístán to Kāndahár, without reference to Herát. After this we went on travelling without any thing particular happening to us. We went to Husein-ábád, and remained there one day; then to Bunjar,* where we halted two days: then we returned, and passed another day at Bunjar, and then we went on to Burji,* where we were hospitably received by the chief, Dóst Moḥammed Khán. We remained there four days, two at Burji-khna,* and two at Burji; and then travelled on by 'Alí-ábád and Shading,* to Jehán-ábád, the seat of Ibráhím Khán, Belúchí. On our arrival Ibráhím Khán was absent, having gone out as usual to hunt, but in the evening he returned, and did the honours of his house in a rough but sufficiently friendly way. We remained four days at Jehán-ábád, and I heard many things spoken among the people, which gave me alarm. They said the English always sent about spies before they attacked a country. A man calling himself a traveller had visited Kelát, and shortly afterwards an English army crossed the Indus, and on its return slaughtered Mihráb Khán, and the Belúches. Was the same fate, they asked, to be expected by the Sístánís?

I mentioned their remarks to the Doctor, but he laughed, and said Ibráhím Khán was his best friend. The Doctor amused himself at Jehán-ábád by making a drawing of the fort; and this he showed to the Khán, who seemed outwardly pleased at it; but I heard his people saying that the other traveller had in the same way taken a plan of the Fort of Kelát, and that to that plan Mihráb Khán owed his ruin. There was no reason, however, to suppose that Ibráhím Khán himself harboured any evil intentions. After a four days' residence at Jehán-ábád, the Khán, with a party of horse, accompanied us to Nadalo,* and entertained the Doctor there for two days in a hospitable manner. This was the extremity of Sístán; and Dr. Forbes, having thus travelled through the entire province in safety, wished to return to Lásh, and prosecute his journey to Kāndahár. He applied to Ibráhím Khán, accordingly, for a guard; but the Khán said he would himself escort him to the frontier, and from thence send on a party of horse to take him to Sháh-pasand's fort.

We all started accordingly in company the next morning. The Khán, I thought, seemed reserved; and, after we had gone a short way, I remarked that he lagged behind, and, looking round, I saw that he and

* A doubtful name.

his people were loading their guns. I immediately passed on; and told the Doctor, who turned pale, and said the fatal day was come: the Khán, however, soon rejoined him, and they entered as usual into friendly conversation. The Doctor asked Ibráhím Khán why he and his people had loaded their guns, saying, he supposed there were no enemies lurking about, and the Khán replied that he always hunted as he journeyed along, and, on reaching the river, they would find plenty of wild boars. Soon afterwards we arrived on the bank of the river. It was a place, I understood, where horsemen usually ford, being near a well-known tomb, called Kherágah Gurgi;* but the bed was very full from bank to bank, owing, as I subsequently learned, to the Khán's having sent on beforehand, and broken the *bunds* (dams), which usually turned off the water. The Doctor asked Ibráhím Khán how he was to cross, and the Khán immediately told his people to make a *títan*, or raft, made of reeds, capable of bearing one man. When this was completed the Doctor was directed to strip, and get upon the raft, which was then pushed off into the stream, the Doctor having a long stick in his hands, with which he was to push himself across; his arms, clothes, instruments, and other property remained upon the bank, under the charge of myself and my fellow-servant Kerbelahí Taraz.* He had not pushed the raft above fifteen or twenty yards into the sluggish stream, when Ibráhím Khán, who was standing composedly on the bank, levelled his gun and fired. The ball did not take effect, and the Doctor turned round and asked who fired, and why; the Khán answered that he had shot at a water-fowl, which had dived. The Doctor seemed to believe him, and went on pushing. He had proceeded a very short distance further, however, when Ibráhím took another gun from one of his people, and fired a second time with deliberate aim. This time the shot took effect, and I saw the blood flowing from a wound in the Doctor's right side, which was exposed to us. He immediately fell off the raft into the water, which, I was surprised to see, did not reach above his middle, and began to wade back to the bank that he had left. Ibráhím Khán now commenced abusing him, calling him a *káír*, a spy, a dog, and all manner of opprobrious names. The Doctor cried out, Do not kill me; take all my property, but spare my life. What can you gain by killing me? I am but one man, and have never injured you. My countrymen are many, and will take vengeance for my blood: do not make all Englishmen your inveterate enemies.

