

inscribed "High hills of loose sand," and just in the tract south-east of the lake, "Sandy Desert."¹

Major P. M. Sykes travelled both to the north and the south of this temporary lake in the years 1893-94 and in 1898. He gives the Jas-morian a length of 50 miles, and says: "In a year of heavy rainfall its area is, of course, enormous, but as the summer advances, it dries up either wholly or for the most part." According to his description it would seem that the swamp proper is surrounded by a ring of kevir. Of the road between Ifaka and Bampur he says: "A belt of sand quite as bad as any part of the Lut, lay between us and the Bampur river."² He therefore fully confirms Floyer's report of a regular belt of dunes in this region where it might be expected, but we cannot gather from his description whether this belt extends all along the southern shore of the lake. He only states (p. 308), that north of the Bashakird mountains "is the open plain running down to the Hámun."

Curzon says of the Mekran desert that it consists of thin particles of wind-driven sand.³

In the solution of the problem now before us, it is of little moment whether the Jas-morian is really a lake or only a temporary swamp. Keith Abbott, who travelled to the west of it in 1850, was the first to mention it. He says that the rivers Rudkhaneh-shur and Halir-rud join, "and flowing through Rudbar, pass on to Jaz Morian, a plain eight stages distant, between Rudbar and Bunpur, where the water spreading over the country is lost in the sand," and he also asserts that the rainy season lasts from January till March.⁴

He also mentions the presence of driftsand in the basin. Still more explicit is the account given by Major Oliver St. John, who travelled twenty years later from Bampur to Rigan, north of the Jas-morian. "For the first five marches it (the road) continues in the Bampur valley, which forms one with that of Rúdbár and Jírúft. The northern side of this is clad with acacia jungle, the south is a sandy

¹ *Unexplored Baluchistan*, pp. 76 and 263.

² *Ten Thousand Miles in Persia*, pp. 143 and 121.

³ *Persia*, vol. ii. p. 258.

⁴ *Journal of the Roy. Geogr. Soc.* vol. xxv. (1855), p. 46.