

desert intervening between the mountains of Bashakird and the Bampúr and Rúdbár rivers. These meet at a place called, according to Keith Abbott, Jaz-morián, but whether their flood-waters escape thence to the sea or are lost in the sand is uncertain. Major Lovett heard the former; my informants stated the latter."<sup>1</sup> St. John also speaks of sandhills near Bampur, and says that the dunes are piled up by the north-westerly winds. But most interesting is his account of the sandy desert on the southern edge of Jas-morian, which is in complete harmony with the law of sand distribution to which I have called attention.

In connection with the distribution of kevir deserts in Persia, St. John treats of their relation to sand. He says that the most characteristic feature in the Persian lowlands is the salt swamps, which are called in the northern part of the country kevir, and in the south kafeh. Where the drainage is insufficient to form lakes, like Urmia and Niris, a miry clay is deposited in the lowest depressions, which is covered with salt water in winter and in summer with a thick salt crust. The largest is the great salt desert, Desht-i-kevir, which had then been seen only by one European, Dr. Buhse. "The ordinary *kavírs* are innumerable. That south of Khaf is one of the largest." "The banks of the 'Gavkhánah' marsh, formed by the Zaindarúd, are also 'kavir,' and a *kavír*, perhaps the same, was crossed by Trézel, between Abádah and Yazd. The desert of Karmán, called by Khanikoff the desert of Lút or Lot, that of Kharán which bounds Persian territory on the south-east, and the smaller waste of Bampúr, are drier, and therefore more sandy than the northern desert. Perhaps, also, the soil is less favourable to the formation of *kavír*."<sup>2</sup>

Vaughan's description of the lake Gav-khaneh has been quoted above. Comparing this description with St. John's account of the Kheirabad swamp lying east of the Niris lake, we find that the difference between a salt lake and a salt swamp in Persia may be very slight. The latter is a *kafeh*, or salt desert, nine miles broad, of which the last four

<sup>1</sup> *Eastern Persia. An Account of the Journeys of the Persian Boundary Commission, 1870-71-72*, vol. i. p. 79.

<sup>2</sup> *Eastern Persia*, vol. i. p. 15.