It was all, however, of no avail: the Khán continued to pour forth abuse, and on his victim's reaching the bank, drew his sword and struck him a blow on the head, which felled him to the ground. I saw the Doctor lift up his hands, as if in prayer, but he was almost immediately killed by some sword-cuts from the Khán and his attendants; and his body was thrown into the river. While this was going on Kerbelahí Taraz* and myself were seized and bound. A general plunder of the Doctor's property then commenced: the books and papers were the first things seized; the greater part were torn up and destroyed upon

* A doubtful name.

the spot, but the Khán took two small note-books, and said he would keep them for himself. The compass, the astrolabe and other things which the Belúches had seen the Doctor use upon the roads, were then beaten to pieces, and thrown into the river. The Khán seized the Doctor's arms for himself, and let his people divide the remainder of the property among them. After this we were carried, bound and watched, to Kaddeh,* and were present there when that district was harried. The Khán subsequently sent us to be confined in his fort at Jehán-ábád. We were repeatedly led out to be killed, but were saved by Kerbelahí Taraz* repeating verses of the Korán, and assuming the character of a móllá. After about a month's confinement I was told I might travel back to my native country, at Jemáin,† but that if I attempted to go to Kāndahár, I should be assuredly overtaken and murdered.

On leaving Sistán I fell in with a káfilah (caravan), and arrived here under its convoy. I do not think Kerbelahí Taraz* is now in any danger of his life. He is a good Arabic scholar, and has established a reputation for sanctity; so that he is now surrounded by a crowd all day begging for amulets, prayers, &c. Ibráhím Khán and his people used to express great satisfaction at having slain the feríngí, and thus saved Sistán from the danger which threatened it from his visit.

Deposition taken before me at Kāndahár, 25th September, 1841.

(Signed)

W. RAWLINSON,
Pol. Agent.

* A doubtful name.

† Jumín?

ROUTE FROM MESH-HED TO THE HERÍ RÚD.

1841.	Place.	Time.	Direction.	General Remarks.
June 2.	Mesh-hed.	h. m.	S. E. by E.	<p>Nearly opposite, 2 miles to the right, in a small g'ten, 'Abbás Mirzá's garden, called Takhti Kájár. Kadamayáh road. Halt. Uneven declivity. Nearly level pastures. Káfir kál'ah, on a hill $\frac{1}{2}$ m. left, low red earthy hills 1 or 2 miles right, contains rock salt. On border of a marsh. Ascent and descent of low hills through defiles. Enter narrow place. Village, so called, 2 m. lower down valley to the right, a fertile—a pretty valley. Quit Robáti Sefíd—cross narrow plain. Enter rocky defile, ascent winding by brook. Cross rocky ridge, descent winding and difficult. Cross plain, opposite hills dimly visible. Ruined cistern to the left. Halt. Go on. At the base of hills running from Mesh-hed to Turshiz. Gradual ascent. Winding path in hills. Halt in grassy hollow at foot of steep pass. Set out again, steep ascent to summit of hill. Steep descent on S. side of pass. K. of K., in a pleasant nook under the hills, with a small stream. Set out again, winding path to a lower pass in lower range of hills. Enter plain of Turbat. Turbati Haideri.</p>
— 3.	'Askariyeh	..	S. E. by S.	
— 4.	Sherif-ábád	1 45 A.M.	..	
		2 30	S. W. by W.	
	Robáti Miyándešt	0 35	..	
		3 35	..	
		5 20	..	
	Robáti Isakh	5 30	..	
		6 65	S.	
		7 30	..	
	Robáti Sefíd	7 40	..	
		8 45 P.M.	S. S. W.	
		9 5	S.	
	Chesh. Moh. Mirzá	10 5	..	
		10 30	..	
June 5.	Deshti Rukh	11 45	S. by W.	
		12 5 A.M.	..	
	Robáti Miyándešt	1 10	..	
		1 20	..	
	K. Shórá Híşár	2 40	S. W.	
		3 10	S. by W.	
		3 45	..	
		5 10	..	
		6 0	..	
	Karvans of Kameh (Kahmah).	10 45	S. by E.	
		0 55	S. S. W.	
		11 45	..	
		3 0 P.M.	..	
ROUTE FROM TURBATI HAIDERI.				
June 6.	Turbati Haideri	8 0 P.M.	170 E.	Lanes and gardens.
		8 30	..	Halted for ladders.
		8 50	..	Broken ground and ravines.

