

number which seems too large. The name Chahrdeh or Chahr-deh-i-Tebbes, "the four villages near Tebbes," refers to the group of villages lying round Chahrdeh proper; Mehdiabad, Turgeinun, Suleimanieh, Teshkanun, Kheirabad, Kasimabad, Deheneh, Tajiabad, Dovletabad, and Deh-shur. A hill 4 farsakh off to the north-east is named Kuh-esmeigu. A small number of wells exist in the desert around—the haunt of wild goats and gazelles.

We were told that there was great heat for forty days and winter for sixty days. It had snowed twice in the winter and rained ten times, and the precipitation, as in other districts we had passed through, had been more abundant than usual. The prevailing wind comes from the north-east, the bad-i-Khorasan.

Darkness has scarcely fallen before jackals begin to bark and howl in the desert. We can hear that they are hunting in packs, but they do not venture near the tents where the dogs are keeping watch.

The inhabitants of Chahrdeh took no notice of us when we commenced the last day's journey on our way to Tebbes on the morning of February 27. Teshkanun stands at a little distance to the right and then the road runs close past the villages Tajiabad and Turgeinun, so that their palm groves stand on the right and their water-logged wheat-fields on the left. Two small ass caravans, laden with firewood, come from the steppe at the edge of the nearest kevir. A wheel track in the dust of the road has been left by the governor Emad-ul-mulk, who has returned by a roundabout way from an official journey to Tun, for this town also is under his administration, and his district is therefore called Tun-ve-Tebbes. Villages and their palms stand out in sharp outlines against the pale hills on the horizon. All the canals run south-west, like the erosion furrows, as, for instance, the open canal of Kerdabad, where two zebus are drinking, a first suggestion of India. The village is surrounded by a perfectly barren, pebbly plain, but the canal has conjured green fields and waving palms out of the waste.

A cool southerly breeze modifies the heat, but it is