

In his narrative of his fifth journey in Persia,¹ Sykes has partially modified his views of the etymology of the two words. He says that the Arabian writers and the Persian also, to some extent, used the word *mafáza* (waste), which was afterwards replaced by the word kevir or kefe. Kevir signifies salt desert, but its etymology is uncertain. The word was used on all Persian maps till quite recently, to indicate the whole desert, but now it is replaced by the word lut; kevir is now applied only to tracts which are salt. Sykes acknowledges that some Persians still derive the word from *lut* (bare); but now he considers it beyond dispute that the name comes from Lot, Abraham's nephew, for in an Arabic geography, published in 1903, the name of the desert is spelt in the same way as Lot's, not as in *lut*, bare. He therefore holds that the question of nomenclature is definitely decided. This conclusion seems somewhat hasty, and it is quite wrong to let the name Lut on the accompanying sketch-map embrace the whole of the northern desert. Even if an Arabic geography uses a spelling which suggests such an interpretation, it is certain that the name lut is not applied to the northern desert, but that this is exclusively known by the name kevir, like all other salt depressions, unless they are called instead darya-i-nemek or nemek-sar.

Lastly, it may be mentioned that Huntington translates *darya* by lake, *hamun* by swamp or a lake partly open, partly filled with reeds; he quite correctly identifies a nemek-sar with a temporary salt lake, which is also true of a kevir, though this is drier.

¹ *Geographical Journal*, vol. xxviii. (1906), p. 451.