June 7.	K. al'ah of Hind-ābād K. Mohammed-ābād. K. of Giyet, or Kiyet	9 10 P.M. 10 45 11 20 11 30 12 35 12 45 A.M. 1 10 1 25 5 0 5 25 6 25 6 45	135° E. 130° E. 160° E. • 135° E. 163° E. • S. 50° W. • S.	Wind through low hills. Enter plain, clayey, sandy, bare. Fields of ripe grain, and gardens. Do. do., once a strong place, now inhabited by I'liyáts. At end of a long hill, or chain of hills, half way between Kháff and Gunābād. Uneven ground. Halted $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the village in meadow. Meadows and broken ground. Among low round-topped hills. Cross a water-course. Cross Faẓlmand-rūd, a scanty stream in a wide bed, rises in the Pass of Kameh, N. of Turbat, and runs E. of Turbatī Hāiderī. K. of Hākim-ābād, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the right, and low hills to the right; missed the road; ground hilly, and full of deep ravines and gullies. Regained the road. Half missed among the trees. Ushúrān in ruins, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the right. In ripe corn-fields, deserted K. of Sa'd-ābād, at some distance to the right. Winding path between sandy hillocks.
June 8.	K. of Jennet-ābād, ruined Reservoir, empty. K. of Jangal Hāider-ābād. Leave Jangar at . A covered cistern . Proceeded Proceeded	7 10 7 50 8 0 8 15 9 0 0 25 1 20 2 0 2 25 2 35 2 55 3 55 3 50 3 55 5 0 5 45 P.M. 7 0 7 15 7 40 8 15 9 35 10 10 10 25 11 30	• S. • • • S. S.S.W. S.W. S.S.W. W. S.W. by W. • • • • • W.S.W. • • S. by W. S.S.W. S.W. • • S.S.W.	Over dry, bare plain, bounded by low, rocky hills to the right. In a level plain. Halt for prayer. Went on. Ground formerly cultivated. Tabas 60 farsangs (220 m.) distant. | Róshanáwan 7 farsangs (23 m.) distant. Tún 14 do. (53 m.) do. | Gúnābād 13 do. (48 m.) do. Level plain. K. of Sungal, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the right, deserted; sandy, broken ground. Halted for prayer. Sandy ground. Proceeded. Level, clayey, bare. Halted. Proceeded.

