

CHAPTER XLVII

TRAVELS IN THE KEVIR—*continued*

THE great Lut has been crossed, as far as I know, only by three travellers: far in the north by Khanikoff's expedition, more to the south by Galindo, and farthest south by Goldsmid's expedition along the route where the telegraph line now runs between Seistan and Kerman. Between these places lies the largest expanse of *terra incognita* in Persia, occupying nearly 12,000 sq. miles. The next largest is the western part of the great Kevir, with about 9600 sq. miles, and the third is the eastern part of the great Kevir with about 8500 sq. miles. In these three regions there are no roads at all; neither natives nor Europeans have been there.

On the map of Persia already mentioned, which was published in 1897 by the Survey of India, a desert road is marked between Neh and Khabis, and I suspect that this is the road tried by Lieutenant Galindo, from whom Lord Curzon has taken his description. According to the map it is 180 miles long, and turns at right angles from Gudar-i-barut. If only the waterless stretch from Deh-i-salm through Gudar-i-barut to the first water-bed from the Kerman hills be taken into consideration, the length is 120 miles. The map shows the following points in order from Neh: Cha-i-Molla-Hassan, 3730 feet high, two wells with good water; Galu-chakak, 3540 feet, wells with good water; Deh-i-salm, 2850 feet, palms, salt-water; Pushta-i-penj-farsakh, 3180 feet, resting-place; Pushta-i-jagvir, 2350 feet, resting-place; Kal-goz, 1260 feet, resting-place; Gudar-i-barut, 1160 feet—here the channel is passed which