

Beglerbeg of *Bebahan*, and he, whose suit is sustained with the largest sum of money, is in no fear of losing his cause.

Although the inhabitants of the towns and villages groan beneath the arbitrary sway of the governor of *Shuster*, his authority is hardly acknowledged by the wandering tribes, of which there are a great many, both Persian and Arabian, in *Kuzistan*. Of the Arabian, the most numerous and powerful are the *Alichiteer* and *Beni Lam*. The *Alichiteer*, which is divided into a variety of branches, amounts, it is supposed, to forty thousand souls. They graze their flocks on the banks of the *Karoon*, the *Abzal*, and the *Kerah*; and the *Beni Lam*, perhaps not much inferior in numbers, occupy the borders of the *Tigris* and *Gyndes*. The Persian tribes do not often descend into the plain; for as they have ever been a lawless and disorderly banditti, they prefer the fastnesses of the mountains, where they can carry on their depredations with a greater degree of impunity. Mr. Monteith and myself, in our journey across the desert, from *Shuster* to *Ram Hormuz*, encountered a party of one of these tribes, and happily succeeded, not only in beating them off, but in making a prisoner of one of their leaders, whom we carried back to the city. We had no sooner arrived, than I lodged a formal complaint against him with Meerza Sheffee, the governor, demanding, in the name of the Ambassador, that he should be publicly punished. The *Meerza*, with whom we were personally acquainted, fairly confessed his inability to punish the prisoner; and gave it as his advice, that we should

should avail ourselves of an offer which he had made, to conduct us in safety through the desert, provided he received his pardon. We accordingly next morning set out a second time, escorted by sixty chosen horsemen, of the same banditti that had attempted to murder us on the preceding day: nor did they offer to quit us, until we entered the valley of *Ram Hormuc*, a distance of near seventy miles; when we made them a trifling present, and they returned to their homes.

Of the four great rivers which embellish and fertilize these plains, the *Karoon*, which has already been mentioned, is the most considerable. Next in magnitude to the *Karoon* is the *Abzal* river. It has two sources; one in the *Shutur Koh*, near *Boorajird*, and the other in the mountains of *Lowistan*. They form a junction, three days journey to the North of *De-phoul*; and after passing under the walls of that city, empty themselves, after a winding course, into the *Karoon*, at *Bundekeel*.

The third is the *Kerah*, or *Haweesa* river, called by the Turks the *Karasu*. This river is formed by the junction of many streams in the province of *Ardelan*, in *Kurdistan*. It runs through the plain of *Kermanshaw*, meeting a river called the *Kazawur*, four miles above that city, and the *Gamasu*, eight *farsungs* below it. The latter, which has its source near *Achavend*, passes within three miles of *Besittoon*, and previous to its juncture with the *Karasu*, receives the waters of the *Besittoon*, and the rivers *Dureenor* and *Hurseen*. The *Karasu*,

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now greatly increased in magnitude, flows with a furious course towards *Kuzistan*, receiving, in its passage, the tribute of many streams; and, amongst others, the *Roomis Koon*, four *fursungs* from *Korumabad*. It passes on the West of the ruins of *Shas* to the city of *Haveeza*, and enters the *Shal-ul-Arab*, about twenty miles below *Korna*. The fourth river is that which I apprehend to be the ancient *Gydes*. Of the source of this river I am ignorant: it comes from the mountains of *Louristan*, and joins the *Tigris* between *Koot* and *Korna*.

Shuster, the capital of *Kuzistan*, and the residence of a *Beglerbeg*, is situated in Latitude 32° North, Longitude 48° 59' East, at the foot of the mountains of *Buckliari*, on an eminence overlooking the rapid course of the *Karoon*, across which there is a bridge of one arch, upwards of eighty feet high, from the summit of which the Persians frequently throw themselves into the water, without sustaining the slightest injury. It is defended on the western side by the river, and on the other sides by the old stone wall, now fallen into decay. The houses are good, being principally built of stone, but the streets are narrow and dirty. The population exceeds fifteen thousand souls, Persians and Arabs; and there is a considerable manufacture of woollen stuffs, which are exported to *Bassora*, in return for the Indian commodities brought from thence. This city is generally believed to be the ancient *Susa*; but, for reasons which shall hereafter be stated, I am of a different opinion.

Shus, in the old Persian language, means pleasing, delightful, and *Shuster* still more delightful; a name given, according to the tradition of the best informed natives, by Sapor, the son of Artaxerxes Babegan, to this city, which he founded, and caused to be built, under the inspection of his prisoner, the Roman emperor, Valerian.* But whether *Shuster* be the ancient *Susa* or not, the ruins which still remain testify, that it was once a place of vast extent, and no trifling magnificence. Those most worthy of attention are the castle, the dyke, and a bridge.

Part of the walls of the former, said to have been the abode of Valerian, are still standing. They occupy a small hill at the western extremity of the town, from which there is a fine view of the river, mountains, and adjoining country. This fortress is, on two sides, defended by a ditch, now almost choaked up with sand; and, on the other two, by a branch of the *Karoon*. It has but one gateway, built in the Roman fashion, formerly entered by a draw-bridge. The hill is almost entirely excavated, and formed into *surdabs* and subterraneous aqueducts, through which the water still continues to flow. Not far from the castle is the dyke, or *band*, built by Sapor across the *Karoon*; not, as D'Herbelot would insinuate, to prevent a second deluge, but rather to occasion one, by turning a large proportion of the water into a channel more favourable to agriculture, than that
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The Roman soldiers, it is said, were employed as the architects.

which nature had assigned to it. This dyke, which is built of cut stone, bound together by clamps of iron, about twenty feet in breadth and four hundred yards in length, with two small arches in the middle, having, from want of care, given way to the force of the torrent, the prince, Mahomed Ali Meerza, governor of *Kermanshaw*, has, for these four years past, been employed in rebuilding it. It is just completed, and already its beneficial effects begin to be felt. The artificial canal, occasioned by the construction of this dyke, disembogues, after a long and winding course, into the *Dezphoul*, half a mile from *Bundekeel*. Over the canal is a bridge, built of hewn stone, consisting of thirty-two arches, twenty-eight of which are yet entire.

The town of *Dezphoul*, twenty-eight miles West of *Shuster*, contains nearly as many inhabitants as that city, and is situated on the eastern bank of the *Abzal*, in a beautiful and spacious plain. The only ornament of *Dezphoul* is an elegant bridge, of twenty-two arches, erected by the command of Sapor, a prince celebrated, both as the founder and destroyer of cities. The piers are made of large stones, brought from the neighbourhood of *Shuster*, and the arches and upper parts of burnt brick. It is four hundred and fifty paces in length, twenty in breadth, and about forty in height.

About seven or eight miles to the West of *Dezphoul*, commence the ruins of *Shus*, stretching not less, perhaps, than twelve miles, from one extremity to the other. They extend as far as the eastern

bank of the *Kerah* ; occupy an immense space, between that river and the *Abzal* ; and, like the ruins of *Ctesiphon*, *Babylon*, and *Kufa*, consist of hillocks of earth and rubbish, covered with broken pieces of brick and coloured tile. The largest and most remarkable of these mounds stand at the distance of about two miles from the *Kerah*. The first is, at the lowest computation, a mile in circumference, and nearly one hundred feet in height ; and the other, although not quite so high, is double the circuit of the former. These mounds bear some resemblance to the pyramids of *Babylon* ; with this difference, that instead of being entirely made of brick, they are formed of clay and pieces of tile, with irregular layers of brick and mortar, five or six feet in thickness, to serve, it should seem, as a kind of prop to the mass. Large blocks of marble, covered with hieroglyphics, are not unfrequently here discovered by the Arabs, when digging in search of hidden treasure ; and at the foot of the most elevated of the pyramids stands the *Tomb of Daniel*, a small, and apparently a modern building, erected on the spot where the relics of that prophet are believed to rest.

These ruins, according to Major Rennel, represent the celebrated city of *Susa* ; but another distinguished Oriental geographer controverts this hypothesis, and assumes, that *Shuster*, and not *Shus*, occupies the situation of the ancient metropolis of the *East*. As the question at issue appears to me to be enveloped in much obscurity, and, after all, mere matter of conjecture, I shall briefly state the arguments

arguments adduced by each, in support of their systems ; and, without presuming to give an opinion in favour of either, accompany the whole with a few observations, which a personal visit to the country and places in dispute, combined with the best information I could obtain when on the spot, entitle me to offer.

The inducements which lead Major Rennel to decide in favour of *Shus*, are :

First, the similarity of name ; and the situation, which agrees better with the distance between *Sardis* and *Susa*, mentioned in the tablets of Aristagoras, than that of *Shuster*. Secondly, the legend of the Prophet Daniel, whose coffin was found at *Shus* ; and thirdly, that *Susa* ought to be placed on a river, which has its sources in *Media*. Dr. Vincent, in reply, says, “ that the similarity of name is a corroborating circumstance, when we are sure of our position ; but till the position be ascertained, it is only a presumptive proof, and often fallacious : and that *Shuster* approaches still nearer than *Shus* to *Shushan*, which is its title in Scripture, and *Shushan* differs not from *Susa*, but by the insertion of a dot in the letter *shin*. That to the legendary tradition of the Tomb of Daniel, little more respect is due, than to the legends of the Church of Rome and the Mahomedan traditions. That *Susa* was on the river *Euleus*. That *Shuster* is more ancient than *Shus*, having, in the opinion of Oriental writers, been built by Houchenk, and according to the mythology of the Greeks, by Tithonijs, the son of Memnon. That *Susiana*, the name of the province,

province, approaches nearer to *Shushan*; and *Kuzistan*, its modern appellation, derived from the mountains which surround it, is evidently connected with the *Kisii*, *Kussi*, and *Kossii* of the Greeks. That Nearchus sailed up to *Susa*, without entering the *Shat-ul-Arab*; which he could not have done, had that city stood on the *Kerah*: and that when Alexander descended the *Euleus*, he sent his disabled ships, through the cut of the *Hafar*, into the *Shat-ul-Arab*. And, finally, that a strong reason for placing *Susa* at *Shuster* occurs in Ebn Haukul, who says, that there is not in all *Kuzistan* any mountain, except at *Shuster*, *Jondi Shapour*, and *Ardz*: and as it is evident from history, that the castle of *Susa* was a place of strength, it is reasonable to suppose that it stood upon a hill."

That the city of *Susa* stood on the river *Euleus*, or *Choaspes*, has, I believe, never been denied; but the great point, in my humble opinion, to determine, is, which of the three great rivers, the *Karoon*, *Abzal*, or *Kerah*, is the *Choaspes* of Herodotus. Dr. Vincent supposes the river which flows through *Shuster*, and that which washes the walls of *Dezphoul*, to be the same; for he says, that the waters of the *Abzal* are raised by a mound, or dyke, at *Dezphoul*, to supply *Shuster*: and this mistake has been occasioned, by his confusing the *hind* of Sapor with the bridge of the *Dezphoul*. This imaginary river is therefore adopted by the learned Doctor as the *Euleus*. I have stated before, that the *Abzal* and *Karoon* are different streams, and have not the slightest connection with each other,

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previous to their confluence at *Bundekeel*, eight *farsangs* below *Shuster*. *Dezphoul* is twenty-eight miles West of this town; and the country is so elevated between the two cities, as to render such a communication utterly impossible. Both the *Karoon* and the *Abzal* will, however, answer Ptolemy's description of the *Euleus*, inasmuch as they have each their sources in *Media*, and enter the *Persian Gulf* by a channel, distinct from that of the *Shat-ul-Arab*. Nearchus might, therefore, have ascended either the *Abzal* or the *Karoon*, without entering the *Shat-ul-Arab*; and certainly could not have done so by the *Kerah*, which meets that stream, between *Bassora* and *Korna*. But this circumstance will not be much in favour of Dr. Vincent's assumption, for the ruins of *Shus* approach within a few miles of the *Abzal*; and we are uncertain whether the *Euleus* flowed to the East or West of *Susa*. Nor is it, by any means, so evident as the Doctor seems to think, that the *Shuster* is more ancient than *Shus*. *Shus*, which is the term, and not *Sus*, means, in the old Persian dialect, pleasing or agreeable; and *ter* is the sign of the comparative, which, according to the traditions of the best informed natives, was applied to the situation of the present capital of *Kazistan*, by Sapor, when he caused that city to be built, in commemoration of his victory over the Roman emperor, Valerian; for it was *Susa*, and not *Shuster* or *Shus*, (if neither represent that metropolis,) which is alluded to, both by the Greek and Oriental writers, as having been founded by Houchenk and the son of Meaddon.

Kohistan and *Kuzistan* are perfectly distinct terms. The former is literally a country of mountains, and could not apply to *Susiana*, which is flat; *Kuzistan* is said to mean a country of sugar,* for the production of which article this province had been famous. An additional argument in support of Major Rennel's position may be drawn from Strabo; who tells us, that the Persian capital was entirely built of brick, there not being a stone in the province. Now the quarries of *Shuster* are very celebrated, and almost the whole of the town is built of stone: but there is no such thing in the environs of *Shus*, which was evidently formed of brick, as will appear from my description of the pyramids that now remain.

The difficulty in determining the true position of *Susa* is greatly increased, by the impossibility of reconciling the present courses of the rivers in this province with the accounts given of them in the writings of ancient historians. Herodotus speaks of the *Choaspes* as the river of *Susa*; but Daniel, Diodorus, and Arrian, only mention the *Euleus*: and we are therefore led to conclude, that the same river is alluded to, under different names. If we admit the ruins of *Shus* to be those of ancient *Susa*, the *Kerah* will correspond with the description of the *Choaspes*, but not to that of the *Euleus*; for the latter entered
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So I was informed by a learned *Moola* at *Shuster*; but I have my doubts on the subject, and think this name was more likely derived from the *Cossacens*, who inhabited the neighbouring mountains.

the Gulf by a channel of its own, whilst the *Kerah* flows into the *Shat-ul-Arab*. As it is not, however, ascertained that the *Choaspes* and *Euleus* were the same, let us suppose the former to be represented in the *Kerah*, and the latter in the *Abzal*: the *Karoon* must then be the *Coprates* of Diodorus, and the *Jerahi* the *Pasitigris*. But the distance is not altogether applicable, for the *Pasitigris* would appear to have been much nearer to the *Coprates* than the *Karoon* to the *Jerahi*. According to Dr. Vincent's system, the *Karoon* and *Euleus* are the same, whilst the *Koorhankende* represents the *Coprates*, and the *Jerahi* the *Pasitigris*. If this system be correct, it is, in the first place, strange, that no mention should be made by ancient geographers, of the great rivers *Kerah* and *Abzal*: and, in the next, the size and course of the *Koorhankende* will not agree with what is said of the *Coprates*. Diodorus asserts, that Antigonus marched in one night from the *Euleus* to the *Coprates*; but it is utterly impossible for an army to move, in so short a time, from the *Karoon* to the *Koorhankende*, a journey of about ninety miles: neither is the depth of this stream sufficiently great, in the dry season, to require boats, or a bridge, for the passage of an army; being fordable for ten months in the year. Antigonus, after his defeat, retired to the city of *Badaca* on the *Euleus*, from which place he dispatched Nearchus, through *Cossæa*, to *Echatana*. Now if the *Karoon* be the *Euleus*, *Badaca* must have been situated further down the river, as *Shuster* is close to the mountains. And yet this could hardly be the case, as the army

advanced into *Media*, without apparently visiting the capital. Did the *Abzal* represent the *Euleus*, the position of *Badaca* would correspond with *Dezphoul*, and it is to be observed, the nearest route from *Shuster* to *Hamadan* lies through this town.

I have thus stated all that occurs to me on this perplex, and to most people uninteresting subject, and will only add, that the site of the city of *Shus* is now a gloomy wilderness, infested by lions, hyænas, and other beasts of prey. The dread of these furious animals compelled Mr. Monteith and myself to take shelter for the night within the walls that encompass *Daniel's Tomb*.