1841.	Place.	Time.	Direction.	General Remarks.
June 9.	Róshanáwan	h. m. 12 10 P.M.	. . . . .	A conical hill in a low range 3 m. to the right, a ruined cistern on the left.
	Left Róshanáwan	1 0 A.M.	W.S.W.	Towards low hummocks.
		0 45 P.M.	W.	Over ground formerly cultivated.
June 10.	. . . . .	1 10 A.M.	W.N.W.	Castle of Naukár to the right.
		1 20	W.S.W.	Ruined village, huts, mill, tower near a brook, then a flat, clayey plain.
	2 35	S.W.	Gardens of first village belonging to Gún-ábád.	
	3 15	S.W. by S.	A village. Halt. From Tabas . . . 40 farsangs (147 miles).	
	Left Deláwí	12 0 P.M.	S.	,, Mesh-hed } do. ,, Bihjáún } do. ,, Herát } do. ,, Róshanáwan, 4 f. (15 miles). ,, Júrmin, residence of the Náýib of Gún-ábád, 1 f. ($\frac{3}{4}$ m.) distant.
June 11.	Gún-ábád	12 10 A.M.	S. by W.	Cornfields, Castle of Nokau to the left.
		12 30	S.	Villages belonging to Gún-ábád, going to Kákh:— <i>West of Road.</i> 1. Gásht, N. W. of Deláwí, 300 houses.
	1 35	S.S.W.	A considerable town with a large castle.	2. Beidágh, 200 houses (Kizil-básh). 3. Nokan, 500 do. 4. Nau-deh, 50 do. (Arab). 5. Reyán, 100 do. (Sayyed's and Mirzá's). 6. Rahn, 100 do. 7. Júrmin, 400 do. 8. Gún-ábád, 1500 do.
	2 15	S. by W.	A covered tank.	9. Zehr-ábád, small. 10. Riknub.
	3 6	Another tank.	11. Sinú, 3 f. (11 m.) distant. 12. Naudch, 4 f. (15 m.) do. 13. Fatangúh, 6 f. (22 m.) do.
Kákh . . . . .	. . . . .	4 10	. . . . .	A large town reached by a slight ascent.
				Villages on the skirt of the hills, belonging to Kákh:— <i>East.</i> 1. Kháneq, 100 houses, 1 farsang ($\frac{3}{4}$ m.) distant. 2. Desfú, 200 do. 3. Kalát, 500 do. 4. Sáki 5. Ruchi 6. Shiráz-ábád } small. <i>West.</i> 1. Mullá-ábád. 2. Cherkh-ábád. 3. Rizú. 4. Astád. 5. Dúgh-ábád.

June 12.	Left Kákh	1 0 A.M.	S.S.W.	Ravine between low hills leading to a pass, steep and difficult on each side. Another steep ridge or kotal (<i>i. e.</i> defile). Narrow valley, hemmed in by bare rocky hills. Tank and tree to the left.
		1 40	•	An easter pass.
		1 55	•	Out of hills on plain of Nim Ballók.
		2 0	S. by W.	Halted to wait for loiters.
		2 5	E.S.E.	Went on. Hills distant 1 mile on left; about 6 on right.
		3 10	E. by N.	A village half a mile on the left; halted.
		3 15	•	
		3 35	120° E.	
		4 0	•	
		4 5	•	
	Kal'ah Saughúrí	4 20	•	Deshti Piyáz, bearing 105° E.
		5 10	•	Bádámí, a village on declivity of hills 4 m. to the right.
		5 15	•	Kal'ah Farz-ábád on the low ground 2 m. to the right.
	Deshti Piyáz	5 55	145° E.	Leave Deshti Piyáz.
		6 30	•	Khidrí has 100 houses inhabited by Arabs.
June 13.	Khidrí, or Khidr (Khizr) Beg.	1 55	S. by E.	Leave Khidrí; plain strewn with loose stones and gravel.
		3 15	•	Halted 5 minutes.
		3 30	•	Kal'ah of 'Alí-ábád, a deserted village.
		4 0	45° W.	Base of a range of hills. Búznah-ábád, about 1 m. to the left. The Pass in a range of hills, through which the direct road from Kháft to Bahrján runs, bore E. about 16 m. distant.
	Delhisht Kal'ah	4 20	•	Kal'ah Khán, hid behind low hills $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the right.
		4 30	35° W.	Enter narrow winding defile between steep hills forming the bed of a small brook.
		5 30	W.	Reach summit of the Pass, guarded by a ruined tower; ascent $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour.
		5 40	•	Ravine opens a little; a very singular, round, red, bare hill, about 200 feet high to the right, formed by the deposit from a calcareous spring, called Tursh-ab (Sour Water).
		5 55	•	A narrow valley; 1 or 2 brackish springs.
		6 40	S. by W.	A tank to the right, surrounded by willows and cultivated fields. Behúdeh, 2 f. (7 m.) E. of Nokab, the chief place for saffron. Káyin (a city, thence Shehri: Káyin), 4 f. E. of Behúdeh, 6 f. (22 m.) E. of Nokab. The Bulúk (plain or district) of Behúdeh has 7 castles (Kal'ehs). Nim Bulúk has, 1. Deshti Piyáz; 2. Khidrí; 3. Manuwát behind Khidrí; 4. Dehisht; 5. Búznah-ábád; 6. Maskábád (?), behind Khidrí; 7. Khauk, besides those near Deshti Piyáz.
	Nokab	6 50	•	Left Nokab; ascend the hills.
		3 30 P.M.	S. by E.	By very narrow rocky path.
		3 45	S.E.	Pleasant valley to the left.
		4 10	•	Halt in green meadow near corn-fields.
		4 30	•	Went on.
		4 35	S.S.E.	

