

bridge," on the left, and crossing on the way the bed of the Kal-mura. My guide had never heard this name, but called the river Ab-i-shur, or "salt water." Its bed was here only 10 yards broad, and its bottom lay 5 feet below the level of the ground. A stream 3 yards broad and 5 feet deep flowed extremely slowly towards south-south-east. The water was salt and bitter. On the banks grew copses of tamarisks 8 feet high. The bed is said to be full of water in winter. Here there were no sandhills, but small banks on the south side of all the shrubs, showing the prevalence of northerly winds.<sup>1</sup>

The small kevir I touched on is not an enclosed basin, for it has an outlet by the Kal-mura, which crosses it, as we see from Vaughan's route, before it flows into the great Kevir. Captain Claude Clerk passed the river in 1857 somewhat higher up than Vaughan, at a point called Zaughuda. He informs us that the river carried a very little exceedingly salt water, and that it was said to flow to Yezd.<sup>2</sup>

During his three months' journey in the parts of eastern Persia nearest to the frontier of Afghanistan, E. Huntington visited in the winter of 1903-4 the Kevir basin, which he names after the oasis of Khaf. He says that it consists of lifeless desert tracts of mud and gravel. Of the Bajistan kevir he says: "Bajistan, 40 miles north of Tun, lies on the southern margin of a large 'kavir,' or salt playa, which, according to Curzon's map, extends some 75 miles north-east and south-west, and from 10 to 30 in the other direction. The playa, at most times, contains a very small amount of standing water, surrounded by a broad white plain of salt mixed with silt, muddy in winter, dry and powdery in summer."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Genom Khorasan och Turkestan*, vol. i. pp. 29 *et seq.* and p. 107 *et seq.*

<sup>2</sup> *Journ. of the Roy. Geogr. Soc.* vol. xxxi. (1861), p. 52.

<sup>3</sup> *Explorations in Turkestan. Expedition of 1903, under the direction of Raphael Pumpelly*, p. 244.