From hence it is eighteen *farsungs*, over a deserted country, to *Haweeza*,* a city situate on the river *Kerah*, and in a district sufficiently fertile to supply two-fifths of the corn used in the markets of *Bussora*, from which it is distant seventeen *farsungs*. *Haweeza* was formerly governed by a *Wallce*, or prince, of its own; but a dispute arising, some few years ago, between him and his subjects, he, in an unwary moment, called in the assistance of the Persians, who seized upon the city for themselves, and conveyed the unfortunate *Wallce*, as a prisoner, to *Dezphoul*.

The climate of *Kuzistan* is healthy; and the city of *Shuster*, in particular, is so remarkable for its salubrity, as to be the continual resort of invalids from the surrounding territories. In summer, the heats are excessive, from nine in the morning till the same hour at night, when the air is refreshed by a gentle breeze from the N. W:
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the inhabitants, therefore, take refuge in subterraneous chambers during the day, and pass the night on the flat roofs of their houses. The winters are mild, and the springs temperate and delightful. Snow is only seen on the summits of the mountains; but violent storms of hail frequently prove injurious to the crops. Periodical rains prevail from December to the end of March; but the land is principally cultivated by irrigation. The soil is blackish, tinged with red, and so rich, as to render it unnecessary to go more than a span in depth. Two crops are yielded in the year, and there is no species of fruit or grain known in *Persia*, that will not thrive in *Kuzistan*. The produce of sugar was, I understand, formerly immense. Indigo still continues to be cultivated in the neighbourhood of *Dehfont*; and poppies, from which an excellent opium is extracted, in that of *Shuster*.

I R A K

THE province of *Irak*, being the greatest part of the ancient *Media*, is bounded on the South by *Fars* and *Kuzistan*; East by *Khorassan* and the great *Salt Desert*; on the West by *Kurdistan*; and on the North by *Azerbijan*, *Ghilan*, and *Mazanderaun*. The appearance of this great province is almost every where the same, being entirely mountainous; and like the northern part of *Fars*, the vallies are of an indefinite length, but seldom exceed ten or fifteen miles in breadth. The mountains, which are barren and devoid of timber, run almost invariably from West to East; and either gradually sink into the desert, or throw out branches into the provinces of *Kerman* and *Khorassan*. The vallies are, for the most, uncultivated, excepting in the vicinity of the villages; but cannot, on that account (at least those to the North and West), be called barrén: on the contrary, the land is in general good, and capable of yielding abundance of corn. It is, as I have said more than once, oppression, and a consequent deficiency in population, not the poorness of the soil and a scarcity of water, that occasions the present desolate appearance of these plains, which the ruins of cities and aqueducts indicate

indicate to have been formerly in a very different condition. The districts of *Ispahan*, under the immediate management of the *Ameen a Doulah*, is indeed fast advancing towards prosperity : and the wonderful improvements which have been made, in the course of a few years, by this extraordinary man, shew what might be accomplished by a liberal and well-regulated rule.

The province of *Irak* is divided into five great districts, and each of these into *ballooks*, or lesser districts. These five great districts are :

1. *Ispahan*,
2. *Tehraun*,
3. *Naen*,
4. *Mullayer*,
5. *Kermanshaw*.

Most of the rivers either have been already, or will hereafter be mentioned, excepting the *Zeinderood*. This river has its source in the *Kohizerd*, or yellow mountain, where an aqueduct may yet be seen, by which Shah Abbas the Great attempted to unite its waters with those of the *Karoon*. The *Zeinderood* passes through the city of *Ispahan*, and is said to be absorbed in the irrigation of the adjoining territory.

The southern division of the district of *Ispahan*, lying between that capital and the towns of *Yezdekhust* and *Iserjen*, is more populous than the neighbouring districts of *Fars*, and just recovering,
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under the auspices of Mahomed Hussein Khan (the *Amcen a Doulah*) from the deplorable state to which it had been reduced by the ravages of the *Afghans*. The vallies are all connected with each other, either by openings in the mountains, or narrow defiles. The villages have a picturesque and flourishing appearance; and the produce of the *ballook* of *Lanjan* is not inferior to that of the most fertile spots in *Persia*. This *ballook* is about seventy miles in length and forty in breadth: it is irrigated by canals cut from the *Zeinderood*, and covered with villages, which are surrounded with gardens and prodigious numbers of pigeon-houses. On enquiry, I found that these birds are kept principally for the sake of their dung; and that the acknowledged superiority in the flavour of the melons at *Ispahan*, is alone to be ascribed to this rich manure. The largest of the pigeon-towers will sell for three thousand pounds; and many of them give to the proprietors an annual income of two to three hundred pounds each. Amongst the numerous villages of this *ballook*, is one called *Peerbakeran*, distant about sixteen miles from *Ispahan*. It is celebrated as a place of great religious resort to the Jews, who state that it contains the relicts of Sarah, a celebrated Jewish matron, but not the wife of Abraham. The building which incloses the tomb is apparently modern, and confused in its arrangements. At the extremity of a low and narrow passage, about twenty feet long, the pilgrim is conducted to an arched apartment, at the upper end of which stands the tomb, and, on the left, an inscription in Hebrew.

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The limits of *Irak* comprise many great and celebrated cities; the largest and most considerable of which is *Ispahan*, for ages the capital of the Persian monarchy. Its original name is said to have been *Sepahan*, which it received from the first Persian kings, in consequence of its having been the general place of rendezvous for their armies. This famous city, which lies in latitude $32^{\circ} 25'$ N. and longitude $51^{\circ} 50'$ E., has been so minutely described, even when at the height of its glory, by many travellers, and particularly by Chardin, that it will only be necessary to state the changes that have taken place since the period at which Sir John Chardin wrote. The wall, which then surrounded the city, was entirely destroyed, as were many other works of the Persian kings, by the Afghans, who have left many striking marks of their savage and barbarous habits in every part of the kingdom; but especially here, where, as their stay was longest, their ravages are most conspicuous. The suburb of *Julfa* has been reduced from twelve thousand to six hundred families. Most of the others have shared the same fate; and a person may ride for miles amidst the ruins of this immense capital, which yet boasts a population of two hundred thousand souls. The *Miedan*, or royal square, together with most of the palaces and mosques, are yet in being, and, although greatly decayed, are still magnificent. A new royal palace has just been completed by Hajee Mahomed Hussein Khan, which equals, in elegance, any of the old ones; and should his majesty ever be induced to make *Ispahan* the seat of government, there

there is room to believe that it would soon resume its ancient splendour. Indeed, it seems to be already emerging out of its ruins, under the auspices of the person above mentioned, who, from the lowest origin, has raised himself to the first situations in the empire, and the enjoyment of immense wealth, which he employs in the improvement of his native city and province. Besides the new palace, he has beautified and rebuilt many of the *bazars*, repaired and added to the fountains and aqueducts which supply the public gardens with water, and enclosed and cultivated all the waste land in the vicinity of the city.

There are three bridges over the *Zeinderood*, two of them in good repair; particularly that of the *Char Bang* (four gardens), so called from its connecting the upper and lower *Char Bang*, the name given to a spacious avenue, which runs from the royal square to the foot of the mountains East of *Ispahan*. The spacious houses and palaces which open into this royal avenue are almost all destroyed. That on the East end of it, which was called *Huzar Jerceh* (and, by the account of all travellers, one of the noblest edifices in *Ispahan*), was reduced to a heap of rubbish by the Afghans. Most of the mosques and colleges, mentioned by Chardin, are standing; and there are still nine churches in the suburb of *Julfu*, in which weekly service is performed. The vallies and plains, for many miles around *Ispahan*, are adorned with villages and plantations; and the first view which the traveller has, on coming from *Shirauz*, of this great metropolis,

polis, is from an eminence, about five miles from the city, when it bursts at once upon his sight, and is, perhaps, one of the grandest prospects in the universe. Its ruinous condition is not observable at a distance, all defects being hid by high trees and lofty buildings; and palaces, colleges, mosques, minarets, and shady groves, are the only objects that meet the eye. *Ispahan* is the first commercial city in the empire, being the emporium of the foreign trade between *India* and *Persia*, *Turkey* and *Cabul*. Its manufactures are various; but in that of gold brocade it has attained unrivalled excellence.

The most arid part of *Irak* is that situated between this city and *Yezd*. The soil is poor, light, and sandy; a general scarcity of wood and water prevails; and the climate is hot, although not unhealthy. The small towns of *Ardistan*, *Nain*, *Aujdah*, *Myaboot*, and *Serdabad*, are wretchedly built, and contain from one hundred to two hundred houses each.

The city of *Yezd* is large and populous, and situated in a sandy desert, contiguous to a high range of mountains running nearly East and West. *Yezd* is the grand mart between *Hindustan*, *Bokhara*, and *Persia*, and is, consequently, a place of considerable trade. The bazar is well supplied, and the city contains twenty thousand houses; besides those of the *Guebres*, or worshippers of fire, which are estimated at four thousand. The *Guebres* are an industrious people, but are greatly oppressed, being taxed at twenty piastres a-head, in addition to the various other exactions of the Persian government.

Here were formerly many opulent Hindoos; but the late governor, wishing to enrich himself by plundering their property, they all fled, in one night, towards *Kandahar*, where they have since established themselves. The present *Khan* has endeavoured, in vain, to recal them, and there are only nine Hindoos now in *Yezd*. The city imports the greatest part of its corn from the neighbourhood of *Ispahan*. Cattle are also scarce, and an ass will sometimes sell as high as fifty *tomans*. The manufacture of silk stuffs is superior to any in *Persia*; and the *numuds* of *Tuft*, a small village, distant eight miles, are equally famous. The fort of *Yezd* has but a mean appearance, and the town is destitute of a wall.* *Yezd* is laid down in the Map from three points: the first from *Ispahan* travelled by Captain Christie; the second from *Cashan*, travelled by Monsieu Robio; and the third from the village of *Dehbird*, travelled by Mahomed Saduck, an intelligent native.

There are two roads from *Ispahan* to the city of *Cashan*; one by the villages of *Moorchahar* and *Goroud*, and the other by *Serdahen* and *Natunz*. The former is the nearest, but the latter is the most pleasant.

Natunz, sixty-three miles from *Ispahan* and forty-three from *Cashan*, is one of the most delightful spots that can be imagined. It is situate in a valley, surrounded by high and rugged mountains,
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from which flow innumerable rivulets of water. The whole of this valley, about eight miles in length, is a continued garden of fruit-trees, in which the houses of the inhabitants are interspersed and hid from the view. *Naturz* is famed for the salubrity of its climate, pears, peaches, and pretty girls. The walnut-trees grow to a size and luxuriance beyond what I have ever witnessed in any other country, and extensive groves of white and red mulberries are cultivated, for the sake of a worm, which produces a silk not inferior to that of *Ghilaun*. This is the chief town of four *hallooks*. It has a fort in the centre of the valley, an excellent warm-bath, and an old mosque, with a very handsome minaret, said to have been built eight hundred years ago.

Cashan, one of the most flourishing cities in *Persia*, stands in stony plain, ill-supplied with water, in Latitude $33^{\circ} 55' N$, Longitude $51^{\circ} 17' E$. It owes its prosperity to its manufactures of silk, carpets, and copper wares. The King has a pleasant hunting-seat and garden, situated about three miles from hence, at the foot of the mountains. The road from *Cashan* to *Koom* winds principally along the edge of the *Great Salt Desert*, through a level country, depopulated and laid waste by the inroads of the Turkomans. It was the custom of these barbarians, previous to the reign of the present King, to make incursions into *Persia*, in parties not exceeding forty or fifty men; when, after plundering the villages and massacring the male inhabitants, they carried off the women and children, as slaves. For this purpose, each Turkoman was attended by two horses, which were as regularly

trained for these *chapowes*, or plundering expeditions, as the racers in *England* are to run at *Newmarket*; and it is an astonishing fact, that these horses have been known to perform a journey of seven or eight hundred miles in as many days.

The city of *Koom* was built in the year of the *Hejra* 203,* from the ruins of seven towns, which had composed a small sovereignty, under Abdalrahman, an Arabian prince. But this person having been overthrown by his enemies, and his country ruined, the inhabitants of the seven towns founded the city of *Koom*, which was divided into seven departments, each assuming the name of one of the towns which had been destroyed.† It afterwards became one of the first cities in *Persia*, and was long celebrated for its manufactures of silks. It stands in an extensive plain, and on the banks of a small river, which rises at no great distance, and is lost in the *Great Salt Desert*. Latitude 34° 45' N., Longitude 50° 29' E. *Koom* was taken by the *Afghans*, when they invaded *Persia*, in 1722, and completely destroyed. Part of it has since been rebuilt, but it still has the appearance of a vast ruin. There is a very beautiful college, with a celebrated mosque and sanctuary, erected to the memory of Fatima, the daughter of Iman Reza. In the mosque are still to be seen the tombs of Sefi the First and Shah Abbas the Second. The dome is lofty, and has been gilded at the expence of the King.

About

* D'Anville supposes it to be the ancient *Choana*.

† D'Herbelot.

About ten miles to the North of the town is a very curious hill, in the middle of the plain, called by some *Nimick Koh*, or the mountain of salt, and by others *Koh Talism*, the mountain of the talisman; for, according to the traditions of the country, no person succeeded in gaining its summit.

At *Koom* the road to *Tehraun* separates from that of *Tabreez*; I shall, therefore, in the first place, follow the former route, and then return to the positions between *Koom* and *Sultanea*.

The stages from *Koom* to *Tehraun* are as follows:—

<i>Pooli Delauk</i>	12 miles
<i>Kenaar Gherd</i>	46
<i>Tehraun</i>	22
	—
	80
	—

The first day's march is over a plain, strongly impregnated with salt and nitre; and in the second stage it is necessary to cross a part of the *Deria Kubbeer* (Sea of *Kubbeer*), a salt lake, or rather marsh, which runs from East to West about one hundred and fifty miles, being in some places upwards of thirty-five miles in breadth. The roads through this morass are not easily distinguished; and the unfortunate wanderer runs the risk of either perishing in the swamps, or dying of thirst and heat. Two rivers are crossed during this route: the first at *Pooli Delauk*, and the other at *Kenaar Gherd*. I am
ignorant

ignorant of the sources of these rivers; but the waters of both are dissipated in the sands of the *Great Desert*.

The approach to *Tehraun*, the present capital of *Persia*, is rendered interesting by the surrounding scenery. To the South are the extensive ruins of the grand and once proud city of *Bae*; to the East, the mountains of *Elburz* (famed in the traditions of *Persia* as the abode of the *Dæmons*), to the North the snow-clad summit of the lofty *Dumavend*, and to the West a plain enriched with cultivation and villages, and forming a delightful contrast with the rugged and stupendous rocks, which skirt it on the North and South. The city is situated in Latitude $35^{\circ} 40'$ N., as has been ascertained from a number of meridional observations. The Longitude deduced from *Casween* agrees with the road distance, and I have therefore placed it in $50^{\circ} 52'$ E. *Tehraun* is about four miles in circumference, surrounded by a strong wall, flanked by innumerable towers, and a noble dry ditch, with a *haak ruize*, or glacis, between it and the wall. The only building of consequence within the city is the *ark*, or citadel, which contains the palace of the sovereign and his officers. It was founded by *Karim Khan*, enlarged by the late King, and beautified by the present one. The fortifications of this citadel, although stronger than those of the town, would only be deemed formidable in a country where the military art is unknown. It is impossible to state with correctness the actual population

population of the capital, as it varies from time to time, according to the number of guards or attendants then in waiting upon his majesty. In summer, when the excessive heats compel the King to move from this place, and pitch his tents, either in the plains of *Sultanea* or *Onjan*, the majority of the inhabitants follow the royal camp. and I have been given to understand, that in the months of June, July, and August, the capital cannot boast above ten thousand people. When the King is there, in the winter, the population is supposed to amount to sixty thousand souls. The environs of *Tehraun* are not unpleasant, the plain, both to the East and West, being covered with villages, and abounding in grain. Five miles South of the town, and in the centre of the ruins of *Rae*, stands a village, called *Sheikh Abdul Azzem*, from a son of the seventh *Imam*, to whose memory a noble mosque and mausoleum have been erected. On the North side the King has just completed a handsome palace, which, from its situation and the fine gardens that surround it, is a most delightful residence.

