

three years in the place. He informed me that Ferman Ferma of Teheran was its owner, and that the revenue amounted to 8000 tuman. There are no gardens in Mianeh, but there are some in the surrounding villages; rice and some wheat are cultivated, and the country chiefly depends on agriculture. Sugar, tea, manufactured goods, etc., are imported from Resht and Tabriz; the cost of living is higher than in Senjan and Tabriz. The English telegraph line runs through Mianeh with three wires, of which two connect Calcutta and London, and the other is for Persia, which made this wire a condition of the concession. In Russian territory the cast-iron posts carry four wires, two being, according to contract, at the disposal of Russia. In Persia there are eighteen or at most thirty posts to the mile, in Caucasia twenty-four as a rule, and in Russia thirty.

At Mianeh several rivers and water-channels meet, converging like rays from the west and south-west. Together they form the river we have recently made acquaintance with under the name of Mianeh-chai or Karangu-chai, and which is a tributary of the largest river of northern Persia, the Kizil-uzen (here pronounced Gizil-özen), which has its source far away in the south in the Persian province of Kurdistan, and which, below Mianeh, makes a very sharp bend south-eastwards, in order at length to break through the Elburz mountain system at Menjil and Rudbar, and approaching Resht in a north-easterly course, fall into the Caspian Sea under the name of the Sefid-rud. Kizil-uzen is the Tatar name, and signifies "red river"; the Persian Sefid-rud means "white river." In many parts of its course the river marks out the characteristic longitudinal valleys which extend between parallel ranges, for, like Tibet, Persia is a typical folded country, where the ranges are pressed up in parallel folds or undulations.