

two of my old Tibetan boxes, is lazy, and Gulam Hussein is weary of always walking with the leading rope at full stretch. Therefore he chooses out another leader which keeps his pace even with a loose line.

Deh-daghun is nothing but a few squalid huts and trees within a wall. Traces of former cultivation are visible here and there, small ploughed dykes in chequered form to distribute water, and dried-up branches of canals. For the rest the land is mostly waste. The road is excellent for camels; the wet and slippery canals, with their small flooded pools around them, which were so trying at the beginning of the march and made the camels stumble and slip, have now come to an end. The road consists of several tracks side by side, but they are shallower and less worn the farther we go and the more villages we leave behind us. We are near Kala-no. To the east-south-east the country is as level as a sea; to the north it is bounded by a small promontory. To the west there are two more villages, and farther off to the south stand the two small isolated hills we saw from Teheran and also from the Kazvin road. When we come to the village we have been five and a half hours on the march, and the distance amounts to 3 farsakh; in general, laden camels cover a farsakh in two hours.<sup>1</sup>

During the last part of the march it had begun to blow freshly, and the wind increased in strength while we were setting up the tents, so that the men asked if it would not be better to seek shelter in a serai at the edge of the village. But this refuge was in too grievous and ruined a condition to tempt me away from the freedom of my tent. When we encamped, the wind had a velocity of only 26 feet a second, but it rose more and more, and nothing could be more unpleasant than this suffocating atmosphere. Wind in itself is only pleasant when one is camping on a lake shore and the air is pure, and then one does not trouble oneself much about wind; but here it was so laden with soil and dust that it hid everything like a fog; the

<sup>1</sup> A farsakh, or, as it was called in the idiom of the past, parasang, is on an average about  $3\frac{3}{4}$  miles. But its length varies very considerably in different parts of Persia and also on different kinds of ground. In general a farsakh is longer on level ground than in hilly regions, where its length amounts, at most, to 3 miles. From Veramin (3022 feet) we had descended during the day's march 220 feet, Kala-no lying at a height of 2802 feet.