There are many reasons which might have induced the late King to fix upon *Tehraun* as the capital of his dominions. It is a most central situation, and one from which the Persian empire can, perhaps, be better defended, than any other; the country in its neighbourhood, being fertile and productive, and so many wandering tribes have settled around, that it is ascertained, his Majesty can, on any emergency, assemble from those encamped between *Casween* and

Firoze

Firoze Koh,* a body of twenty-five thousand horse, in the short space of five days. This, in a country where a standing army is unknown, is an advantage not to be appreciated. But there is another reason, perhaps, still more urgent than even the above, which might have induced Aga Mahomed Khan to make this place the seat of government. It is not far from *Astrabad*, his native city, and from *Mazanderaun* and *Dahestan*, countries possessed by the Kajer tribe, of which he was the chief, and on whose power and affection to his person his authority was in a great measure founded. The ruins of *Rae* cover a great extent of country, but offer nothing worthy of observation; for as most of the buildings in *Persia* are made of brick dried in the sun, they are no sooner deserted than they crumble into dust; and we therefore find (with a few exceptions) that the remains of all the cities in this country present the same appearance of mounds or hillocks of sand, covered with pieces of lacquered tile. The city of *Rae* holds a distinguished place in the annals of *Persia*. It is mentioned by Arrian and by Diodorus Siculus, as the capital of the province of *Rhuges*, so called from the calamities brought upon this part of the empire by the earthquakes to which it was, and still is subject. It is frequently mentioned in the wars of the renowned Harounul Rushid; it was the capital of this part of *Persia*, in the reign of Alp-Arslan, and continued to flourish, until sacked by the generals of Junguez Khan.

A lofty

* This is one of the strongest and most celebrated fortresses of *Persia*, and occupies the summit of a hill on the frontier of *Mazanderaun*.

A lofty range of mountains divides the northern frontier of *Irak* from the provinces bordering on the *Caspian Sea*. This range passes about six miles to the North of *Tehraun*, and about fifty to the East of that city suddenly advances to the South, as far as the Latitude of 36° N., and again, as suddenly retiring, forms a point, at the extremity of which is the pass of *Khawar*, designated in ancient geography by the appellation of the *Caspian Strait*. From the point of *Khawar* a vast, but uneven valley, extends to the N. W., as far as the city of *Casween*. This plain, which is probably twenty miles in breadth, affords abundance of excellent pasturage, and being in the jurisdiction of Mahomed Hussein Khan, is populous and well cultivated.

The position of *Casween* is fixed from the observations of M. Beauchamp, who gives the Latitude at $36^{\circ} 12'$ N., and Longitude in $49^{\circ} 33'$ E. Although the greater part of this city is in ruins, it is still regarded as one of the largest and most populous towns in the kingdom, and carries on a great trade with *Ghilan*. *Casween*, which owes its foundation to Sapor Dulactaf, became the capital of *Persia* during the immediate predecessors of Shah Abbas the Great, and when visited by Chardin, in 1674, contained many magnificent buildings.

The climate of this part of *Irak* is delightful in the spring, although rather cold towards its commencement, as the snow is scarcely off the ground, and a keen North wind (called *Baude Caucasian*) blows from the mountains. The heat sets in towards the middle of June, and

continues to increase till the middle of August, when the harvest is collected. The cold begins to be felt towards the end of September, and the snow continues to fall in great quantities, during the months of December, January, and February.

I shall now quit the plain of *Casween*, and return to the country between *Koom* and the *Kizilozien*. From *Koom* to the entrance of the districts of *Sava* the soil is, like all the country in the vicinity of that city, impregnated with particles of salt. This district, of which the ruined town of *Sava*, the ancient *Tubus*, is the capital, extends from within twenty-six miles of *Koom* to the village of *Sugzeabad*, in the plain of *Casween*, a distance of seventy-eight miles. The greater part of it is laid out in pasture lands, and was celebrated, during the wars of the successors of Alexander, for an excellent breed of horses. It is now in the possession of the rival tribes of *Kahlig* and *Afshar*, who never fail to avail themselves of any interregnum in the government, to carry fire and desolation into the estates of each other.

From *Sugzeabad* it is seventy-three miles to the old city of *Sultanea*, through a part of the district of *Khumseh*, so named from five *ballooks* of which it is composed. *Sultanea* is situated in a pleasant and fertile plain, where the King usually encamps during the summer months, to avoid the hot and unhealthy climate of *Tehraun*. This city, which is seventy miles from *Casween* and one hundred from *Meanna*, was the capital of the descendants of *Holaku*; but is now an entire mass of ruins, there only remaining about twenty poor families, who

who live in wretched hovels in the vicinity of the Tomb of Sultaun Hodabunda, the founder. This is a large and beautiful structure, built of brick and covered with a cupola, ninety feet in height, that would do honour to the most scientific architect in *Europe*. The Latitude of *Sultanea* was ascertained by several observations, whilst the Mission was encamped with the King, in June 1810. The mean of these observations was $36^{\circ} 32' N$.

Zinjan, distant twenty-one miles, according to my calculation, bears about N. W. by W. of *Sultanea*. This is a large, and apparently a prosperous town, capital of the extensive district of *Khumseh*, now under the government of one of the King's sons, a boy of ten years of age. It is seventy-one miles over an uneven country, full of deep ravines, from hence to the banks of the *Kizilozien*, or golden stream, the natural boundary of *Irak* and *Azerhijan*.

This river which, according to Rennell, is the *Gozan* of the Scripture, has its source eight or nine miles to the N. W. of *Sennah*, in *Kurdistan*: it runs along the N. W. frontier of *Irak* (through the country formerly possessed by the *Mardii*) and passes under the *Kafulan Koh*, or Mountain of Tigers, where it is met, a few miles to the East of *Meanna*, by the *Karanku*, which takes its rise to the westward of that town, in the mountains of *Sahund*. These two rivers combined, force a passage through the great range of *Caucasan*; and, during their course, form a junction with the *Shahrood*, a river formed by two streams, one of which comes from the vicinity of *Cazween*, and the

other from the mountains of *Elburz* behind *Tehraun*. The collective waters, under the designation of the *Sifeed Rood*, or white river, so named from the foam occasioned by the rapidity of its current, flows in a meandering course through *Ghilan*, to the *Caspian Sea*. The road from *Hamadan* to *Resht* leads along the edge of the deep chasm, through which the *Kizilozien* descends into *Ghilan*. Captain Sutherland describes this as one of the grandest and most terrific scenes he ever witnessed. The frightful roar of the waters is heard at a distance, and an unwary step would instantaneously precipitate the traveller into the gulf below.

The most mountainous part of *Irak* is that lying between the *Kizilozien* and the cities of *Hamadan* and *Kermanshaw*. It is called *Al Gebal* (the mountainous) by oriental authors, and would seem to be the *Matienne* of the Greeks and Romans. My friend, Captain Frederick, of the Bombay Presidency, to whom I am indebted for much valuable information, travelled through this country, in 1810, in his route from *Khawa* to *Maraga*, and on his return hence to *Hamadan*. He describes the country between the village of *Sougore*, five *farsungs* N. W. of *Besittoon*, to *Hyder Peyghumber*, a hunting seat of the King's, situated in a plain, divided only by a small ridge of hills from that of *Sultanea*, as in a state of nature, wild, almost uninhabited, but abounding with rich pasture land. The country between *Sultanea* and *Hamadan* was in a more prosperous condition,
being

being peopled by the tribes of *Giroos* and *Karagoostie*, and well cultivated.

There is every reason to believe, that the city of *Hamadan* either stands upon, or near the scite of the ancient *Ecbatana*. Pliny says, that *Susa* is equidistant from *Seleucia* and *Ecbatana*, and that the capital of *Atropotia* (*Azerbaijan*) is midway between *Artaxata* and *Ecbatana*. Isidore of Charax places it in the way between *Seleucia* and *Parthia*; and Diodorus Siculus describes it as situated in a low plain, distant twelve *fursungs* from a mountain, called *Orontes*. These testimonies are as strong in favour of the position of *Hamadan*, as they are irreconcilable to that of *Tabreez*, which Sir Wm. Jones supposes to be the *Median* capital. The former is nearly equidistant from *Susa* and *Seleucia*, is in the direct road from *Seleucia* to *Parthia*, and situated in a low plain, at the foot of the celebrated *Mount Elwund*: but *Tabreez* is neither equidistant from *Seleucia* and *Susa*, nor is it in the road from *Seleucia* to *Parthia*; on the contrary, it is situated in a distant province, which has almost as often been included in the kingdom of *Armenia* as in *Persia*. When I was at *Hamadan*, in 1810, I was shewn the tomb of Mordecai and Esther: a circumstance, of itself, sufficient to attest the antiquity of the place. The Persians, themselves, say it was the favorite summer residence of most of their sovereigns, from the days of Darius to that of Jungeez Khan;

* The tomb of Avicenna is also at *Hamadan*.

Khan; and, indeed, it is reasonable to suppose, that a preference might be given to its fine situation. During eight months in the year, the climate is delightful; but in winter the cold is excessive, and fuel, with difficulty, procured. The plain is intersected by innumerable little streams, covered with gardens and villages, and the vegetation is the most luxurious I ever beheld.

Elwand, which is, no doubt, the *Mount Orontes* of Diodorus, when viewed at a distance, has the appearance of a long range of mountains. The length of *Elwand proper* is, however, not more than twelve miles. It is completely separated from the northern ridge; and near its summit, which is tipped with continual snow and seldom obscured by clouds, is a beautiful valley, perfumed by a thousand sweet-scented flowers. This mountain is famed in the *East* for its mines, waters, and vegetable productions. The Indians suppose that it contains the philosopher's stone; and the natives of *Hamadan* believe that some of its grasses have the power of transmuting the basest metals into gold, as well as of curing any distemper to which the human frame is exposed. The only curiosity I observed on this mountain was an inscription upon a rock, called *Gunj-Nauma*, or history of the treasure: a name which it has received, from a belief that it contains an account of a treasure buried near it. This inscription is in the same character as those at *Tukti Jumsheed*, *Maudir i Solimane*, and on the Babylonian bricks.

Hamadan

Hamadan was taken and destroyed by Timour, and ever since that period appears to have been considered only in the light of a secondary city. The present town consists of about ten thousand meanly-built houses, containing, it is supposed, upwards of forty thousand inhabitants. The wall which surrounded it was, together with the citadel, destroyed by order of the late king, Aga Mahomed Khan, and neither has since been rebuilt. *Hamadan* is famed for its manufacture of leather, in which article it carries on a considerable trade : it is also a mart of commerce between *Ispahan* and *Bagdad*, and between the latter and *Tehraun*. The city, with its dependencies, is in the possession of Mahomed Hassan Khan, chief of the noble tribe of Karagooslie * (who alone inhabit the neighbouring country), and pays an annual revenue of ten thousand *tomauns*. *Hamadan* is situated in Latitude 34° 53' N., and Longitude 48° E. The districts of *Mulloyer*, *Kizzaj*, and *Khonsar*, lie between this city and the town of *Khonsar*, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles. They are but indifferently cultivated, and the face of the country is much the same as that between *Fars* and *Ispahan*.

The situation of *Khonsar* is singularly interesting and romantic. In approaching it from the West, the traveller passes over a road completely shaded on both sides, for the distance of four or five miles, by every species of fruit-tree which this country produces. The town stands at the base of two ranges of mountains, running parallel with each

This tribe, it is said, can bring seven thousand men into the field

each other, and so very close, that the houses occupy the bottom, and at the same time the face of the hills to some height. Each house is separate, and surrounded by its own garden ; and the town, which is only connected by means of its plantations, is about six miles in length, and not more than a quarter of a mile in breadth. The hills afford an ample supply of water ; and the appearance of the black and barren rocks, without a particle of vegetation upon them, hanging over these gardens, forms a contrast with the luxuriant and variegated foliage of the plantation, which can hardly be imagined by a person, who has never visited this little paradise. *Khonsar* contains two thousand five hundred families, under a chief, named Ali Shah, and yields an annual revenue of five thousand *tomauns*, exclusive of the *Sadir*, which generally consists of dried fruits and a kind of cotton chintz. No corn of any kind is grown in the valley ; but the fruit is so abundant, that it alone enables the inhabitants to procure every kind of necessary article and convenience in return for it. A kind of cyder is made of the apples ; but it will not keep above a month. The women of this place are celebrated for their beauty and vivacity.

At the back of the south-western ridge of the mountains of *Khonsar*, lies the little district of *Feredun*, entirely peopled with Georgians and Armenians, brought here by Abbas the Great. The former, amounting to one thousand families, profess the Mahomedan faith ; but never intermarry with either Persians or Armenians. The capital of the district is *Puashish*.

Ispahan is ninety-two miles from *Khonsar*, and the territory intervening is in an improved state of culture, being part of the district under the *Ameen a Doulah*.

A fertile track of country, between *Hamadan* and *Kungawur*, is in possession of a branch of the great tribe Afshar, whose chief, Fura Julah Khan, under the pretence of filling the station of *Nusha-kehee Baushee*, or high sheriff to the King, is always compelled to remain at court, as a hostage for the good behaviour of his followers. The town of *Assudabad*, the hereditary seat of this powerful family, is twenty-three miles from *Hamadan*, on the road to *Kermanshaw*. The small town of *Kungawur*, situated on an eminence, forty-five miles from *Hamadan* and fifty-two from *Kermanshaw*, is remarkable for the ruins of a magnificent temple or palace, for such I presume it to have been. The form, which can be easily traced, is quadrangular, each face being two hundred and fifty paces in length and eighteen cubits in breadth. The walls (for part of them remain) are built of large hewn stones, and each particular stone seems to have had a mark, to prevent its being misplaced. Fragments of pillars lie scattered in every direction, and the greatest part of the shafts of seven are still standing. The people of the village, who were busily employed in removing the stones, for the purpose of building houses, informed me, that there were once four hundred of these pillars, and that the palace was originally built by the *Gins*, or *Genii*. The pillars seem to have been of various sizes. The shafts of some of the largest,

which I measured, were sixteen feet in circumference, and several of the capitals about eight feet in diameter. They were quite plain, and more like the Tuscan than any other order of architecture.

We read in history of three places, which will, in some degree, apply to the situation and description of *Kungawur*. The palace near *Ecbatana*, where Antigonus retired, after the defeat by Eumenes; the temple of Jupiter Belus, in *Elymais*, plundered by Antiochus the Great to pay the Roman tribute; and the town of *Concobar*, famous for a temple of Diana. As the exact position, however, of the royal palace is not stated by Diodorus, and the country of the *Elymais* is considerably to the South of *Kungawur*, I am inclined, from the striking similarity of name (for the *b* and the *v* are continually pronounced alike) to give the preference to *Concobar*.

The following are the stages from *Kungawur* to the city of *Kermanshaw*, the capital of a fruitful and extensive district, and the residence of Mahomed Ali Meerza, eldest son to the King, and the most able and warlike of all the princes of *Persia*.

<i>Sahanah</i>	16 miles
<i>Besittoon</i>	16
<i>Kermanshaw</i>	20
	<hr/>
	52
	<hr/>

The village of *Sahanah* lies at the foot of a lofty range of mountains: it is surrounded with gardens, and has a pleasant appearance;

ance ; for trees, from their scarcity, are always an agreeable object in this country. Close to this village, and on the face of the mountain, are two excavations, or chambers, somewhat resembling those of *Nukshi Rustom*. These excavations, from their height and the smoothness of the rock, can only be examined with the assistance of ropes. They contain no inscriptions or sculptures of any kind, and are ascribed, by the country people, to the labours of Ferhaud

A long range of barren mountains, bounding the plain of *Kermanshaw* to the North, are terminated abruptly on the East by a high and perpendicular rock, in one place cut to a smooth surface, and projecting over the road, like a canopy ; from which circumstance I conclude it has taken the name of *Besiltoon*.* Near this projection, on a high and inaccessible part of the rock, is a group of figures, in the form of a procession, sufficiently perfect to shew that they are of the same age and character as those of *Persepolis*. That figure, so conspicuous at those magnificent ruins, and which is supposed to be a symbol of the Deity, is also to be seen here : and at no great distance from the group is a door, closed by a large stone, exactly similar to those in the side of the hill immediately behind *Persepolis*. Some other sculptures, and a Greek inscription on the side of this door, have been almost obliterated, to make room for a modern Arabic writing, whereby most of the surrounding land is granted for the support of an adjoining *caravansera*.

