

wild and picturesque. At Besh-kilisse, "the five churches," there are several open caravanserais, consisting of a roof supported by massive posts like columned halls. At Fartuna-khanlari a caravan had thrown down its loads of ox-hides on both sides of the village street, which caused one of our horses to shy and break his harness.

Now the valley is merely a hollow road some twenty yards broad, but the skirting mountains are relatively low. Here and there stone-cutters are at work, preparing material for repairing roads, bridges, and parapets. In the narrow passage lie the houses of Churdale-ogli-khanlari, serais and shops picturesquely squeezed in, surrounded by an oasis of poplars, pines, and fruit trees, now changing into the yellow tints of autumn. Round the bazaar hovers the well-known Oriental odour. Above the village small cultivated patches extend where there is room, and foliaged trees, which are becoming more numerous, stud the grey landscape with yellow spots. In the village Gümüş-khaneh, or "silver house," where we rested, the ferocious soldier is dismissed, and replaced by another. The other, Shukkur, has come all the way from Trebizond.

The road winds onward like a terrace five yards above the valley bottom between isolated thickets and farms. At Sorda, a village of the usual type—a single street and a mill driven by a small side canal—we drive past a train of carts on two solid wheels without spokes, and loaded with timber. They are drawn by buffaloes and oxen, and each team is arranged, one may say, in two storeys. Next to the car, and rather far apart, are harnessed two tall buffaloes on either side of a short high pole. Under this projects a longer pole, the yoke of which is borne by two young oxen, which walk between the buffaloes, and only emerge the length of a horse's head from the closely-packed team.

Along the mountain foot the road ascends with the gradient of the stream; the little water left is divided into several arms in the gravelly bed. The mountains show shades of yellow, brown, and red, and a small sharply-defined area of sprucewood on the left flank is conspicuous owing to its green colour. Recalling to mind certain