

correctly the borderland between two tracts of different formation that we are already familiar with from the southern bay of the great Kevir between Khur and Cha-meji. As there, so also this kevir is mixed with a considerable proportion of sand next the shore, which now runs for a good distance due WNW.

Occasionally a solitary shrub has ventured down from the top of a dune and has established itself on kevir ground, and farther on we twice pass tamarisks standing in rows at 100 yards from the shore. Here and there appear dry furrows, through which the rain-water makes its way. On the eastern shore of the kevir, where we travelled yesterday, the vegetation was incomparably richer.

At one o'clock the temperature is up to 69.4° in the shade, and as the breeze from the south-west is barely perceptible, it feels burning hot in the sun. What will it be like when there are twice as many degrees of heat? Nevengk takes things calmly, though he is still clad in his thick winter coat; but the black dog is unhappy and whines, and at every shrub he comes across among the dunes he scratches up cool sand. It flies up around him as round the paddles of a steamer, and when he has dugged his hole he lies down a minute in the shade, then hurrying off to the next bush which affords a little coolness.

At last we come to the point where we leave this kevir, the edges of which we have skirted during the preceding days, completely circumscribing its area on the map. During the following days we shall have the Naibend hill in view, and not till we have again lost sight of it shall we feel that we are really on the way to Seistan.

We turn, then, off to the left over the sandy belt, which we cross obliquely to distribute the ascent over a longer distance. We leave two huge dune spurs on our left hand pointing north-westwards; their south-western slopes are quite steep, but even these dunes are held together by scanty vegetation. Farther off to the south-west rises still higher sand, regular dunes climbing up the slopes of the hills; there the sand is absolutely sterile, and of the same close, loose, shifting kind as in the dunes of the