

Kevir's surface is, then, like the earth's crust, a comparatively solid sheet over an under layer of viscous fluid. It is evident that changes in the volume of this foundation must react on the crust and give rise to thrusts and lateral pressure.

The country becomes gradually more irregular, and from a last elevation we see the village of Aruzun picturesquely situated in its dell, where an irrigation canal forms an open pool at which camels and sheep are wont to drink. On a little mound beside the village stands a *burch*, or fort, said to be 150 years old, and dating from the time when Baluchis disturbed this part of the country. The little village, containing 8 houses and 29 inhabitants, has a neat and attractive appearance at the foot of its dark rugged hill. Its height is 3435 feet.

We established ourselves in a small cottage with a garden, and just in front of my door stood the first palm, while half-a-dozen others grew farther off—there are not many in Aruzun. My room was a tiny box, with a hole in the middle of the earthen floor for a fire. We at once made the acquaintance of the friendly inhabitants, and they provided us with all we wanted. Here we were well off again, after our stores had come to an end in the desert. Fowls, eggs, milk, bread, and vegetables were purveyed at once, and the owner of the village, an elderly man, offered us a *tebrisi* or *man-i-tebris*, of fine juicy dates. To give a notion of this measure, which derives its name from the town of Tabriz, I can only say that an ordinary camel load amounts to from fifty to sixty *tebrisi*, and 4 kran were asked for a *tebrisi*. The price, then, was very high, but that was because the crop had failed the year before; the usual price is $1\frac{1}{2}$ kran.

In Aruzun wheat, melons, grapes, mulberries, figs, almonds, apricots, apples and pears and tobacco are grown. The gardens were leafless, but seemed a fine sight to us who had just come from the desert. The village produces a revenue of 120 tuman, chiefly from the wheat crop, and also owns 2000 sheep, which graze on the *eilak* or meadows in the adjacent hills. Of other animals there are only five camels and eight asses. The