

horses; once the outermost horse was pushed over the edge, but he was held by his trace and scrambled up again. Where the rise is not distributed by zigzags the steepness is excessive, and when the road is slippery with rain or heavy with snow it must be a stiff job to take a carriage up to the pass. I had engaged three brisk lads in Mianeh to follow us on foot to push behind and be always ready to put stones behind the wheels in case the horses refused to pull and the carriage began to roll back. With their help, and thanks to the good travelling, we reached the pass in less than two hours.

From the pass, where we met two pilgrims returning home from Kerbela, there is a fine view over the deep and boldly excavated valley of the Kizil-uzen between steep mountains, and then the road goes headlong downhill again, and now both hind wheels have to be tied tight to put enough drag on. Over the river, which carries much more water than the Mianeh united river, a bridge of three arches is thrown, beneath which the water is pressed together; the bridge is partially ruined, and will be totally destroyed and traffic interrupted if it is not repaired in time. Near it stands a watch-post at Karaul-khaneh—Kaplan-kuh.

For a while the road runs along the edge of the erosion terrace on the right bank, which is often seriously undermined by the water, so that we are forced to make short détours. To SSW. is seen the valley which gives a passage to the river, which we leave on the right, wearily mounting up the ascent to another pass called Katteruchan. Winding among hills and through ravines the road brings us at length to the grey village of Jemal-abad, where we put up as usual in the chapar-house. The village contains fifty cabins, and has 150 inhabitants besides women and children. They own about a thousand sheep, and grow wheat, barley, and fruit. Its owner is Ein-ed-Dovleh, and its revenue amounts to 200 tuman in corn and fruit, and 50 tuman in *maliat*, a kind of cattle-tax. Three hundred and sixty villages are included in the district of Mianeh. Though the distance from Mianeh is so short, the poisonous bugs, called *mele*, are not found in Jemal-abad;