

are a *hammam* or bathroom, a *meshid* or mosque, and a *burch* or old castle, probably a relic of the time when men here must be prepared for the plundering raids of Turk-mans. The tilled fields, which were now green, also lie of course below the terrace, and are irrigated by the branches and channels of the *kanat*. The allotments are separated by walls of sun-dried bricks 5 feet high. To the north the limit of the löss area is very distinct where the yellow colour breaks off at the grey slope of the screes.

At a distance of 3 farsakh to the north, at the foot of the hills coloured in shades of yellowish-red, stands a saint's grave. It is called Imamsadeh-Shah-Aulia, and was erected in honour of the brother of Imam Riza. The mosque-tomb seems to be built of burnt bricks, but is covered outside with tiles, and this is a mark of great veneration. Fresh water and pastures are to be found in the neighbourhood. When the saint's festival is held at the beginning of summer, the people of Turut and the surrounding villages, men, women and children, flock to the tomb with their sheep and camels, where they spend ten or fourteen days; it is at the same time a summer holiday, where perhaps religious enthusiasm plays a less important part than the pleasures of life.

Turut has 300 to 400 camels, which are employed in caravan traffic. Four kran a year are paid for each of them as *maliat* or cattle tax to the Shah, but barely half of the product of the tax appears to reach its supposed destination, the rest sticking to the hands of the officials on the way. In the time of Nasr-ed-din Shah this tax amounted only to $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 krans, and much displeasure is felt at the increase. Half a kran is paid for a sheep, and the village owns 2000 sheep. The other domestic animals are 300 asses, a dozen cows, and two horses, besides dogs and fowls. An adult man pays a tax of 16 kran. Turut provides 50 soldiers for the service of the State. It was now their turn to come home to their village, and they complained that they had not received a farthing of pay for their service; their recompense was retained in their officers' pockets.

Turut produces wheat and barley, white and red beet,