

had winded our stallions from the steppe, and evidently was eager for a fight with them. With lowered head and wildly rolling eyes, he made straight for the largest stallion, led by the Seid, and made ready to throw him to the ground with the back of his neck. But this animal was stronger and quicker in turning, and knocked down the stranger in a moment, intending to finish him off with his forelegs, but the Seid prevented him. The defeated animal had time to get up again, and then he hurriedly took to flight with the dogs at his heels, which considered his conduct unseemly.

At the village Meigon the Seid wished to halt, but, as the place had nothing to offer but two sacks of straw which we bought, we might as well stop anywhere else on the steppe after traversing another farsakh. In the midst of the village stands a ruined fort, and beside it a row of very singular and original windmills. They were not working at this time of year, but a good notion could be obtained of their construction. In the middle of June the prevailing wind from the north-east sets in and continues for two months. It blows extremely regularly, and the mills are built purposely for this direction of the wind which, curiously enough, is different in Seistan not far off, where there is a strong north-north-west wind. The wind, it seems, is strongest at night. There were originally eight mills, but only three were in use, the others having fallen to ruin. Their walls or piers of stone and sun-dried bricks are built so that the wind forces its way in between two of them, and exercises its full strength on three of the eight vertical mill pallets, while the others are on the lee side and do not prevent or retard the rotatory movement. The pallets are attached to a vertical revolving pole with its upper end running in a cross-beam supported by the walls, while the lower sets the movable stone in motion over the fixed one beneath in the millroom below the floor. The contrivance is simple and ingenious, but of course can only be used in a country where the wind blows with the regularity of a trade-wind. The fact that there were formerly eight mills instead of three shows that the production of grain must have fallen off. One cannot suspect a deterioration of the