

bearings I occupy it. It is furnished every evening in the same way, is lighted dimly with a piece of candle, and warmed with a mangal of fire. This is my airy prison-cell, where, nevertheless, I find myself very comfortable. We have many a step to take before we come to the eastern frontier of this blessed Iran, the western boundary of which I crossed with such enthusiasm at Julfa.

But I have nothing to complain of. In this way one learns to know a country though one misses its inhabitants. It is worse for the herdsmen whom fate holds captives round these poor hills. The camels and sheep they tend are not their own, but they are responsible for their safety. I cannot imagine anything more dreary, uninteresting, and monotonous than to pass one's whole life here on the edge of the Kevir, living on meal, roghan, and brackish water, without knowing any other diversion than the change afforded by the annual migrations to and from Luristan. For eight months they remain sedentary, and see no one but their three or four comrades. What do they think of? what do they talk about? how do they pass the weary time? No; a rapid journey along the foot of Kuh-i-busurgi is welcome enough, but I should shrink from a permanent residence at its foot as a shepherd among shepherds.

In the night before January 20 the temperature fell to 23.2° , and therefore it feels cool in the morning; owing to the greater absolute height up here among the hills it is colder than down below at the Kevir. The ground is white with hoar-frost, which this time, curiously enough, has left the vegetation untouched.

We at first marched southwards as yesterday, and gently ascended to a ridge consisting of light red quartz porphyrite. After little more than half an hour we were at the road to Ashin, a very well-worn path, which we had only to follow. The herdsman therefore bade us farewell, to return to his lonely life, and he received 2 tuman for his trouble. He informed us that we had to pass Kafer-kuh, Cha-penir, Cha-gabi, Dom-Abdullah, and Sagh-ab, and that Ashin was situated at the western foot, and a good