1841.	Place.	Time.	Direction.	General Remarks.
		h. m.	S.E. S.	Path very broken and rocky, between limestone rocks, by a small brook. Ascended ridge and entered an elevated plain from N.W. to S.E. bounded by high, bare limestone hills. Kal'ah Moḥammed-ābād bore S. by E.
		5 10		Dōst-ābād, in ripe corn-fields, 5 m. to the right. It belongs to Chahák and Seráyán, about E.S.E. behind, and to the right 2 f. (8 m.) N.N.W. of Dōst-ābād. Seráyán is the frontier village of Tabas, and distant from Tūn about 6 f. (30 m.).
		5 20		Village on the side of the hills, to the left, a few m. distant.
		6 10		Plain bare and hard; descent very gradual. Teghab has about 20 families (Arabs).
		6 15		Bare level plain.
		2 0 A.M.	S.E. by S.	Halt 5 m.
		3 15		Pass a small tank; halt 5 m.
		3 20	170° E.	Teghab bears 175° W.
		3 45		At the tank the Kal'ah of 'Alī-ābād, 1 m. distant to the left, the hills to the left being 3 m. distant.
		3 50	175° E.	Mohammed-ābād belongs to Chahák, and is 7 f. (26 m.) from Kāyín; 12 f. (43 m.) from Bihrián.
		4 20	S. by W.	Over a bare flat plain, impregnated with salt.
		4 35		A ruined and deserted castle, 3 m. to the right.
		2 20 P.M.	175° E.	A tank of stinking, brackish water. Moḥammed-ābād bore 175° W.
		3 20		Passed a tank of good water, and lately repaired.
		3 50		Crossed extensive plain, encrusted with natron.
		4 5	due S.	Halt 5 m.
		4 20	160° E.	Proceed by winding path over broken clayey ground, traversed by beds of torrents, to Chahák, which bore 160° E.
		4 40	150° E.	About 50 houses, and a castle nearly ruined, inhabited by Arabs.
		5 25		On the plain hills about 4 m. to the left.
		5 40		Passed a ruined tank, moved towards junction of the ranges of hills on the right and left. High up on the declivity on the right the castle of Selúněk : assafoetida abundant in the range of red hills behind it. The whole of this plain covered with withered stems of the karná, a parsnip-like plant with an edible root.
		5 45	160° E.	Crossed the dry, gravelly bed of a torrent.
		7 20		Quitted the direct road to Bihrián, by a narrow path leading to the hills on the right.
		3 15 A.M.	S.E.	Castle and village. Halt in a garden.
		4 40		
June 15.	Chahák	5 25		
	Left Chahák	6 0	160° E.	
		6 35	S. by W.	
	Shu'ahú'	7 0		

