

gloomy, but at 11 o'clock the sun comes out, while the south-eastern sky is still shrouded in dense clouds. The farther south we travel the more Kuh-i-jemal separates itself from the rest of the group on the west, and between the two yawns a great valley, where, it seems, there is no road. Between Kuh-i-jemal and Kuh-i-margho, the farther, southern snowy group, a road leads to Duhuk.

The road to Pervadeh is certainly plainly marked, but shows no sign of frequent traffic. It is crossed by numerous small trenches from the eastern foothills, which now stand at a distance of $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles. It is barely half as far in the other direction to the edge of the white kevir.

South-south-east stands on the horizon Mossenabad (Muessinabad), with a few huts and palms, which very slowly grow larger. Kele-hauz-i-Mad-Kasim collects the rain-water from one of the furrows which descend to the kevir, and is now filled to the brim with fresh water. A row of low hills of equal height stretches unbroken to the left like a terrace or an old lake shore, but the extreme skirts of the Jemal group, hitherto standing free, are more and more obscured by other advancing mountains. Massive, short and lofty, Kuh-i-margho rises to the east-south-east, and in the gap between the two groups are seen low hills over which the road to Duhuk crosses a pass or a *gudar* (defile).

Looking west-north-west, we can distinguish from the road the following different belts: (1) hard dry ground with fine pebbles, sand, and exceedingly scanty shrubs: (2) yellow, hard clay, with a very slight fall; (3) white kevir still partially wet, but drying more quickly than the level kevir, because of its gentle slope towards the bottom of the depression; (4) level kevir with a thin layer of water.

Muessinabad proved to be a charming little village, with few palms, but those were fine and well kept, and were tastefully arranged round the old quadrangular fort and its round corner towers. The walls were deeply fluted, and between the grooves clay stood in raised ridges like stalactites, showing that the stronghold reared as a protection against the Baluchis has often been