* *Siltoon*, in Persian. means a pillar, and *be* is the negative preposition.

Little is known regarding the ancient history of *Kermanshaw*. It is said to have been founded by Bahram, the son of Sapor Dulactaf, who having conquered *Kerman*, assumed the title of *Kermanshah*, or king of *that* country, which he bestowed on his new city. Chosroes Nushirvan, according to the *Nozhatalcolaub*, here erected a magnificent hall of audience, where, on one occasion, he received the homages of the Emperor of Rome, the Emperor of China, and the Khan of the Tartars. No ruin of any ancient building of consequence is now, however, to be seen; and it is not improbable, but the historian may allude to the hall of *Kungawur*. *Kermanshaw* is a flourishing town, containing about twelve thousand houses, and lies in the southern extremity of a fine plain, through the centre of which runs the *Karasu*. The town is adorned with many gardens, has fourteen *hummams*, or public baths, four mosques, and yields a revenue of fifteen thousand *tomans* a year.

Between five and six miles from the city, and in the northern range of mountains, are the excavations and sculptures of *Taki Bostan*, mentioned by Otter and other travellers. These excavations are made in the mountains, which form the northern boundary of the plain of *Kermanshaw*. The most considerable of them is an arch cut in the rock, fifty or sixty feet in height, twenty in depth, and twenty-four in width. Over the centre of the arch is an emblematic figure, resembling a crescent, and on each side an angel, with a wreath or diadem in one hand, and a cup in the other. The figure on the right
hand

hand is tolerably perfect ; but the hand and arm of that on the left is all that is now visible, in consequence of a large fragment of the rock, on which it was carved, having fallen down. From the shape of the rock, it might be conjectured, that there must once have been either some other sculptures, or else inscriptions, immediately above these, which time and the inclemency of the weather have destroyed. The angel on the right is elegantly proportioned, and dressed in loose flowing robes. At the extremity of the arch is the figure of a man clothed in armour, with a shield on his left arm, a lance in his right hand, a quiver full of arrows hanging by his side, and a crown or tiara on his head. That part of his dress which appears beneath the chains of his armour has several griffins and other ornaments upon it, and over the loins of the horse hangs a tassel, like those that may be seen at *Persepolis*. The head, neck, and shoulders of the animal are covered with armour ; and this figure, although considerably mutilated, is, upon the whole, well-proportioned and tolerably carved. Above the horseman are three large figures in an upright posture, but so much defaced, that nothing but the general outline can be distinguished. On the left a female holds a diadem in her right hand, with which she is offering to crown the principal male figure in the centre, and in her left she holds a goblet, as if in the act of pouring out a libation. Over the head of the centre figure, which is larger than the other two, is the same emblematic sign of the crescent : with one
hand

hand he appears to be grasping a ring with the male figure on his right ; and with the other a straight sword, the point of which rests on the ground between his feet. The figure on the right is dressed in a mantle, has a long beard, and wears a helmet on his head, with a ball on the top of it.

A representation of the hunting of the wild boar occupies the whole of the left side of the arch. This is remarkably well executed, and in a more perfect condition than any of the other sculptures. It has, notwithstanding, suffered much, particularly in the finer parts ; and the faces, in general, seem to have been intentionally mutilated. There are here a vast number of figures, all executed with wonderful precision and judgment. The attitudes of the elephants, which compose a part of the scene, are so well conceived, and the trunks and every other part so exquisitely finished, that they would not, perhaps, have disgraced the finest artists of *Greece* and *Rome*. The principal figure near the centre of the piece is a man standing in a boat, with a bow and arrow ready bent in his hand, and on the point of shooting at several wild boars, which are rushing from the reeds. In the same boat are four other men, two of them with paddles in their hands, one of them taking an arrow out of the quiver, and the other playing upon the harp. In the front of this boat is another, of smaller dimensions, containing five females, sitting and playing on a harp, of ten strings. A third boat, in front of the female harpers, contains another chief of a lofty stature, with a glory playing round his head ; and also accompanied by four men, employed in the same manner as those of
the

the other chief. Their dresses are ornamented with griffins, and each has a belt round his waist. There are several other boats full of female musicians; and at the top of the piece are a number of boars, flying before their pursuers. The opposite side of the arch represents the hunting of the stag; but this, from being more exposed to the weather, is not so perfect as the other. The two chiefs again appear in this scene. The first is on horseback, attended by a man on foot, holding an umbrella over his head. In his right hand is a club or mace, a sword hangs by his side, and his bow is slung across his shoulders. In front of him are seven musicians (probably females) sitting on a kind of stage, erected on the back of an elephant. The other chief is pursuing at full speed a number of flying deer, and in the act of shooting at them with his bow and arrow. It would however be superfluous to describe all the figures of this piece, as they are, in a great measure, similar to those on the opposite side.

At the upper end of another cave, of the same shape and dimensions as that already described, and only a few paces from it, there is a basso relievo of two kings, habited alike. They have the Persepolitan wig, and the globular crown, so remarkable at *Nukshi Rustom* and *Shapour*. To the right and left of these figures are two inscriptions in *Pehlvi*, by which it would appear, if we follow the translations of M. de Sacy, that this relief is meant to represent Sapor Dulactaf, and his son, Bahram or Vahram. Not far from the entrance of this cave are three figures, well worthy of attention. The one on the right stands upon a star,

star, and holds a sceptre in his hands: his head is obscured in a blaze of glory, and turned towards the figures on his left. Each of these represent majesty: one has the globular, and the other the pyramidical crown. They are treading on a man, who lies prostrate beneath their feet.

I have been thus minute on the sculptures at *Taki Bostan* and *Besiltoon*, because I have never, in any publication, seen an accurate description of them. Many and various are the opinions respecting the age and the authors of these excavations. By some they are ascribed to Semiramis; others to the Greek successors of Alexander; and M. Silvestre de Sacy, an ingenious French gentleman, has written a memoir, to prove that they are the works of the Sassanides. As it is not my intention to enter into any disquisition on a subject which, it is probable, will hereafter be more ably treated, I shall confine myself to a few remarks, which occurred to me whilst contemplating those wonderful monuments of antiquity. We are informed by Diodorus Siculus, that Semiramis, in her march to *Ecbatana*, encamped near a mountain, called *Bagistan*, in *Media*, where she made a garden, twelve furlongs in compass, in a plain champaign country, watered by a great fountain. *Mount Bagistan* was dedicated to Jupiter, and towards one side of the garden had steep rocks, seventeen furlongs in height. She cut out a piece of the lower part of the rock, and caused her own image to be carved upon it, and a hundred of her guard that were lanceteers standing around her. She wrote likewise,

in Syrian letter, on the rock, that Semiramis ascended from the plain to the top of the mountain, by laying the packs and fardles of the beasts that followed her one upon another.* This account will be found to answer the description of *Besiltoon* in many particulars. It is situated in the road to *Echatana*; one side of the mountain fronts a plain champaign country, watered by a small river, which winds round the foot of the hill; and the lower part of the rock is excavated, in the manner described. The group of figures cannot, indeed, be construed into a representation of the Assyrian Queen and her guards; but it must, at the same time, be remembered, that other sculptures have apparently been obliterated, to make room for the Arabic inscription.

The striking resemblance of the dress and attitudes of most of the principal figures at *Taki Bostan* with those of *Nukshi Rustom*, *Shapour*, and *Firozeabad*, justify us in the conclusion, that they were the productions of the same age: and if the translations of M. de Sacy be correct, we cannot greatly err in attributing them to the monarchs of the Sassanian dynasty. The Persians say, that they were executed by Ferhaud, as a task enjoined him by Chosroes Purviz, to be completed before he would consent to gratify his passion for Shirin.

There is, ten miles from *Taki Bostan*, amongst the mountains, a place called *Kemish*, celebrated in ancient times for an *atash kude*, or fire-temple; of which nothing remains, but large heaps of loose stones, situated near a cave and fine spring of water. I was also

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informed, that about four miles from hence, near a rivulet and garden, there were sculptures on the rocks, and regretted that it was not in my power to visit them.

The mean of several meridional observations, taken by the gentlemen of the Mission, fixes the Latitude of *Kermanshaw* in $34^{\circ} 26'$ N. The Longitude has been deduced from *Bagdad*, and compared with a number of cross routes. Between fourteen and fifteen miles from this city, we were taken to see an extraordinary fountain, celebrated for the quantity of water-lilies that grow upon its banks. It is said to be very deep, and is about a mile in circumference. Three streams, which continually flow from it, fertilize the lands in its vicinity.

The government of the Prince, Mahomed Ali Meerza, comprehends nearly the whole of *Louristan*, an extensive tract of country, formerly peopled by the *Elymaitæ*, *Cossæ*, and *Parataceni*, and now by the martial tribes of *Lack Buchliari* and *Filli*. This great district, which runs along the whole of the northern frontier of *Kuzistan*, and extends as far to the East as the Longitude of 50° , and to the North as far as the Latitude of $33^{\circ} 40'$, is by much the richest and most fruitful part of *Irak*. Several large rivers descend from it into the level province of *Kuzistan*, and there is hardly a valley that is not watered by a number of lesser streams. The pasture is most luxuriant, but no attention is paid to agriculture; for the *Illits* prefer a wandering life, and principally subsist on the produce of their flocks. The tribes of *Louristan* trace their origin to the most remote antiquity; but say
that

that their ancestors intermarried with several Turkish hordes, which they had invited from *Syria* to settle amongst them. They are a savage and fearless race, subject to no law but the will of their chiefs, and would seem to differ only in name from the rude inhabitants of the same country, in the days of Alexander. They reside in black tents, even during the winter; and consequently, with the exception of *Korumabad*, there are no towns, and but few villages, to be seen in *Louristan*. *Korumabad*, the ancient *Corbienne*, now the capital of the chief of the *Filli* tribe, is seventy-three *farsungs* from *Ispahan*, and thirty-two from *Kermanshaw*. It was visited by Captain Frederick, who describes it as standing at the foot of a mountain, and in a narrow valley, through which flows a broad and rapid river. The town is small, and protected by a fort, sufficiently strong to deride the efforts of a Persian army. This fort is built on a conical hill in the centre of the town, which is connected with the gardens on the opposite side of the valley by a bridge of twenty-eight arches thrown across the river.

Between *Korumabad* and *Hamadan* lie the extensive plains of *Khawa* and *Alistar*, where the Prince, Mahomed Ali Meerza, frequently encamps with his army: and to the N. E. are the towns of *Hussar Booroojird* and *Nehaund*. The former is a large and populous place, capital of a wealthy district, governed by the Prince, Ali Shah. The road from hence to *Booroojird*, a distance of forty miles, is a continued and gradual ascent for about

four *fursungs*; when, on arriving at the summit of the mountains, a magnificent prospect suddenly breaks upon the sight. A circular plain, covered with cultivation, villages, and scattered clumps of trees, lies extended at your feet. The sides of the surrounding hills are enamelled with daisies and other flowers. To the left is the huge mountain of the *Shuter Koh*, covered with perpetual snow; and, to the right, the lofty range of *Giroos* and *Mount Elwund* raise their hoary heads to the clouds. In front the view is bounded by another high mountain, covered with verdure; and at the bottom of this, in a clear day, may be seen the mosques and minarets of *Booroojird*, a flourishing city, subject to the Prince, Mahomed Tukkee Meerza, and containing a population of twelve thousand souls. The district attached to the government of *Booroojird* is peopled by the tribe of *Lack*, who do not wander far from the spots to which they are partial, but settle in villages, and employ themselves in the improvement of their estates.

Ten *fursungs* from *Booroojird*, on the road to *Kermanshaw*, the town of *Nehaund* is celebrated in history for a battle which gave *Persia* to the Saracens, and overturned the empire of the house of *Sosson*.

The influence of the *Beglerbeg* of *Kermanshaw* ceases at the pass of *Kurrend*, the boundary of the kingdom of *Persia* to the S. W. The stages from *Kermanshaw* to this pass are *Mahedesht* and *Harounabad*, villages situated in two fine plains, between thirty and

forty

forty miles in length, and supposed to be the country of the *Nissæns**, mentioned by Arrian, as being famous for a breed of horses, which excelled all others in size, beauty, and swiftness. The pasture of the plains, although very good, is yet inferior to that of *Ardelan* : and it is remarkable, that there has, for many generations, been preserved in the family of the *Wallæe* of *Senna*, a breed of horses, distinguished for the very qualities possessed by those of the *Nissæns*.

The district of *Karrend* extends along the brink of *Mount Zagros*, from the vicinity of *Holwan* to the village of *Goour*. It is covered with forests of stunted oak, and inhabited by an extraordinary race of men, whose customs would seem to be nearly the same as those of the *Aadmusia* in *Syria*, described by Volney.†

* Rennell.

† I have been informed, that in the nocturnal festivals which they hold, the garments of the fair sex, at the expiration of a certain period, are thrown into a heap and jumbled together. This being accomplished, the lights are extinguished, and the cloaths being regularly distributed among the men, the candles are re-lighted; and it is settled by the rules of the society, that the lady must patiently submit to the embraces of the person who has become possessed of her dress, whether father, son, husband, or brother. The lights are then once more extinguished, and the whole of this licentious tribe pass the remainder of the night in the indulgence of the most promiscuous lust.

ARDELAN.

THE province of *Ardelan*, forming the eastern division of *Kurdistan*,* is in length two hundred miles, from the little river *Sharook* to the Turkish district of *Zohauh*, and nearly one hundred and sixty in breadth. It is divided from the plain of *Hamadan* by a small range of hills, and its western boundary is one hundred miles beyond *Senna*, the capital, situated in Latitude $35^{\circ} 12' N.$, and Longitude $40^{\circ} E.$, as ascertained by actual observation.

The *Kurds*, under the appellation of *Carduchai*, are mentioned by the earliest of the Grecian historians; and they themselves still boast of being the direct descendants of Noah. In religion, indeed, they are changed; but in the rude and barbarous customs of this people, little alteration has taken place since the time of Xenophon. Possessing a wild and inaccessible country, they have never been completely subdued, and continue to live under the rule of a number of independent princes, who govern their subjects as absolutely as either the King of *Persia*, or the Grand Seigneur. The *Kurds* are brave and hospitable; but, in other respects, far more uncivilized than any of their

* *Kurdistan*, the country of the *Kurds*, comprehends the whole of *Assyria proper*, and part of *Armenia* and *Media*.

their neighbours. They are robust, hardy, and temperate, and live to so great an age, that it is not uncommon to see men an hundred years old, in full possession both of their corporeal and mental faculties. They are averse to settled habits. War and rapine are their delight, and murder and parricide they hardly contemplate in the light of a crime. They are seldom taught to read and write, but excel in the management of their horses and arms. They speak a language of their own, and dress differently from either the Persians or Turks. They are divided into different tribes, proud of their descent, and fond of tracing the families of their chiefs to the most fabulous ages. The most powerful of these chiefs are the *Wallees* of *Ardelan* and *Solimanea*. The former, although he condescends, for the preservation of peace, to pay an annual tribute to the King of *Persia*, is, in every other sense of the word, independent. He has the power of life and death over his vassals; but governs them more as a patriarch than a tyrant. He is said to be the lineal descendant and representative of the Great *Salah a deen*, and holds his court at *Senna*, his capital, sixty miles from *Hamadan*, and seventy-seven from *Kermanshaw*.

From the little river *Sharook*, which separates the province of *Ardelan* from *Ar-erhijan*, to *Senna*, the face of the country is every where the same. It presents to the view either progressive clusters of hills, heaped, as it were, upon each other; or great table-lands, covered with flocks and the tents of the *Illuts*, who pass the months of June, July, and August in this quarter, but remove to the neighbourhood

bourhood of *Bagdad* in the winter.* The valley, ~~or more correctly~~ speaking, glens, are narrow strips at the feet of mountains, where the villages are commonly built in situations which protect the few inhabitants that remain in them from the inclemency of the weather. The soil is good, and will yield abundance of wheat and barley; but the *Kurds*, who prefer the pastoral life, content themselves with raising only what is absolutely necessary for their subsistence. They have numerous flocks of sheep and cattle, and possess an admirable breed of horses, esteemed for their size, beauty, and activity. The oil-plant is everywhere common, and tobacco is cultivated in small quantities. The mountains to the West of *Senna* are covered with forests of oak, which produce fine timber and abundance of gall-nuts. The former is made into rafts, and floated down the *Tah* into the *Tigris*; the latter is an article of trade, and exported to *India*.