	Left Shu'shú	• •	3 20 P.M.	S.		
June 16.			4 15	S.S.E.	Across rocky hills of limestone and clay-slate. Lentises, terebinth trees, and tamarisks abound.	
			5 30	• •	I'iyát tents near a spring in a valley to the left.	
			6 0	• •	A brackish streamlet.	
			6 30	• •	A hamlet of 5 houses, and a few tents of Káyin Arabs. Halt for the night.	
		Left the Arab huts	•	3 15 A.M.	S.E.	Winding course over steep, gravelly hills and deep ravines.
June 18.			5 20	115° E.	Crossed the higher range of hills at a neck of no great height.	
			5 30	S.E.	Small brackish spring. Division of roads from Bihriján to Káyin and Gán-ábád. The former runs nearly N.E.	
		Bihriján, or Birjand	•	• •	Enter the plain.	
			6 0	• •	A city with a citadel (ark). The castle of Khusb is 5 f. (17 m.) W. of Birjand (Mihyán ?), at base of hills on the left. Plain 5 m. wide, but contract gradually to about 3 m.	
		Left Birjand	•	3 40 P.M.	120° E.	Hills on the right have many castles and villages.
June 19.			5 30	• •	Halt near gardens. Buzhd 2 f. (7 m.) from Birjand, at N. W. end of a low chain of hills. Best road, and least mountainous, from Buzhd to Derab, is by Serbishah; that by Furk is 4 or 5 f. (15 or 18 m.) longer.	
		Left Buzhd	• • •	E.	Rounded shoulder of the low, gravelly hills, which form a division in the hard, gravelly plain of Birjand. This low chain runs obliquely to the centre of the plain. Kal'ah Mirj 5 m. to the left, at the base of the hills.	
			4 20	• •	• •	A small tank on the right.
			4 35	• •	• •	Castle of Sha'beh, on a hill 5 m. to the left, at mouth of a ravine.
			5 5	• •	• •	A small stream parallel with the road coming from the East.
June 20.			5 25	• •	• •	Enter a narrow, grassy valley between low hills.
			6 0	95° E.	• •	Small castle of Babú, and a few huts.
			6 30	• •	• •	Castle of Tarnák; some gardens and tillage.
			6 55	80° E.	• •	Halt in a garden. Isfizar is a village with a ruinous castle on a hill or mound (Tepeh). Abundance of water.
		Isfizar	• • • •	7 10	75° E.	Gradual ascent through valley, bounded by green hills of shale and clay-slate. Small ruined fort to the right; remains of houses to the left, called Terughdeh; ascend by winding path between rugged shale-rocks.
June 20.			7 20	• •	• •	Path divides, going to the left, by the ruined castle and village of Buzgezh, and to the right, 110° E., that which we followed.
			7 45	• •	• •	The highest point of the defile, beyond which the descent is very steep and difficult, road not easily found.
		Dóshánde	• • •	• •	• •	An abundant spring at the head of a fine valley. A ruinous castle in the midst of a few gardens.
			9 25	• •	• •	Down a narrow valley.
		Left Dóshánde	• • •	3 45	S.E. by E.	

1841.	Place.	Time.	Direction.	General Remarks.
	Kal'ah ābād.	h. m. 4 0 A.M. 4 15	. 75° E.	A clump of trees and watercourse to the right. A little cultivation; bed of a torrent running through corn-fields and gardens.
	Der-miyan . . .	4 30 4 40 4 45	95° E. E. E.	A populous village in a wood of fruit trees.
	Furk	5 15	. . . . .	Castle of Furk in sight.
	Left Furk	2 50 P.M. 4 5 5 5	100° E. 105° E.	Halted in a garden. The strongest fortress in Khorāsān, but commanded by neighbouring hills. Hill of Hindalān 45° E., 6 m. distant. Over bare, dry plain. Ruined tank. Tank of good rain-water. Tabas bore 100° E., winding path over level plain, bounded by hills to the E., about 4 m. from Tabas. Sun set 114½ W. This fortress is the next in strength to Furk; neither have a single gun. It is inhabited by IIs and Persians. Water plentiful.
June 21.	Tabas	7 30	. . . . .	Into the plain from the castle.
	Left Tabas	4 10 A.M. 4 30	25° W.	Castle of 'Alī-ābād ruined and deserted, 1 m. to the right. About 60 houses and more outside of the walls.
	Kal'ah ābād.	5 0	. . . . .
	Left it . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	Kal'ah of Faiẓ-ābād 1 m. to the right. Ahmed-ābād 2 miles to the right, inhabited by IIs.
	Destgird	6 5	150° E.	Castle and village has 40 Iviyāt families. Through ripe corn-fields. Plain extends 2 m. southward; fragments of lava.
		6 30 A.M.	135° E.	From low rocky hills, below the higher limestone hills, at the S.E. corner of the plain. Gradual ascent of low hills for 10 m. Path divides, one road to Derah on the left, with no water; the other on the right to Rūzāh. Reached the top of a rugged and difficult pass between huge blocks of obsidian, the chief component of the lower hills.
	Rūzāh	7 10 7 40 7 50 8 5	. . . . . E.	Descent rugged. A narrow valley, covered with salt inflorescence; two very high bare hills opposite. Many houses, almost deserted. Inhabited by IIs. Rate of travelling this day about 3½ m. an hour.
	Left Rūzāh	11 45 P.M. 1 50 A.M.	S.E. by E. S.W.	Broken, rocky ground. Dry, gravelly bed of torrent. Road divides, on the left, to Láúú, E.N.E. of Derah; on the right, in the bed of the torrent, S., westward.
June 22.		2 10 2 45 3 10 4 35	S. S.S.W. S.	Stony, rocky ground, between rugged and precipitous limestone hills. Halted 5 m. for prayers; road between rugged limestone cliffs. Cultivated spot in a narrow valley; fine mulberry trees, ripe.

