

to the other side. Natives are very much afraid of them, and will not sleep there on any account, as they are said to be haunted."

Vaughan also heard wild camels spoken of, which were of a whitish colour and used to be hunted, but for about seven years they had not been seen, and were supposed to be extinct. They were said to be the offspring of strayed tame camels.

Three days' journey from Jandak Vaughan came to a sandy desert named Rig-i-Chichagun, with dunes 300 feet high, and an abundant growth of tamarisks.

Accompanied by Captain Burton, Vaughan afterwards visited Khur, and the two travellers came to the conviction that the Kevir, east of Khur, drained to the south. Its absolute height led them to this conclusion, which I was afterwards able directly to confirm, at least for the great bay of the Kevir west of Cha-meji.¹

From Khur he travelled, in January 1891, to Tebbes following much the same route as Sir Charles M'Gregor. They crossed the large bay, and, therefore, could not tell how far it extended southwards, "as sandhills in that direction shut out the view." Here the Kevir was very uneven, like a muddy road full of deep ruts and footprints, but in places it was also wet. Rain and snow fell in large quantities during this winter. The height was 2130 feet.

Of Halvan, at a height of 2600 feet, Vaughan says that its hundred houses are only protected from being overwhelmed by drifts and dunes by the help of high walls. The sand belt is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles broad and ends in kevir, but to the south it expands to a breadth of several miles round Cha-meji.

At Halvan Vaughan found the ruins of an old town of the same name, which is said to have flourished in the time of Zoroaster. As the ruins are buried under sandhills, Vaughan believes that these are recent accumulations, and that the sand has been blown hither from the dry surface of the desert. He notices here the same facts which struck me fifteen years later. "The whole of the northern

¹ Here Vaughan is not quite clear. He says afterwards of the Tebbes' Kevir that he believes it is quite cut off from the great Kevir, as the water flows northwards to the latter. This is also shown by arrows on the map.