

## CHAPTER XXVII

### THE ROAD TO JANDAK

JANUARY 26. The temperature is about  $9^{\circ}$  below freezing-point; in the night it was  $23.2^{\circ}$ . A slight hoar-frost which covered the ground vanishes at sunrise, and thin white vapour rises from the surface of the canal, showing that it is warmer in the kanat than on the ground.

We cross the subterranean canal near the place where it emerges into the open, coming forth as from a hole or a small glacier cave, and then we diverge more and more from the row of molehills which mark the openings of the vertical shafts above the kanat. We have on either side the small hills and mounds visible from Chupunun, several of which are lightly covered with driftsand or facilitate the formation of dunes at their feet. Here all the ground is sandy, but it is hard and sprinkled with pebbles.

I study daily with increasing interest the large-scale English and Russian maps of Persia I have with me, and am pleased when I have opportunities of completing them. A day's march, if it is as long as 20 miles, is not much on these maps, and the enormous distance between Ararat and the "Black King's Mountain," where I intend to pass into another country, almost turns me giddy. Persia is poor in everything except in square miles; it embraces 635,000 square miles against Sweden's 173,000, and the population of Persia, nine millions, is only double that of Sweden.

There are many features in the general relief and orographical structure which are common to Persia and the Tibetan highlands. Here, also, though at a level nearly