

the old Chupunun lay half a farsakh farther south, as is shown on the Russian map of Persia. The village owns 300 camels and 500 sheep; the latter graze in the hills this side of Anarek. Here are also a dozen asses, an animal we have not seen for a long time, but then we are in the desert lands where only camels and dromedaries thrive. Prince Sil-i-Sultan, the Shah's brother, has a chief secretary or *munshi-bashi* who owns Chupunun and derives an income of 200 tuman yearly from the village. The inhabitants are, therefore, actually his bondmen, and work as such to force a crop out of the niggard earth, and the *munshi-bashi*, a depraved sybarite probably, lives comfortably on the proceeds, and has means to provide himself with a harem and other luxuries.

The houses, or rather mud cabins, are, as mentioned, built in a block, and in the distance look like a caravanserai. This style of construction is necessitated by the climate, and is no doubt the most practical that can be devised in such a country as this. If each hut were built separate, it would be more exposed to the wind and drifting sand, be more heated on all sides by the summer sun, and cooled in winter, but built together in one group they can more easily defy wind and weather. As there is no timber to be had, flat roofs are out of the question, but vaulted cupolas are constructed of sun-dried clay. The interior of the huts is very simple, wretched, and dirty; of cleanliness the inhabitants have as little notion as most other Asiatic peoples.

Of the village's artery and source of life, its kanat, I was informed that it originates from two wells, one of them situated 2 farsakh off towards the south-south-east in Kuh-i-Abbasabad, the other at the same distance south-eastwards at Godar-i-verbend. Thence run two canals which unite at Old Chupunun, and the water is conducted by a branch to the present village. On a hasty glance, the ground seems to fall in that direction, but in reality it rises, though very slightly, only enough to let the water flow hither. The section of canal which starts from Old Chupunun had been finished two years before, after six months' work.