

climate in such a short space of time, or an extension of the desert's domain. Probably with a little good-will the ground might be turned to better use.

The village Meigon has eighty cottages, and outside lie wheat and barley fields; pomegranates also are grown. The irrigation water comes from the hill Kuh-i-shushu, and the head of the canal is situated at a distance of half a farsakh above the village.

A little further is Kelat-i-Sheikh-Ali, a small outlying hamlet of only one hut, surrounded by wheat fields with beautiful spring-green blades. Its pool was full of clear potable water, where the camels had a drink—they were not likely to get more water till evening.

The weather was the finest imaginable, the whole sky was overcast, there was a fresh wind from the south-east, and we could not complain of heat with a temperature of 63.1° . In the afternoon, when heavy, trailing rain fringes hung down over Shah-kuh, the light became diffuse and peculiar, as though we were travelling under a heavy, low roof in deep shadow.

We are in a clearly-marked longitudinal valley more than 12 miles broad, and lying between low ranges. The ground falls between them to the south-east; behind us, to the west, the horizon is hidden by threatening clouds. A hard north-westerly blast with rain and clouds of yellow dust and whirling eddies forces us to hastily pitch our camp near two black nomad tents (4282 feet).

The next day's march takes us farther along the broad longitudinal valley between Kuh-i-bubak on the north and the Shah-kuh range on the south, and our direction is still south-east. The fall is imperceptible to the eye. It can often be detected only by small vegetable fragments floating in the muddy beds, which show in which direction the water runs. The detritus slopes of the two ranges fall exceedingly gradually, at barely two degrees, towards the middle of the valley, where the level ground is occupied entirely by a drainage channel about two-thirds of a mile broad. The side-furrows run in south-eastwards at an acute angle, and thus it is clear that the land falls in this direction.