

the animals had lately been grazing. At this camp, No. 13, the locality is called *Gabr-i-Haji-Nezer*, after a man from *Sherab* who died and was buried here. On the next day's march we should come across a track leading to *Ashin*, *Jandak*, *Anarek*, *Yezd*, and *Kerman*, which comes from *Teheran* and *Cheshme-i-bolasun*. Past *Gudar-i-keftari*, or the "defile of rock pigeons," a route runs to *Kashan* and *Mehabad*. Below *Kuh-i-busurgi*, where there is a hill *Gerdane-barike*, there are no roads at all.

Two of our camels are a little weak, having sores on their dewlaps below the chest. One would suppose that this part would be little subject to friction, but the fact is that our camels lie down for as long a time as they march with their loads or graze round the camp, and if the ground consists of pebbles and coarse sand the dewlap is exposed to friction, and all the more if the animals are thin. They have had very hard work ever since they left *Teheran*, and the fodder they have obtained has been all too scanty. Now, however, the loads are considerably lighter, for we have only straw for one day and three sacks of cottonseed left, and we no longer carry water with us. Seven of our camels, the large stallions, are still in excellent condition; the other six are a little thin, but there is nothing much the matter with them. We intend, however, as soon as an opportunity occurs, to let them rest a while and feed themselves up.

A journey through these parts of the interior of Persia must necessarily be very monotonous and colourless. We leave our camp at the foot of a small sterile and fragmentary hill, and camp in the evening at another. And between the two we cover 14 to 20 miles of heavy, dreary road, through pebbles and trenches or soft soil. No vegetation is seen but the poor shrubs, tamarisks, and saxaul of the steppe, no towns or villages, no human beings but herdsmen. Nothing else can be expected here on the margin of a salt desert; but sooner or later we shall, nevertheless, come to a true oasis. While I draw a panorama of the hills nearest to us, which are yet so far off, my tent is set in order, and when I have taken my