

towards its unknown destination, its course being marked for a long way by green bushes. Some 40 or 50 miles off it is said to terminate in a vast lake."

The natives asserted that when the sun sets in winter in the south-west, the lake is seen glittering in the sunshine for miles. "Camel-drivers who have lost their camels are said to have followed the river-course in search of them, and have found it to terminate in a salt lake whose farther shore was invisible to the eye."

Of the extent of the Kevir Vaughan writes: "My own opinion regarding the Kavir is that it extends uninterruptedly from  $52^{\circ} 45'$  to  $57^{\circ}$  E. longitude without any break whatever, and that about  $54^{\circ} 15'$  its bed is slightly elevated, forming a drier region, across which the road from Yezd to Damghan runs. It contains, I believe, two great depressions, one immediately south and at the foot of the Gugird Hills, the other at the point formed by the junction of the Kal Mura and Kal Lada rivers, both of which depressions pretty certainly contain vast sheets of water in the rainy season."

During his second journey in Persia, in 1890-91, Vaughan was able to further extend his knowledge of the great desert, and complete and improve his former maps.<sup>1</sup> From Linga, on the coast, he went northwards and crossed several smaller deserts before he came to Jandak. Of the wooden door in the fort of Jandak he heard a curious story, that it was made from the wreck of a ship which floated on the prehistoric Darya-i-Saveh that is asserted by tradition to have covered the salt desert. From Jandak he proceeded to Kashan, "to ascertain the southern limit of the salt desert." In this he did not succeed, for he travelled three days' journey to the south of Jandak, and even south of Kuh-i-dom, and, as I have shown above, the southern boundary runs far north of Kuh-i-dom and the other ranges belonging to the same system. He made this détour to avoid "the immense sandhills which fringe the southern portion of the desert in many places."

"Distant on our right lay the Rig-i-Jin (Sands of the Genii), which reach far into the desert, extending, it is said,

<sup>1</sup> *Journal of the Roy. Geogr. Soc.* vol. vii. (1896), p. 24 *et seq.* and p. 163 *et seq.*