

knowledge of the great Kevir. He crossed its western parts during various journeys in the years 1888-91, and travelled round the desert everywhere, in some parts twice over. He therefore had better opportunities than any one else of determining the bounds of the desert basin. His conception of its formation, and his explanation of several of its most characteristic phenomena, agree entirely with the observations I made during my journey. As I had opportunities of following other roads than Vaughan's, and also of crossing the desert along two lines, our observations complement each other.

We recognise on Vaughan's route of 1888, between Anarek and Semnan, some of the names I have cited above, as, for instance, Kuh-i-Dom, Chashma Bulazun, Chah-shur, Kuh-i-Tulha, Siah-Kuh, Chah Mesh Mus, and Kuh-i-Gugird. Vaughan went to the south and west of Kuh-i-Dom, I to the north of it. Our routes crossed between Siah-Kuh and Kuh-i-tallhe. South of Kuh-i-tallhe Vaughan crossed a river, the breadth of which at high water he estimated 150 yards and its depth at 6 feet; I found that it had a cross-section of only 8 square feet.

Of the Kevir he says: "This swamp, lying at a low level in the centre of the great desert, receives into its bed the drainage from an immense tract of territory. All the rivers flowing into it are more or less salt, and carry down to it annually a great volume of water. The fierce heat of the desert during the summer months causes a rapid evaporation, the result being that the salt constantly increases in proportion to the water, until at last the ground becomes caked with it. The Persians say that many years ago a sea rolled its waves over the whole of the depression where I am now travelling, and that it was navigated by ships which used to sail from Semnan to Kashan."¹

From Turut Vaughan travelled to Avel-ahiyá,² and writes of the river Kal-mura in the north-eastern part of the desert: "Its banks are thickly covered with green bushes. . . . To the south it runs away into the desert

¹ *Proceedings of the Roy. Geogr. Soc.* vol. xii. (1890), p. 588.

² He writes: Abul Haiyea.