

of the coast land.¹ He started from Gwadar, and so was there at exactly the same time of year as Alexander. He followed as far as Ormara an inland road. Then he passed through the coastal zone, and to the river Desht all went well. There are many villages, of which one, Bul, has 400 houses. On the way were seen traces of old cultivation which had been abandoned; the irrigation depends entirely on rain-water.

October 20. Near the Desht river the country is well peopled and the land fruitful. No lack of good well water. Of the Toomp valley he says: "Springs of excellent water are met with at intervals, bursting out of the solid rock and forming rivulets swarming with small fish." Eight thousand inhabitants in the valley; magnificent date groves. October 24: several villages with date palms; *karezes* or kanats everywhere; "they are very ancient and their construction is ascribed by the people to the Devs" or spirits.

The 25th. Palms and tamarisks; the road is well trodden and good; bridges of palm trunks span the ravines. The Kej valley is 270 miles long; the river low with a weak current and containing seven species of fish, which are caught and eaten by the Baluchis; the fields are watered by rain during the wet season, and at other times by karezes. October 30: Sami, a village with a perennial stream from the hills, besides the river Kil Khor. Here dwell Hindus who buy up sheep's wool. Palms.

November 1. "The valley appears to be full of springs, and, though running water is only met with at intervals, in the bed of the Khor, it probably continues flowing underground." During the next six days good water was found at all the camping-places and dwarf palms, and here and there herdsmen with sheep and goats. The 10th: at Soordoo Fort Miles was surprised at the abundance of fruit trees; apples, grapes, plums, oranges, lemons, citrons, peaches, figs, almonds, etc. The fields are watered from the river, which is named Punjgoor.

Miles estimates the population of the Punjgoor valley at 16,000 to 18,000. A month and a half before a caravan had come hither from Kandahar with wheat, and had left a

¹ *Journal of the Roy. Geogr. Soc.* vol. xlv. (1874), pp. 163 *et seq.*