Secluded in the bosom of a deep valley, well-cultivated and interspersed with orchards of peach, apricot, pear, apple, and cherry-trees, *Senna* is, at once, a most romantic and flourishing little town. Its population amounts to about eight thousand souls, of which number two thousand are Jews, Armenians, and Nestorians, who trade to *Mosul*, *Bagdad*, and *Ispahan*. The *Wallee*, who seldom quits this place, resides in a sumptuous palace, built on the top of a small hill in the centre of the town, where he maintains a degree of state and splendour,

superior

* It was so cold in the table-land of *Hobatou* in July 1810, that the water froze and Fahrenheit's thermometer was as low as 35°, at six in the morning.

superior to anything I have seen in *Persia*, except at court. He is an accomplished and liberal-minded man, respected by his neighbours and beloved by his subjects. His house is ever open for the entertainment of strangers, and he always retains about his person a chosen body of horse. In short, it was impossible to contemplate this chief, sitting at the head of his hall, surrounded by his friends and relations, without calling to mind the Percy's and Douglas's of our own country.*

The following are the stages from *Senna* to *Kermanshaw* :—

<i>Hussanabad</i>	4 miles
<i>Korank</i>	18
<i>Koolashosock</i>	13
<i>Karimjeareen</i>	10
<i>Kella Shah Khanec</i>	3
<i>Kazzer Ellias</i>	17
<i>Kermanshaw</i>	12
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Nothing could exceed the kindness and hospitality, with which this prince received and entertained General Malcolm and his suite. He said he should conceive the visit of the English Embassy to his territories as an epoch in the annals of his family, and as such it would be carefully recorded. We were met about three miles from the town by his eldest son, at the head of three hundred horsemen, admirably mounted. The young prince, although not ten years of age, rode and managed a large and high-spirited charger with inimitable address.

The territories of *Ardelan* extend as far as *Kella Shah Khanee*; and the face of the country, on this side, is similar to that between the *Sharook* and *Senna*. It is peopled by a tribe, named *Gheshkee*, who are honoured by the *Kurds* as the most expert and daring robbers of their nation. That torture may not induce them to betray their accomplices, they are habituated to pain from their earliest infancy; for they are beaten so unmercifully when children, that their bodies, in the course of time, become nearly insensible to outward feeling. Although thieves and robbers by profession, they are slaves to the most abject superstition, as the following circumstance will evince. At *Kella Shah Khanee*, the ruins of the castle of Shah Khan, a distinguished *Ameer* in the court of Chosroes Purviz, a few loose stones have been collected, to mark the abode of a *peer ghaib*, or invisible saint. When any of the neighbouring tribes are unwell, a piece of bread, steeped in oil or butter, is placed upon one of the stones, to propitiate the saint, and induce him to recover the patient, which they conceive he seldom fails to do.

Between *Kella Shah Khanee* and *Kazzer Ellias* the nature of the country entirely changes; and instead of a succession of verdant hills, intermixed with deep glens, we have here extensive cultivated plains, bounded by bleak and barren mountains. *Kazzer Ellias* is so termed, from a cave in the mountains, containing the tomb of *Kazzer Ellias*: a small brick building, with a door, to protect the *derveishes* from the intrusion of wild beasts. The Mahomedans, according to D'Herbelot, believe

believe Kazzer and Ellias to be the same person; but the *moolahs* (priests) at *Kermanshaw* deny this statement, and say that, although nearly related, they were different persons, and both prophets: that since they vanished from the world, Ellias continues to watch over the seas, and Kazzer to take care of the earth. Ellias is unquestionably invoked by all Mahomedan mariners on the approach of danger; and the ancient Persians affirm, that their great lawgiver, Zoroaster, learnt wisdom from the disciples of Ellias and Elisha.



AZERBIJAN.

*AZERBIJAN** is that part of *Media*, which was styled *Atropatena*, from the *Satrap* Atropates, who, taking advantage of the dissensions which reigned amongst the generals of Alexander, after the death of that prince, rendered himself independent, and took the title of king, which his descendents enjoyed for many generations.† It is separated from *Armenia*‡ by the river *Araxes*; and from *Irak*, by the *Kizilozem*, or golden stream. It has the *Caspian Sea* and *Ghilan* to the East, and *Armenia* and *Kurdistan* to the West. The character of the country, in this province, differs materially from that of *Fars* and *Irak*. Here we have a regular succession of undulating eminences, partially cultivated, and opening into plains, such as those of *Oujan*,
Tabreez,

* The country of *fire*, a name supposed to have been given from the number of fire-temples in this province.

† D'Anville

‡ *Azerbyjan* was added by Diocletian to the crown of *Armenia* then worn by *Tiridates*, or as the Armenians call him, *Tiridatt*.

Tabreez, and *Urumea*. To the South, the mountains of *Sakund* raise, in an accumulated mass, their towering heads to the clouds; and, on the North, the black rocks of the *Karabag* disappear in the luxuriant vegetation of the *Chowal Mogam*. *Azerbajan* is reckoned amongst the most productive provinces of *Persia*, and the villages have a more pleasing appearance than even those of *Irak*. They are, for the most part, embosomed in orchards and gardens, which yield delicious fruits of almost every description; and were it not for the tyranny of their rulers, no people could any where enjoy, to a greater degree, the comforts of life. Provisions are cheap and abundant, and wine is also made in considerable quantities: but the bulk of the people are too poor to avail themselves of those blessings, and in the hope of bettering their condition, contemplate with pleasure the approach of the Russians.

This province, including *Eriwan*, with the *Karabag* and *Karadag*,* is divided into twelve districts, namely: *Urumea*, *Ardebil*, *Tabreez*, *Maraga Khoe*, *Kulkham*, *Serah*, *Gumrood*, *Sa Bulagh*, *Karadag*, *Eriwan*, *Nuckshivan*, and *Miskeen*, yielding a nett revenue of 89,405 *tomauns*.

Amongst the rivers of *Azerbajan* we may enumerate the *Araxes* and *Kizilozsein*, both of which have been described in another part
of

This district properly belongs to *Armenia*, and will be mentioned in the description of that kingdom.

of the Memoir. The *Jugatty*, though it cannot boast so long a course, is perhaps a larger river than either of the former. It also issues from the mountains of *Ardelan*, and running in a northerly direction, enters the lake of *Urumea*, seven *fursungs* west of *Maraga*. Fifty-three miles from that town, and on the road to *Senna*, I encamped, for several days, on the banks of the *Jugatty*, which is here upwards of two hundred paces wide, and full of fish, some of them almost six feet in length.

Compared to the above, all the other rivers in *Azerbaijan* are but petty streams, and scarcely worth mentioning. The most considerable is that of *Iezdican*, which has its source about sixty miles to the East of the lake of *Van*, and which, pursuing a N. E. course, passes under the walls of *Iezdican* and *Kars*, and meets the *Araxes* a little to the North of *Nuckshivan*. The *Agi*, which is almost dry in summer, comes from the mountains at *Bustum*, enters the plain of *Tabreez* three miles North of that city, and is applied to the purposes of irrigation. The *Shar*, after fertilizing the plain of *Urumea*, also falls into the lake of that name.

Many opinions have been given respecting the antiquity of *Tabreez* or *Tauris*, the capital of this province. By Sir William Jones, and others, it is thought to be the ancient *Ecbatana*. D'Anville, however, thinks otherwise; and whilst he adjudges that honour to *Hamadan*, conceives *Tauris* to be *Gaza* or *Ganzaca*, where Cyrus deposited the treasures of Cræsus, and which was afterwards taken by Heraclius.

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The Persians conceive Zobeida, the celebrated wife of Haroun-ul-Rushid, to be its founder; but as they are in general very ignorant regarding the history of their cities, little reliance can be placed on any information obtained from them. That *Tauris* was a favourite residence of Haroun-ul-Rushid cannot be denied: and although he might not actually have founded the city, he may yet have improved and embellished it to a considerable degree. It was, in the days of Chardin, one of the largest and most populous cities in the *East*, and contained, according to that traveller, half a million of inhabitants. But no town has experienced, to a greater degree, the ravages of war. Situated towards the frontiers of contending empires, it has alternately been in the hands of the Turks, Tartars, and Persians, and has been taken and sacked eight different times; but its ruin has been chiefly owing to the number of earthquakes, which have, at different times, levelled its proudest edifices with the dust.

Tabreez does not now contain more than thirty thousand inhabitants, and is, upon the whole, one of the most wretched cities I have seen in *Persia*. It is seated in an immense plain at the foot of a mountain, on the banks of a small river, whose waters are consumed in the cultivation of the land. It is surrounded with a decayed wall, and the only decent house in the place is a new barrack, erected by the Prince for the accommodation of his troops. The ruins of the ancient

city are very extensive and very mean, being nothing but a confused mass of old mud walls.

The observations of the gentlemen of the Mission give the Latitude of *Tabreez* in $38^{\circ} 10'$ N., and the Longitude in $46^{\circ} 37'$ E.

The only town which attracts the attention, on the route to *Tehraun*, is *Meanna*, which D'Anville supposes to be *Atropatena*, the metropolis of *Atropatia*, in Alexander's time. It is about five or six miles from the foot of the *Cafilan Koh*, and, together with the surrounding district, was the paternal estate of *Saduck Khan*, chief of the tribe of *Sha Khakee*, who, it is said, could at the commencement of the present King's reign, muster an army of ten thousand horse. This nobleman having suffered death for taking arms against his sovereign, his tribe was dispersed, and the majority of them have, in consequence, quitted their native habitations, and become subjects of the Russian Emperor. They possessed a considerable territory between the *Kizilozzin* and *Tabreez*, now uninhabited.

As the city of *Ardebil* was not visited by any of the European gentlemen, I have fixed its position from several cross routes in my possession. It is a place held in veneration by the Persians, as the family seat of the royal house of *Sefi*; but has entirely declined from its former importance, and is now only remarkable for the tomb of *Sheik Sefi* and *Shah Ismael the First*. The celebrated *Chowal Mogam*, or plain of *Mogam*, extends from the neighbourhood of this city to
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the mouths of the *Cyrus*. It is reported to be sixty *farsangs* in length and twenty in breadth; and its rich soil and luxuriant pastures,* seem to have rendered it the favorite encamping ground of most eastern conquerors. The victorious career of Pompey the Great was arrested by the venomous serpents with which it is thought to be infested.† Heraclius passed some time at *Mogam*; and it was here that Nadir Shah placed the crown of *Persia* on his own head.

The most picturesque, and, at the same time, the most flourishing division of *Azerbijan*, is that which lies along the North and West border of the Lake of *Urumea*, from *Tubreez* to the confines of *Armenia*. In this direction we have the towns of *Shebuster*, *Tasouj*, *Selmast*, *Khoe*, and *Urumea*. The former is a large and flourishing town, but *Tasouj* is in ruins. *Selmast* contains about two thousand souls, principally Nestorian Christians, and is famed for its lofty

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poplars

* The Persians say, that the grass is sufficiently high to cover a man and his horse, and hide an army from view, when encamped.

† The story of the snakes may, probably, be regarded as a fable; but it is a fact well ascertained, that certain parts of the plain are still rendered impassable, from the dread of these noxious animals. They are represented as being of inconsiderable length, in comparison to their thickness. Their hissing is heard from afar, and they seem to rise above the grass, like fish from the sea. They are very active; and so voracious, as to assault indifferently every thing that approaches them.

poplars and delightful gardens. *Khoee*,* twenty-two *fursungs* from *Tabreez*, is the capital of a rich and extensive district, and the emporium of a considerable trade, carried on between *Turkey* and *Persia*. It contains, according to Captain Sutherland, a population of twenty-five thousand souls; and is situated in a plain, famous for a battle fought, in 1514, between Shah Ismael and Selim the First, in which thirty thousand Persians encountered three hundred thousand Turks. There is no town in *Persia* better built or more beautiful than *Khoee*: the walls are in good repair; the streets are regular, shaded with avenues of trees; and the ceilings of many of the houses are painted with infinite taste. These paintings, however, are not modern; and as the immediate predecessors of Shah Ismael frequently held their court in this city, they were probably executed about that period. The very ancient city of *Urumea*, the *Thebarma* of Strabo, and supposed birth-place of Zoroaster, is situated in a noble plain, fertilized by the river *Shar*, and on the S. W. of the lake to which it gives its name. This town is thirty-two *fursungs* from *Tabreez*, and contains a population of twelve thousand souls. It is defended by a strong wall and deep ditch, that can be filled with water from the river, and the neighbourhood produces corn and fruit in abundance. *Urumea* can-

not

* This city is said to be built on the site of *Ataxata*, the former metropolis of *Armenia*.

not boast of a single ruin of any consequence, and the natives are not even aware of the tradition concerning the birth of Zoroaster.*

The lake of *Urumea*, generally believed to be the *Spaulo* of Strabo and *Marcianus* of Ptolemy, is eighty *farsungs*, or, according to my computation, about three hundred miles in circumference. The water is more salt than that of the sea: no fish can live in it, and it emits a disagreeable sulphureous smell. The surface is not, however, as has been stated, incrustated with salt: at least it was not so when I saw it, in the month of July; on the contrary, the water was as pellucid as that of the clearest rivulet. On one of the islands in the lake (for there are several) Holaku built a fortress, in which he secured the spoil he had collected during his conquests. The largest of these islands, which forms, in the dry season, a sort of peninsula, is twenty-five miles in circumference, and only inhabited, I was informed, by wild asses, deer, and many other kinds of game. In skirting the southern shore of the lake, which is of an elliptical shape, we meet the town and district of *Sa Bulagh* (the cold stream). It is twelve *farsungs* from *Maraga*, and possessed by the Kurdish tribe of *Meclucc*.

The city of *Maraga*, probably the *Gamarga* of Diodorus, is well built, has a spacious *bazar*, and is encompassed with a high wall.

* My information, respecting *Schmast* and *Urumea*, was obtained from Lieutenant Willock, who visited these places in 1809.

The situation is pleasant, in a low valley, at the extremity of a well-cultivated plain, opening to the lake, from which *Maraga* is distant nine or ten miles. The gardens and plantations are watered by canals, drawn from a small river, over which there are two bridges, erected eight hundred years ago. The town has about fifteen thousand inhabitants, of the Turkish tribe of Mukudum, under their chief, Ahmed Khan, a nobleman of the first rank, and for many years *Beglerbeg* of *Azerbijan*. Here is a glass manufactory, and a very handsome public bath. There are also several curious old tombs; in one of which, without the walls, Holaku and his wife, Daglus Hatun, are supposed to be interred.

That great and able prince spent much of his time at *Maraga*, where he built an observatory, on the top of a mountain close to the city, for his friend, Naser a Deen, the most famous astronomer of his time, who here formed those tables still known by his name. The summit of the mountain has been made level; and, at the West end of it, the circular shape of the observatory may yet be traced. Just below this spot, on the western brow of the hill, is a cave, somewhat similar to those of *India*, hewn out of the rock, forty-one feet in length and sixteen in breadth. At the head, and also on one side of the cave, are two elevated altars, not unlike the *Priapus* of the Indian temples. A number of little narrow winding passages branch out in various directions, and seem to have been connected with several other caverns, the arched roofs of which appear to have fallen in. The natives of
Maraga

Muraga know nothing of the history of these caves. They say that they are so old, that no tradition has ever reached them, either with respect to the time when, or the purposes for which they were excavated. Here are no sculptures; nor will the caves, either in magnitude or beauty, bear the slightest comparison with those in *India*.

