

impassable in consequence of the abundant rain that had fallen during the past days. Its bed is said to be 12 fathoms broad where the road in question crosses, and it is evident that large volumes of water are carried down this way to the Kevir during the rainy season. Vaughan mentions no Kal-i-germab, but a Kal-ladu running farther south. From his description it seems to me that the Kalmura and Kal-i-germab are identical, or possibly delta arms of the same river. The latter is said to disappear in the Kevir 4 farsakh below the road without forming the smallest lake, and such a sheet of water never comes into existence, however much the river may be swollen. In this respect my information differs from Vaughan's, but it is probable that the water in rainy years forms shallow temporary salt lakes. Again, the Kevir below the mouth of the Kal-i-germab is said to remain moist and muddy till the middle of June, but afterwards to stand dry throughout the summer.

From Turut a caravan road leads in five days to Shahrud, crossing a narrow strip of kevir which is never an obstacle to traffic, as it can at the worst be passed round. The distance between Damgan and Turut is about the same. To Semnan also and Sebsevar there are direct roads from Turut.

Nasr-ed-din, Shah of Persia, wrote a short noteworthy article about the Hauz-i-sultan, beginning with the words: "The lake which has appeared between Teheran and Kom is the lake Sâvah, of which mention is made in history, and which dried up about 1357 years ago, on the day the prophet—may the blessings of God be upon him and his posterity!—was born."¹ Consul-General A. Houtum-Schindler has added very valuable notes to this composition. The Shah believes that the lake is formed by water which bubbles up like a fountain from the ground of the Kevir. But Houtum-Schindler reports that in the year 1883 part of the embankment on the left bank of the Kara-chai below Pul-i-dellâk was washed away by high water, so that an arm of the stream sought a way northwards and filled the hollow between Hauz-i-sultan and Pul-i-dellâk. A year later the breach in the dam was

¹ *Proceedings of the Roy. Geogr. Soc.* vol. x. (1888), p. 624.