As far as it can be collected, from the imperfect account given in his servant's deposition, the remainder of Dr. Forbes's itinerary was nearly as follows:—

- 1841.
- June 27, Reached Lásh, on the Herí Rúd; hospitably entertained by Sháh-pasand Khán.
- July 3, Quitted Lásh.
- „ 6, Reached the western frontier of Sístán.
- „ 9, Arrived at Chiling, the residence of Moḥammed Rizá Khán, governor of the province of Sístán.
- „ 12, Visited the Kúhí Khwájah (Master's Mount), in the lake of Sístán, or Zerreh; spent the day pleasantly there.
- „ 13, Went to see Sí-kóh-há, Moḥammed Rizá's second fortress, where he stayed three days.
- „ 16, Reaches Dashtak, the fort of Hashám Khán, and stays there five days, making excursions in the neighbourhood.
- „ 21, Reached Husein-ábád.
- „ 22, Proceeded to Bunjar, and halted there two days.
- „ 23, Returned to Husein-ábád.
- „ 24, Hospitably entertained at Burjí for two days, by Dóst Moḥammed Khán.
- „ 26, Reached Jehán-ábád, the residence of Ibráhím Khán.
- „ 31, Went to Nadalo, on the eastern frontier of Sístán.
- Aug. 3, Set out, accompanied by Ibráhím Khán, on his return to Lásh, and was murdered by him on the banks of the river.
- „ 6, His servants were imprisoned at Jehán-ábád.
- Sept. 6, They were released.
- „ 25, One of them made his deposition before Major Rawlinson, the Honourable Company's political agent at Kāndahár.

[This attempt at a supplement to Dr. Forbes's journal of his route has been formed from the materials furnished by his servant's deposition made at Kāndahár, the copy of which, forwarded to England, was taken apparently by a native clerk, and is so full of clerical errors as to be in some places scarcely intelligible. Several of the proper names, particularly near the end of the journey, are evidently mis-transcribed, and as they do not occur in books or maps, cannot be corrected without reference to the original document, now probably lost. Of the truth of the deposition different opinions will perhaps be formed; but when the long delays at different stations, the many deviations from the intended route, and the unaccountable return to Lásh, stated in that deposition, are compared with Dr. Forbes's refusal to visit the amir's camp, to examine the ancient Persian tombs, to wait for merchants whose presence would have added to his security, and his general anxiety to proceed directly to Kāndahár, so clearly expressed in his journal, the reader can scarcely fail to perceive an incongruity far from favourable to the credit of the deponent. The very fact of the preservation of this journal, contained in two small volumes, seems scarcely reconcileable with the statement that, on the destruction of the traveller's papers, the khán took two small note-books, and said he would keep them for himself: but without knowing how the preservation of any of Dr. Forbes's books and papers was accounted for when they were delivered up, it is impossible to form a decided opinion on the subject.]

D^r Forbes' Route
from
MESH-HED to the HERI RUD
near Lake Zerreh
Protracted from his Journal
By J. Arrowsmith.
1841.