I estimate the distance between *Tehraun* and *Muraga* at two hundred and thirty-two geographical miles, and the intersection of this distance with the parallel of Latitude of $37^{\circ} 20'$, as given in the tables of Naser a Deen; * and Ulug Beg allows for the Longitude of that place, $46^{\circ} 25' E$. It is sixty-eight miles from *Tabreez*, and one hundred and fifty-seven from *Senna Ardclan*. About half-way on the road to the former, and a mile and a half from the lake, is the quarry, from which the *Tabreez* marble is produced. It has not been worked since the death of Nadir Shah, who transported quantities of it into the *Khorassan*, for the embellishment of his palace at *Kelat*.

The elevated country in the vicinity of lake *Uruma* is known in history as the seat of the Assassins, an abominable race, finally extirpated by Holaku.†

The

* The Latitude given in these tables differed only three miles from the mean of the observations of Captain Frederick and Mr. Webb.

† The dominions of the *Sheikh ul Jebel*, or lord of the mountains (erroneously termed the old man of the mountain), comprised the whole of that elevated tract, which runs parallel with the course of the *Kizilözzen* and the greater part of *Ghulan*. When

The climate of *Azerbijan* is healthy. In summer and autumn the power of the sun is considerable; but the cold, in winter, is severely felt by the lower orders, from the great scarcity of fuel which everywhere prevails, and for which there is no substitute, but dried cow-dung mixed with straw. The spring is temperate and delightful, although the snow continues on the mountains nine months in the year; and the hail-storms are so violent, as frequently to destroy the cattle in the fields. The cultivation of the land is chiefly carried on by irrigation, as this province is intersected by many small rivers. The plough is drawn by oxen, and the best soil yields from fifty to sixty-fold.

destroyed by Holakn, the Housseins, or assassins, possessed upwards of a hundred strong-holds; but the residence of the prince was in general confined to the castles *Roud* *dar* and *Allah Ahmaut*, both of which are situated in the *Kohe Caucasian*, near *Kazween*.

GHILAN.

THE province of *Ghilan* runs along the S. W. shore of the *Caspian*, and is bounded on the South and S. E. by *Irak* and *Mazanderaun*, on the North by *Shirvan*, and on the West by *Azerbijan*. It is encompassed by lofty mountains, and only to be entered through difficult and narrow passes, which can be easily defended. This is, perhaps, the most romantic and beautiful province in the Persian empire. The nature of the country much resembles *Mazanderaun*, being abundantly supplied with water, and intersected with forests and morasses. The sides of the hills are covered with oak and box-wood, as well as other useful timber; and the vallies are strewn with flowers, honeysuckles, sweet-briars, and roses. The soil, which is excellent, yields hemp, hops, and many kinds of fruit; such as lemons, oranges, peaches, and pomegranates. Grapes are in the utmost abundance; and the vines, which grow wild on the mountains, support themselves, as in *Georgia*, on the trunks and branches of the trees. They are, however, from want of attention, not of the best quality; and, like the other fruits in *Ghilan*, esteemed unwholesome. Provisions are here

both

both plentiful and cheap. Rice and wheat are cultivated with success; but of all the productions of this province, that of ~~silk~~ is the most celebrated. The cultivation of this commodity, which employs the industry of the country and enriches the natives, constitutes the principal trade of *Ghilan*, and is annually exported, in great quantities, from *Resht* and *Lankeroon* to *Astrakan*. *Ghilan* was ceded by the King of *Persia* to *Russia*, in 1724; taken possession of by Catherine the Second, in 1780; and restored to Aga Mahomed Khan, in 1797. The southern parts are subject to his present Majesty; but, towards the North, the extensive district of *Talish* is governed by Mustafa Khan, a rebellious and independent chief.

There is no river of consequence in *Ghilan*, but the *Kizilozien*, already described; and the only place worthy the name of town is *Resht*, built on the shore of the *Caspian*, and carrying on a considerable trade in silk, and other articles, with *Astrakan*. The harbour is unsafe in stormy weather, and the commanders of ships generally prefer that of *Lankeroon*, a small port in the district of *Talish*, to the N. W. of *Resht*.

Ghilan yields a nett revenue of 149,490 *tomauns* and 9,058 *dinars*.

MAZANDERAUN.

THE province of *Mazanderaun*, part of ancient *Hyrcania*, is separated from *Irak* by the lofty mountains of *Elburz*. To the East it has *Khorassan*, with the beautiful province of *Asterabad*, which is by many included in *Mazanderaun*. The *Caspian* bounds it on the North, and *Ghilan* on the West.

Mazanderaun (as well as *Ghilan*) differs essentially from all the other provinces of this great empire. The country is mountainous, abounding in forests of oak, and full of swamps; but the vallies are fertile, and produce the finest rice in vast quantities. The marshy grounds are, however, all adapted to the cultivation of wheat; and even the small portion, which the natives are enabled to raise for their own consumption, is coarse, and of a very inferior quality. Sugar is also cultivated, to a great extent; but the quantity of silk is small, when compared with that which is produced in *Ghilan*.

The natives of *Mazanderaun* were regarded as the most warlike of the Persians, and they defended their retreats and castles in the mountains with so much courage and ability, as to secure their inde-

pendence, for a considerable period, against all the power of Tamerlane and his efforts to subdue them. This province is also said to have been the grand seat of war between the Sefced Deeve (or white demon) and Rustom, Prince of *Zahlestan*; and the relief of his sovereign, who had been besieged in the city of *Mazanderaun*, is one of the most glorious exploits recorded in the life of the Persian hero.

Besides a multitude of smaller streams, there appears to be two principal rivers in this province. They both have their sources in the mountains of *Elburz*, and disembogue into the *Caspian Sea*. That which bears the name of *Mazanderaun* was crossed by Mr. Forster; and this gentleman describes it as taking a N. W. course, through the flat quarter of the province, and falling into the sea, at *Meshed Sir*.

The commerce of *Mazanderaun* is considerable, the villages are open and neatly built, and are delightfully situated, either on verdant hills, or in the most charming vallies, fertilized by streams of delicious water. The capital of the province is *Sari*, once the seat of Aga Mahomed Khan, and now the residence of one of the princes of *Persia*. This is a very ancient city, being frequently alluded to by Ferdousee; and when visited by Hanway, contained four or five temples of the ancient Persians, built of solid materials, and in the shape of rotundas, about thirty feet in diameter, and raised to a point near one hundred and twenty feet in height. *Sari* is a small but well-fortified town, being surrounded with a good wall and deep ditch. It is crowded with inhabitants, and a society of Armenians are established

in the vicinity of the town. Here are many merchants of credit, who carry on a brisk trade with *Astrakan* and the interior parts of *Persia*. The palace, though small, is commodious and neat. The country, in the vicinity of the town, is flat, woody, interspersed with streams, and bounded on the N. E. and S. W. by a low range of hills. *Balfrosh*, although only the second town in *Mazanderaan*, is larger than *Sari*, situated, according to Forster, in a low damp valley, and about one mile and a half in circumference. The houses are meanly built, and the streets, in the winter season, are choaked with mud. There are four *caravanseras*; and the *bazar*, which forms the principal street, denotes an active traffic.

The road between *Sari* and *Balfrosh* is extremely bad, and hardly passable in the winter, the greatest part leading through low swampy grounds. *Ferrabad* is an ordinary town, situated at the mouth of a river, thirty miles East of the village of *Meshed Sir*, and enjoying a small trade in rice, salt-fish, and pottery. The ancient city of *Amul* is situated in an agreeable plain at the foot of a mountain, on the banks of a river, and is celebrated for a handsome bridge of twelve arches, an old fortress, and a palace of Shah Abbas the Great. *Ashraff*, the favorite residence of that great prince, is seated on the shore of a bay, which is the only good harbour on the southern side of the *Caspian Sea*. The following description of this palace is given by Hanway.

“ Over the gate, which forms the entrance, are the arms of *Persia*,
“ being a lion, with the sun rising behind it; alluding to the strength

“ and glory of the Persian monarchy. Within this gate is a long
“ avenue, on each side of which are thirty apartments, intended for a
“ royal guard. The next gate in front opens into a garden ; in the
“ middle of which is a channel, made with stone, about three feet
“ wide and one deep. In this channel runs a stream of water, which
“ has four falls, of about an ell high, thirty yards distant from each
“ other, each having a small bason and fountain. These falls must
“ have a very fine effect ; for on the sides, near the stream, holes are
“ cut to fix candles, at equal distances, to the number of about a
“ thousand. At the head of these is a large stone bason, about six
“ feet deep. In the building there is, near this bason, a sumptuous
“ *airan*, painted with gold flowers on a blue ground, very well
“ executed. Here are also several portraits, which seem to have been
“ done by a Hollander, but no masterly hand. On the side of the
“ *airan* are several small apartments ; and behind this building are
“ three other falls of water, which pour down from the side of a steep
“ mountain, covered with wood.

“ The garden consists chiefly of walks, bordered with very large
“ pines, orange, and other fruit-trees, with streams of water running
“ between them. From thence we were carried into another garden,
“ much in the same taste, in which stood the *haram*. There was no-
“ body in it ; yet being the women’s apartment, it was considered as
“ sacred, and we were not permitted to go into it. Before it is a
“ large

“ large bason of water ; and a square, with marble benches at each
“ corner. A sycamore, of prodigious size, in the centre, shaded the
“ whole with its extended branches. Here were also cascades, in the
“ same manner as related in the other gardens. From thence we
“ were conducted to a banqueting-house, which was dedicated to a
“ grandson of Ali. Out of respect to this, we were required to leave
“ our swords at the door. The solemnity with which we were con-
“ ducted struck us with a kind of religious awe : but this was soon
“ changed into contempt ; for I was surprised to find the room adorned
“ with paintings, such as could please only a voluptuous Mahomedan.
“ Here were also portraits of Shah Abbas the First and Second, and
“ of some other persons ; all by a European hand, but meanly exe-
“ cuted. It had no furniture, but rich carpets, which were then piled
“ into great heaps.

“ We were now shewn a fourth house and garden, in which was
“ the spring that gave water to the greatest part of the whole. In this
“ was a stately dome, whose top was indifferently well painted, and
“ the walls were covered with Dutch tiles, as high as the gallery. At
“ some distance from this, on an eminence, is a small building, which
“ seemed to be intended for an observatory. The whole commands
“ the view of a fine country, the *Caspian Sea* being about five miles
“ distant. The vicinity of the mountains on the back of the palace,
“ the numerous cascades, and the music of birds, gave me many
“ pleasant

“ pleasant ideas : but the unhappy situation of the people still returned
 “ to my thoughts, and blunted the edge of that pleasure, which I
 “ might otherwise have enjoyed.”*

The numerous and useful public works erected by Shah Abbas the Great, are lasting monuments of the power and glory of that prince : and amongst these we may enumerate the causeway of *Mazanderaun*, in length about three hundred miles, and which runs from *Kiskar* in the S. W. of the *Caspian*, several leagues beyond *Asterabad* in the S. E. The pavement is now nearly in the same condition as it was in the time of Hanway, being perfect in many places, although it has hardly ever been repaired. In some parts it is above twenty yards wide in the middle, with ditches on each side ; and there are many bridges upon it, under which the water is conveyed to the rice-fields.

The nett revenues of *Mazanderaun* are 22,132 *tomauns* 8,740 *dinars*.

Mazanderaun, as well as *Ghilan*, may be divided into two distinct climates, the warm and the cold ; namely, the mountainous region, and the flat country along the shore of the *Caspian Sea*. Winter and spring are the healthiest seasons ; for the summer and autumnal heats occasion such exhalations to arise from the fens and marshes which overspread this part of *Persia*, as to render the air most insalubrious. Agues and dropsies are the prevalent disorders, and the natives have in general a sallow and bloated appearance, indicative of the state of their

This palace is now almost entirely ruined.

their health.* In October, November, and December, there are heavy rains. Snow also falls, but never lies long upon the ground; and in spring the rivers, almost invariably, overflow.

The description of *Ghilan* and *Muzanderaun* is drawn up from information received from natives, compared with the statements of European travellers, and the principal positions are deduced from *Kazween*. The southern shore of the *Caspian*, with the *Gulf of Balkan*, are laid down from Captain Woodhope, and compared with a Russian manuscript; the mouths of the *Kur* from actual survey; and the West and East coasts of the *Caspian*, from the great Russian map, published at *St. Petersburg*, about six years ago.

* Mr. Hanway observes, that old women, mules, and poultry, enjoy good health, when all other animals pine away with sickness.

ASTERABAD.



THE small province of *Asterabad* is sometimes included in *Mazanderan*, which it resembles in appearance, climate, and productions. This is the ancient *Hyrcania*, and the paternal estate of the present King of *Persia*, as chief of the Kajar tribe, who have entire possession of the province. It is bounded on the West by the *Caspian Sea*; to the South it is separated by a lofty ridge of mountains from the districts of *Damgan* and *Bistan*; it extends to the East as far as the Longitude of 58° ; and is divided from *Dahestan* by the river *Ashor*. The city of *Asterabad*, the capital of this province, is situated near the mouth of the river *Ester*, on a bay of the *Caspian Sea*. This town is, at present, governed by one of the King's sons; and it is believed that a great part of the royal treasure is here deposited. East of *Asterabad*, and twenty-five *fursungs* from *Bistan*, is the town of *Jorjan*, the ancient *Hurkaun*, from which the name of *Hyrcania* may probably be derived. This place is frequently alluded to in Persian history, and is reckoned one of the strongest fortresses in the kingdom.

Dahestan, or the country of the *Dahe*, is immediately North of *Asterabad*. It extends from the *Ashor* to the banks of the *Tedzen*, and is represented to be a country equal in fertility to *Asterabad*.

KHORASSAN.

THE vast province of *Khorassan** has for its boundaries the *Oxus* and country of *Bulkh* to the N. E. and E., *Cabul* and *Seristan* to the S., and to the W. the provinces of *Irak*, *Asterabad*, and *Dahestan*.† It is much to be regretted, that our knowledge of this great, and to us most important tract of territory, is shamefully deficient. The northern and eastern parts have not been visited by any European for a number of years, and therefore the trifling information I possess, concerning their nature and resources, has been received from different natives of *Khorassan*, whom I met at the Persian court. It is represented to be a level country, intersected with sandy deserts

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and

* The country of the sun.

† Agreeable to the geography in the time of Herodotus, *Khorassan* extends to the *Attock*: but the Turkish princes established the *Momalic-Mozouah*, or the separated kingdoms, among which are *Cabul*, *Jellalabad* (in *Cabul*), *Shikarpore*, *Moultan*, &c. &c. alluding to these provinces being separated from the kingdom of *Persia*. Agreeable to the present geography, *Mydan* is the boundary between *Khorassan* and these territories, *Momalic-Mozouah*. The political boundaries vary every day, and if that part of *Khorassan* is only termed such, which the King of *Persia* now possesses, it would be very limited indeed.

and irregular ridges of lofty mountains : the climate, therefore, varies, according to the nature and elevation of the different districts into which it is divided. In some parts it is temperate, in others extremely cold ; and the *bad-e-semum*, which blows in the deserts for forty days in the year, proves instantaneously fatal to all who are exposed to it. This province was once populous and flourishing, and adorned with many princely cities. The soil is, in general, excellent, and produces wine, fruit, corn, rice, and silk, in the greatest abundance and of the very best quality ; but it has so often been laid waste and overrun by the most savage nations, that commerce and prosperity have utterly disappeared : the cities have fallen into decay, and the most fruitful regions have been converted into solitary deserts. The King of *Persia's* authority, at present, extends only over the cities of *Meshed*, *Nishapour*, *Turshish*, and *Tabas*, with their dependencies. The Southern parts, including the city of *Herat*, are in the possession of the Afghans, and some wandering tribes of Patans and Ymucks ; and those to the East and North belong to the Usbeck Tartars and Turkomans. These different nations carry on incessantly a predatory warfare, by invading the territories of each other with bodies of irregular horse, who, after ravaging the country and burning the villages, carry off the inhabitants into slavery.*

I have

* The following account, given by a person who accompanied Hyder Shah, the present sovereign of *Bolhava*, in one of his plundering expeditions, may give the reader

I have failed in every endeavour to gain such information as may be relied on, respecting the mountains of this province. There is no doubt, however, but the different ridges by which it is intersected are not only connected with each other, but also with the *Hindoo Koh* and the range of *Elburz*. The mountains of *Bamian* and *Goor*, which divide *Khorassan* from *Cabul*, throw out an immense branch to the S. W., as far as the Latitude of 34° N. and Longitude of $65^{\circ} 20'$ E. Here it suddenly turns to the N. W., and cutting the Latitude of 38° and the Longitude of 60° , becomes united with the mountains of *Meshed*. Captain Christie, in his route from the borders of *Seis-*

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tan,

some idea of the manner in which those predatory excursions are conducted. He commenced his journey from *Bokhara*, and by forced marches reached *Merv* *Shah Jehan* in ten days. Here leaving all his baggage, he advanced with twenty thousand horse, and after three moderate marches reached the banks of *Tidzen*. In these marches the troops mounted at break of day, and rode till four or five o'clock in the evening, when they fed their horses and took some refreshment. They always carried seven days' barley for their horse and a sort of biscuit and jelly made from grapes for themselves. They also carried several days' water, of which they drank but sparingly, and only allowed their horses a small quantity once every twenty-four hours. They mounted again after evening prayers, and rode till midnight. When they reached the town which they intended to attack, they dismounted, and remained quiet till morning, when the gates were opened and the inhabitants came out with their cattle, &c. The city was then given up to plunder, and the men carried into slavery. *Shah Hyder* has made ten expeditions of this kind into *Khorassan*. He receives a tenth of the plunder, and the remainder is divided equally amongst his followers.

tan to *Herat*, and from that city to *Yezd*, informs us, that the country which he passed was mountainous, diversified with plains, most of which, particularly between *Herat* and *Yezd*, were far from unfertile, tolerably cultivated, and abounding in pastures. These mountains were in some parts exceedingly lofty; and at the village of *Okul*, half-way between *Ferrah* and *Herat*, an immense range was seen to the East. These discoveries of Captain Christie prove, in my opinion, the correctness of D'Anville, in skirting the *Salt Desert*, to the East, with a ridge of mountains, mentioned by the ancients, but of which Mr. Pinkerton doubts the existence.

