

trenches; they cause great loss of time, and are trying to our patience, and we have often to make détours to avoid them.

The lowest offshoots and knolls of Kuh-i-busurgi now hide the southern parts of the Kevir, which entirely disappears when we move for a time up a large erosion bed, and are surrounded by eminences on all sides. In another smaller furrow some pools of rain are left, and here a few camels graze. At the sides stand steep terraces of pebbles. The ground then becomes softer, and small flat patches of kevir lie between the yellow mounds; they have quite the same appearance and the same yielding ground as the great Kevir, but stand a couple of hundred yards higher, and are therefore quite cut off from it. Here also, in one or two furrows, water is left from the last rain. When we come to the top of a small height with a wider view, we find that Kuh-i-busurgi and Kuh-i-ashin are really a little nearer than before; we make terribly slow progress in covering the considerable distance between these hills, which are characteristic of this part of Persia. Without a sign of a path we march at haphazard between mounds begrown with shrubs and saxaul, and the country becomes more undulating. An eminence to the right bears the name of Kuh-i-guchi. On the south side of the Kevir's bounding hills we notice Kuh-i-Gulam-Ali and the spring Seile-sefer-ab. On the western horizon stands a small but comparatively high elevation called Gudar-i-keftari, and in the same direction lie the camping-grounds of Cha-Ali-Khani and Kuh-Ali-Khan.

Two herdsmen were housed in some cabins of earth in a ravine, protected by mud walls and partly roofed with twigs of steppe plants. Another resort of the same kind is called Demagha-i-guchi. After a march of $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles we encamped at the foot of a low hill with a cairn, and here also we found water so that the camels could drink. Near by were five folds and flocks of sheep, of which four belonged to Jaffar Agha and one to Mad Buluch; in all they contained 2000 sheep. There was a smell of sheep not only near the penfolds, but often along the way where