Of the rivers of *Khorassan*, the *Tedzen*, which is the ancient *Ochus*, is next in size to the *Oxus*. It appears to have its source near *Seraks*; and after receiving the accession of many streams, and amongst the number the *Meshed* river, falls into the *Caspian Sea*, in the Latitude $38^{\circ} 41'$ N. The *Herirood*, or *Herat* river (ancient *Aries*) rises at some little distance to the North of that city, and pursuing a southerly course, is lost in the sands, between *Herat* and the lake of *Zerrah*.* The *Margus*† of antiquity, now styled the *Murgab*, issues from the mountains of *Goor*, and is also said to be lost in the sands, not far from *Herat*. The *Ester* (ancient *Siderius*)
is

* I have been told by several natives, that the *Herirood* pursues a northerly, and by others a southerly direction. Who can determine? Arrian says that the waters of the *Etymander* and *Aries* disappear in the sands.

† Which gave name to the province of *Margianna*.

is a considerable river, and gives name to the province *Asterabad*, where it disembogues into the *Caspian*. This river is navigable for a short distance.

In the description of the towns and districts, several places will be mentioned in the Memoir which are not laid down in the Map ; for the various routes in my possession differ in point of distance so much from each other, that it is impossible to fix their positions with any degree of accuracy. Many routes have, therefore, been rejected, and only those inserted, which, I have every reason to believe, are correct.

The provinces of *Irak* and *Khorassan* are separated by a deep ravine, which cuts the road leading from *Tehraun* to *Meshed*, twenty-two *fursungs* East of the former. The first districts we have to mention in this direction are *Sumnum*, *Damgan*, and *Bistan*. The first is a rich district, bounded on the North by *Mount Elburz*, and South by the *Great Salt Desert*. It contains fifty villages ; and *Sumnum*, the capital, is a small town, twenty-eight *fursungs* from *Tehraun*. *Damgan*, twelve *fursungs* from *Sumnum*, is supposed to be the ancient *Hecatompylos*, for some time the metropolis of the Parthian empire. It is the chief town of a district of the same name situated in a spacious plain, famous for a victory gained by Nadir Shah over the Afghans. The town of *Bistan*, also called *Sharoot*, yields, with its dependencies, a revenue of 1,969 *tomauns*. The position of this town is determined by two routes, one from *Tehraun* and the other from *Turshish*.

In this part of the province, the great range of *Elburz* detaches several branches, which expand over the country, between *Asterabad* and *Mashed*, advance a great way to the East and North of that city, form a junction with the ridge of *Bamian* before mentioned, and finally sink into the desert plains of *Kharazm*. The territory lying between the frontiers of *Asterabad* and the dependencies of *Mashed*, including the towns and districts of *Abiverd*,* *Nissa*, *Diroon*, and *Kalpoosh*, is subject to the rule of the Turkoman tribes of *Goklan*, who wage continual war with the *Kajars*. This tract comprehends nearly the whole of the ancient *Parthia*, the seat of the founders of the Parthian monarchy, once so illustrious, and so fatal to the glory of the Roman arms. The present proprietors of the soil differ but little in their manners and pursuits from their brave predecessors. They reside in portable wooden houses, and are ever in motion. Their food is the produce of the flocks. They are cruel and illiterate, but excel in horsemanship and martial exercises. Their arms are a lance, a sword, and a bow and arrows, which they use alternately, as circumstances may require. Most of the towns in their dominions have been either destroyed or neglected; and *Nissa*, the ancient *Nisæ*, the residence of the first princes of the house of *Arsaces*, is now reduced to a paltry village. The whole of this country is much celebrated for its breed of horses and camels, by selling which the *Turkomans* carry on a considerable traffic. To the South of *Goklan*, and between
Mashed

The birth-place of *Nadir Shah*.

Meshed and *Bistan*, lie the territories of Meer Goonah Khan, an independent chief. There is no district in *Khorassan* more fruitful, or better inhabited than this. It is rich in corn, wine, silk, and fruit; and the inhabitants are a warlike race, who have proved themselves capable of defending the liberty and comforts they enjoy. The subjects of Meer Goonah Khan amount, I have been told, to about four thousand families of Kurds, three thousand five hundred of Turks, and five thousand of Persians. His capital is *Kaboshan*, a fortified town, thirty *fursungs* from *Meshed*, and eighty-four from *Bistan*. He is also in possession of *Burzunjird*, a populous town, twenty-two *fursungs* from *Kaboshan*, as well as many strong holds amongst the mountains, which he preserves with great care.

Meshed, the capital of the Persian division of *Khorassan*, is situated about two *fursungs* from the ruins of the ancient city of *Tous*,^a and is celebrated for a very superb sepulchre, in which repose the relics of Imam Reza, and those of the Caliph Haroun 'ul Rushid. Although a great portion of this city is in ruins, it has a population of fifty thousand souls. The *bazar* is well supplied with fruits and provisions, the produce of the rich and well-watered plain, in which the city stands. It is surrounded with a strong wall, three *fursungs* in circumference; and

There is a small lake close to these ruins, about four miles in circumference. It is called *Cheshmeh Sabz*, or green fountain, and is the source of two small rivers, one of which flows to *Meshed* and the other to *Nishapour*.

and the great *bazar*, running directly through the city from East to West, is three miles in length. *Meshed* is divided into twelve quarters, five of which are in ruins. The houses are meanly built, and the *ark*, or palace, is unworthy of the name. The city is governed by the Prince, Walee Meerza, one of the King's sons, and with the districts attached to it, yields a revenue of 90,000 *tomauns*. It carries on a considerable trade with *Bokhara Bulkh*, *Candahar*, *Yezd*, and *Herat*. Velvet of the finest quality is manufactured here, and its fur pelisses are also much esteemed. The position of *Meshed* is fixed by six very good routes: two from *Ghorian*, a village ten *fursungs* West of *Herat*; two from *Turbul Hydereah*, a town five *fursungs* North of *Sungoon Bala Khaf*; and two from *Nishapour*. Of the two first, one is a direct route of fifty *fursungs*, and the other of fifty-five. Of those from *Turbul*, one is twenty-three *fursungs* and the other twenty-five; and one route makes the distance from *Meshed* to *Nishapour* twenty *fursungs*, whilst the other is twenty-two.

The following description of the fortress of *Kelat*, in which Nadir Shah so much delighted, was given me by a nobleman of *Meshed*, with whom I became acquainted at *Ispahan*.

Kelat is sixteen *fursungs* from *Meshed*, on the road to *Mursh Shah Jehan*, and is situated in a very mountainous country, named *Ashdur Koh*, or the mountains of the Dragon. It is a very high hill, accessible only by two narrow paths. After an ascent of about seven miles, you reach a fine plain, nearly twelve miles in circuit, watered by a multitude
of

of little streams, and producing corn and rice in the greatest abundance. The inhabitants of the mountains live in tents, and the only buildings in this delightful valley are two towers, and a small marble edifice erected by Nadir. The towers were intended for the defence of the paths, and the house for the use of his Majesty. On quitting the valley you continue to ascend : and after travelling about fifteen miles, gain the summit of the mountain, on which is another plain, not so large, but equal in fertility to the former. Here are also two small towers, which command the approaches, and are the only fortifications on the castle of *Kelat* ; the strength of which, like the *Kela Sufeed*, consists in the steepness of the rock, and in the difficulty of access to it. A single stone, hurled from the top, is sufficient to stop the advance, if not to effect the destruction of an enemy.

Between *Meshed* and *Merv* the districts of *Cotchung* and *Deraguz* are particularly mentioned. The former is governed by an independant chieftain, who can bring twelve thousand men into the field, and who resides in the town of *Cotchung*, twenty-three *farsungs* from *Meshed*. The district of *Deraguz*, the property of Lutf Ali Khan, chief of the tribe of Chuperloo, touches, on the West, the dependencies of *Kelat* ; on the North, the country of the Turkomans of *Tak*, sometimes called *Atlok* ; and on the East, a branch of the *Ashdur Koh*. The subjects of Lutf Ali Khan are esteemed the bravest and most polite of the natives of *Khorassan* ;

and the soil they inherit is so fruitful, that dry ~~grain~~ yields a hundred, and rice four hundred-fold.

A flat and sandy desert reaches from the back of the *Ashdur Koh* to within a few miles of the *Oxus*. Syed Mahomed Hassan, a respectable native of *Sacterre*, one day's journey to the North of *Bockhara*, informed General Malcolm, that he had been at the mountains of *Pameer*, where the *Oxus* has its source. He describes them as being thirteen marches, of thirty six miles each, East of *Fyzabad*, in *Buduk Shan*, uninhabited, inaccessible, and always white with snow. He had followed the banks of the *Oxus* for hundreds of miles, had frequently visited *Arul* and *Khiva*, the capital of *Ourgunje*, and positively asserts, that the *Jaxartes* and *Oxus* having formed a junction, the collective waters flow into the *Caspian Sea*. From *Khiva* to *Eilject*, a distance of five marches, or one hundred and eighty miles, it is desert and uninhabited on both banks of the river; but from the latter to *Jizzeh*, nine marches, they are inhabited by tribes of Turkomans, who possess vast herds of sheep, oxen, and mares. These people wander in the spring, employ themselves in agriculture in the summer and autumn, and seek protection from the cold and snow of winter, in large straggling villages built of mud. The *Oxus* is described as navigable during the whole of this distance, and there are many ferries, with from eight to ten boats at each. The pasture and cultivated lands extend no further than three

or four miles from the river; for extensive deserts, on both sides, open into *Persia* and *Bokhara*. Above *Jizzeh*, for a considerable distance, the country is hilly, intersected with forests, and peopled by wandering tribes of *Uzbek Tartars*, *Ymuks*, and *Tanjets*, all of which pay homage to *Hyder Shah*, King of *Bokhara*.

Merv Shah Jehan,* the ancient capital of the province of *Margiana*, was founded by *Alexander the Great*, and afterwards embellished by *Antiochus Nicator*, who gave it the name of *Antiochia*. It was one of the four imperial cities of *Khorassan*, and was long the seat of many of the sultans of *Persia*; but, in particular, of those of the *Seljukian* dynasty. The fruits of *Merv* were finer than those of any other place, and the walls were, on all sides, surrounded with stately palaces, groves, and gardens. Here *Alp Arslan*, the most powerful prince of his time, reigned for a number of years, in all the pomp and splendour of oriental magnificence: and the following epitaph, it is reported, may still be seen on the tomb of that hero: "You, who have witnessed the grandeur of *Alp Arslin*, exalted even to the Heavens, come to *Merv*, and you will there see it buried in the dust." This great capital was taken and pillaged by the *Usbecks*, about twenty years ago; since which time it has been gradually declining, and its population is now reduced to three thou-

A a 2

sand

The seat of the king.

sand souls, under the rule of the brother of Hyder Shah of *Bokhara*. It is situated on the river *Murgab*, the waters of which were raised by a dyke, for the supply of the city. The position of *Merv* has been determined from five routes, which I believe to be correct. Of these, four are from *Meshed*, and the other from *Herat*. The first a direct route from *Meshed*, of fifty-two *fursungs*, over a mountainous tract; the second is by the town of *Sarukhs*, a distance of sixty *fursungs*, the country being of a more level nature than the former; the third, by the district of *Deraguz*, is sixty-seven *fursungs*; and the fourth, a distance of fifty-six *fursungs*. The other route is from *Herat*. All these intersections bring *Merv Shah Jehan* N. E. of *Meshed*; and in the printed maps it is placed nearly East of that place. The dependencies of *Merv* extend five days journey East, as far as the desert, and West to the banks of the *Tedzen*. The revenues of the *Khan* are twenty *maunds* of grain and sixty thousand *rupees* annually. It is eighty-eight *fursungs* from hence to *Herat*. For the first two or three marches, the road is represented to lie through a desert: it then enters a mountainous region, inhabited by a very powerful tribe, named *Ymucks*. The summits of these mountains* are covered with snow for more than half the year; but the vallies are fertile, and afford abundance of forage and dry grain. The power of the *Ymucks* extends to within ten *fursungs* of *Herat*.

Herat,

* The *paropamisus* of the Greeks.

Herat, the ancient *Aria* or *Artacoana*,* and capital of *Ariana*,† is, at present, the largest and most populous city in the province. It is situated in a spacious plain, surrounded on all sides by lofty mountains. This plain, which is thirty miles in length and about fifteen in breadth, owes its fertility to the *Heriroad*, which runs through the centre of it, being highly cultivated, and covered with villages and gardens. The city embraces an area of four square miles, and is encircled with a lofty wall and a wet ditch. The citadel ‡ is in the northern face, and is a small square castle, elevated on a mound, flanked with towers at the angles, and built of burnt brick. The city has a gate in each face, and two in that which fronts the North; and from each gate a spacious and well-supplied *bazar* leads up towards the centre of the town. The principal street, from the South gate to the cattle-market opposite the citadel, is covered with a vaulted roof. *Herat* is admirably supplied with water, almost every house having a fountain, independent of the public ones on either side of the *bazars*. The residence of the Prince is, in appearance, a very mean building; a common gateway is all that

* Here, in Alexander's time, stood the royal palace of the princes of *Aria*

† As the most ancient of the Persian writers designate the territory around *Herat*, by the name of *Heri*, it is not improbable, but that the term *Ariana* may be derived from hence.

‡ Shahrokh, the son and successor of Timur, employed seven thousand men in rebuilding this castle, which became the seat of his empire.

that is seen of it; within which is a wretched house, and in its front an open square, with the gallows in the centre. The *Mesghed Jama*, or chief mosque, was once a noble edifice, enclosing an area of eight hundred square yards; but having been much neglected, is now falling into decay. This fortunately, however, cannot be said of the other buildings of *Herat*; and no city, perhaps, in the *East*, has so little ground unoccupied. It is computed to contain one hundred thousand inhabitants, of whom ten thousand are Patans; the remainder are Afghans, a few Jews, and six hundred Hindoos. The latter are here highly respected, and alone possess capital or credit. The government is not insensible of their value; and, in consequence of their great commercial concerns, the Hindoos enjoy a distinguished influence. *Herat*, from its extensive trade, has obtained the appellation of *bunder*, or port. It is the emporium of the commerce carried on between *Cabul*, *Kashmere*, *Bockhara*, *Hindostan*, and *Persia*. From the former they receive shawls, indigo, sugar, chintz, muslin, leather, and Tartary skins, which they export to *Meshed*, *Yezd*, *Kerman*, *Ispahan*, and *Tehraun*, receiving in return chiefly dollars, tea, china-ware, broad-cloth, copper, pepper, and sugar-candy; dates and shawls from *Kerman*, and carpets from *Ghaen*. The staple commodities of *Herat* are silk, saffron, and asafœtida, which are exported to *Hindostan*. The gardens are full of mulberry-trees, cultivated solely for the sake of the silk-worm; and the plains and hills near the city, particularly those

to the westward, produce asafœtida. The Hindoos and Ballouches are fond of this plant, which they eat by roasting the stem in the ashes, and stewing the heads of it like other greens. The winters at *Herat* are, at times, extremely severe, and the cold often proves most hurtful to the crops: but nothing can exceed the fertility of the plain, the produce of which is immense, as well in wheat and barley as in every kind of fruit known in *Persia*. The pistachio-tree grows wild in the hills, and the pine is common in the plains. Cattle are small, and far from plentiful; but the broad-tailed sheep are abundant, and fuel, though brought from a distance, not dear. The revenue of this city is estimated at four *laes* and a half of *rupees*; and is raised by a tax levied on the *caravanseras*, shops, gardens, and a duty on exports and imports. The government is in the hands of prince Hadjy Firooze, son of the late Ahmed Shah, King of *Cabul*, who pays a tribute to his Persian Majesty of fifty thousand *rupees* a year. *Herat* is in Latitude $34^{\circ} 12'$ N., Longitude $63^{\circ} 14'$ E.*

That part of *Khorassan*, which extends from the Latitude of $32^{\circ} 30'$ to $34^{\circ} 40'$ N., and from the fifty-sixth to the sixty-second degree of East Longitude, comprehends the following towns and districts: *Pushing*, *Zuzan*, *Turshish*, *Turbat*, *Jam*, *Kohistan*, *Nishapour*, and *Sarukhs*. *Pushing* is a considerable town, a little to the north of *Herat*, built on the banks of the *Herirood*, and celebrated

brated for the beauty of the cypress-trees which grow in its vicinity. *Zuzan*, the ancient *Susa*, now an inconsiderable place, is said to be the same distance from *Pushing* as the latter is from *Herat*. The city and district of *Turshish* is sixty-three *fursungs* W. N. W. of *Herat*, and was taken possession of by the troops of his Persian majesty two years ago. The old city, called *Sultanabad*, is small; but to this a new one has been added, where the governor and his principal officers reside. They both together contain about twenty thousand people, amongst which are a hundred Hindoo families. The trade of this place arises principally from the importation of indigo, and other drugs, from the westward; wool and cloths, and rice, from *Herat*; and the chief export is iron, wrought in thick plates.* The trifling quantity of European goods required is brought from *Mazanderaun*. Between this city and the *Herat* the country is in general mountainous, wild, and uncultivated. *Turshish* is laid down in the Map from three routes: one from *Herat*, another from *Tarbut*, and the third from *Nishapour*.

Tarbut, eight *fursungs* from *Turshish*, is a city with a population of about eighteen thousand souls, defended with a very strong wall, and flanked with towers. Provisions are plentiful and cheap. It has two hundred and twenty dependant villages, and is possessed by Isa Khan, a powerful chief, who can bring into the field an army of ten thousand men. A large tract of country, lying to the N. W. of *Herat*,

has

has from its great ~~extension~~ been denominated *Kohistan*, or the mountainous region. It is said to contain a number of villages, and to produce abundance of fruit, silk, saffron, and assafœtida. The inhabitants, in constant fear of being attacked, never go unarmed. They even cultivate their gardens with their swords by their sides; and differ from the other natives of *Khorassan* by the darkness of their complexions. The principal town in *Kohistan* lies between *Nijbandan* and *Ferrah*. The district of *Jam* is very extensive, being forty *firsungs* in length, and situated in the road from *Herat* to *Meshed*.

Nishapour, at one time the greatest and richest city of *Khorassan*, is seated in a plain, formerly irrigated by about twelve thousand aqueducts, most of which have been suffered to fall to decay, and are now destitute of water. This city was founded by *Taimuras*, and destroyed by *Alexander the Great*. It was after the lapse of many years, rebuilt by *Sapor the First*; and the statue of that prince was to be seen at *Nishapour*, until it was overturned, and broken in pieces, by the Arabs. *Nishapour* was one of the four royal cities of *Khorassan*, and as well as *Merv Shah Jehan*, the capital of the *Scjuckian* princes. It was taken, in the five hundred and forty-eighth year of the *Hegira*, by the Tartars, and so completely ruined by those barbarians, that when the inhabitants returned, after the retreat of their enemies, they could not distinguish the situation of their own houses. *Hakani*, the Persian poet, who flourished at this period, has described the lamentable condition to which this unhappy city was reduced in the most
B b affecting

affecting manner. *Nishapour* having once ~~more~~ regained its former splendour, was a second time taken and pillaged by the Tartars, under Jungceez Khan, and the present inhabitants do not exceed the number of fifteen thousand. They only occupy a single quarter of the city, the ruins of which, according to the information that I received from a person who visited *Nishapour* in 1808, are nearly ten *fursungs* in circumference. The city is, at present, subject to the dominion of the King of *Persia*, and has nine districts dependent on it, each of which has about ten walled villages. The most delicious fruits are here to be found in the utmost abundance. *Nishapour* was laid down by two good routes; one from *Herat*, and the other from *Bistan*.

Sarukhs, the ancient *Sarigo*, thirty-eight *fursungs* from *Meshed*, and twenty-four from *Merv*, is now inhabited by six thousand families of Turkomans; and *Chumaram* is a large city, twelve *fursungs* from *Meshed*.

The only city which Captain Christie passed, in his route from *Herat* to *Yezd*, was *Tabas*, the ancient *Tabienne*, situated amidst a range of hills, three hundred and thirty-seven miles from the former, and one hundred and fifty from the latter. It contains a population of about twenty thousand souls, and carries on a trifling trade with *Herat* and *Yezd*.

BULKH.



THE province of *Bulkh*, the ancient *Bactria*, and formerly included in *Khorassan*, is bounded on the N. E. by the *Oxus*, E. by *Koondooz*, W. by *Khorassan*, and S. W. by the mountains of *Huzara* and the independant state of *Mymuna*. To the S. E. the country is cold and mountainous; but the N. W. parts of it are flat, sandy, and exceedingly hot in the summer. It is tolerably well peopled by Usbecks, Afghans, and Tanjets, who partly dwell in villages, and partly roam with their flocks in pursuit of pasturage. The Usbecks are simple, honest, and humane; but the Tanjets are a corrupt and dissolute race of men, addicted to the most unnatural vices.

Bulkh, the capital of this province, situated on the river *Dehast*, is one of the most famous cities of the *East*. It is the *Bactra* of the Greeks; and was founded, agreeably to oriental tradition, by Taimuras, one of the first kings of *Persia*, who made it the seat of empire. Here it was that Artaxerxes Babegan was crowned: and here it was that he convened the celebrated meeting of the *Magi*, which restored to the Persians the religion of Zoroaster, that had been almost entirely

suppressed by his immediate predecessors. It stands on a level ground, about twelve miles from the mountains, and was, in the days of Nush-irvan, one of the largest, most populous, and most magnificent cities, under the dominion of the great king. The houses were built of brick and stone, while the castle and palace consisted almost wholly of marble, brought from the adjoining mountains. This fine town was taken by Jungeez Khan, in the year 1221; and all its inhabitants were conducted without the walls, where they were inhumanly massacred. It was also taken by Timur, in 1369, whose successors kept possession of it, until they were, in their turn, driven out by the Usbecks; and it has, since that time, continued to be an object of contention and ambition between the neighbouring powers of *Persia*, *Tartary*, and *Cabul*. It is said to be still as large as *Delhi*; but the greater part of the houses are uninhabited, and the population is said to be reduced to between six and seven thousand men, subject to the King of *Cabul*. The vicinity of the town is well cultivated, and corn and provisions are to be procured in abundance.

SEISTAN.



THE province of *Seistan*, formerly called *Nimrose*,* and comprehending part of *Arriana* and the country of the Sarangæans,† is bounded on the N. and N. W. by *Khorassan*, E. by *Candahar* and *Zablestan*,‡ and S. and S. W. by *Meckran* and *Kerman*. The greater part of this province is flat, sandy, and uninhabited. A wind blows for one hundred and twenty days, during the hot months, with such violence, as to overwhelm with clouds of sand houses, gardens, and fields. Although now reduced to a deplorable condition, *Seistan* once rivalled in prosperity the most flourishing provinces of the empire.

It

* Ancient tradition reports, that this province was once entirely under water; but having been drained, in the short space of half a day, by the *Gom*, it hence received the name of *Nimrose*.

† The Sarangæans composed part of the army of Xerxes. They were dressed in splendid and varied-coloured habits, and armed with bows and javelins. They were the *Euergetæ* of the Greeks: a title bestowed on them by Cyrus, in gratitude for the relief which they afforded him, on his return from an unsuccessful expedition into *Scythia*.

‡ Ferdousi, in many passages, mentions that his heroes go from *Seistan* to *Zablestan*. *Giznee* is situated in *Zabul*, but not in *Seistan*.

It was the country of Jumsheed and Rustom, the heroes of the *Shah Nama*; and of Jacob Ben Leth, the conqueror of the *Caliph* of *Bagdad*. The noble river *Heermund* (the ancient *Etymander*), which is navigable for boats from *Bost** to *Zarang*, flows through the centre of it, from the mountains of *Huzara*, beyond *Cabul*, to the lake of *Zerreh*. This lake is said to be thirty *fursungs* in length and six in breadth. It is principally formed by the waters of the rivers *Heermund* and *Ferrah*, and in the dry season resembles more a marsh than a lake, being covered with rushes and reeds. In the middle the water is fresh; but brackish towards the shore, as the sandy plains which surround it are impregnated with salt. The lake is full of fish and wild fowl; and in its centre there is a fortified town, called *Kookhozerd*, built on a high island, where the treasure of the principal families of *Seistan* used to be deposited, when the province was invaded. A Hindoo, whom Mr. Pottinger met at *Nooshky*, informed him, that he had visited a town, named *Nassarabad*, on the borders of this lake, which is described as being four days' journey for a loaded camel, West of the city of *Dooshak*, the present capital of the province.

Captain Christie, in the spring of 1810, passed through the heart of *Seistan*, in his route from *Kelat*, in *Balouchistan*, to *Herat*; and from this gentleman's report to General Malcolm, it appears that from *Nooshky* to the banks of the *Heermund*, the country through which he travelled was little better than a desert, intersected with sand-hills.

He,

* The ancient *Abbest* is said to be fourteen days' journey from *Giznec*.

He, however, at no time, travelled further than twenty-five miles without meeting with water. He did not see a single town, or even a village, in the way; and the only inhabitants of this solitary wild were a few Balouche and Patan shepherds, who lived in tents pitched in the vicinity of the springs. He reached the *Heermund* in Latitude $30^{\circ} 24'$ N. and Longitude $64^{\circ} 16'$ E., and followed the banks of that river for about seventy or eighty miles. It flows through a valley, varying in breadth from one to two miles, the desert, on either side, rising in perpendicular cliffs. This valley is irrigated by the waters of the river, and covered with verdure and brushwood. Captain Christie, in his journey through the valley, saw an astonishing number of ruined towns, villages, and forts: and at one of these, *Kulcauput*, a noble palace in a tolerable state of preservation. The remains of a city, named *Poolkee*, he describes as immense. Here the *Heermund* is four hundred yards wide, very deep, the water remarkably fine, and the banks cultivated for half a mile on each side. On the 9th of April he arrived at *Dooshak*,* the present capital, and the residence of the prince of *Seistan*, in Latitude $31^{\circ} 8'$ N., Longitude $63^{\circ} 10'$ E., about eight or nine miles from the river. The modern city is small and compact, but the ruins cover a vast extent of ground. It is populous, has a good *bazar*, and the inhabitants, who dressed in the Persian manner, had a more civilized appearance than the other natives of *Seistan*,

* From hence to *Kerman* is twenty days' journey for a horseman, and the same distance to *Yezd*, by a place named *Ghaen*, celebrated for a manufacture of carpets.

Seistan, who are either Patan or Balouche shepherds, who live a wandering life, and pitch their tents amidst the ruins of ancient palaces. The country in the vicinity of *Dooshak* is open, well cultivated, and produces wheat and barley in sufficient quantities to be exported to *Herat*: the pasturage is also good and abundant. The revenues of *Bahrām Khan* Kyance, who stiles himself Chief of *Seistan*, amount to no more than eighty thousand *rupees*, and he can bring into the field about three thousand men. The situation and description of *Dooshak* led me to suspect that it can be no other than *Zarang*,* the old name having been lost in the constant revolutions to which this unhappy province has been subject for more than a century, and to which its present desolated state may, in a great measure, be attributed.

Between this city and *Ferrah*, Captain Christie found the country in general desert, except in the immediate neighbourhood of the towns and villages through which he passed. Twenty-five miles north of *Dooshak* he came to the ruins of another very large city, named *Peshawaroon*; and a few miles beyond that to the remains of a second, called *Joacn*. Here is a small modern fort and an inhabited village, standing in a fertile valley, which belongs to a Patan chief, who resides within twenty miles of it, and who, with only four hundred horse, keeps
the

Zarang, the *Zaranga* of Ptolemy, is represented as having been a populous city, in a pleasant situation on the banks of the *Heermund*. It was the customary residence of Jacob Ben Leth, and stood a long siege against Timur, by whom it was at last taken.

the adjoining country in awe. From *Dooshak* to *Ferrah* is sixty-five miles; the first twenty-five of which is destitute of forage and water. *Ferrah* is the *Parrah* mentioned in ancient geography, capital of the Parthian province of *Anabon*, and, at that time, a place of great splendour and extent. *Ferrah* was visited by Captain Christie, who describes it as a very large walled town, situated in a fertile valley, on a river which flows into the lake of *Zerreh*, and nearly half-way between *Kandahar* and *Herat*.

Seistan is, at present, divided into a number of small independent states, governed by chiefs, who live in fortified villages, situated principally on the banks of the *Heermund*. About ten days' journey from *Dooshak*, on the road to *Yezd*, lies the city of *Kubbees*, the chief of which acknowledges the nominal authority of Bahram Khan Kyance. For two days' journey the road leads over a range of mountains; but, for the remaining part of the way, over a desert plain. *Kubbees* is situated in the midst of the desert, fifteen days' march from *Kerman* and sixteen from *Yezd*. A person who had travelled these routes informed Mr. Pottinger, that the whole of the intermediate space was an arid waste intersected with one or two ranges of mountains. There is a path through this desert, by which *cissids** can go from *Kerman* to *Herat* in eighteen days; but the risk of perishing is so great, that a person of that description demanded two hundred *rupees*, to carry a letter from Mr. Pottinger to Captain Christie.

C C

Couriers.

K E R M A N.

THE province of *Kerman*, the ancient *Caramania*, is bounded on the E. by *Seistan* and *Mekran*; N. by *Seistan* and *Khorassan*; W. by *Fars*, *Lar*, and *Irak*; and on the S. by *Mekran* and the *Persian Gulf*. There appears to be no river worthy of remark in this province; and it abounds in deserts, the natural consequence of a scarcity of water. The climate is variable, being in some parts extremely cold and in others equally hot. It appears from Captain Grant's report, that the large district of *Burkind*, in the south of *Kerman*, is entirely mountainous. Between *Cape Jask* and the fort of *Cohistry*, situated in 57° 20' E. Longitude, these mountains approach the edge of the sea; but at *Cohistry* they suddenly retire behind *Minab*, and do not again advance to the south until beyond *Bunder Abbas*. These are generally called the Mountains of the Silver-mines. Between *Jask* and *Sereek* the country contained many villages and cultivated plains. Palm plantations were abundant, and the produce of wheat had been considerable. The wells, however, though numerous, do not supply much water: it is often brackish, and forage is only plentiful towards
the